

NESTING ON STEEP CLIFFS

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AN INDUSTRY OF PACIFIC COASTERS

Thousands of the Eggs Marketed Annually in 'Frisco—How They Are Secured from the Ocean-Bound Aviary—A Dangerous Process.

How many people know that for three months every summer hen's eggs in the markets of San Francisco have to take a back seat, giving precedence to the cheaper, larger and handsomer eggs of California murres, or guillemots, a sea bird related to the auk, which breeds in countless thousands upon the Farallone Islands.

A new and singular industry has been developed, says the San Francisco Examiner, in the gathering of these eggs for the market by Italian and Greek fishermen, who perch their ladders on frail fishing boats and in scaling the rocks for the eggs of the murre.

Three clusters of rocky islands of volcanic origin, thirty miles from San Francisco, in the Pacific ocean, form the Farallones, South Farallone being the largest and the only one inhabited. Although of surpassing interest on account of their picturesque appearance and the myriads of birds which there find a summer home, the Farallones are seldom, if ever, visited by the tourists. They are difficult of access, small fishing boats or an occasional on-going tug being the only means of transit.

South Farallone is about a mile in length and half a mile wide, everywhere cut up by jagged bridges, precipitous bluffs, where the light is situated, being 250 feet above the sea. The whole island may be said to be a veritable city of the birds, covering their eggs in dense colonies, swimming and diving or wheeling by thousands through the air with shrill, incessant cries. The bird census has never been taken.

Besides the murre, which lays the marketable eggs, tufted puffins, western gulls, three species of cormorants, cassin's auklet, the ashby petrel and the pigeon guillemot breed in large numbers on the island.

The murre lays one large, pear-shaped egg, having about twice the capacity of a hen's egg. It is curious and beautifully marked in many shades of blue, green and brown, in surprising variation. The eggs sell readily at 20 cents a dozen in the market, and that is the reason why they are as a food supply is considered valuable.

In spite of this enormous product the birds seem to be very scarce, as ever, although near the close of the season's collecting many "run" eggs are found.

Two men who were left on Sugar Loaf, an isolated rock 185 feet high, collected 180,000 murre's eggs in one season.

The eggers usually consist of twelve to fifteen men, who inspect the great rockeries early in the season to see if the murre has begun laying. When the time is ready to begin work a curious but necessary performance takes place. The whole island is gone over and all the murre's eggs within reach are broken or thrown into the sea. This is to insure fresh eggs for the eggers.

Unless the gull, the murre makes no nest whatever, covering its egg on any bare rock that will support it.

If left undisturbed the murre would lay one egg each during a season, but as they are robbed every day, they are obliged to lay several eggs in a season.

The collecting outfit of the eggers is simple. A cotton four sack is made into an "egg shirt" by cutting a hole in the bottom for the head, and one on each side for arm holes; a gathering string about the mouth of the sack permits it to be drawn tightly about the waist, while a slit down the front makes an opening for stowing away the eggs.

A little of the coarse Farallone wool, the only vegetable to be found on the island, is used for shirt lining. It is astonishing how many of the large eggs can be carried in such a shirt, eighteen to twenty dozen being considered a fair load for each man.

When an egg shirt is filled it is emptied into a basket to be taken to the landing. If overladen, the eggers dump the load on the ground, and the murre's eggs are taken to cover the baskets or hoops with old packing or weeds, and the most serious accident of this kind, or, at all events, the one that made the greatest impression on the eggers, was one that occurred in France.

A little girl, who had been in the boat, set to work at ironing near a stove. During her work she leaned constantly toward the stove, and her head was in a direct line with it, and after she had been in this attitude for about an hour her imitation of a comb, made of mother's hair, caught fire at once, and she was in a time instant enveloped in flames. Her mother hastened to her aid and put out the fire as soon as she could, but not before a large part of the child's hair had been burned off and her scalp had sustained a serious scald.

Less serious burns have resulted from wearing the long double celluloid hairpins, which are worn by women so often that they are called "the hairpins of the world." When they bend over a lamp, or even a candle, the projecting part often reaches the flame and takes fire, and the hairpins are usually easy inflammable stuffs that abound, there is a sort of cheap flannel called pillow, largely used by women for garments, especially wraps and nightdresses. The surface is of variegated blue and covered with long, silky hairs forming a sort of down, and taking the form of a cotton wool.

Cholera in Honolulu. As soon as it became known that cholera was certain to become epidemic in Honolulu a local drug house ordered a large supply of French Chamberlain's Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. The directions given are to go to bed as soon as the first symptoms appear; remain as quiet as possible and take the remedy in double doses, every fifteen minutes until the pain ceases, and then after each operation of the bowels more than a teaspoonful. In double doses, every fifteen minutes in this way until the patient is able to keep it at hand ready for instant use. The great success of this remedy in epidemic cholera leads us to believe that it will prove very effective in the treatment of cholera.

TURPENTINE IN LOUISIANA

New Industry in the Pine Region of the Creole State.

OPPOSITION OF THE MOSSBACKS OVERCOME

How the Crude Turpentine is Drawn from the Trees and the Method of Distillation of the Soft Stuff for a Jug.

A little over a year ago a man named Shuler, who for thirty years had been operating turpentine orchards in the pine lands of Georgia, visited the Lake Charles section of Louisiana with a view of establishing a branch camp about the outlook prove favorable. From the moment that he landed, writes a correspondent of the Globe-Democrat, old croakers who owned not an acre of timber began uttering their voices in protest.

"The forests will be killed. The timber will be rendered unfit for lumber. The bugs will take the trees." These were only a few of the discouraging predictions which were poured into his ear free of charge. But Mr. Shuler was not in the least disturbed.

According to a Parisian physician who has been taking a census of the dangers that lurk in the boudoir of a fashionable woman, she is fortunate if she escapes being poisoned, and even if she does she runs great risk of death.

By the old method, a "bug" is cut in the trunk of the tree, and the sap is collected in a cup. The process is repeated every two weeks, and the sap is used for turpentine.

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THE GREAT HUDYAN

Constipation, Biliousness, Falling Sensations, Nervousness, Headaches, Stomach Troubles, Indigestion, etc.

LOST MANHOOD

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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1895.

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