

DOCTILITY OF THE CAMEL

Said to Be the Kindest and Most Human of Animals.

The operations in Egypt and the Kalat region give a peculiar interest to camel lore at this moment. It is strange to see a camel going down on his knees to allow an Arab to get on board the "ship of the desert."

First, the big, shambling animal, in answer to a tap from its driver, suddenly flops down on its knees, then its hind legs collapse, and it finally deposits itself flat on the ground.

The rider then seats himself astride on the extreme back of the big, soft wicker basket that does duty as saddle, touches up the patient beast, who then drags himself onto his feet again with many an unwieldy lurch and plunge, which would prove disastrous to any inexperienced rider, as there is no way of holding on except by plugging your fingers into the basket. However, Arabs seem to be born circus riders, and can stick to anything in a way that is little short of marvelous.

Camels very frequently wear muzzles made of rope, and this leads to a misconception. It is merely to prevent them snatching at the trees along the wayside, and not on account of viciousness, for they are the kindest and most humane of animals, and, I feel convinced, could not find it in their hearts to hurt a fly. They are, moreover, not half so conceited and overbearing as they look. Two great dislikes they have. One is to people wearing black clothes, and the other to being jostled in the streets, or even touched. I once went to call on a beautiful white camel, and, as it was Sunday, I put on a black coat. The camel looked at me, edged away, and finally turned his back to me. Not understanding, I insisted on patting him, whereupon he repeated the same antics and gave a deep groan, and the driver explained that a camel detests somber raiment, probably because he becomes accustomed to the white burnous of the Arabs.—London Sketch.

THE ENGINEER IN WARFARE.

He is the Mighty Man in Both Defense and Offense.

It cannot but be realized that it is to the work of the engineer more than to any other member of the community that the country must look for defense and offense, and that it is the machine shops and shipyards, in the draughting-rooms and mechanical laboratories that the destinies of modern nations are to be decided.

One has only to look back a few hundred years in history and note the absolute transformation wrought in warfare as soon as the introduction of gunpowder and fire artillery became an accomplished fact. The trained knight, bred to arms and honestly believing in him lay all the science of warfare that could ever be possible, was suddenly transformed into a ridiculous Don Quixote, helpless before the rude hand of peasants, who, with their "villainous" saltpeter," made all his knowledge of the art of war obsolete. To-day we are undoubtedly on the verge of a similar transformation, and should the misfortune of war become a dire necessity there is every reason to believe that the ingenuity of American engineers, constructors and inventors would evolve devices of destruction before which the existing battleships and fortifications would soon be relegated to obscurity. Two instances of most recent occurrence have demonstrated the weakness of modern warships; one the ease with which the single blow of a ram sent the Victoria to the bottom of the Mediterranean, the other the havoc which a single explosion wrought upon the Maine in Havana harbor. The modern warship is fatally like the armored knight of medieval times, vulnerable because of exceeding bulk and clumsiness, a fair mark for the skill of the engineer, who can combine force and motion and substitute rapidity for massiveness and secrecy for strength.—Engineering World.

PURE WATER FOR TROOPS.

War Department Making Provision for Our Soldiers When They Shall Invade Cuba.

The war department is having built a number of steel tanks in which water will be conveyed to Cuban ports. This measure is adopted with the object in view of avoiding the contamination of the water supply in Cuba, and is intended to provide fresh and pure water for the invading army. The base of supplies for drinking water will be Key West, where the navy department is preparing for the special purpose of witnessing the experiments, and after they were over he cold Mr. Holland that his boat was the most wonderful piece of naval architecture in existence.

Mr. Nixon, Mr. Frost, Capt. Morris and Mr. McAdoo were greatly pleased. None of the naval experts expressed an opinion publicly, but it is said by one who is in a position to know that the exhibition given was far better than they expected.

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Attraction at the Cincinnati Zoo Meets with Misfortune—Big Ivory Found Broken.

