

SERPENT-EATING SNAKE.

Venomous Reptile of the Indian Jungles That Attacks Man or Beast.

A few days ago a serpent-eating snake or king of serpents (Ophiophagus elaps) was found swimming in the water of the Royal Lakes at Bangoon and was killed before it would endanger the safety of the people sculling on the lakus, says the Amrita Bazar Patrika.

It is among the most interesting of our venomous snakes, and the only really aggressive member of the ophiophagians, readily attacking any man or animal that happens its way. The female is especially irritable during the season of modification, and as the adult snake attains a length of from 12 to 15 feet it is superlatively swift and active and possesses a poison ranging three inches in length and charged with a very powerful venom.

FOREIGNERS IN THE NAVY.

There Are Not So Many Now as Formerly—Americans More in Evidence.

Uncle Sam is gradually weeding out foreigners in all branches of the naval service. Applications of enlistment since the Spanish-American war have been almost equally divided between natives and foreigners, but the former are always given preference, says the Philadelphia Record. The result is that all the newer war vessels have a very large percentage of native Americans in their equipment.

WAS NOT THE RIGHT KIND.

Snuff Wouldn't Do in a Case That Particularly Called for Ground Cinnamon.

"I had an uncle die up in Vermont last week," said the Boston man according to the Chicago Daily News, "and though there is nothing so queer about an uncle dying, this relative of mine didn't have a fair show."

TASK OF TOASTMASTER.

Work, But Not the Credit, of Making the Dinner Lively, Falls to Him.

"My sympathy goes out to the toastmaster," said one of the best after-dinner speakers in New York, in recalling a dinner which he recently attended according to the Sun.

DEPENDS.

The man behind the wheel of an automobile is generally regarded as if it were a slave. No wonder, then, as good as no one is to be blamed for a "wreck."

JOKE WAS ON THE FARMER.

His Alleged Insane Patient Proved to Possess a Perfectly Sound Mind.

A Johns Hopkins medical student, who sought the rural solitudes near Mattawoman swamp in Charles county, Md., as a place to spend a little vacation, enforced upon him by severe study, will doubtless long remember his brief stay in that section. His conception of the "simple life" as portrayed in the rustic environment of that community, relates the Washington Star, was just beginning to be realized, and in his daily meanderings about the woods and farm houses he found much of interest to the student, when an unexpected climax shortened his stay in that locality and ended in his appearance, accompanied by a robust son of the soil, at the Government Hospital for the Insane.

"I am in search of the identification bureau," was the way the young farmer announced his business when he entered the big building devoted to the transaction of business at the institution. "I mean," he added, in an explanatory sort of a manner, "the place where the patients' pictures are kept."

Such incidents, while not common in hospital life, are by no means unusual, as may be gleaned from the police books of the city, where are recorded cases of persons being fined or otherwise punished for assault on persons on the street whom they forced to accompany them to the government asylum, on the presumption that the pedestrians, who may have been dressed strangely, or in some other way become conspicuous, were escaped lunatics from the institution.

LUNCH FOR AUTOMOBILISTS.

To Provide Al Fresco Meals in a New Branch of the Restaurant Business.

Arranging the automobile luncheon is one of the problems in luxury to those persons who prefer an al fresco meal in these spring days to one in a restaurant. Naturally, there are many who are ready to supply this new demand, says the New York Sun.

PARTRIDGE AND GROUSE.

Partridges and grouse are also to be eaten as readily, and they are to be had from the dealer, who brings them over from French manufacturers who made them for generations before automobiles were ever thought of. Potatoes are also one of the specialties of this little shop of gastronomic rarities.

A RUSSIAN BATH.

The Russian and Japanese have an occasional custom in common, one of which is that of sprinkling flowers by filling the mouth with water and spraying it over the plants. The Russian peasant woman goes a bit further, she washes her baby in the same way.

DAYLIGHT CAME TO HIM.

Then He Awoke to the Advantages of Making Himself Somewhat Scarce.

Penelope was in that condition of sourness which even a sweet pea can get sometimes. When a pretty girl who knows she can get all the beaux she wishes to have bowing at her feet is being pursued by an idiot in masculine form who cuts a garden walk down the middle of his head and makes the hair on the sides of it to glisten with the smoothness of well-rolled lawns, she may be excused for growing sour, says the Baltimore Sun.

