# Things Queer and Curious

# Sacred Crops in Japan



in the village of Isobe, in the Shima province of Japan, there are certain rice-fields which belong to the Izo-kyu Shrine, which claims a part of their yield, and these are the scene of a remarkable ceremony which takes place In no other part of the country. When the day comes for the young riceshoots to be removed from the small beds in which the seeds were sown, and to be planted in rows, the villagers make holiday, that they may witness the ceremonious transplanting which is illustrated here. Young men and women, placed alternately, and wearing the dress of old Japan, surround the small beds of shoots, and uproot them, singing old songs the while. The shoots are then planted in rows in the sacred fields to the music of flutes.

Lieutenant Bregard, entered his room

and asked him if it were possible for him to come with him by aeroplane

in order to give the sacrament to a

dying officer who had been shot by

the enemy. The two were heartily

cheered by the soldiers when they de-

scended in the French camp. The

wounded man when told he must die

had said: "To die is nothing, but to

die without the consolations of reli-

Lieutenant Bregard had bent down

and whispered that he would fetch a

was still alive when the priest ar-

rived. He made his confession and

received the communion and a few

NO FEMALES ALLOWED HERE

For thousands of years Mount

Athos, the monastery-covered emi-

nence on one projection of the Chal-

cidice peninsula, in the Aegean sea,

has been a center of religious activ-

ity. Centuries before the beginning

tain. It is the mountain that the

architect Dinocrates offered to turn

into a statue of Alexander the Great

with a city in one hand and in the

Its chief modern interest lies in the

other a perennially flowing spring.

fact that at least since the beginning

of the middle ages it has been the

home of a little monastic republic

that still retains almost the same

autonomy granted a thousand years

ago by the Christian emperors of Con-

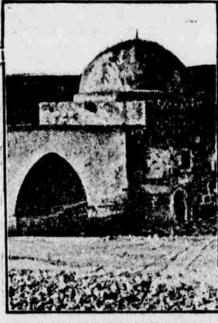
stantinople. In 1905 the many fortified

monasteries and hermitages on Mount

minutes afterward died.

gion is sad."

#### WHERE RACHEL IS BURIED



Rachel, daughter of Laban, favorite of the Christian era a sanctuary of wife of Jacob and mother of Benja- Zeus (Jupiter) stood on the mounmin. was interred at Bethlehem, according to tradition, and plous pilgrims to the Holy Land do not fail to visit the "Kubbet Rachil" or Tomb of Rachel, there. This structure actually dates only from the twelfth century, but presumably was erected on the site of an earlier tomb.

### **MEIJI'S FUNERAL TORTOISES**

A curious custom was carried out in connection with the funeral of Emperor Meiji which was not made public at the time. This consisted in the Athos contained 7,553 monks, includfreeing of three large tortoises as a ing Greeks, Russians, Bulgarians, Roumark of regret at the death of the emperor.

The shell of the largest specimen was three feet five inches long, and upon the shell were engraved the char-

"We humbly beg to show our deepest regret at the death of our Meiji Tenno. Let free in the sea off Ogasawara island on the day of the state funeral, September 13, 1912. Hiroshi Abe, governor of Tokio."

#### GIRL TOURS SHINING SHOES

Capitol officials in Montgomery, Ala., were surprised when a winsome young woman called and requested that she be permitted to shine their boots. She proved to be Miss Evelyn Altofair, originally of Nashville, Tenn., who started out from Mobile, six months ago on a "shoeshining" tour of the United States to win a wager of \$1,500 and convince the world that a woman can do anything she sets her mind to.

Under the agreement she is to go into every state in the union, making her living throughout by blacking

#### ATTENDS SICK CALL BY AERO

The distinction of being the first clergyman to travel by aeroplane to minister to a dying man falls to Father Andrai, a French priest serving with the troops in Morocco.

He was busy in the hospital at Laghouat when a young aeronaut, stated intervals.

manians. Georgians and Servian The domestic government of th monasteries was regulated in 1946 b Constantine Monomachos, with th aid of the patriarch of Constantinople By the imperial document which h issued women are forbidden on the peninsula, a prohibition so strictly observed that even the Turkish aga, or official, who resides at Karynes, may not take his harem with him. To such an extent is this prohibition carried that even the females of animals are not permitted on the peninsula. On occasions when women are forced to land there in storms they are at once placed in huts and sent away at the first opportunity.

The Paleologi emperors at Constantinople and the Slav princes of the Balkan peninsula enriched the monasteries of Mount Athos. Occa sionally a Byzantine emperor took refuge there from the cares of state. Amid the political disasters of the Greeks during the fourteenth century Mount Athos appears as a kind of holy land, a place where the Hellenic spirit was cherished when it was threatened elsewhere, and even today it is one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites of the entire Greek church and the feasts of the principal monasteries are always celebrated with great

The fall of Constantinople in 1457 brought no modification of the conditions on the holy mountain. The monks, who stubbornly opposed all attempts at reconciliation with the church of Rome, submitted at once to the domination of the Osmanli and with rare exceptions, have never been interfered with by the Turkish authorities

As a general rule the monks hold their property in common. They are divided into two classes, the "idiorhythmic" and the "cenobitic." The latter lives are of great monastic rigor. their chief occupation day and night being solemn public prayer. The oth ers enjoy a little more freedom and practice minor industries in aid of the common support.

