

## TRAINED DOGS.

Are Said to Be the Most Profitable Attraction in the Vaudeville Line.

"Considering the investment, trained dogs are one of the most profitable attractions in the vaudeville line," said an anonymous showman recently. "I suppose there are at least 12 or 15 troupes of them scattered over the country," he continued, "and the good ones easily average a couple of hundred a week and expenses. As there are no salaries to pay for the dogs and no hotel bills for anybody except the proprietor and one keeper the returns are rather handsome. Nowadays they have the business down to such a fine point that the sudden death of any of the animals can be readily remedied by telegraphing to New York, where several men make a specialty of keeping standard trick dogs in stock. A dog troupe usually consists of five performers, one of which is a star. The star probably costs \$50 and the others about \$30 apiece. Mongrels of no intrinsic worth are generally selected for training purposes, because they learn as quickly as the thoroughbreds and if anything happens to them the loss is so much lighter. There is a standard series of tricks which they are taught to do, so that one can easily replace another, and a little ingenuity on the part of the showman supplies the variety to the programme. It goes without saying that the star performer has his special act, which some of the rest attempt. I am speaking now of the general run of such entertainments. There are a few collections of finely bred dogs that have been most elaborately and marvelously trained by their exhibitors, and, of course, they are unique. One such troupe is at present coining money by the bushel in Cuba."

## OFFERS A LITTLE SQUEEZE.

Englishman's Attentions on Ship-board Excites Chicago Woman's Laughter.

They were speaking of the trivial whimsicalities of life and what a little thing it requires to create mirth when mirth is eminently unbecoming the situation, says the Chicago Chronicle.

"I crossed the ocean once with an Englishman for my next-door neighbor at dinner," began a lady in the group. "I, rather, I started out with him as dinner companion, but after the first meal I so disgraced myself with uncontrollable laughter that I never ventured near the dining-room all the rest of the voyage."

"What could it have been to merit a penance like that?" asked one of her interested audience.

"Well, I'll tell you," began she, laughing again at the recollection. "It was an awfully solemn, pompous-looking man, with Britain stamped all over him. We had noticed him and joked about his cheeks and his accent when we first got on board, and when I found him next me at dinner I was in a dangerous state of effervescence, anyway. And it began with the very first course. I had kept turned away from him as much as possible after being seated, but when I looked at my oysters I discovered that mine was the only plate that did not contain the half of a lemon. I was looking about for a waiter when the Englishman leaned over me with his pipe in his fingers and asked, politely:

"Can't I give you a little squeeze?"

"I smacked and laughed and gurgled and choked and did everything else that was dignitely ill-bred. But I couldn't have remained sober to save my head. Do you wonder I stayed on deck for the rest of the voyage?"

## DENS OF HORROR.

Such Are the Disease Infested Prisons of Morocco-A Vile System.

The prison system and treatment of prisoners is worse in Morocco than in any other country in the world.

Men are arrested—often merely to spite some one whom they have been so unfortunate as to offend; and who possess some power—and flung into prison, where they would be left to starve if the ancients were not regarded that St. Elmo's fire is a survival of this belief—and hence the appearances when seen were not much talked of. Then, too, the ancients, saving, perhaps, only the Phoenicians, hated the sea and all its works, and seem to have been curiously insensible to the beauties of nature. It is still, probably a fact that the minute organisms which produce phosphorescence are infinitely more plentiful in those seas which were known to the ancients than they were then, in consequence of the extermination of whales and other marine animals which preyed upon them in the opinion of the authorities.

Prisoners are cast into these hotbeds of disease, generally without the most farcical pretense of a trial, to die and rot if their crimes are light, or their enemies impotent. Otherwise they are probably tortured in some way or another. Starving merely is too good for them in the opinion of the authorities.

