

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 rice-shoots 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.

WHERE RACHEL IS BURIED



Rachel, daughter of Laban, favorite wife of Jacob and mother of Benjamin, was interred at Bethlehem, according to tradition, and pious pilgrims to the Holy Land do not fail to visit the "Kubbet Rachel" 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 freeing of three large tortoises as a mark 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 characters:

"We humbly beg to show our deepest regret at the death of our Meiji Tanno. 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 Altobal, 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 shoes.

ATTENDS SICK CALL BY AERO

The distinction of being the first clergyman to travel by airplane to minister to a dying man falls to Father Andral, a French priest serving with the troops in Morocco. He was busy in the hospital at Laghouat when a young aeronaut,

manians, Georgians and Servians. The domestic government of the monasteries was regulated in 1046 by Constantine Monomachos, with the aid of the patriarch of Constantinople. By the imperial document which he 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. Occasionally 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 pomp.

The fall of Constantinople in 1453 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 others 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 hunting 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 stated intervals.

SHARP TEETH OF RODENTS KILL TREES



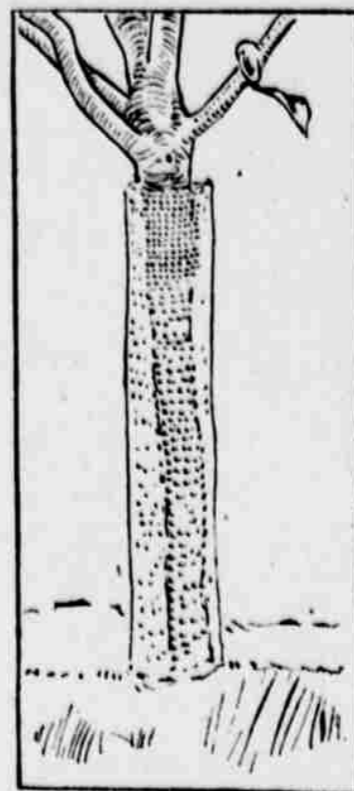
Corn Stalks for Protection.

(By F. H. BALLOU.)

Mice rarely injure trees except where grass, straw 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 directions.

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



The Wire Screen.

ten. Trees have been killed by wire-girdling 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 section 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 re-set 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 spadefuls of loose earth so that when the tree is put in it will sink sufficiently into the soil so that all under surfaces will be in good contact with it. The soil may then be filled in, using the fine soil first and compacting it well around the roots.

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 absorbing 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 allowed their freedom for the day.

Two or More Varieties.

Do not plant an orchard of one variety only. Even good self-pollinizers will probably be more satisfactory if two or more varieties are set together than when the orchard is limited to one alone.

NERVY GIRL ROUTS A BLACK BURGLAR

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

Atlantic City, N. J.—Awakened by a promotion 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, pursued 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. Miss 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 guard.

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 chauffeur, 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 ground.

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.

When 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 Kaudo Jowacks in her suit against Adam Kawals 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 functions hereafter end at midnight.