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MORE OR LESS A MYSTERY

Few Seem to Know the Real Facts Concerning the So-Called Monkey of Mons.

Are you acquainted with the monkey of Mons?

An army officer brought home from Belgium a replica—a tiny silver figure with one clawish hand posed reflectively against its chin and with a look of introspection in its deepset eyes. In showing it to a friend he mentioned that, like a number of officers who had been to Mons, he carried the thing as a mascot. The friend told a woman about it, and she, being unacquainted with the monkey of Mons, asked a soldier who had been there.

"Never heard of it, but you can't judge by me, as I was only in Mons a couple of days—got great coal mines there, though."

Another soldier who had been to Mons long enough to go sightseeing was impressed mainly by the cathedral of St. Waldrup—"built in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; Gothic architecture, and—the monkey must have been there, of course, but—"

Then the woman extended her inquiry to a private who had hobbled around Mons for two hours while waiting to get away.

"Sure I saw it! Bronze statue in a street—or maybe it was one of those gargyle things on the church wall, but, anyhow, I saw it—at least it looked like a monkey, though I wouldn't be willing to swear to it."

Which is the why of this cry?

"Are you acquainted with the monkey of Mons?"—Washington Star

TO PRESERVE OLD LANDMARK

Creation of National Monument Area Assures Security to Posterity of Famous Mullan Tree.

The Mullan tree, landmark of the old Mullan trail, the first highway connecting Montana and Idaho with the coast, will be preserved to posterity through the creation of a national monument area by the president.

On July 4, 1861, Capt. John Mullan, leader of the party having charge of the survey and construction of the Mullan trail from Walla Walla, Wash., to Fort Benton, Mont., closed his work at the connecting point of the roads from the east and west, at the head of the Fourth of July canon, between Wallace, Idaho, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. There he marked appropriately a huge white-pine tree, which since that time has been known as the Mullan tree. Tourists seeking souvenirs of their jaunt along the Yellowstone trail have damaged the ancient tree so much that forest service officers have found it necessary to take steps to protect it, and, to accomplish this, have submitted a petition proposing that a national monument area be created, which has been approved.

When Paint Causes Wood to Warp.

Coatings of equal moisture resistance should be applied to all surfaces of a wood product which would give dissatisfaction if it were to warp in service. Tests at the forest products laboratory, Madison, have shown that even when wood is properly kiln dried, no coating entirely prevents it from picking up or giving off moisture and, consequently, from swelling and shrinking under the influence of varying atmospheric conditions.

Varnish, shellac, and other moisture-resistant finishes merely decrease the rate at which the moisture changes in wood occur. The higher the grade and the more coats applied, the slower will be the moisture changes.

Unequal coatings on opposite surfaces of a wooden article cause unequal rates of change in moisture content and hence unequal shrinkage on the two sides of the piece. The result is that the wood tends to cup or twist out of shape.

Dog Saves Feline Chum.

Deuce, an Irish terrier, proved at a fire in the pet shop at 270 Livingston street, Brooklyn, that the term "cat and dog life" sometimes means the opposite of hate, combat and commotion. Deuce had been living in amity with seven blooded cats in the shop for several weeks. When the fire started he saved himself, and then watched the firemen rescue the cats. Apparently he counted them, for when the men stopped rescue work after bringing out the sixth he dashed into the burning shop and came out carrying the seventh by the scruff of its neck. Deuce had to open a cage to do it. When he released the cat on the sidewalk, the latter purred and rubbed against his legs, until the shop owner gathered up both animals and took them away.

Depressing Personality.

"There comes Blithersby."
"I see him. Let's avoid him."
"Why?"
"He's the worst crepe hanger I know. Every time he hears me start to talk about buying a new motor car or taking a little trip to Florida or Cuba he wants to tell me how many babies die every day in Europe."
—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Boy Scouts' Equipment.

Chief Sea Scout James A. Wilder of Honolulu has aroused the Boy Scouts of America until 30 sea scout centers have already acquired training ships, 10 cities now have shipping boards, and 63 others are following suit. It is probable that training ships for this branch of scouting will soon be sailing the oceans and rivers of America.

FIRST TO TEACH PHILOSOPHY

Honor is Accorded Thales, Who Established a School Which Exerted Wide Influence.

The first school of philosophy was established in Miletus (Asia Minor) by Thales, one of the wise men, and was quite a remarkable institution, exerting an influence for more than a century.

Thales seems to have given himself more entirely to this school than to any of his other undertakings. There is a legend that he never married, and when his mother pressed him to do so he said: "It is not yet time." After his youth was passed she again urged him to marry and he said: "It is no longer time."

Many of the subjects taught in his school, such as astronomy, geometry and geography, show the influence of Egypt and Phoenicia; but the philosophy was probably an original product, for while some of the sciences were somewhat advanced, the philosophy was apparently a first attempt at an explanation of the origin of the world. It originated a movement which culminated more than a century later in the idealism of Plato.