Hathee, the Zoo elephant, at Cincinnati, O., has broken off one of his tusks, one of those big, long, handsome chunks of ivory that have been his glory and pride for many a year. Nobody knows how it happened. The keeper found the tusk lying on the floor, and the great, docile creature was fondling it in a pathetic way with his trunk. It had broken off close up to the flesh, and at that point was slightly decayed, but to no serious extent. The occurrence is a very rare one in captive elephant life. But the fact that the animal just as eagerly devoured his breakfast of two big buckets of oats and bran, a 196-pound bale of hay and 18 buckets of Ohio river water showed how little his loss concerned him. The tusk will make about as valuable a set of billiard balls as ever were turned out. A new tusk will grow in place of the old one, but considerable time will be required.

Not So Prosperous.

Brown—Glad to hear, old boy, that you have come into a large landed property.

Smith—Sorry to tell you that it is groundless.—Judy.

Where Shoe-Leather Is Scarce.

Japan, with over 40,000,000 inhabitants, has only one leather shoe factory. Nearly all the natives still wear sandals of straw or wood.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc un commerce Editor quotidien. \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire \$3 00; Edition du Dimanche, \$2 00.

REACHES HOME SAFELY.

Mrs. William C. Whitney, Whose Back Is Broken, Stands Critical Journey from South Carolina.

Mrs. William C. Whitney has arrived in New York on a special train from Aiken, S. C., and removed to her residence, 24 West Fifty-seventh street. She bore the fatigue of the journey remarkably well.

"Mrs. Whitney bore the journey much better than I expected," Mr. Whitney said.

"I feel much encouraged at the prospects for her recovery. She experienced no unpleasant effects except the ordinary fatigue and is very glad to be home once more."

A landau and other carriages were in waiting. The landau was so arranged that the hinged back could be swung open to admit the stretcher bearing the patient without discomfort. A large door had been constructed in the side of the car occupied by Mrs. Whitney. The transfer was made very easily.

It was of absolute vital importance to prevent the slightest jar from reaching the patient. A shock or jolt to any one whose spine has been injured will produce grave results. Yet the necessity of removing Mrs. Whitney was so urgent that the doctors did not hesitate to undertake the dangerous, delicate task. Mrs. Whitney's head was supported in a steel framework, which was so arranged in conjunction with a plaster of paris cast about the neck that the head and neck were held absolutely rigid and immovable. Every precaution against accident was taken on the way to the Whitney residence.

SUBMARINE BOAT A WONDER.

Holland Makes Four Dives of a Mile Each and Expels a Torpedo.

The submarine torpedo boat Holland made four dives of a mile each, went through a series of surface evolutions, then her aerial dynamite gun, and expelled a dummy torpedo from her submarine tube in Barataria bay the other afternoon.

The experiments were conducted for the benefit of the board appointed by the secretary of the navy to witness the Holland's trials and report upon her efficiency. Lieutenant Commander C. S. Sperry, chief of the bureau of equipment; Lieutenant Commander Swift, chief of the bureau of ordnance, and Lieut. Rock, naval constructor, who comprise that board, witnessed them from a tug provided by the Holland company. Other witnesses were Assistant Secretary of the Navy McAdoo and Gen. Murtwayo, the special agent of the czar. Gen. Murtwayo came from Washington for the special purpose of witnessing the experiments, and after they were over he cold Mr. Holland that his boat was the most wonderful piece of naval architecture in existence.

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THEORIES ABOUT SLEEP.

Some Advice for Sufferers of Dread Insomnia.

There is a most interesting study of the phenomena of sleep contained in the lastest volume of the "Contemporary Science Series," written by Mme. Marie de Manseine, of St. Petersburg. Just as we wake from innocence to a knowledge of good and evil, and then probe our moral nature to discover a balm for the wound evil has made, so we fall from health, with its normal and refreshing sleep, to a condition of nervous disorder and lack of sleep, and we then take note of our symptoms with a view to discover how we may regain the lost paradise. The author, perhaps, scarcely recognizes to what a degree the victim of insomnia is in our modern cities, at the mercy of others. For while insomnia has many causes, it is always kept alive by noise, and in cities like London and Paris noise is always going on day and night. Neighbors, too, are frequently thoughtless, and so add to the almost inevitable street noises tortures of their own. We must rely, in fact, for a better chance to the sleepless, in part at least, on the growth of a social feeling which will never willingly inflict misery on other people. Only by such a growth, reinforced by law where social feeling fails, can the crowded life of modern cities be made tolerable. No doubt people are adapting themselves in some degree to city life, or else they are dying out because they cannot so adapt themselves to a hated environment.

