

TO CATCH A RATTLER

SIMPLY STOOP AND PICK HIM UP WITH YOUR HANDS

If the Snake Is Colored, Lay One Hand Over It and the Other Under It. It Will Not Move to Get Away. When Picked About the Neck.

Here are some facts about snakes given by a young man who has studied them since he was ten years old. The best way to catch a snake is to simply stoop down and pick it up, as you would a toad or a turtle. Sometimes with a rattler it is as well to put a stick on his head and put your hand on him. If the snake is coiled, simply lay one hand over it and the other under it, and the snake will not move to get away.

There is a sure cure for snake bite than any brand of whiskey. It is strychnine sulphate, nitroglycerin and potassium permanganate, which may be carried in tablet form and must be dissolved in water and injected hypodermically.

This young naturalist was without his antidote the first time he was bitten by a rattler. It was on the Mojave desert, and he was prowling around among some old prospect holes. Scooping down to pick up a piece of copper ore lying at the mouth of a hole, he disturbed a big rattler, and it struck him. He placed his fingers on his hand and arm and started to jump. At the first snap he got a razor and held his finger as well as he could, but it was nine hours before he could get to his medicine. The next day his whole side was numb and stiff, and it was three weeks before he entirely recovered from the effects of the poison. He had not neglected, however, to catch the snake, and this became his special pet.

The lesson he learned was that a quick movement in front of a rattler's eyes is a most dangerous proceeding and it will make a rattler strike quicker than anything else. In handling strange rattlesnakes he is always a little careful and usually draws them into his hand over the top. A caressing little pat on the head seems to have the same effect on snakes as on other animals.

After putting a rattler on the floor of his room and teasing it, to make it coil and strike, this snake trainer picked it up in his hand, patting its head and arm and started to jump. At the first snap he got a razor and held his finger as well as he could, but it was nine hours before he could get to his medicine. The next day his whole side was numb and stiff, and it was three weeks before he entirely recovered from the effects of the poison. He had not neglected, however, to catch the snake, and this became his special pet.

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GAVE UP SUPPORTER

"I was a supporter for four years, to keep up my wamb," writes Mrs. S. J. Christian, of Mansfield, N. Y. "My doctor said no medicine would help me. After taking Cardial I gave up my supporter and am well."

THE ASTERIA.

Interesting Data About the Magic Star Gem of Ceylon.

Familiar to some of the ancient writers and credited with supernatural powers, the asteria, or star gem, is highly valued for the benefits supposed to be conferred on the wearer. It is bright, six rayed star, ever changing and shifting with every play of light and especially showing its flames in the direct sunlight, would seem to be something more than an ordinary crystal, and to the superstitious mind is believed to embody some tutelary spirit. The particular virtue attributed to this gem was the conferring upon the wearer of health and good fortune when worn as an amulet, and to those fortunate to be born in the month of April, with which the stone was associated or represented, the wearer was insured from all evil. The star stone is found principally in Ceylon, invariably in soil peculiar to rubies and sapphires. Indeed it is composed of the same constituent "corundum," its chatoyant, or star rays, being caused by the pressure of what the natives call "silk." It is found in many different colors, from pale blue, pink and white to deep dark blue, ruby and purple. The blue are termed sapphire stars, the red ruby stars. It is always cut en cabochon, the star dividing into six rays at the apex. It is next in hardness to the diamond.

The "Moorman" of Colombo, with tools as rude and simple as his forefathers used 1,000 years before, with no training or instruction except the unwritten mysteries of the craft handed down from father to son, will produce the most wonderful results in cutting and polishing rubies and sapphires. In many instances rival the more educated lapidary of Europe for judgment in cutting gems to the greatest advantage.—London Graphic.

MAKING SILK HATS.

A Workman Explains Why His Forefinger Nail Is "Lifted."