We may perhaps understand something of the attitude of the common people toward Thales' school of philosophy from the story of the old woman who laughed when the master fell backward into a ditch after gazing too long at the stars. The old woman not only laughed, but she is said to have called after him: "If you cannot see what is under your feet, how can you understand what is in heaven?"

The geography and astronomy taught in this school were very primitive: The earth was flat, the sun circled around it horizontally, being concealed at night by high hills. One writer of the time describes the world in the following poetical way: "God makes a mantle, large and fair and embroiders on it earth and ocean and ocean's dwellings."

DIFFERENT KINDS OF SPEED

Aviator and Motorist Didn't Have the Same Kind of Comparison as They Traveled.

The motorist was taking an aviator friend, recently returned from the army air service, out for a spin. Thinking of the 125-mile-an-hour speed to which the airman was accustomed, the motorist felt that it was incumbent upon him to "let 'er out." His friend, he felt, would feel badly ambling along at the land rate folks are used to traveling. So he cut loose and the car was zipping along at something like 50 miles an hour.

Then the motorist felt a hand laid upon his arm.

"Going pretty fast, aren't you?" remarked the aviator, a trifle uneasily.

After the motorist had slowed down he asked: "Why, I thought the best speed I could make would seem slow to you. How is it that it appeared so fast?"

"You see, in the air, even at our greatest speed, we seem more or less stationary unless we look below us and see objects flitting past," explained the aviator. "You know speed can only be reckoned visually—by things one is leaving behind. Now, the gulf you were moving a few minutes ago looked mighty fast, uncomfortably fast I might say, to me. I kept noticing things we are leaving behind."

"Well, I'll be darned," said the motorist. "I never thought of it in that way before."

And the hand of the speed clock jiggled back to the 25-mile mark.—Kansas City Star.

If It Only Were!

The late Ella Wheeler Wilcox, though the most popular poet of modern times, steadfastly refused to enter New York society. The most exclusive Fifth avenue portals were open to her, but Mrs. Wilcox passed them indifferently by.

A New York magazine editor once sought her out with an invitation to a Fifth avenue dinner party.

"I'm sorry," she said, "but I can't go."

"Oh," said the editor, "you must accept this invitation!"

"Why must I?" said the poet.

"Our host," the editor answered, "is rich—rich—a multimillionaire. You must accept."

"Well, I would," said Mrs. Wilcox, with a smile, "if it were catching!"

He Was No Mollycoddle.

A neighbor's son was entertaining about twenty of his little boy and girl friends at his birthday party. The children were supposed to return to their respective homes at eight o'clock in the evening; however, they were having such a good time when the going home hour arrived, its passing still found them hard at it. The mother of the little host suggested to him the advisability of intimating to his little friends the lateness of the hour. This is how he did it:

"Say, it's nine o'clock; I'm getting sleepy, and you kids have got to go home!"

"What's that? Go home this early?" said one of his indignant little guests. "I thought this was to be an all-night affair!"

Some Did.

"So you've been in the army, eh?" asked the old gentleman kindly. "And tell me, did you do much shooting while you were over there?"

"I won \$80 the first day I landed in France," answered the gambler, proudly.—Home Sector.

A Laundress That Won't Fail You.

The wash day problem has become a real one. You can't do such work yourself and dependable help is almost impossible to find. But

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takes care of all the actual work just as perfectly as a really good maid would do. It washes, wrings and rinses—works quickly and well—gets the clothes out spotless, in double quick time.

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FORTY IDEAL AGE FOR WOMEN

English Artist Sweeps Away Time-Honored Ideas Having to Do With Spinsterhood.

There is a flurry among English spinsters. A prominent artist has come to the conclusion that a girl of forty should be man's ideal. He sweeps away all the time-honored rubbish about spinsters at the age of forty being mostly interested in cats and canaries. Here is what he has to say about the new old girl.

"The ideal age for a woman from the viewpoint of the man who studies the sex as an artist is forty years. The woman of forty is at the perfection of her beauty and has attained a settled mentality which she did not possess as a girl in her teens, or as a young woman in her twenties and thirties. At forty she is an ideal companion, pleasantly matured, tolerant and understanding. Only the ignoramus in life find joy in the society of young girls or undeveloped women."

During the war and since many women of the so-called "sweet-and-forty" age got married, a considerable number of them widows. This has led to frequent lamentations by younger women that, with the huge number of unmarried beauties about, it is unpatriotic for Cupid to show such favoritism for widows and spinsters.

CLASSED HIM AS BEGINNER

Retired Sea Captain Evidently Knew Little of "Impressionistic" School of Painting.

"I once engaged board and lodging at the house of a retired New England sea captain," says a New York artist, "and from him I received some sincere advice.

"One day, while I was busy painting, I became aware that the captain was standing behind me, gazing at the canvas over my shoulder.

"How do you like it?" I asked.