But, apart from the one great curse of city life with its injurious effect on delicate nervous organizations, there are other causes of sleeplessness within the control, to some degree, of the victim of insomnia. It was at one time supposed that in sleep the brain was richly charged with blood. How that supposition can ever have arisen we confess we do not understand, but we assume that the theory was that a kind of paralysis overtakes those who were wrapped in sleep. This is now confessed to be an error. Sleep ensues when the brain is largely denuded of blood, when cerebral anemia is established. To partly empty the brain of its blood supply, to keep the head cool, the body sufficiently warm, and to send the blood rather to the lower extremities—is this the physical problem of the sleepiness. It is interesting to note that during sleep a great number of the bodily functions continue quite normal without interfering with sleep itself, and, therefore, sleep is not like death as some of the poets have imagined. Man asleep is not so profoundly different from man awake; the two chief points of difference, however, being these: A greater inward drawing of oxygen and exhalation of carbonic acid, and a complete vasomotor rest. The bedroom and the state of the occupant (assuming the absence of external noise) are the chief factors in the problem. The sleeping-room should be airy and cool, never, for adult persons, reaching a higher temperature than 60 degrees, though young children need greater warmth. The head should never be under the sheets, but exposed and cool. The feet should be kept warm by a little extra clothing at the foot. With a heavy sleeper there should be no thick curtains, but with a light sleeper curtains are essential, as sunlight plays upon the optic nerve and rouses that attention which it is the one object of the sleeper to keep in suspended animation. The bed should never be between fireplace and door, or it catches the draughts, and it is more dangerous and more easy to contract a chill in bed than in the daytime, the specially chilly period being about three a. m.

So far as the sleeper is concerned, what should he do? We confess to having little sympathy with the medical and subsistence departments, as the undergraduate said, they, too, are God's creatures. On the whole, immense lethargy is connected with a rather low intellectual development, often aided by foolish parents who allow their children to sleep longer than is good for them. As town life extends and intellect is aroused, the problem will be more and more that of too little, not of too much, sleep. Perfect, or nearly perfect, health is of course the first condition of sound sleep. But scarcely anyone is quite healthy, and so we must aid the sleepless to acquire that which is lacking. The one great thing to do is to fatigue the attention; not only to tire the body, but to fatigue the active mind, to quiet the vaso-motor center and so drive the congested blood from the brain. Quiet and regular habits, a certain monotony of light evening occupation, will tend in this direction, while a great variety of evening engagements is generally fatal to the victim of insomnia. It is unwise to go to bed on either an empty or a very full stomach; a slight meal before rest is the wise course. A hot bath the last thing is perhaps the very best to aid sleep.

A Sign of Age.

One of the most distressing signs of age is to imagine when you have lost something that some one has stolen it. Atchison Globe.

The pope made eight hogheads of wine last year from the vineyard in the Vatican gardens. A small portion of the wine is reserved for his own use, another portion is sent to the churches to be used at mass, and the rest is sold.

Slot Machine for Selling Gas.

A thousand slot machines for selling gas have been placed in use in Boston. A quarter dropped in secures the delivery of 250 feet of gas, which will light a room for 50 hours or about 12 evenings. These machines reach a new class of consumers, and the light they furnish is nearly as cheap as that of an oil lamp. The meters are put in the room or apartment of each separate family, and attempts to tamper with them are very rare. In London about 200,000 penny-in-the-slot gas machines for lighting and cooking have been called for in small houses and apartments.

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