"I don't want to see you," suggested the sister. "But George Washington never told a lie," said Penelope. "George Washington wasn't a girl with locks calling on him—her I should have said."

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SEEKS SPECTER OF EDITOR.

Subordinate Notified of Death by a Ghostly Visitation—Another Case on Same Order.

Chester, Pa.—That there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in his philosophy, is the ex-acting editor of the Morning Republic. Until recently he filed the chair of city editor of the morning paper, but during the illness of Victor H. Klett, the managing editor, he performed the duties of that desk.

WEDDING IN PIT BOTTOM.

Man Hadn't Time to Come to Surface, So Bride Descends and Ceremony Is Performed.

South Paris, Me.—"Come up out of the pit and be married," shouted Miss Alena Wantman to Andrew Lakestrom, who was drilling at the bottom of a stone quarry, 200 feet below the earth's surface.

SERVANT PROBLEM SOLVED.

There is an official of the New York municipal government who has solved the problem of keeping a good cook. He declares the Baltimore American he married her. It was a heroic remedy, but good cooks are not picked up every day.

WHEN THAT TALE CEASES.

Jerry Simpson is the owner of one of the largest sheep ranches in New Mexico, and his friends say he is rapidly getting rich. The story must be true, Jerry has ceased predicting an early downfall of the republic.

BILLIONS IN DRINK.

TOTAL SPENT FOR LIQUOR DURING 1904 IS \$1,277,727,190.

United States Makes Fast Twelve Months a Record-Breaker in Retailing Thirst—Beer Leads Intoxicants.

Table showing liquor consumption statistics for 1904, including beer, wine, and spirits.

Washington—Here is what the people of the United States drank during the year 1904: Beer 1,277,727,190 gallons; Wine 48,739,952 gallons; Spirits and wine 1,604,657 gallons.

FINDS SISTER AFTER YEARS.

Faint Remembrance of Baby Girl Leads to Discovery of Woman He Didn't Know Existed.

Groton, Conn.—Fred A. Jeffers, superintendent of school of Atlantic Mine, Mich., and his sister, Miss Mattie B. Brown, a teacher in the Monument street school, have met after a separation of 31 years.

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FORTUNE IN AN OLD SAFE.

Poor Man Recovers Stocks That He Lost Half a Century Ago—Was in Sore Straits.

Chicago—Down in the basement of his home at 447 West Monroe street, John P. Foss, who has been in straitened circumstances for years, found in an old safe three certificates for 1,500 shares of Chicago gas company stock, worth approximately \$1,600,000, lost for half a century.

The lumber yard disappeared when the Union railway station was built and the office safe was taken to John Foss's home, then a mansion of pretentious character on the West side. Foss Bros. were wiped out by the fire and in a final settlement papers and books were turned over to John Foss.

MIRRORS COVERED WALLS.

Means Adopted by Man of Money to Teach Gratitude in His Family.

Jerich man has the walls of his house covered with mirrors. Instead of pictures, in every room he can see himself in profile, from the rear, from the left, from the right—in twenty different ways. He claims to have the Chicago Chronicle, that these mirrors promote grace. He asserts he has these mirrors on his children's account.

TURTLES CAREFULLY NURSED.

Turtles Carefully Nursed There Until They Reach Imposing Size, Then Shipped Away.

Philadelphia, Pa.—New Jersey boasts of the biggest snapper farm in the world, that grows the biggest snappers that ever paddled about in a muddy creek. The farm is at Tuckerton.

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WHERE CONVICTS GAMBLE.

In a Western Prison They Are Allowed to Play for Stakes on Sundays.

A few weeks ago, while enjoying in Carson City, the capital of Nevada, I witnessed a scene that struck me as exceedingly curious and which probably was never duplicated anywhere in this country," said T. B. Gardner of Chicago, states the Washington Post.

This gambling, my friend told me, was never allowed on any other day but Sunday. The idea being that as the state law licensed it there was no valid objection to the inmates of the prison engaging therein. Every convict was issued checks showing how much cash there was to his credit, and if he chose to lose these checks representing his money at cards it was his own affair.

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