

THE WEALTH OF THE DESERT.

Do you realize what it means to watch five thousand sheep alone in the desert? You have read weird, gruesome stories of the horror of the solitary lighthouse-keeper's life, but compared to the days of the Mexican shepherd, those of the average keeper of the light are filled with gaiety and noise. Even with their one or two dogs the shepherds often go insane; and were it not for the company of their shaggy collies, the lunacy among them would rise to an almost incredible percentage, if we are to believe those who followed the sheep in the desert, and, therefore, may be supposed to know.

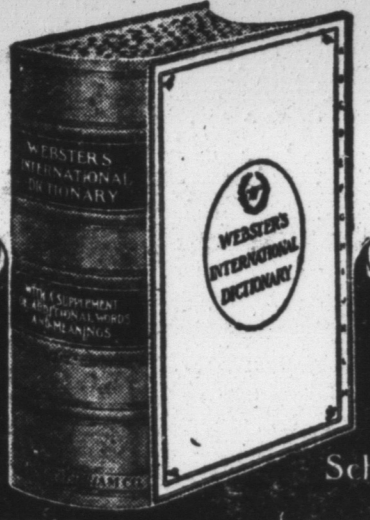
Once in old Santa Fe, New Mexico, I met a man who for twelve years had followed the sheep. His work was done. All day long he sat in a chair in the rear of the little 'dobe store, crouched over, jibbering to himself, bleating—an idiot. He still saw his sheeps swaying like a great white wave among the sage brush, and ever in his ears shouted the killing monotone of their bleats.

How is it possible, then, you ask, that men are to be found willing to watch them? It is very easy. Sheep herding is a lazy job at best, and the "greaser"

is the laziest creature on earth. For twenty dollars a month he is willing to sit in the sand and listen to the never-ending bleating until the little mind has given way and they fetch him in from the range insane. He is glad to take the chance for twenty dollars a month. And the greaser is not the only shepherd in the west. On the vast ranges of Nevada and Wyoming you may run across an occasional college man tending the sheep. Once, indeed, a college professor, ill of consumption, undertook to follow five thousand bleaters for the summer. In autumn they found him insane, on his hands and knees among the sheep, bleating with them. Day after day his eyes behold only a brilliant turquoise sky, in which hangs a sun of brass; an ocean sweep of sage-flecked sand, and a slowly moving compact mass of sheep. His ears hear no sound save the steady baa, baa, day and night, affecting him as the Chinese criminal of ancient days was affected by the regular tap, tap of a hidden drum.

And yet so long as the desert continues to provide food for the "bleaters," so long will shepherds go mad among the flocks; and for ten years the desert's greatest value to man has been the food it has offered the sheep, nor yet is the store depleted.—*The Pilgrim.*

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WHAT THE MOON CAN TELL.

A clear moon indicates frost.
A single halo around the moon indicates a storm.
If the moon looks high, cold weather may be expected.
If the moon looks low down, warm weather is promised.
A double halo around the moon means very boisterous weather.
If the moon changes with the wind in the east, then shall we have bad weather.
If the moon be bright and clear when three days old, fine weather is promised.
When the moon is visible in the day time, then we may look forward to cool days.
When the points of the crescent of the new moon are clearly visible, frost may be looked for.
If the new moon appear with points upward, then will the month be dry, but should the points be downward, more or less rain must be expected during the next three weeks. — *American Queen.*

A MAGIC LETTER.

Did you ever think what a strange letter S is? It is a serpent in disguise. Listen! you can hear it hiss. It is the wizard of the alphabet. It gives possession and multiplies indefinitely by its touch. It changes a tree into trees and a house into houses. Sometimes it is very spiteful and will change a pet name into pest, a pear into spear, a word into sword, a laughter into slaughter, and it will make hot shot any time.
The farmer has to watch it closely. It will make scorn of his corn, and reduce every peck into a speck. Sometimes he finds it useful. If he needs more room for his stock it will change a table into a stable for him, and if he is short of hay he can set out a row of tacks. It will turn them into stacks. He must be careful, however, not to let his nails lie round loose. The serpent's breath will turn them into snails. If he wishes to use an engine about his farm work this farmer need not buy

any coal or have water with which to run it. Let the serpent glide before the horses. The team will turn to steam.

