----SNAKE STORIES ----

The mythical side of folk lore is full of snake stories. That particular study is called sphiolatry, and its exponent was the late Captain John G. Bourke. We may take interest in the fables about snakes, but it shows ignorance today to discredit the reptilian with supernatural attributes. Mr. W. J. Hoffman, in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly, describes some of the yarns which have been believed about snakes:

As an illustration of the belief in the transformation of human beings into serpents, I will relate a circumstance said to have occurred during the first half of the present century. Near Trexlertown, Lehigh county, dwelt a farmed named Weiler. His wife and three daughters had, by some means or other, incurred the enmity of a witch who lived but a short distance away, when the latter, it is supposed, took her revenge in the following manner: Whenever visitors came to the Weiler residence the girls, without any premonition whatever, would suddenly be changed into snakes, and after crawling back and forth along the top ridge of the wainscoting for several minutes they were restored to their natural form. This curious transformation occurred quite frequently, and the circumstances soon attained widespread notoriety. About the end of the third month the spell was broken and everything went on as before.

Another popular fallacy is the existence of the hoop snake. This creature is usually reported as capable of grasping the tip of its tail in its mouth, and like a hoop running swiftly along in pursuit of an unwelcome intruder. This snake · is believed, furthermore, to have upon its tail a short, poisonous horn, like a cock's spur, and that if it should strike any living creature death would result. The stories concerning this marvellous snake usually end with the statement that the person pursued barely escapes and that the snake strikes a tree instead, causing it to wither and die.

TOO MANY HORSES.

Thousands of Them Will Starve to Death in Washington.

Nearly 10,000 head of horses are likely to starve to death in eastern Washington this winter, and, strange to say, their owners as a rule are glad of it, says the Tacoma Ledger. Practically valueless are these horses. Electricity and the bicycle are the cause. Instead of being man's best friend the horse has become an actual pest in eastern Washington. "An eating machine" is his latest nickname, and his death by starvation is desired that feed may be preserved for great bands of cattle and sheep, which are yet valuable to man. And so the most severe winter the northwest has seen-at least since 1861 -is a thing to be desired, rather than otherwise, by the great grazing interests of eastern Washington and Oregon. That such a winter is at hand the Indians, the oldest inhabitant and the weather propaets all agree. No taxes are paid on these horses. Owners will take out their good horses and care for them. If 90 per cent of the total number are killed off the 10 per cent left will be worth as much, if not more, than the entire lot now. Once killed off they will never become as numerous again, for no efforts will be made to breed range horses, there being no money in the business. The number needed for farming purposes and the city demand can easily be supplied.

UNIQUE COLONY OF NEGROES. Eleven Heads of Slave Families Working

Together for Good of the Many. Harper's Weekly: Up in Alabama, not far from Birmingham, is a negro colony unique in the South. Its postoffice address is Vance, and the colony is settled on the former plantation of Marion Banks, a slave-owner of old days, who left his land to his negroes when he died. There were eleven heads of families among the negroes at the time, and each got a farm of 209 acres, but they have preferred to live together in community, working together and helping each other when necessary. The settlement has been a prosperous one, and is now self-supporting, and has over 300 members, nearly all of the pure African type. But what the negroes want more than anything else are better school facilities, for they are beginning to appreclate the fact that only with education can they "keep up with the procession;" and they are now going to work to add the necessary school and thus secure educational advance as well as material prosperity. There are dozens of negro settlements in the South, but this is perhaps the only one which has been thoroughly successful without the advice, assistance, or guidance of white men, and where the principle of co-operation, believed to be so difficult in the negro, has

Our Agricultural Exports.

been carried out thoroughly.

There is a gratifying increase in ome of our minor agricultural exports. For several years a profitable business been carried on in shipping Ameri can apples to England, and a considerable part of the surplus of this year's shundant crop has been marketed there. So many American apples have bren sent this year also to Germany ome of the German papers are agitating for restrictions upon the immay contain the microbes of disease. Our experts of butter to Germany this year are about twenty times as large as they were three "ears ago,

GROWING IT.

It Always Comes at a Surprise to People.

