

IN A BIRD'S STOMACH.

Some Very Odd Things That are Come Across by Ornithologists.

Some very odd things are come across by the ornithologists that are engaged in examining the stomachs of various kinds of birds, for the purpose of ascertaining what they eat and how much of the crops they destroy. In the stomach of a crow was found a warbler. The stomach of the warbler contained a caterpillar, and traces of the vegetation on which the latter had fed were clearly discerned under the microscope. Another oddity discovered in the stomach of a crow was a rubber elastic band, which had evidently been picked up by mistake for a worm.

Once in a while a bedbug is found in the stomach of a woodpecker. Doubtless the insects are got from pine trees. Pine cones are often infested by bedbugs which must have lived on those trees long before they became human parasites. Ticks, too, which likewise breed on trees, are discovered occasionally in birds' stomachs, though so rarely as to suggest that the feathered creatures are afraid of them and would avoid them as a rule.

The insects in a bird's stomach are ordinarily counted by their jaws. For example caterpillars have soft bodies, which are quickly digested, leaving their jaws to be gradually ground up and disposed of in the gizzard. The jaws of beetles, caterpillars and grasshoppers are made of one of the most enduring substances in nature, being nearly as hard as the teeth of mammals. They are very characteristic, so that the difference may readily be told between those of a cricket, a grasshopper, a locust, etc. The jaws found in the stomach of a bird are counted and divided by two, which gives the number of insects represented.

Cuckoos are the only birds that eat hairy caterpillars, so far as known.

The horny linings of their gizzards are sometimes found so thickly perforated by the sharp and strong hairs of these insects as to be actually "fuzzy" when dried. Not long ago a crow from Oregon was examined whose digestive apparatus contained a beetle of a species so rare that the specimen would have been worth \$15 if it had been in good condition.

A DIVORCE CASE.

The Wife's Plea of Ignorance Doubled by the Husband.

A German peasant, Grobmaier by name, took occasion to chastise his wife, and she, not liking such treatment, applied to the local judge for a divorce. The judge, who knew the parties, had them both cited to appear before him. Addressing the wife he said—

"Mrs. Grobmaier, if I were you I would withdraw the application for divorce. It is true your husband struck you, but according to your own admission, you provoked him with your tongue. Have you any other grounds for divorce?"

"Yes, I have."

"What are they?"

"He is as stupid as a donkey. He hasn't got any sense at all."

"Stupidity on the part of the husband is no good ground for divorce. You must have known before you married him that that he was a fool."

"No, I didn't know that he was such a wretched donkey."

"How long were you engaged before you got married?"

"Three years."

"Then you must have known when you married your husband that he was a fool."

"I am willing to swear that I didn't know he was a fool when I married him."

"Your honor, she knew it well enough, for she told me so time and time again."

A Fish Which Changes its Color.

The Paradise fish, *Macropodus viridatus*, changes its color. It is an ornamental fish, cultivated in China for the aquarium on account of its remarkable colors, which surpass in brilliancy any fish bred for the purpose. In shape and size its body is not unlike that of the pumpkin-seed sunfish. The body and the crescent-shaped caudal fin are deep crimson, the former having ten or a dozen blue stripes, while the fin has a blue border. The gills are blue, bordered with a bright crimson. The head is grey, with dark spots. The under surface of the body is continually changing color—at one time it is white, and at another time it is grey or black. The dorsal fins, which are unusually large, are striped, dotted with brown, and bordered with blue. The ventral fins are dull-colored. The pectorals are transparent, and show no color.

The Cove with the Scythe.

On the placard which advertised a walk against time in a town in England, the pedestrian was depicted in glowing colors striding along in advance of Father Time, who was represented as an old man, armed and clad in the usual symbolic manner. During the afternoon of the "walk" a rough member of the "fancy" demanded of the gate-keeper the return of his shilling. "What's the matter?" said the official. "You have been here for four hours to my knowledge, and you have seen him walk."

"That's true," replied the rough; "but I'm here to see that cove with the scythe, and he hasn't turned up, and I mean to have my money back, so out with it and no 'umbug'!"

A Generous Rival.

When Christine Nilsson, the great singer, was asked her opinion of various singers, she gave it very candidly of everyone, including herself and Mme. Albani, but she never once alluded to Mme. Patti.

"You have not mentioned Mme. Patti," remarked the pertinacious interviewer.

"No," said Mme. Nilsson, "I have not. You are asking about singers. I do not regard Patti as a singer—I place her among the angels. A Patti only comes to a planet once during that planet's existence. Such an absence of stage jealousy has probably never been equalled."

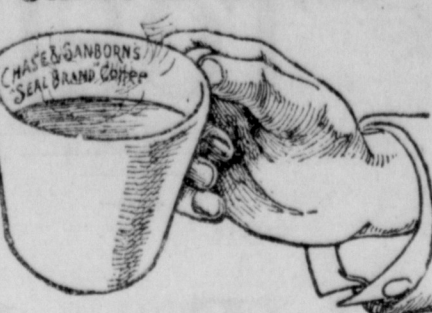
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MARRIAGE IN FRANCE.