"Now, it chanced that the captain's house has been without an artist boarder for several years and that I was the first follower of the impressionist school it had ever harbored.

"The old sea dog gazed thoughtfully at the lower righthand corner of the canvas where I had thrown a mass of parti-colored splashes and blotches.

"You're kinder young," said the captain, kindly. "This is your first summer outdoors at it?"

"Yes."

"Well, now, see here," resumed the captain. "There's two or three old palettes up in our shed chamber. You get one of those and try out your paints. You'll have to lose that whole corner of your canvas, I'll bet you, and it'll make your picture considerably smaller. I wouldn't do that again if I was you."—Harper's Magazine.

A man walked into a local clothing store one day this week, selected a suit and asking the price was told seventy dollars. Going down in his jeans he planked down the seventy without registering a kick. People have grown so accustomed to paying big prices that they pay the money without whimpering. In pre-war times this same suit would have cost about twenty-five dollars.

Christian Science service Sunday 11 a. m. Wednesday evening meetings every week at 8:00. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend these services. Building & Loan building, room 25.

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No. 3, 621 East Fourth, Phone 971.
No. 4, 821 West Third, Phone No. 75.

Nickels in London.

A letter in the Times of London points out the advantages England should gain by substituting nickel coins for bronze. To one who has merely visited Switzerland, this proposition requires little argument. In weight, bulk and convenience nickel is unquestionably preferable. With what ease can Swiss 20-centime pieces to the value of, say, 2 shillings, be carried, as compared with 2 shillings' worth of "copper!" And how this reform would lighten the bus conductor's burden! The combined weight of the 20-centime, 10-centime and 5-centime Swiss nickels is, writes the Times correspondent, only 137 grains, against the 515 grains, which 3½ pence weigh. Apropos of this subject, the London chamber of commerce has decided to recommend that the government prepare for issue, when required to supplement the silver currency, nickel coins of the value, say, of sixpence, a shilling and half a crown.—Christian Science Monitor.

Imports of Precious Stones.

The value of the precious stones imported into the United States in the fiscal year that ended recently was greater than it had been in any previous year. Pearls are growing more popular, but because the war interfered with the fisheries they have become so scarce that dealers cannot supply the demand. The South Africa diamond producers are taking advantage of the favorable market to unload the diamonds that they have been accumulating during the war. According to the National City bank of New York half the diamonds in the world are already owned in the United States.—Youth's Companion.

Japan Taking Western Sports.

Japan is offering somewhat of a market for American sporting goods, at the present. Since the end of the war there has been an increased interest in sports, and it may be said of Japan that western games played there are essentially scholastic in nature, baseball being the most popular, with tennis second. The latter-named sport has now found favor outside of student circles, and tennis courts are scattered here and there throughout the larger cities.

The "Lower Calling."

The Principal—Miss Brown, I wish you would give up this idea of marriage. The training of children is a far higher calling than the mere bearing of them.

The Teacher—Yes, Miss Matthews; but if it weren't for those of the lower calling, whom would you have to train?—Life.

FORMER NORTH PLATTE BOY GIVEN BOOST

The following relative to a former North Platte boy is taken from the Tonopah, Nevada, Daily Bonanza. Mr. Piercy is a son of J. C. Piercy, a former observer at the North Platte weather bureau.

"Ray W. Piercy has been selected secretary and treasurer of the Hercules, Apex, Giant and Anchor Divide mining companies known as promotions of the Wingfield-Brougher-Crumley syndicate. These companies are under the management of Capt. J. W. Hutchinson and are making a record in sinking since the installation of machinery. The headquarters of these companies are in the Crumley building on Erie-Main street.

"Mr. Piercy succeeds C. Edwin Oyster, the well known California accountant who resigned owing to the fact that his wife's health precluded her from living here. The selection is one of the greatest compliments ever paid a Tonopah boy as the professional standing of Mr. Oyster led to his selection by the shipping bureau to audit their accounts. Mr. Piercy had the remarkable record of serving as cashier of the Tonopah office of the Nevada-California Power company for thirteen years."

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ORDER FIXING CLAIM DAYS.

In the Estate of Edith May Walker, Deceased.
Now on this 14th day of February, 1920, it is ordered by the court that the administrator be allowed one year from this date in which to settle said estate, and creditors will be allowed until the 19th day of June, 1920, to file their claims, after said date, claims will be forever barred. That on the 19th day of March, 1920, and the 19th day of June, 1920, at 9 o'clock a. m. of each of said days, the court and the administrator will attend at the county court room in said county to receive, examine, hear, allow and adjust claims. That notice of this order be given creditors and all persons interested in said estate by publication of a notice for four successive weeks immediately preceding the 19th day of March, 1920, in the North Platte Tribune, a legal semi-weekly newspaper printed and published in Lincoln county, Nebraska.
WM. H. C. WOODHURST,
County Judge



"A blizzard? We should worry"
—Chesterfield

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