"I think there is something radically wrong with me, doctor," said a middleaged woman to her physician, and she began to describe her symptoms, relates the New York Tribune. "Also, madam," announced the man of science, "I fear yours is a complaint from which many of us suffer, and which is, unfortunately, incurable. It is a case of Anno Domini-a disease which is always epidemic." Age comes to all of us as a surprise. It seems odd when our feelings are as young as ever that our bodies are no longer as supple; that we can no longer sit down on the rug in our old favorite attitude before the fire; that in going upstairs we must take it slowly; that without feeling appreciably different in any way, or recognizing any change, the elasticity and spring has gone out of our bodies. We say of our contemporaries, "So-and-so has grown much older," and of another, "How she has changed!" But in ourselves we see no such alteration. We fail to recognize the ravages of time. Our muscles are somewhat stiffer than of yore and our figures are stouter, perhaps, but we feel no peculiar difference. A slight case of Anno Domini, undoubtedly, but not nearly as pronounced as with others of our age. It is always funny to hear unmarried sisters of ripe middle age talk of each other; the lapse of time means nothing to them in their relations one to another; they are still "girls" together, and outsiders cannot fail to be amused at their unconsciousness of change. "I wish Delia would marry," said a sister of 70 in speaking of the youngest of the trio-a troublesome maiden of "I am sure she would be much happier." This said in all simplicity by the gentle and dignified lady, with no sense of incongruity or of the way it might strike her auditor.

LONDON'S SEWAGE.

It Is Disposed of by Precipitation and Transportation.

The disposal of the sewage of London is effected by means of two great plants, where it is party purified by chemicals and by steamers which carry out to sea the precipitated matter, called sludge, obtained after chemical treatment of the sewage, says the Baltimore American. The enormous nature of this undertaking is shown by some figures in a recent report by A. R. Binnie, chief engineer, to the London County Council. The average amount of sewage reaching the works was nearly 250,000,000 gallons during 1895, an increase of a little more than 1 per cent over the quantity of the previous year. The chemicals employed in purifying the sewage were 48,959,000 pounds of lime and 11,277,280 pounds of protosulphate of iron. The quantity of sludge that was taken from the works was 2,169,000 long tons, of which weight only about 81/2 per cent was of solid matter. About \$4,729,000 has been spent in building the chemical plant and the vessels employed in removing the sludge to sea. The total expenses, including fixed charges and the cost of operating, amounted to \$755,000 during 1895, about two-thirds of this sum being for operation. Figuring on the basis of 1,000,000 gallons of sewage, the total cost of sewage disposal was \$8.40 and \$5.64 for operating expenses alone. For precipitation, the operating expenses were \$2.98 per 1,000,000 gallons of sewage received. Six ships were employed in carrying sludge out to sea, the average load being 1,000 tons. The cost of this transportation was 6% cents per ton.

A TELL-TALE NAIL.

Work of a Sherlock Holmes 300 Years Ago.

Dr. John Donne, the famous English divine and poet, who lived in the reign of James I. was a veritable Sherlock Holmes in bent of mind, says a writer in Tid-Bits.

He was walking in the churchyard while a grave was being dug, when the sexton cast up a moldering skull. The doctor idly took it up, and, in handling it, found a headless nail driven into it. This he managed to take out and conceal in his handkerchief. It was evident to him that murder had been done. He questioned the sexton and learned that the skull was probably that of a certain man who was the proprietor of a brandy shop and was a drunkard, being found dead in bed one morning after a night in which he had drunk two quarts of brandy.

"Had he a wife?" asked the doctor.

"What character does she bear?" 'She bore a very good character, on ly the neighbors gossiped because she married the day after her husband's

funeral. She still lives here." The doctor soon called on the woman. He asked for and received the particulars of the death of her first husband. Suddenly opening his hand-kerchief, he showed her the tell-tale

nail, asking in a loud voice: 'Madam, do you know this nail?" The woman was so surprised that she confessed, was tried and executed.

"Might as well knock off work now. said the carpenter to his assistant. "It's five or ten minutes before quitting time."

"I know that. But it'll take that ong to go up to the fourth story and ook at the clock."-Washington Star.

Decimal Subdivision of Time. M. Etiane will shortly introduce in he French Chamber a bill introducing the decimal subdivision of time.

The husk of the nut is used for manufacturing rope and for fishing twine.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO ACRICULTURISTS.

some Up-to-date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof Horticulture, Vitlculture and Floriculture.



T THE Michigan Horticultural convention the following questions and answers were asked barn yard. and given, as reported in the Mich-

Q.-What is the proper method of pruning currants? A .- Keep center of

bush cut out, to let in sunlight; shorten ends.

Q .- What causes pear blight? A .-No answer; a great unsolved problem. Q.—Best ten varieties of winter apples? A.—It's a mistake to set ten varieties; get fewer varieties; good ones are: Greening, Hubbardston, Northern Spy, Ben Davis, Canada Red, Golden Russett, and Baldwin; best five varieties summer apples are: Red Astracans, Oldenberg, Alexander, Early Joe and Primate. The Yellow Transparent promises well; in Southern Illinois it's money maker. The Nero and Jeffris are fine early summer apples; another is the Gravenstein.