The nail of his right forefinger was long, yellow, horny, and the finger tip had so thickened and hardened that it seemed to be covered with pale leather. He was a silk hat maker, and it was from curling hat brims that his finger had changed so strangely. Describing the processes of a silk hat's manufacture, he said:

"The belief that cardboard forms a silk hat's foundation is an error. The hat is first built up of various thicknesses of linen—layers of linen, soaked in starch, that by means of wooden molds and hot irons weighing twenty pounds apiece are worked one on the other till a perfect shape, and all complete, is obtained.

"The silk is next put on. This silk comes from the H. yard. It looks like plush in the piece. The hatmaker cuts it off on the bias and molds it round the stiff linen foundation. The strips must be very accurately cut, and great care is used in their ironing and cementing so as to give a perfect diagonal coat. Look at your silk hat's band at the next time you wear it. The joint's perfection will, perhaps, amaze you."

"The brim, up to this point, is flat. Now its curling commences. That is where my forefinger comes in. The shaping of a hat brim is purely a matter of hand and eye and taste. The brim while being shaped is lightly heated so as to give it pliability.

"And of course working on this hot material, patting and prodding it, the forefinger thickens and the nail gets horny.

"Nevertheless hat curling is pleasant, artistic work. Hat curlers have reputations the same as artists. Their work is distinctive. An expert can tell it at a glance."—New York Press.

THE UPPER LIP.

A Theory About the Furrow Which Appears Before the Mouth.

Below the nose runs a furrow part-

ing the upper lip. In the faces of babies and children this furrow is very noticeable. From the evolutionist's point of view it is one of the most remarkable characters of the face. It tends to become obsolete in old age, and it is not seen among the catarrhine monkeys. Among the platyrrhines it is but feebly developed, but in lemurs it is in a more pronounced state. There is a deeply depressed suture, to which the two side pieces are joined. The upper lip, in fact, is nearly split in two, but held together in its depressed state by the flesh. In the macropodalia and proscia the lip is practically in two pieces, and each piece is capable of being moved separately. This is the "hare-lip," and its method of use may be noticed in a hare or a rabbit when eating.

The furrow, therefore, in the child's lip points to this—that our ancestors possessed not a single upper lip, as we do now, but two upper lips, one beneath each nostril, both capable of independent movement. In the course of time these two lips have grown into the nonretractile of independent movement, grown together to form the single lip we now possess, but the line of junction is not perfect, and so the furrow results, and sometimes there is a distinct scar down the middle of the furrow.

The possession of the furrowed upper lip by children is one of the strongest pieces of evidence against the descent of man from any catarrhine and in favor of his descent from platyrrhines or from lemurs through the intervention of platyrrhine-like ancestors, of which there are no exact living representatives.—Nineteenth Century.

Long Lives.

Dumas pere, who was proud of the prices he received for his work, was once boasting of the fact.

"Bygod a doubt," he remarked, "I am the best paid of living men of letters. I receive 300 sous a line."

"Indeed, monsieur?" said a bystander. "I have never worked for less than £5,000 a line. What do you think of that?"

"You are joking," responded Dumas in irritation.

"Not at all."

"For what do you receive such rates per line?"

"For constructing railways," was the answer.—Harper's Weekly.

What Peace Means.

"Can you tell me the meaning of the word 'peace'?" asked Miss Gray of a little boy who had just recited a patriotic poem in which the word occurred.

"Peace means when you ain't got no children," answered the child.

"How is that?" asked Miss Gray.

"When my mother has washed and dressed us all, children for school in the morning she says, 'Now, I'll have peace.'"

Towering Hills.

"You say you think your girl is going back on you? What leads you to such a supposition? Did she snub you?"

"No, but she called her little sister into the parlor last night and had her recite to me."—Houston Post.

PATRIOTIC OLE BULL.

The Greatest Political Influence in Modern Norway.

