

AGRICULTURE IN CHINA.

There is a System of Cultivation Followed That is Careful Though Primitive.

Notwithstanding the great antiquity of agriculture among them, the Chinese have failed to make any great progress in it. Their system of cultivation is very careful and marked by attention to details, but it shows ignorance of the principles of rotation of crops and of adaptation of soils to particular grains, and an extremely primitive knowledge of agricultural implements, says Forum.

The two most characteristic features of Chinese agriculture are the use of manure and the system of irrigation. Manure is gathered from all conceivable sources. In the cities the night-soil deposited on the sides of streets and alleys is gathered by men and boys. It is mixed with clay, dried in the sun, and sold to farmers.

On country roads boys, and often women and girls, are seen at places where large numbers of pack-horses, camels and mules pass, gathering the material, which is afterward, with beneficial effects, spread on the fields.

Chinese agricultural implements are of the most character. They are chiefly the hoe, the harrow, the plow and the stone roller. The plow is simply a broad blade fastened to a rough handle, guided by a man, and drawn by teams of the most miscellaneous description.

MOTHER LOVE IN BIRD LIFE.

Tragic Fate of an Oriole Just Out of Reach of Her Starving Little Ones.

"A Tragedy in Bird Life" was the inscription on a pasteboard box received by the Indiana state geologist from a correspondent in the southern part of that state. The box contained an oriole's nest, in which were the skeletons of three little orioles, and, clinging to the side, the mother bird, with her tongue tied with a bit of string that helped to hold the nest together.

The mother oriole struggled fiercely, but her strength was failing rapidly, and as darkness fell she was hanging with half-closed eyes against the nest, almost at the opening. All through the night she struggled convulsively, but each effort was weaker than the one before.

NATURE MADE NO ERRORS.

Scientific Mistakes in Her Laboratory Have Proved of Value to Mankind.

Paradoxical as it may appear, the perfection of a gem is largely due to some imperfection in its make. Some little mistake made in the laboratory of nature produces a defective stone which is perfection itself from the lapidary's point of view.

When nature makes mistakes in manufacturing diamonds the results are equally remarkable. Her standard for a diamond is a pure white stone, but sometimes a foreign substance gets into the crucible and the result is a red or blue diamond.

Nature manufactures in her laboratory a material called spinel. You can buy a block of spinel as large as you can carry for a few dollars. Sometimes, in making spinel, small quantities of chromic acid get into the material and color it a deep red.

When nature starts out to manufacture opals she endeavors to make them without any cracks in them. In this she seldom succeeds, coming nearest to perfection in the Mexican opals, which have few cracks in them, and, therefore, little luster.

Artificial stone is coming into use more and more widely every year. For pavements it is rapidly supplanting all other materials, including brick and the natural article, and much of it is being utilized nowadays in the building of houses, newly-discovered processes having so far improved the product as to render it actually more durable than real stone.

Imitation marble is obtained by mixing oxide of magnesium with chloride of magnesium, the former being obtained by burning the material called "magnesite," and the latter by treating oxide with hydrochloric acid.

Two Different Ways. She (the woman) said: "Darling, for you I would walk over a precipice. What would you do for me?" He (the man) promptly and practically: "Walk under and catch you.—Town and Country.

The World's Prize. Six hours after the world has proclaimed a man a hero, it begins to find out that any man would have done the same thing in his place.—Athens Globe.

MONEY OF THE WORLD.

The Total Stock of Gold and Silver Exceeds Eight Billion Dollars.

In 1873 the world's stock of money consisted of \$1,209,800,000 in gold, \$1,057,685,000 in silver and \$2,322,545,000 in uncovered paper, or about \$4,600,000,000 in all.

In 1900 the total stock of money had increased to \$11,600,000,000, of which \$4,841,000,000 was gold, \$3,818,900,000 silver and \$2,940,100,000 uncovered paper.

In Great Britain the stock of money consists of \$486,700,000 in gold, \$111,900,000 in silver, wholly subsidiary coin, and \$12,300,000 consisting of notes of the Bank of England and a few provincial banks.

Australasia is credited with no paper currency, and of a per capita of \$29.93 in money, \$28.54 consists of gold and \$1.39 of silver.

ARTIFICIAL BUILDING STONE.

Newly Discovered Processes Are Improving Upon the Natural Materials.

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It will be observed that the processes used are substantially the same as those employed by nature in the making of rocks of various kinds.

Age of Responsibility. In England the law looks upon every one over the age of seven as a responsible being; and every child beyond that age can be prosecuted as a criminal.

Customer. By the way, Mr. Yorker, there was a chicken in one of those eggs. Dealer.—So? Chickens are two shillings a pound, you know. I suppose you are willing to do the right thing?—Boston Transcript.

CURIOUS FREAKS OF NATURE.

A River of Ink, a River-Bed of Ice, and a Singing Well Among Them.

A river of ink is formed in Algeria by the union of two streams, the water of one being impregnated with iron, and the other, which drains a great swamp, with gallic acid.

In Siberia, says the Brooklyn Eagle, rivers flow over ice, old and solid as rock. A tributary of the Lena river has underneath the soil which forms the bed of the river a bed of pure ice over nine feet thick.

