ODD PEOPLE OF ASIA.

PECULIAR RACE OF DWARF SAVAGES IN THE NILGIBIS.

A Remarkable Country with Many Remarkable Creatures - An Interesting Namey of the Creation and the Frest Homan Beinge-A World Burtal.

With queer insistency the English residents in India call the Himalayan ranges "hills"-not only these immense mountains, but also the tremendous chain which runs parallel to the Indian coran and sends its feelers, as it were, into the center of south India. "Hills" indeed is the generic term. for those stations in which the weary civilian and his wife. the soldier and his family betake themselves to rest during the wooful heats of

Simla is natu ally the grandest of these summer capitals for it houses the imperial government; Naini Tal shelters that of the northwest provinces; Bengal retreats to tearjilling and Madras to that most delightful of all stations-Utacamond, in the Nilgiri hills.

The Niigiris are perhaps the most beautiful of the many beautiful mountain ranges in India. They do not show an amazing growth of forestine giants, but they are most verdurous. Their sides are covered with vast beds of rhododendrons, whose dark leaves and enormous scarlet flowers often make them look as if on fire. Wild roses flourish with unwonted luxuriance, which, clambering over woods of ilex and eugenia, make impenetrable floral thickets.

Nor is the country alone remarkable for its lovely landscapes or interesting for its agricultural possibilities, as enterprising coffee planters have set out immense orchards of this cherrylike tree, but chiefly so for the queer races which find shelter in their wooded and well watered canyons.

Some years ago the writer was in the Nilgiris in connection with government work, and had there the opportunity of seeing the small savages who live in the most impenetrable parts of this mountainous country. These are dwarfs and have never been tempted to partake of the benefits of civilization. They still live in holes in the ground or in hollow trunks, are absolutely naked and quarrel with the monkey over wild fruits. Now and again they venture to the lower levels and barter honey for glass beads and other worthless gewgaws. They hunt with bows and arrows and are remarkably skillful in the use of these primitive weapons.

Another tribe equally as interesting are the Todas, who since 1600 have attracted the attention of Europeans.

The Portuguese thought they were Christians and sent to their moral assistance a Jesuit father, who, however, soon discovered that they were the most ignorant heathens. Much argument has been wasted upon the origin of these people, some asserting they were aboriginal to southern India, others insist-They were of the lost tribes of Israel

the little sortlement are scattered over the most picturesque portions of the Nilgiris. Their only worship is the buffalo, of "back they have large herds, and whose care and the gathering of wild honey constitute the sum of their daily toil.

Their story of the creation bears some resemblance to the belief of the ortadox Christian, for they tell how a man created a fellow man out of the earth and finished the good work by making a woman, not out of his own ribs, but the other man's ribs. They have a trinity, consisting of a father, son and a kite. The last was born of a pumpkin, the offspring of the first woman.

They, too, indulge in a heaven and a hell, and as the mountain streams are infested with leeches which make their passage uncomfortable, the Todas say hell is a river inhabited by these awful creatures, spanned by a single thread, over which the righteo scan pass safely, but too frail for the traffic of the guilty.

The Toda's dead body is swathed in a new cloth, his toes are tied together with corpse, and two of his buffaloes are sacrificed. They impose the dead man's bands upon the animals' horns and lament with bitter cries his passage to the unknown world. After removing the skull and finger nails the body is burned, and the ashes are scattered to the four

winds of heaven. The relics of the departed are taken to the mourning house and stored with those of others who during the year have passed the great divide. Around this house are hung the utensils which were used by the deceased and those articles which he most valued during life. Women are jealously excluded from the interior of this house of woe, but are permitted to peep through the crevices at the assembled mourners, which a year later perform the last rites. They lie on the floor, giving vent to the most hideons howls, beating their breasts and exciting

each other to the flow of tears. On the turf outside the house other Todas maintain an exciting dance, calling out their loud huh-huh-huhs, stamping their feet and dancing to the uninspiring music of the pipe and a buffalo hide drum, blown and beaten by the carrion eating Kotas, who furnish music on all these dismal occasions. Nor are the ceremonies yet over. The sacrifice has to be performed, and this is done in a characteristically brutal fashion, for the mild Hindustani can work himself into the most fearful of religious frenzies .-San Francisco Chronicle.

Thirteens on the New Quarter.