Formalities Lovers Have to Observe Before They May Wed Legally.

Lovers cannot enter lightly into wedlock in France. A hasty marriage is a legal impossibility. The formalities that must be complied with before the mayor may tie the knot sometimes extend over several months. Only the civic marriage is recognized in law. Our own form of marriage by priest or minister is regarded by French law as practically a civic ceremony, as it involves filling a certificate with the Board of Health.

Under the French law a girl may not marry until she is after 15 years old, and a man until he is more than 18. If the girl has been betrayed this section of the law is not operative. Men under 25 and women under 21 must have the consent of their fathers and mothers. After that age the consent of the father alone is necessary. The father may withhold his consent for three months. The son or the daughter must ask him three times. If he refuses the third time and both are of legal age they may be married without the paternal blessing. When the woman is 25 and the man 30 they are required to ask the father only twice. The asking must not be through a notary, who makes an official record of the fact. After the man has passed 30 and the woman 25 years the law supposes that they have acquired enough wisdom not to need the sanction of their parents.

After having waited for the approval of the head of the home and received it, the patient French lovers must post at the Mairie of their arrondissement (each ward in Paris has its mayor) on two successive Sundays the announcement that Armand is going to marry Suzette, and that if anybody has any objection, he or she shall file it with the Mayor or his assistant. If nobody has objection, the lovers may be united three days after the posting of the second notice. If there should be objection, the Mayor looks into it. This investigation is systematic, and may take another week—maybe more. If the objection turns out not to be legal Armand and Suzette may stand up before the Mayor, sign their names in a big book, and get out a certificate. If they are good Catholics (Suzette usually is, although Armand likely is not) may be a freethinker) they will go to the priest and get married again. As the rule the priest who performs the religious ceremony is a witness at the civil service. A priest is not allowed to give a certificate of marriage or marry a couple who have not previously been married by the Mayor. If the Mayor does not comply with the letter of the law in regard to all matrimonial requirements he is liable to imprisonment for six months.

A citizen of France who returns to his country with the intention of living there, after marrying in a foreign land, must, within three months after his return, have his certificate registered at the office of the Mayor nearest the place where he resides. The Count de Castellane will, therefore, have his marriage certificate—the civil one, although the other would be accepted—registered when he gets to France.

The Crumbling Parthenon.

The German architect, Furtwängler, calls attention to the condition of the Parthenon in consequence of the last earthquake in Athens. He was commissioned to examine the ancient buildings of that city, and declares them in a dangerous condition, particularly the Parthenon and the temple Theseus, and that will cost a million drachmas—about \$200,000—to repair them. In view of the urgent need from the condition of these remains the Archaeological Society has issued an appeal to the people of all countries, asking them to assist in raising a fund to be devoted to the restoration of the buildings. A liberal contribution to this end could be made by Americans. Our interest in the study of Greek art and architecture, as evidenced by our Athens school, emphasizes the imperative necessity of immediate efforts to secure liberal donations toward the preservation of these ancient remains. Our architectural societies and schools should take prompt measures to secure from their members as liberal contributions as possible, as well as in calling the matter to the attention of art patrons and public spirited people who are interested in advancing the study of Greek architecture and archaeology.

Good Words for Wales.

A characteristic incident of a visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales and their daughters to the General Post Office has just become known. The story is that as they were passing through the telegraph department the Prince suddenly marched up to an operator and tapped him on the shoulder. The telegraphist dismounted from his stool and made a respectful salutation to the Prince. The reply of His Royal Highness was to take the young man's hand and shake it heartily, an example which was followed by the Princess and the rest of the Royal family. It was afterwards explained that this telegraphist was on duty at Sandringham during the fatal illness of the Duke of Clarence. The story embodies two of the Prince's most charming characteristics. First, his great gift of retaining in memory the faces of those he has known ever so slightly. Secondly, his true royal gratitude and swiftness in acknowledging services rendered.

Read Aaron Burr's Speech.

White, of Kentucky, while Speaker of the House in the Twenty-seventh Congress, was so pressed with business that when he had to deliver his valedictory, he got one of those men who are always on hand to make a little money, to write his address. It was handed him just a little time before he had to deliver it, and he put it in his pocket without reading. When the time came, he rose, and slowly untangling the manuscript, read the address. It was very brilliant, but it was Aaron Burr's famous valedictory to the Senate. The Speaker never recovered from the shock. He went home, was taken ill, and it is supposed he killed himself for shame.

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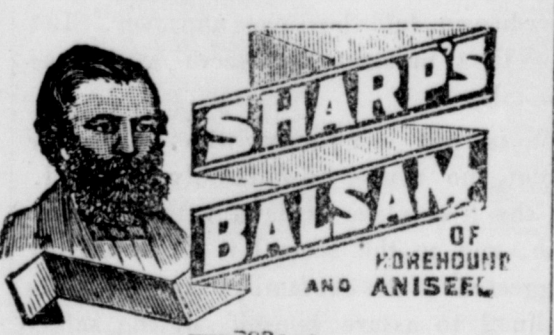
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COSTLY BIRTHDAY CAKES.