Damsel, Shropshire, Green Gage, Lombard and the Grand Duke. Another lot of five are: Black Diamond, Monarch, Danish, Stanton and Burbanks.

Q.—Best five plums? A.—Winter

Q.—Name best five peaches. A.— Early Michigan, or Lewis, St. John, Kalamazoo, Elberta and Fitzgerald; these are in the order of ripening. Lot 2 are Early Crawford, Engle, Mammoth, Bronson, Elberta and Smocks,

1st. In the preparation for crops of Indian corn, fall plowing on Central Illinois prairie soils is preferable to spring plowing, and deep plowing to shallow; but deep plowing should be confined to rich lands plowed in the fall, and shallow to thin ones plowed in the spring-leaving the middle

course for the medium soils. 2d. When manure is used, it should be, if it can be, previously spread and plowed in during the fall, but if spread on the surface as fast as made, during the winter season, it suffers less waste and depredation than when fermenting in the shed, or heating in the

3d. Stable and barn yard manure stimulated stalk and leaf growth at igan Fruit Grower: the expense of the ear, but the ashes of plants, and presumably those of animals, i. e., manufactured fertilizers, produce a contrary effect; to the extent that to grow the largest crop of corn, grain being considered, recourse must be had to plant or animal ashes.

4th. In fall plowed land the best preparation for the seed bed is to throw up, by means of a shovel plow, a slight ridge where the rows are to stand and where the planter is to follow; then after planting, to pack the loose soil, to insure germination by using the plank

5th. Since the atmosphere furnishes from 96 to 98 per cent of plant food, there can be no such thing as too much cultivation, this side of retarding growth by wounding plant roots and firing the crop in dry weather.

Adulterated Paris Green. Paris green is largely used in this state as an insecticide, chiefly for the destruction of the cotton caterpillar, whose ravages are frequently so injurious. This chemical consists chiefly of the "Arsenite of Copper," with a small proportion of the Acetate of Copper, and a first-class article should contain not less than 50 per cent of arsenious acid, known in its pure state standard varieties. Lot 3 are Early as white arsenic. This article is fre-

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON V. JAN. 31 PETER AND JOHN -ACTS 4: 14.

Golden Text: "There Is None Other Name Under Heaven Given Among Men, Whereby We Must Be Saved"-From Acts, Chapter 4, Verse 12.



the word believed;

lesson is as follows: 2. Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many

them which heard and the number of

HE text of today's

the men was about five thousand. 5. And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, 6. And Annas the high priest, and Calaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked. By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? 8. Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them. Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9. If we this day be ex-amined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10. Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11. This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12. Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. 13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. 14. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. Time.—Immediately after the last lesson; an afternoon in June, A. D. 30, and the next morning. Place.—Jerusalem, in Solomon's porch, a part of the great tem-

ple structure; and in the hall of the San-HINTS TO TEACHERS.

The golden text calls attention to that name which is the symbol of power. The signature of the Queen of England would open any door in the British empire. The card of a senator will give access to places in the capitol. The autograph of a railroad king will enable a traveler to cross the continent without expense. This lesson shows us the might in the name of Jesus.

It is a life-giving name. Verses Through Jesus the dead are raised, and men are called from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. It is a growing name. Verse 4. On the day of Christ's ascension it was borne by 120 people; ten days later by 3,000; here it was swelled to 5,000; a few years and we find it in Samaria, Damascus, Antioch, Ephesus, Rome; now it fills the world. It is a mysterious name. Verses 5-7. The rulers could not comprehend the strange power that dwelt in the name of Jesus. They imagined that it possessed some magical spell, like a sorcerer's formula. The world has never yet grasped the secret power of the gospel. Only those who have felt it understand the mystery (1 Cor. ii., 7-16). It is a healing name. Verses 8-10. Notice the emphasis Peter lays on "the good deed." That is, the kind of works wrought by the name of Jesus. It does od only, and not evil. The healing the impotent man is only a parable of what Christ is ever doing to helpless sinners. It is the only name. Verses 11-12. There was but one door to the ark at the time of the flood; but one way of escape from the last plague in Egypt; and there is but one name that has power to take away sin and open heaven. It is a dreaded name. Verses 13-14. How the priests and rulers feared that name! How the foes of the faith have feared it ever since! How every influence that works for corruption, and drunkenness, and sin fears it now! What ceaseless endeavors the enemies of that name—Roman emperors, persecuting hierarchies, unbelieving writers-have made to crush that name! Well may earth dread that name, for it speaks the doom of worldly power.

Popples Two Hundred Years Old.