If you get hurt call the serpent to your aid. Instantly your pain will be in Spain. Be sure to take it with you the next time you climb a mountain if you desire to witness a marvel. It will make the peak speak. But don't let it come round while you are reading now. It will make the tale stale.— *National Educator.*

FRAIL LITTLE ONES.

The little ones are frail. Their hold upon life is slight. No symptom that indicates any of the little ailments to pass for a moment without proper attention. The little ailment may soon become a serious one, and then it may be too late to save a precious little life. If Baby's Own Tablets are kept in the house, the danger of serious trouble can be averted, and the minor troubles promptly cured. An occasional Tablet to the well child will prevent illness. The Tablets are absolutely safe and contain no poisonous soothing stuff — they give children healthy sleep, simply because they banish the cause of sleeplessness. Mrs. F. B. Bishop, of Lawrencetown, N. S., says: "I have found Baby's Own Tablets just as you represent them—the very best of medicine for young children." You can get the Tablets from druggists or by mail at 25 cents a box, by writing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF BAMBOO.

On the crowded streets of this bustling emporium of Szechuen one sees many things made of bamboo. Indeed, in this province a man can sit in a bamboo house under a bamboo roof, on a bamboo chair at a bamboo table, with his feet resting on a bamboo foot-stool, with a bamboo hat on his head and bamboo sandals on his feet. He can at the same time hold in one hand a bamboo bowl, in the other bamboo chopsticks, and eat bamboo sprouts. When through with his meal, which has been cooked over a bamboo fire, the table may be washed with a bamboo cloth, and he can fan himself with a bamboo fan and take a siesta on a bamboo bed, lying on a bamboo mat with his head resting on a bamboo pillow. On rising he could smoke his bamboo pipe, and, taking a bamboo pen, write a letter on bamboo paper, or carry his articles in bamboo baskets suspended from a bamboo pole, with a bamboo umbrella over his head. He might then walk over a bamboo suspension bridge and drink water out of a bamboo ladle. The bamboo ingenuity and persistency have produced (bamboo) joint results which exhibit the potentialities and possibilities of the Chinese people.—*Selected.*

Christ in the flesh was, and is to man the highest revelation of God. The material universe, the inorganic world, the organic kingdom of plants and animals, the thunderstorm, the earthquake shock, all these reveal God's power, his wisdom. Before these, man stands amazed, overawed, terrified. But not until Christ came in the flesh had our awe-smitten, terrified humanity any tangible revelation of God as a loving Father, or tender, gracious, sympathizing Friend, "who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities;" and, after all, it was this that our poor humanity needed to lift it, draw it heavenward.

WHAT MAKES YOU COUGH.

Did you ever wonder just what it is that makes you cough? In a general way it is understood to be an involuntary effort of nature to eject something from the breath-pipe. As a matter of fact, merely a slight throat inflammation caused by a cold will cause a cough to start, and the more you cough the more you want to cough. If you allay the inflammation in your throat the cough will stop.
Don't hurt the sensitiveness of the throat with medicines containing a narcotic, but give it healing and soothing treatment. This is difficult, because the inflamed parts are in the way of the passage of food and drink. The true cough remedy is something that will protect the throat from the ill effects of catharral discharges and also from the irritation of swallowing food. Such a remedy is Adamson's Botanical Cough Balsam, which for many years has been conquering the most obstinate coughs. It is a soothing compound, prepared from barks and gums. Its beneficent effect is quickly felt, and the work of healing promptly begun. If you once take Adamson's Balsam for cough, you will never be satisfied without some of it at hand for any new cough. A trial size of the balsam can be secured of any druggist for 10 cents. The regular size is 25 cents. In asking for the Balsam, be sure to get the genuine, which has "F. W. Kinsman & Co." blown on the bottle.

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