#### RUDE IDOLS OF NEW GUINEA



The tribes of New Guinea, before going bunting or fishing, consult their idols, two specimens of which are here pictured. The natives assert that the idols answer them by tapping with their feet, whether the expedition is to be successful or not being indicated by the number of taps.

#### RABBIT HUNT NETS \$133

A rabbit hunt on the outskirts of Great Notch, N. J., was brought to an unexpected ending at the base of an old apple tree into which the rabbit had sought shelter. Two hunters. John Lyons and Robert Dodd of Upper Montclair, had fired two shots at the little animal, and as the smoke cleared away saw their prize run into the hollow of the tree. As the hunters were preparing to smoke the rabbit out they discovered in the tree hollow a much worn pocketbook. It contained one \$100 bill, five twos, three fives and eight one-dollar bills, all in fair condition.

# Sublime Porte of Turks



The Sublime Porte, which gives name to the government of Turkey, is the gate here pictured, leading to the palace of the sultan. There it was in the old days that the ruler of the Mohammedan world dispensed justice at

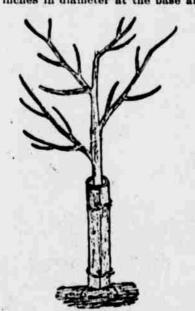
## SHARP TEETH OF RODENTS KILL TREES



(By F. H. BALLOU.) Mice rarely injure trees except where grass, strawy manure, boards or trash of some kind about the base of the tree prove a hiding place, as they prefer to perform their depredations under cover. In mounding fruit trees, first clear away the grass, trash or mulch from the base of the tree for a foot or more in all direc-

With the foot, or, better, with a post tamper, thoroughly firm the soil about the base of the tree. This breaks down and fills any runs or burrows that may be just below the surface.

With two shovelsful of fresh soil or cinders make a small mound, 12 or 14 inches in diameter at the base and



Young Apple Tree With Wood Veneer Wrapper, Having the Earth Mounded Around it for Protection Against Both Rabbits and Borers.

from four to six inches high about the surfaces will be in good contact with stem of the tree, firming the soil well. | it. The soil may then be filled in, ususually kept quite bare by the sweep. It well around the roots. ing force of the winter winds, even if there be several inches of snow on the ground. Mice will not venture out in these exposures to feed on the bark of the trees and burrowing into the freshly packed soil is not likely to be attempted in the winter even in open

The mounds may be left throughout the year, but they should be tamped hard and repaired each autumn, Cinders are most excellent material for this purpose as mice will not burrow through them. .

The wire screen is an ideal and complete all round protector and is given first place among the mechanical forms. Being light and open it prevents the least obstruction to the strong winds, the air and sunshine are freely admitter and no dark places of concealment, such as invite the wooly aphis and other forms of insect life are afforded.

Use galvanized wire cloth of 1/4-inch mesh. The 24-inch width being the most convenient for apple trees. Cut into 12-inch sections they should be carefully bent or rolled over a small round piece of wood, allowing the edges to lap about one inch. The cylinders are then placed about the trees, where their own tension will close them securely.

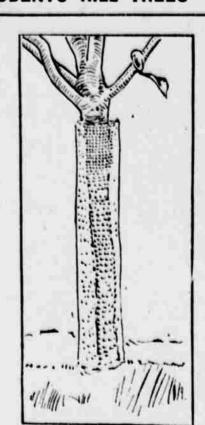
One-inch mesh poultry netting will protect the trees against rabbit, but not from mice, but in combination with a slight mound of soil about the base of tree, mice will rarely prove troublesome.

There is no device superior in effectiveness against rabbits and ground hogs as corn stalks, and certainly none cheaper for the farm orchard. good plan is to take the bundles of stover as they come from the field, square off the butts and cut off a twofoot length of the lower ends of the

These sections may be fed to the stock even in a manger or in the feed lot, where the blade will be cleanly and neatly stripped off.

Five or six stalks bound firmly about the stem of a young tree, with twine or short sections of wire, will constitute a protector that will last for several seasons. The stalks readily yield ed their freedom for the day, as the stem of the tree increases in

In case wire ties are used for binding on the stalk these must be removed from about the tree when the stalks are taken off, or they will drop down about the collar of the tree and than when the orchard is limited to become covered with soil and forgot one alone.



The Wire Screen

ten. Trees have been killed by wiregirding in this way. It is difficult to treat young trees

successfully that have been barked by rabbits or other predatory animals. Whether any treatment will succeed or not depends largely on how bad the girdling is. If the bark is taken off clear around the tree so as to expose the wood, the only remedy is to bridge graft. This is done by inserting a scion both above and below the wound, and, of course, cannot readily be done except in spring. While this can be done successfully, it is impractical for a young tree, and the chances are that it would be more profitable to pull out the tree and reset with new stock.

If the girdling is not particularly severe it can be helped by trimming the ragged edges of the bark with a sharp knife; then covering the surface with grafting wax or other material to keep the wood from drying out till new bark grows over and heals the wound.