Not long ago a merchant who had

failed to claim payment for goods sup-

plied to a friend of one of the court officials was cast into prison without trial,

and after suffering torments in the

midst of a mass of diseased humanity

for months was taken out, shoved into a barrel fitted with long spikes and rolled down a high, steep hill. The barrel eventually plunged into the sea with its torn and mangled cargo. Im-

prisonment, torture and death for dar-

ing to present his bill!

## Some Went to Glory.

Once asked a district nurse, says a writer in the Cornhill Magazine, how the various sick cases had been going on during my absence from the parish.

At once the look which I knew so well

crossed her face, but her natural pro-

fessional pride strove for the mastery

with the due unctuousness which the

considered necessary for the occasion.

At last she evolved the following

strange mixture: "Middling well, sir,

some of 'em's gone straight to glory,

but I am glad to say others are nicely

on the mend."

## THE SMART REPORTER.

He Was Willing to Give Information About Ducks Free of Charge.

It was two o'clock in the morning.

All of the reporters but one had gone home, says the Detroit Free Press. The night editor sat at his desk reading over the copy of the last remaining reporter. There hadn't been a word spoken for half-hour. The rumbling of the distant presses and the clacking of the typewriter were the only sounds that broke the silence of the night.

The telephone bell gave a loud, long peal.

"Hello," cried the night editor, as he jammed the potato-masher to his left ear.

"Say," said the telephone, "we are having a little discussion down here in Hogan's place and we want to know which can fly the faster, a canvasback duck or a red-headed woodpecker."

"Say, Bill," yelled the night editor to the solitary reporter, "which can fly the faster, a canvasback duck or a red-headed woodpecker?"

"Duck," laconically answered the reporter.

The night editor turned to the telephone and told it that the duck was much the swifter aerial navigator of the two.

"How much faster?" asked the telephone.

"Eight miles an hour in warm weather and ten miles if it's cold."

"Eight miles an hour," repeated the night editor.

"Why is it?" asked the telephone.

"Because he spreads his canvas. The woodpecker hasn't any."

Ting-a-ling-a-ling.

## NATURE OF THE ALLIGATOR.

The Reptile Described in Detail by One Who Knows Its Habits and Peculiarities.

An alligator is not an attractive creature. He has not a single virtue that can be named. He is cowardly, treacherous, hideous. He is neither graceful nor even respectable in appearance. He is not even amusing or grotesque in his ungainliness, for as a brute—a brute unequalled—he is always so intensely real that one shrinks from him with loathing, and a laugh at his expense while in his presence would seem curiously out of place, says Appleton's Monthly.

His personality, too, is strong. Once catch the steadfast gaze of a free, adult alligator's wicked eyes with their odd vertical pupils fixed full upon your own, and the significance of the expression "evil eye" and the mysteries of snake charming, hypnotism and hoodooism will be readily understood, for it simply blood-chilling.

Zoologically, the alligator belongs to the genus crocodilus, and he has all the foibles of that family, lacking some what its blood-thirstiness, although the American alligator is carnivorous by nature, and occasionally cannibalistic. Strictly speaking, however, the true alligator is much less dangerous than his relatives of the old world, and he is correspondingly less courageous.

"Can't I give you a little squeeze?"

I smacked and laughed and gurgled and choked and did everything else that was dignitely ill-bred. But I couldn't have remained sober to save my head. Do you wonder I stayed on deck for the rest of the voyage?"

## THE SEA'S PHOSPHORESCENCE.

Ancient Writings Contain No Mention of This Most Striking Phenomenon.

## LACKING IN OTHER TONGUES.

There Is No Hindoo Word for Friend Nor Single French Word for Kick.

The Hindoos have no word for "friend."

The Indians have no equivalent for "humility."

The Russian dictionary, says Pearson, gives a word the definition of which is "not to have enough buttons on your footman's coat;" a second means "to kill over again;" a third "earn by dancing;" while the word "knout," which we have all learned to consider as of exclusively Russian meaning and application, proves upon investigation to be their word "knut," and to mean only a whip of any kind.

