#### NOMADS OF INDIA ARE SAID TO BE IMMUNE TO POISON; WOMEN INDIFFERENT TO SNAKE BITES

haps significant that Italy is one of Statesmen, says; strength consists of women, who feel they snatch away the prize.

ity from the poison of any type of is the one thing on earth they are un-

the largest buyers of snake venom "After watching a few tricks per- respondent of the New York Herald- a blessing to Astika and said that his from India. A large consignment of formed by the women with their cob- Tribune. snake venom accidentally was discov- ras, cobras that had their poison most venomous of rdian snakes, the the white ant or rodents-'like a cob. tionless as if paralyzed, and then the lanes and Calcutta where are situated cording to c common saying among ing hold of it under the head, push-

of this tribe seem to possess immun- pipe or the gourd The note of the pipe erable princes and chieftains who

ed they must leave the safe harbon to buy a few reptiles. of their holes and go as near to the The immunity of these There are many places in Calcutta snake, whether it be the dread hood tribe, there is the danger of being Hastinapur was, as a matter of venwhere one can obtain a plentiful super ed cobra or the spotted black snake. quickly despatched to the other world geance for the death of his father. where one can obtain a pienthal sup. The English correspondent of the if he fails in his notes or his rhythm. pursuing a deadly war against snakes. for these snake catchers writes a cor- of the Snakes. The Snake Lord gave

er day and on making caceful inquir- bit the women on the face to their likely shrub, and one of them begins | kill nor attempt to kill any snake. ies a correspondent of an Figlish passupreme indifference and to my abso- to play on the reed. In about ten per in Calcutta was informed about lute horror, I parted with the tribe. minutes the krite, or hooded cobra, cease. Therefore, however brave the the strange source from which this Before I left, though, I learned that is seen gliding into the open toward snake catchers of the Sunderbunds supply comes. At the mouth of the tribe was quite immune from the the piper. It stops near him and, rais-Ganges, the sacred river of India, poison of any snake whatever. Cer- ag its hood, begins to sway with the there is a large tract of marshly land tainly, from what I witnessed I did music. The piper waits till he feels their hands they must care for it as ralled the Sunderbunds. More than not doubt it for a moment." The half of this tract still is unexplored, women and men of the tribe have to serpent, and then he plays the pipe it is sold what happens to it will be, in the Sunderbunds there exists today resort to a trick however, in order to faster and faster, and runs it up as so to say, its own funeral! tribe of snake catchers, purely no- catch the snakes. Most of the day high a scale as he can in a great madic, living on boats, who ply their the snakes live underground in little burst of music and—breaks off on trade between the marshes where the holes which they have usurped from the top note. The snake stands mopiper calmly walks up to it, and catch The clouds pass by, the seasons the shops of the venom vendors. Eigh. Indians about persons who are too es it down in his basket, coil upon ty to 85 per cent of the total tribal prone to allow others to work while coil. If there is more than one snake, calmly appropriate them. There is a themselves as much at home among However, the reptiles have one large market in Calcutta for these the death-dealing reptiles as among weakness which is fatal to their exist-snakes, especially those of the poison ence. They are music mad especially ous variety. Besides the Zoological It is remarkable that the members the monotonous music of the reed Gardens at Calcutta, there are innum

player as they can, and then sway to ers is said to have been derived from the rhythm of the music. If it is pos- their being descendants of a snakesible for a player to go on for hours man called Astika, famous in Hindu on end, he will find in the cobra an mythology. Astika was supposed to absolutely perfect listener. To an or- have been born of a sage and a snake dinary mortal, not belonging to this maiden, and when once the King of But this is not a consideration at all Astika got the King to save the Lord descendants would never be harmed They get to an island, surround a by a snake bite so long as they did not kill a snake. So long as the remains in

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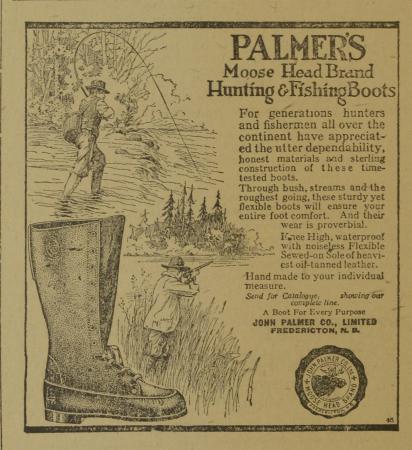
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