On one side of the new quarter dollar are nine separate representations of the number 13. There are thirteen stars, thirteen letters in the scroll held in the engle's beak, thirteen marginal feathers in each wing, thirteen tail feathers, thirteen parallel lines in the shield, thirteen horizontal bars, thirteen arrowheads in one foot, thirteen leaves on the branch in the other foot and thirteen letters in the words "quarter dollar."-Omaha World-Herald.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ASTRONOMY

Without Instruments Auclest Astronamore Kept Truck of the Munrous. We find in the table at the Ramomenia distinct references to the bull the lies. and the accepton, and it is also clearly indicated that at that time the Strins rose beliacally at the beginning of the rise of

This word beliacally requires a little explanation. The ancients, who had no telescopes and had to use their horizon as the only scientific instrument which they possessed were very careful in determining the various conditions in which a star could rise. For instance, if a star were roong at the same time that the son was rising it was said to rise cosmically, but onless certain very obvious precantions were taken the rising star would not be seen in consequence of

the presence of daylight. It is quite clear that if we observe a star rosing in the dawn it will get more and more difficult to observe the nearer the time of source is approached. Therefore what the ancients did was to determine a time before sunrise in the early dawn at which the star could be very obviously and clearly seen to rise. The term 'beliacally rising' was coined to represent a star rising visibly in the dawn - therefore before the sun. Generally throughout Egypt the sun was supposed to be something like 10 degs. below the horizon when a star was stated to rise beliacally

We find then that more than 5,000 years ago the Egyptians were perfectly familiar with these facts, and the difference between a cosmical and heliacal rising was perfectly clear to them. But the table at Thebes tells us, moreover. that the sun's journey in relation to some of the zodiacal constellations was perfectly familiar 5,000 years ago.

These then are some of the more general statements which may be made with regard to the most important points so far discussed by those who have dealt with Egyptian astronomy, and it may be added that all this information has come to us in mythologic guise.

The various apparent movements of the heavenly bodies which are produced by the rotation and revolution of the earth and the effects of procession were familiar to the Egyptians, however ignorant they may have been of the causes. They carefully studied what they saw and attempted to put their knowledge together in the most convenient fashion. associating it with their strange imaginings and with their system of worship. - Nineteenth Century

They Drank to Lord How

At one time the officers under Lord Howe refused to drink his health at their mess, for, though a splendid admiral, he was not popular in the navy on account of a certain shyness and want tact with those about him. The chaplain, who was a protege of his lordship, was mortified at this and determined that they should drink to Lord Howe. When called upon for a toast one day he said, "Well, gentlemen, I can think of nothing better at this moment than to ask you to drink the first two words of the third psalm, for a scriptural toast for once may be taken from one of my cloth." The toast was accordingly drunk.

On referring to the Bible it was found that the first two words of the third in every Aner psalm were "Lord How." After the Government. glorious 1st of June the above was the favorite toast throughout the navy, and the chaplain triumphed more widely than he anticipated. - London Tit-Bits.

Bearded Women.

Bearded women have existed at all periods of the world's history. Even Herodotus, the "Father of History," gives us an account of one Pedasnes. "who lived above Halicarnassus," a priestess of Minerva, whose chin regular ly budded with a large beard when-ver any great public calamity impended. Bartel Garetji, a woman of Copenhagen, had a beard reaching to her waist. Charles XII of Sweden had a female grenadier in his army who possessed the beard as well as the courage of a man. Margaret, duchess of Austria and governess of the Netherlands, had a large, wiry. red thread, earth is thrown over his stiff beard, of which she was very proud. Of late years, Albert, duke of Bavaria reports having had a young lady gov-erness in his household who was "the proud possessor of a very large black beard."-Philadelphia Press.

An Era of Unmarried Women.

Susan B. Anthony is of the opinion that we are on the verge of an era of unmarried women. Our civilization, she says, is changing. Daughters cannot be sympathetically: supported at home, and there is nothing there to busy them. The women used to spin and weave, make carpets and soap. but now all that is done for them in the factories. Young men do not make enough money to support their wives, and there is such a craze for dissipation among them that the women would rather go into a store for almost nothing than to marry. - New York Sun.

Wanted a Good Cow.