A great many newly planted trees die because of carelessness in filling the hole. It is important that this work be carefully done. If the soil which was removed from the bottom of the excavation be hard and lumpy. it should be placed to one side and the surface soil used first in filling. The main thing to remember in filling is that every part of the root system should be in contact with the soil. Unless it is, the exposed areas will be points for the loss of moisture and the drying out of the roots.

The soil surrounding the roots must be fine if they are to be well covered. Either loosen the soil in the bottom of the hole or throw in two or three spadesful of loose earth so that when the tree is put in it will sink sufficiently into the The tops of these small mounds are ing the fine soil first and compacting

> There is little danger of compacting the soil too much, unless it be of a clayey nature and somewhat moist. After the first few spadefuls have been put in the soil may be packed tramping. Be careful in compacting



These Do the Damage.

the soil not to crowd the tree out of place. The soil should not be mounded at the base of the tree above, the natural level of the land, the top two inches being left as loose and fine as possible.

Don't Lose the Eggs. As ducks lay during the night, or early morning, all the eggs can be saved by proper management. To insure this, it becomes necessary to shut them in their rooms or pens at dusk for the night, and as they are careless about where they deposit their eggs, it is best to have (besides the nest) the floor well covered with dry soil, which, in addition to obsorb ing all moisture and keeping the floor clear of filth, will protect from injury eggs that might otherwise be lost. Ducks are quite regular layers after they once begin, usually laying an egg every 24 hours. To induce them to come in at nights it is best to feed them at that time, and in the morning before they are let out. Treated thus, they will soon learn to come home at sundown for their accustomed food; and are readily secured. At the proper time in the morning the eggs are collected, the ducks fed and then allow!

Two or More Varieties. Do not plant an orchard of one va riety only. Even good self-pollenizers will probably be more satisfactory if two or more varieties are set together

## **NERVY GIRL ROUTS** A BLACK BURCLAR

She Feigns Sleep, Then Screams for Help, but the Thief Gets Away.

Atlantic City, N. J.-Awakened by a premotion that some one was near her, Hazel Brown, the sixteen-year-old daughter of former Senator Charles L. Brown, of Philadelphia. discovered a negro burglar bending over.

With great presence of mind, the girl pretended to sleep until the man, certain that he was undiscovered, turned away. She then roused her mother, who was sleeping with her, screaming for help at the same time. Mrs. Brown grappled with the in-



Grappled With the Intruder.

truder, but was easily shaken off by the negro, who made his escape, pur-sued by Mr. Brown and several neighbors who had been aroused by Miss Brown's cries.

Senator Brown and family, who reside in Philadelphia, have a cottage at 102 Vermont avenue, Chelsea, into which they moved recently. The burglar gained access to the house through a cellar window, going immediately to Miss Brown's room, evidently in hope of obtaining jewelry. He carried his shoes in one hand, and in the other had a bag for plunder. When discovered he dropped both his shoes and the bag, escaping through the same window through which he gained entrance.

At his daughter's first cry for assistance Senator Brown leaped from his bed in the next room and, attired in pajamas, chased the intruder through

the streets. Mrs. Brown was said to be unstrung

from her encounter with the burglar. Mirs Brown, however, is little the worse for her experience and was able to discuss the affair with friends. She said the negro was at her pillow when she awakened, peering into her face in an effort to discover whether he had been heard. She knew that if she screamed then she would probably suffer at his hands, and determined to pretend to sleep until he was off

#### FISH'S TAIL STUNS A HAWK

Spectator Watching the Aerial Battle Captures Bird and Eats Finny Combatant.

West New Brighton, N. Y .- James Moore had a big bluefish for breakfast at his home the other morning. He says he took the bluefish from a fish hawk after the fish had beaten the bird in a fight.

Driving along the side of the lower bay on South Side boulevard, Whitlock, Moore and his chaffeur, Walter Pickney, saw the fish hawk and bluefish fighting in the air. They declare the fish was hitting savagely at the hawk in efforts to free itself from the bird's talons, and they watched the strange battle.

At last the bluefish hit the hawk over the head with its tail so hard a blow that the hawk was stunned and both the bird and fish fell to the

gorund,

Moore and Pickney ran up and found the bird had broken its right wing in its fall and was still unconscious. Pickney got a rope from the car and tied its legs before it came to and wrapped it in a sack. The bird weighed fifty pounds and the fish four pounds. The fish was still alive.

Whe the hawk recovered it made a tremendous fuss, but Mr. Moore fastened it in a fowlhouse. He intends to present it to the Staten Island Academy of Natural Science when its wing is better.

Not Particular.

Chicago.-Robt. McGrath, seventeen, held on a burglary charge, is alleged to have stolen a piano, four electric fans, a moving picture machine and a half bushel of films.

Quotation on Hearts. Chicago.-Miss Kando Jowacks in her suit against Adam Kawais submitted an inventory of damages done in which she valued "one broken heart -\$10."

For the Complexion.

Newport, R. I.—Because late hours are not conducive to clear complexions, society leaders have joined in a movement to have all social fund herafter end at midnight.