A singing well is one of the natural curiosities of Texas. In the weather a sound like that of an Aeolian harp is given out by the well. At times the sound is clear; then it recedes, as if far away, and then it reaches the ear very faintly.

A man-made volcano exists in Belgium, which has been burning continuously for nearly 100 years, and emits vast columns of black smoke, rendering the neighboring country barren, baked and utterly unprofitable.

ONE WAY TO SELL LAND.

Pretty Girls Employed by Real Estate Men to Encourage Buyers.

"Do you know how they sell land out in Kansas?" asked George Dunkin. He was back at the old home for the reunion of the pupils of the old Brighton school, of which he was a pupil when a boy, says the Cleveland Leader.

"When a real estate man has a customer from a distance to see a farm that lies some distance out of the city, he makes his arrangements beforehand.

"She asks the real estate man where he is going, and when he tells her she remarks that it will be a lovely drive, as the country is so pretty in that direction.

Aluminum Nails. After many unsuccessful experiments and trials an alloy of aluminum has been made with which nails, staples and tacks can be made to compete with copper.

A Mammoth Turtle. The largest snapping turtle ever known was caught recently in a swamp in southern Texas, and weighed 155 pounds.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

There is no United States circuit court judge who was appointed earlier than 1851.

So long ago as 1859, Wise, an American, traveled a distance of 1,180 miles in a balloon. This record was not beaten until last year.

A married couple in Reno county, Kan., were in court about a divorce suit recently, it being the anniversary of their golden wedding.

Miss Alice de Rothschild is one of the richest women in England. She owns a villa at Grasse, and a London house in Piccadilly.

A Pittsburgh man fell asleep in a chair suspended on a church spire 120 feet above the walk, and was not awakened until a fellow-workman had climbed up and tied him into his chair to keep him from falling.

WALKING ROUND THE WORLD.

Interview with a Man Who Started on the Task Six Years Ago.

Mr. Beresford Greathead, who has arrived at Southampton, has just concluded a remarkable journey. Interviewed recently by our correspondent, says the London Chronicle, he said that in 1895 two clubs in Vancouver—the Union and the Vancouver—wagered \$50,000 on the point whether a man would walk around the world in five years, leaving without money or luggage, and depending entirely upon his own exertions.

Mr. Beresford Greathead, who was selected, said that he started in August, 1895. The Allan line gave him a passage to England. He walked from Liverpool to London, thence to John O'Groats, and from there to Land's End. By way of the south coast he reached London again, and went over to Ostend. He passed through Bruges, where he was formerly at school, and met some of his old school chums.

A CLASSICAL PARALLEL.

Rome Once Had an African War on Its Hands Like the Present Alger Struggle.

Dr. Richard Garnett notes a curious "historical parallel" in the Times. In the days of Tiberius, Tacfarinas, a Numidian chieftain, maintained a contest against Rome which positively bristles with prospective plagiarisms of the latter stages of the war in South Africa, says the London Spectator.

When in an amiable mood Sandow tells tales of his early struggle and how he became a famous strong man. Once at the outset of his career, after he had been touring with circuses and sitting as an artist's model, he found himself in low water in Amsterdam.

Reflections of a Bachelor. The steps to success are blocks of persistence. A wagging tongue is the drum-stick of a hollow head.

For a woman bargain day is every day that she has money to spend. It is easy to go down hill; it is possible to go up. Few people stand still on the slope.

The woman who starts downtown with the money in her pocket to buy a new hat has no time to worry about the stock market business or the treasury balance.—N. Y. Press.

AN ALBINO SQUAW.

The Woman with White Skin Who Has Been Represented to Be a Caucasian.

Discoveries made by State Game Warden Harris on his recent trip in pursuit of Indian game poachers prove that the legend of the white squaw of the Arapahoes is untrue, although it has been repeated so often that it is almost historical.

Column after column has been written about her. The generally accepted theory is that she was captured by the Indians when she was a babe some 40 years ago.

Nevertheless, the fact that she has light hair and eyes convinced a number of people who saw her that she was a Caucasian. A woman in DuBuque, Ia., in a recent letter to the Indian agent, claims the squaw as a long-lost sister, and announces her intention of coming to see her.

The fact that the Albino squaw has been treated with great consideration by her tribe lent color to the stories of persons who fancied they had discovered another parallel case to that of Frances Slocum. The Albino woman does but little work, and the others wait on her, but Warden Harris, in talking to a chief, learned that this is because the Indians are always considerate of one who bears any peculiar marks or who is insane.

Recently the Indian Rights association has been investigating the case, with a view to restoring her to relatives. Mr. Harris had a long conversation with a subchief, who is the husband of the Albino woman, and he admitted that he had kept up the deception. His reason for divulging the truth now was that he feared his wife might be taken from him and given to white people, who might think she was their relative.

The Albino woman is about 42 years of age, and, like all Indian women past the prime of life, is squat and ugly. She is not more intelligent than the others of the tribe, and cannot speak any language except Ute. Her husband, however, who has been in the northwest often, speaks Chinook, the universal commercial dialect formulated by the Hudson Bay company. It was by this medium that Warden Harris learned her story. He will inform the Indian Rights association that the squaw they are seeking is a real squaw, and not a white woman stolen in her infancy.