A young couple were giving up city life and going to live on a farm, and one of the most absorbing questions in the future farmer's mind was the buying of his stock. He was talking cows to his of the town that pay so much as twelve wife one evening and all the idea she had dollars each or \$144 per dozen for their to offer was. 'Please, George, do get one fine white all linen shirts. These are cow any way that gives good buttermilk, with and without collars and cuffs. world for the complexion."-Exchange

Children at Table. It is an old fashioned notion that "children should be seen and not heard." An occasional talk by the little folk is not objectionable, yet at the same time they should not monopolize conversation or ily. "I might about as well quit tryin attention. They have their place, and it to cook. I hain't nothin to make pies is an injustice that they should at the from exceptin rotten apples an there Housekeeping.

No More Dream Stuff.

We are to talk no more of dream stuff. These dreamy visions are hallucinations hypnogogiques, and the least we can do is to call them so. -Boston CommonDescritful Appracances.

I was chatting with a Montagon street real cutate man in his office a few days ago, when a woman entered who attracted the attention of both of us. She was middle aged, very plain in fee and figare and were a black dress which was patched and ripped in many places. Her entire appearance denoted poverty and minery and indicated that she had a great struggle to keep the welf from entoring at her door. Instinctively feeling that the woman was a beggar, we were about to offer her some money, when she astonished us a little by saying she had some private business with the real estate

They went into his luner office and were engaged for about fifteen minutes. n carnest conversation. After she had gone and my friend had ceased to gaze in open mouthed amazement at her vanishing figure, he enlightened me as to ber object in the following manner: "Well, I'll be darned! That woman wanted to buy a \$10,000 piece of property I have for sale, and she had \$2,000 in her pocket to pay down to bind the bargain. O Lord, think if I had offered her ten cents and told her to clear out!"-Brooklyn Eagle.

Hard Luck of Two Lucky Men.

Early in the present century two brothers of the peasant class were laboring in the fields when their tools struck against a metallic substance, which proved to be a massive chain many pounds in weight which they took to be of brass and carried away with them, thinking it might be useful as a plow chain. On reaching their humble cottage the weight and luster of the metal aroused their attention. A link of the chain was detached and taken to the nearest town, was tested and proved to be fine gold. The fortunes of the men were assured could they have kept their own counsel, but boasting of their prospects and spending money lavishly on the strength of them, curiosity and suspicion were aroused. Wives and children chatted about the wonderful find, and at last the officers of the crown descended upon the scene. The treasure, which proved to be worth several thousand pounds, was snatched from its finders, who, for all result of their "good fortune," were awarded a term of imprisonment at the following assizes .-All the Year Round.

Necessary Education.

While it would be pleasant to have our schools cultivate the literary element in English composition, this is not the first end to be sought. All educated men cannot hope to be poets or essayists, but no one has a right to consider himself educated till he is able to say in writing what he would say to his correspondent aloud if they were standing face to face Slovenliness of expression not only is usually traceable to slovenliness of thought as a cause, but the habitual neglect of expression has also a tendency to increase by reflex action the habit of loose or muddy thinking. A person who lacks the power of clear thought and expression is not a person to whose keeping it is safe to confide public interests, and in our country, where every citizen is liable to be called upon to bear some of the burdens of state, it is especially necessary that the study of written as well as spoken English be given the place to which its importance plainly entitles it in every American school course.-Good

Too Horrible

There was to be a grand display of rich toilets at the forthcoming ball in a provincial town. The wife of a wealthy banker wanted to outshine all the other ladies who had invitations. She accordingly ordered a dress from Paris that should exceed by its splendor the wildest expectations. Exulting in the proud conviction of her surpassing magnificence she entered the ballroom. Here her experienced eye took stock of the ladies present-a scream of horror-and she lay fainting in her husband's arms, to the no small consternation of the company, which, however, is increased twofold when another lady in the room is discovered to be fainting. Our fair readers will agree that both sufferers deserve our deepest sympathy, for their dresses (Paris make both) were precisely similar in style and material. - Fliegende Blatter

An Efficient Physician.

Among the "characters" in the little Hoosier town which proudly owns me as a favorite son is an Irishwoman by the name of Lynch. Not long ago Mrs. Lynch made a visit to the town cemetery. The sexton welcomed the old lady with a mournful smile and said

"You have quite a number of little graves to look after, Mrs. Lynch?" "Yis, God be praised, I hov. I hov nine childer buried here."

"What physician do you employ. Mrs. Lynch?"

"Dochter Brown, hivin bless him! He's the only dochter in town who understood the constitution of me childer."-Washington Post.

Men's High Priced Shirts.