The extraordinary resuscitating power of light received a very curious illustration a few years ago in the silver mines at Lauriam. The mines had been abandoned more than 2,000 years ago as unworkable, and consisted for the most part of the "slag" produced by the workings of the miners. An enterprising Briton discovered that the slag contained plenty of silver which could easily be removed by modern appliances. When the slag was removed to the furnace the next visit to the mine found the entire space covered with a gorgeous show of poppies from the seed left under the slag when the mine was abandoned. After their Wenty centuries rest they had bloomed as vigorously as ever, without the aid of a single drop of water or any restorative other than the rays of the sun.

Prof. Snellison says that only 900 ersons in 1,000,000 according to mediar authority, die from old age, while 1,300 succumb to gout, 18,400 to measles, 2,700 to apoplexy, 7,000 to erystretas, 7,500 to consumption, 48,000 to scarlet fever, 25,000 to whooping-cough, 30,000 to typhoid and typhus, and 7,000 to rheumatism. The averages vary according to locality, but these are conidered accurate as regards the population of the globe as a whole.

WHAT FRIENDSHIP IS.

To God, thy country, and thy friend be true. Vaugha A friend should bear his friend's infirmities. - Shakespeare. Had friendship lingered, hell could

nce have been .- Maria Brooks Thine own friend and thy father's friend, foreake not .- Proverbe.

Be slow in choosing a friend; slower in changing.-Bent. Franklin. He is a friend indeed who proves himself a friend in need. Plautus,

A WELSH RIP.

He Is Known as Taffy ap Slon - A Welst

Every nation has a Rip Van Winkle of its own, but the Welsh story of Rip is unique, says Lippincott's. He is known as Taffy ap Sion. One morning Taffy heard a bird singing on a tree close by his path. Allured by the melody, he sat down until the music ceased; when he rose, what was his surprise at observing that the tree under which he had taken seat had now become dead and withered. In the doorway of his home, which to his amazement had also suddenly grown older, he asked of a strange old man for his parents, whom he had left there, as he said, a few minutes before. Upon learning his name the old man said: "Alas! Taffy, I have often heard my grandfather, your father, speak of you, and it was said you were under the power of the fairies and would not be released until the last sap of that sycamore had dried up. Embrace me, my dear uncle, for you are my uncle-embrace your nephew." Welshmen do not always perceive the humor of this somewhat novel situation of a youthfor Taffy was still merely a boy-being hailed as uncle by a gentleman perhaps forty years his senior.

HONEYED MEDICINE.

An Ingenious Frenchman's Device to Make Drugs Palatable.

Though modern medicine has done much to rob its drugs of their nauseous tastes, there are many in frequent use which nothing has been found to more than thinly disguise. That is why a Frenchman has recently been trying to cause bees to make medicated honey. According to a Paris paper, he has been successful in producing many different kinds of honey, each of which contains, effectually hidden, a standard remedy against some particular disease. He has managed it in this way: The bees are, of course, divided into many swarms. These are not allowed to roam, but each swarm is kept under glass and given only flowers that have been duly medicated, and contain the desired properties. The result is that when the bees transmute their labor into honey, the honey contains all the necessary principles of the drug to be administered. In this way this Frenchman has obtained different kinds of honey by which influenza, coughs and colds, indigestion, asthma and many other ills are said to be readily, if indirectly, reached.

This Spring Flows Copper. From the Morning Oregonian.-W. F. Carson of Tacoma, traveling passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific, and G. McL. Brown, the company's district passenger agent at Vancouver, have just returned from extended trips through the famed mining districts of the Kootenai country, and report the greatest activity, notwithstanding the

advent of winter.

"The prospectors are sticking a little closer to the camps on account of the snow," said Mr. Carson, "but otherwise there is as much work going on as if there were not from two to three feet of snow on the ground. The Kootenai is such a wonderful country that if half the truth were told of its mineral wealth it would not be credited. A recent find that has excited a great deal of attention is the discovery of an actual copper spring, now known as the 'Red Blanket,' in the Lilloeet District. just north of Spencer's bridge, on the Canadian Pacific. The water in solution runs 39.7 pounds of copper to 200 gallons, and 10,000 gallons a day come tumbling down the mountain side. This is the only real copper spring that is known of, with the exception of one in Idaho, and that only flows two pounds of the metal to the 100 gallons of water. William Pritchard Morgan, a Welsh M. P., prominently known in Wales, Australia, and South Africa through his extensive mining interests, heard of the Red Blanket copper spring prior to his sailing from Vancouver with a party of mining experts for Japan and China, December 8. He was very much interested in the reports he received of the spring, and not only left one of his experts behind to make investigation, but is said to have offered \$100,000 for 51 per cent of it." Mr. Carson brought a bottle of copper water from the Red Blanket spring with him.