The Germans call a thimble a "finger hat," which it certainly is, and a grasshopper a "hay horse." A glove with them is "hand shoe," showing evidently that they wore shoes before gloves. Poultry is "feather cattle," while the names for the well-known substances "oxygen" and "hydrogen" are, in their language, "sour stuff" and "water stuff."

The French have no verb "stand, stand," nor can a Frenchman speak of "kicking" anyone. The nearest approach, in his politeness, he makes to it is, "to threaten to give a blow with his foot." Neither has he any word for "comforth." The terms "upstairs" and "downstairs" are also unknown in French.

## Insect Undertakers.

Persons who are fond of walks in the country may have wondered why no trace is ever found of the various small animals, such as field mice, which die by the dozens. The reason is that the sexton beetle has taken care of the tiny dead bodies. When a small animal dies the beetles hurry to it. They do not do good deeds solely through philanthropy, for they get their reward in food for themselves besides laying up provision for their families. These beetles are an inch long and some have bright orange bands on the wing covers. After satisfying their hunger the beetles proceed in a very laborious manner to bury the remains. After dragging the body to a spot of soft earth the beetles, using their heads as spades, dig a tunnel around the body. Inside this they dig another furrow and keep on till the body sinks into the hole. Then they throw in the earth they have excavated.

## Siberia VIII Exhibit.

Siberia, which has heretofore made no extensive display at any world's fair, will have a large exhibit at the Paris exposition in 1900. The new railway with the due unctuousness which the considered necessary for the occasion. At last she evolved the following strange mixture: "Middling well, sir, some of 'em's gone straight to glory, but I am glad to say others are nicely on the mend."

To Stop Snake Dances.

An effort is to be made to prevent the Moqui Indians of the southwest from holding their annual snake dance.

## SLOW POWDER HE USED.

The Mean Trick That Was Played on a Hunter Who Was a Little Old-Fashioned.

When nitro, or, as we call them, wood powders, were new, there was an old man came here regular, who would stick to the old black powder. He would also always wear a coat with a cap in the blinds, and when there was wind the cap would flap and flutter and never a shot would he get; but he was so stubborn and set in his ways he would not change it. Well, some of the fellows put up a job on him about his old "slow and sure" powder, and after a lot of talk they made match with him that his gun with black powder tried against one with wood powder, and the match came of, says the New York Sun.

Some one got at the old man's shells, and drew the shot out of those which they took good care should be the ones to go in his gun. The old man was rather deaf, but would never admit it, and that was where they played the trick on him. The nitro powder man fired at a sheet of white paper at 50 yards and made a fair pattern, and then the old man fired and all walked over to see what he had done.

There wasn't a mark on his paper, of course, and after they had examined it carefully, suddenly one of the party yanked him one side while another fired at the paper with an air gun which he had hid under his coat, and thus spattered a dozen or so pellets on the sheet, enough to mark it, and then they explained to the flabbergasted old man that his powder was so darned slow it had only just reached the target, and but for them hearing it coming and dragged him one side he would have been filled up with it. He went away, and never came to the beach again.

## JEWISH NAMES IN RUSSIA.

Where Hebrews Have Not the Right to Choose Names for Their Children.

Despite the disgraceful persecutions of the Hebrew race in Russia, there are said to dwell in the czar's dominions at least one-half of the 11,000,000 of Jews that inhabit the earth. A rather amusing illustration of the extent to which they come under the ban of legislative control is the name of the town of Carlsbad, which is the German name of the town of Karlovy Vary, in Bohemia. The name of the town is derived from the name of the river, Karlovka, which flows through the town. The name of the river is derived from the name of the town, Karlovy Vary, which is derived from the name of the czar, Charles IV, of the Holy Roman Empire, who founded the town in 1348. The name of the town is derived from the name of the river, Karlovka, which flows through the town. The name of the river is derived from the name of the town, Karlovy Vary, which is derived from the name of the czar, Charles IV, of the Holy Roman Empire, who founded the town in 1348. 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