There was a time when all linen shirts were generally worn by the rich men of the town, and there are a number of the old guard and many of the younger men because it is the loveliest thing in the The laundrymen do not get a chance at them. Some old fashioned retainer handles them tenderly and gets the homelike, dull finish on the starched shirt front.-Clothier and Furnisher.

Making Apple Pies.

"Dear me suz," said Mrs. Smith, wearfamily board always be silent.-Good ain't a bit o' sugar in the house. Here, Robbie, you run over to Mrs. Green and ask her to let me have a cup o' sugar till tomorrow.

Costumes made to order. "What's your mother doin this mornin, Robbie?" asked Mrs. Green as she filled the cup.

"She's makin rotten apple pies."-Px-

THE STREAM OF LIFE.

Like a simil stream for an a numerical able.

A white thread planeting in the sections with,
Lightly don't implies with a horses spring.

On passes happy childhood's playful hour.

Next, through green dolls and meach o'craback.

Now gially ingering round some gireling into With promise of propertial delights. New deposts dashing down some t

Where realing waters spill on brottle rocks. Specifing about the inflorment upon: Drift of in suplem vicits by swaping winds, he peak the years of years. Our tiper age In like the broadened river's stately march. Whose current sinchests, jet admits no pare But passes field and coppler, hower and town. Not wholly beaping from defiling status, Yet tolling answard restlessly. Ashewn. Businessth yet ever slifting stream we have. Nor mark the progress of its quiet speed, TSL faster running as it means the cust. It awaren us constant in realistical course Through the torn rapids of disease and pain, Till, plunging down the entaract of death, We glide into a tast and unknown space— The boundless ocean of elernity.
-Waiter W. Ekeat in London Academy

Heroic Railroad Men.

one of the branching lines and comes back with a load of splinters and junk the "boys" at the junction have something to talk about for a week. They never become excited over a smashup and a list of injured, but when it happens the old fellows are reminiscent for a day or two the youngsters who pull out every second day in close cabs and on top of icy freight cars are unusually thoughtful.

There is something soldierly in the quiet beroism of railroad men who have known danger and expect to die some day under a heap of box cars. You realize this when you get next to them and find what kind of men they are under you like them better when you know them well.-Chicago News-Record.

Mastodons and Mule Footed Hogs. Science knows of the mastodon only as 'an extinct fossil proboscidian pachyderm, closely allied to the elephant of modern fauna." Who knows, however, but that these "supposed-to-be-extinct" creatures may be as pientiful in the ed hogs seem to be in Arkansas, Missouri and the Indian Territory? Three weeks ago I would have been much more surprised had I met a real live mule footed hog than I would have been to have met a whole herd of the aforesaid "fossil proboscidian pachyderms." Since that time everything has changed. The hundreds of letters sent in by kindly disposed friends are convincing proof that

And He West Away Sadly.

ton.-St. Louis Republic.

mule footed hogs are more plentiful in

"How do you sound the 'g' in the word 'gerrymander?' " inquired the man who had climbed three flights of stairs Rev. J. G. WHITE'S: to see the answer-to-queries editor.

"Hard," answered the editor, "as in

"There goes every cent I won on New York!" rejoined the caller, turning away T. M. HARRIS:

And a moment later the melancholy plick plack of his weary feet was heard on the stairway, growing fainter and a cold and unfriendly world again .-

Dull Eyed Scientists. Mrs. Hayman-Who are those gentle-

men runnin into our barn to get out o Daughter-They are a party of scientists who are staying at the hotel

They've been out on some expedition or Mrs. Hayman-1 don't see where their

eyes was las' night. Anyone might 'a' known from th' new moon it was goin to rain. It was tipped up so it couldn't hold water if it tried. - New York

flunting with a Whip. The following tall story comes from

Middletown. Conn.: While a resident of that town was driving along a country road at the edge of a wood his dog flushed a couple of partridges. The birds burst out of the brush with a whir, flying side by side, and as they were passing over the hunter's head he made a vicious cut with his whip at them, and according to the legend the whip hit one of the birds and broke its neck. - Philadelphia Ledger

When Sore Throats Were Expensive. "When I first went into the show busi-

ness," said a wealthy retired circus man "one of my chief attractions was a pair of giraffes. Giraffes were a novelty in those days, and these proved to be a great card, but before I had them a month they were both taken with sore throats. Do you realize what it means for a giraffe to have a sore throat? It pretty nearly bankrupted me to provide for their cure. -New York Sun.

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