Two \$1,000 Diamond Rings Hidden in One Ordered by Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt.

A New York caterer has copyrighted within the last day or two an ice cream mould of Tribby, and will hereafter model her for his patrons. The mould is a facsimile of the much-discussed heroine, from the crown of her classic head to the sole of her celebrated foot. At a luncheon the other day the ice cream was served in little flower cups, the design being lavender orchids modelled in candy and tinted. The centre piece for the table was a royal cluster of lavender orchids massed in maiden hair fern, and surrounded by a bank of violets. A lavender satin ribbon, to which was attached a bunch of violets, extended from the centre piece to the plate of each guest. After the guests were seated, by drawing toward her the ribbon at her plate each woman obtained the bouquet designed for her.

Almost any kind of fruit or flower can be imitated in ice cream. A cocoanut, brown, hairy, resting on its broad palm leaf, with little wisps and tendrils of foliage clinging to it, is so exact a likeness of the original in size, shape, and coloring that one wonders at the clever deception. A musk melon, round and fluted with its rough rind, and two or three mutilated leaves attached to the stem, is also imitated cleverly in shape and coloring.

"We made three cakes here the other day for a birthday party, and each one was three feet in diameter," said the manager of a Broadway establishment. "In the most expensive one was hidden two \$100,000 diamond rings. One cake was of layers of pound cake and marmalade beautifully iced and decorated. Its value was \$50. Two tiny flags, one engraved with a 'G,' the other with an 'L,' showed which part of this monster cake was for the ladies and which half for the gentlemen. The rings were to go to whom ever got the particular slice containing them. The other two cakes were not as expensive, but were also very elegant. Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt ordered these center pieces for a party to be given in honor of her daughter on her eighteenth birthday, a week ago. One of the big cakes was for the servants of the Vanderbilt establishment."

CARIBOU BROWN'S NUGGET.

It is Ben in Butler's safe at the Capitol at Washington.

In Ben Butler's safe at the Capitol saloon is a gold nugget, notable as being the first precious metal discovered on Rich Hill, that strange deposit of treasure in the Weaver mining district which afterward yielded over \$1,000,000.

Jack Swilling found in the nugget, and was no less surprised than have been hundreds of more pretentious geological theorists since.

The nugget is about the size of one's three forefingers from their first joints to their tips, and weighs nearly five ounces, being actually valued at \$66. Caribou Brown finally got possession and would not now part with it for any reasonable consideration.

Caribou himself is an interesting character. Fifty of his seventy-five years have been spent on this coast, and for forty years he has experienced the vicissitudes of those whose fate depends on the turn of a card. But no matter how disastrously the game may be going as he sits on the lookout chair of a laro table, the person yet remains to be seen who can induce old Caribou to part with that precious nugget. It has been his friend, silent, yet potent, in emergency for thirty years past. He will cling to it doubtless until the dealer in life and death wins his last chip.

In the Cause of Charity.

Rather a nice-looking man he was, standing there by the merchant's desk with a paper in his hands.

"Good morning," he said pleasantly, "I am around this morning on charity bent."

"Um," responded the merchant.

"Yes," continued the visitor, "Charity avails much; charity is kind; charity filleth a multitude of skins."

"That's all right," assented the merchant. "What's it for?"

"For a needy man who hasn't worked for a long time."

"How much do you want?"

"As much as you please. Ten cents goes; he is grateful for small favors."

"Well, put me down 'cash'; here's your dime. What's the man's name?"

"Mr. Fitzgibbons Jones."

"Who's he? I never heard of him."

"No?"

"No; I don't know him."

"No? And that, too, when he standing right before you?"

"Oh," exclaimed the merchant, and Mr. Fitzgibbons Jones, with a smile and a bow, and ten cents, departed for a saloon around the corner.

How the Maoris got Bullets.

In the early days of the New Zealand colonists there was a good deal of fighting between the British troops and the natives—the Maoris—who, though a brave race of people, had ultimately to submit to the advance of civilization. The Maoris would frequently run short of bullets, when they resorted to all sorts of devices to obtain a renewed stock. One of their tricks, by which they obtained bullets from our troops to shoot us with, was particularly clever and ingenious. They used to show a dummy in the bush, which, of course, was immediately fired at. A man in the background pulled it down with a string, making the British soldier believe they had finished him off. Up came the dummy again, cautiously, and bang! bang! went the British rifle, and this was repeated until some shot chanced to cut the dummy's rope. When the game had been over some time, the Maoris would gather all the bullets fired against the dummy out of a little earthen bank which they had made behind the tree where the dummy had appeared, and they were then used against us.

[She Found Out.]

Mr. Whoopla.—Suppose, Dolly, I were to rob you of a kiss, what would you do?

Miss Popinjay.—How can I tell, Mr. Whoopla, what is going to happen before it occurs? Do you think I am a clairvoyant?

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