W. A. Halsey tells a neat dog story, which he says will be verified by Architect G. A. Staehlin, says the Newark Sunday Call. One breezy morning about ten days ago they were riding down Market street upon the rear of a trolley car when the car passed over a nice, light, soft hat, which had blown between the tracks. The hat was not injured, but the wind gave it a little firt after the car had passed and dropped it fairly upon one of the rails. A big New York car was coming and ahead of it a big mongrei pointer dog was trotting along. The dog glanced at the hat, looked back at the car, and then, picking up the hat in his teeth ran over to the curb and deposited i pavers who were working alongside of the court house. After putting the hat in a safe place the dog loped after the big car and took his place in front of it. Mr. Halsey did not see the owner of the hat nor did Mr. Staehlin, but they passed several remarks about the sagacity of the dog, and it is believed that they agreed that it would be bet-

A Considerate Dog.

After a Bay's Notice. "Waiter, you remember the order I gave you resterday?" "Yes, sir; will you have the same to-day?" it ought to be ready by this time New York World.

ter not to speak of the incident except to people who knew them well.

AZTEC INDIAN CORN-PAST AND PRESENT.

Michigan, St. Johns, Elberta, Kalamazoo and Steven's Rareripe. Q.-Name five good pears. Bartlett, Anjo, Howell, Lawrence, Keefer or Bosc.

Q .- Shall we cut back eight to twelve year old trees that are very high? A. -Yes; cut back to three or four year old: form a new head.

Q.-How many acres of cow peas shall we sow to the acre? A .- Onehalf to one and one-half bushels, ac-

cording to variety. Q.—Does it pay to set peach trees in this year's strawberry bed? A.-No;

rather have berries. Q.-Is there any harm to a peach or chard if sown to clover and then plowed under? A .- Harm comes in growing

it in the orchard. Q.—Give best method pruning grape vines. A.—Follow either the Kniffin or

Renewal system. Q.—What is best treatment for plums that are not bearing? A .- Take off two-thirds of top and graft some new

fruit to tree. Q.-How do you get rid of gum on peach tree? A .- It is sometimes caused by unripened wood; treat to get ripe wood; it's a preventative only; no rem-

Q.—Is there a Late Barnard? A.— Late Barnard is Snows' Orange re-

Q.-What causes plum trees to le foliage in August? A.—Fungus dis ease; use Bordeaux mixture late in the

Q.—What causes spots on the Bar-nard peach? A.—Thousands would like to know this.

Q.-Would you set plums where an old apple orchard had been? A.-Crop to grains; H. D. Perkins has had success; do not plant in same spots, how-Q .- Will it be any advantage to sow

oats in strawberry bed as mulch? A. -Yes, if you have no other way mulch; get good clean seed.
Q.—Will it do to trim the peach tree
before February 1st? A.—March is

Preparing for Indian Coro. In an article on Indian corn. J. D. quently adulterated, and there are abundant opportunities for fraud in its purchase. Farmers and planters frequently complain of the ineffectiveness of Paris green after use on their cotton; but they failed to take samples in accordance with the above law, and therefore have no means of definitely determining whether fraud had been practiced. Many farmers and planters in central Louisiana have made report of the ineffectiveness of paris green used on their cotton during the present season. This is reported after a failure, but they failed to take samples in accordance with the above law, and therefore had no means of ascertaining positively whether fraud had been per-

petrated.-La. Exp. Sta. bulletin. Orchard Cultivation Pays The Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station has issued a bulletin from which the following practical conclusions are drawn:

Trees in cultivated ground have a darker and more vigorous foliage than those in sod ground, with less yellowing, dropping of leaves, or wilting in hot windy days.

Apples averaged 14 per cent greater weight on cultivated than pasture land and 17 per cent greater than on mowed

As to moisture, for every 100 barrels of water in twenty inches depth of soil on sed land, there were 140 in cultivated

Evaporation, as any one might sup pose, was found proportionate to velo city of wind.

Farm House Cellars.-Most cellars are not only too warm, but too damp. The latter evil is easily remedied by putting a few lumps of unslaked lime n various parts of the cellar, where it will absorb the surplus moisture. It will also help to absorb the odors of decaying vegetables, which are held in the moisture of the air, which is sweetened when they are removed. To keep roots in cellars, some dirt should be thrown over and sifted among them, This will also protect them from being frozen, if the cold weather causes the thermometer to sink below the temperature for freezing.—Ex