What was it that made Ole Bull undeniably the greatest political influence in the history of modern Norway? The riddle is easy to read. Although he voiced the peasant's, his own voice was that of no peasant, but one of the most severely learned of European utterances. His instrumental mastery was complete, and the technical difficulties of his compositions have left their mark for the most part unperforated. But more than his musical genius worshipped with such an ardor of concentration that the whole range of his works had for him no secret. His fans, therefore, was of that order that opens all doors. Statesmen and chief captains like Bismarck and Von Moltke were his intimates, and he was their confidant. To world artists like Liszt, Chopin and Mendelssohn he was own brother. Indeed, a curious physical resemblance between Liszt and himself led to many amusing contretemps on this score. And conversely, the diplomatists and great nobles were all proud to name him among their friends. In him, then, Norway had found one who could stand for her in the highest ranks of the nations, learn for her the secrets of statecraft and recover in her behalf the trick of thinking like a king. For this is one of the losses entailed on a people who are governed by foreigners from a foreign seat—that they forget to think of their country as a whole, the habit that is the secret of rulers.

Yet it was only as a man and not by any means as a politician that an unscrupulous claim the friendship of the distinguished artist. His own sovereign felt that had cause for grave offense when the news reached Stockholm, in 1848, of his heading a procession in Paris to present the Norwegian colors to Lamartine. But even royal anger could not resist the good stories told on the next visit, and the king stood biting his lip at the carabole bonhomme of Ole Bull as he turned suddenly and said, "By the way, sir, you should have been with us, otherwise you would have seen me in the claim Lamartine."—Margaret E. Noble in Century.

WOMEN'S WEAR IN WARTIME

Homemade Cloth of Many Kinds. Scraped Horn Fur Hats.

We had one cotton mill to spin the warp. The people stood in line to get a bunch of cotton for warp. The filling was yarn, cotton, fax and tow. We got our dyestuff from the forest. It was almost to be had for nothing as the tashak trade is now. There was great

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divinity among the women to see who could have the prettiest dress. I have a quilt made of cotton and linen called a "Confederate" quilt.

The clothing for every member of the family was made from the raw material, cotton, spun, woven, dyed and made with home-spun thread.

The town linen cloth had one peculiarity. It was a great stretcher. It was often used for sheet things. A man and his wife started to town with cloth sufficient to get some articles. On the way he remembered he needed a gingham also. He told his wife. They decided to tie the ends of the cloth to two saplings, he to stretch a gimlet out of it.

I took great interest in the silk industry. We fed the worms on mulberry leaves, and such beautiful silk we did have. A bright stripe in a cotton dress made it very fine. A family made gloves, beautiful silk mitts, with beads embroidered on the back. Nothing went to waste. The thorn trees furnished us pine and birchpins. Our military was of our own making. Our hats were made of cotton thread crocheted, put on a block, stretched very stiff and ironed, then wired. We had homemade flowers and all kinds of material for trimming. A dress made of straw made stiff and covered with scrap wool's horn was much admired. If it did look like a coconut cake.—Charlotte (N. C.) Observer.

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MAPLE CITY SELF-WASHING SOAP, gives that snow white finish so pleasing to good housewives.

The Stream Runs Up Hill.

One of the few instances of a stream running up hill can be found in White County, Ga. Near the top of a mountain is a spring, evidently a siphon, and the water runs from it with sufficient force to carry it up the side of a very steep hill for nearly half a mile. Reaching the crest, the water flows on to the east, and eventually finds its way to the Atlantic ocean. Of course it is of the same nature as a geyser, but the spectacle of a stream of water flowing up a steep incline can probably be found nowhere else in the country and appears to give more remarkable than the geysers of the Yellowstone.

Overconfidence.

It is a dangerous point in any man's career when he feels sure of his position or his fame. Overconfidence is the first sign of a decline, the first symptom of deterioration. We do our best work when we are struggling for our position, when we are trying with all our might to gain our ambition, to attain that which the heart longs for.—Success Magazine.

The Real Test.

"Is he a thoroughly honest man?"

"I don't know," answered the man from St. Louis. "I have trusted him with hundreds of thousands of dollars, but I never tried him with a book or an umbrella."—Washington Star.

Missed Her Chance.

May-I believe that Miss Passer had a proposal when she was sixteen. Blanche—indeed? And the poor thing was so young and thoughtless that she did not accept?

The oftener a man loses his temper the more he has of it.—Galveston News.

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