

ODDS AND ENDS OF INTEREST AND NEWS

AN UNFAMILIAR BREED OF HORSES.



THE accompanying photograph does not illustrate a new breed of horses, but records a very remarkable trick of the camera. The picture belongs to that general class of illustrations known as the combination photograph, or one which is formed by a combination of two or more original photographs. In this case a horse's head has been very cleverly added to the body of an English grey-

hound, the work being so well done that it is impossible to detect where the two negatives have been joined.

Soup is sold in London restaurants at other food, as a general rule. The reason is supposed to be the small demand for it in that city among patrons of public eating houses.

Banks in Foreign Countries.

THE number of banks established by different nations in their colonies and foreign countries, furnished by Consul Harris, of Chemnitz, is as follows:—

Country	Branches
Holland	70
France	11
England	30

These banks form one of the most important means of extending foreign trade. They interest themselves in everything pertaining to commerce and industry. They have been of indispensable service to the expansion of English trade all over the world, and the Germans, quick to recognize this fact, are beginning to extend, enlarge and establish branches to the banks which they already have in foreign countries.

Altogether German is nowadays spoken by about seventy-five million people. German thus ranks third in number among the four leading languages of Europe, the first being English, the second Russian and the fourth French. These figures do not include the Dutch language, for although Dutch, from a linguistic point of view, represents the low German branch of the Franconian dialect, it has developed a literary language of its own.

An Historic Mug.



THE best specimens of English pottery of the early part of the last century find high favor among collectors. Their use is not only a matter of taste, but of history. In the designs of pottery, especially drinking mugs, innumerable cartoons were baked and glazed in the clay, and among them, of course, the portrait of Wellington was a conspicuous place. Here is shown a Staffordshire mug with a peculiar raised portrait of the Conqueror of Waterloo. It was made in 1813, and because of the peculiarity of design, in relief, is considered unique.

Bricks from Sand.

THE sand dunes extend for miles along the north coast of Bristol Channel included in Glamorgan, Wales. These, in addition to being utterly worthless for all purposes, are also a menace to the narrow strip of lowlands between them and the hills. A company of business men, with headquarters at Port Talbot, have determined to put the sand to some use, and if their works prove profitable an industry will be built up on the dunes. The plan is to manufacture bricks from sand. The experiment has proved a success on the Continent, where the bricks are produced in several colors and take a glaze satisfactorily. The Port Talbot plant will have a minimum capacity of ten thousand bricks a day. Some experts claim that these bricks made of sand and lime will be the building brick of the future in the United Kingdom.

QUAINT ROYAL TOYS.



In a room in Kensington Palace, the birthplace of the late Queen Victoria, a case of old-fashioned toys is still preserved, with which the Queen amused herself when a child. In 1859 when the palace was renovated a room was set aside for them. To-day children would regard such toys, although they were royal playthings, as decidedly old-fashioned. The modern scientific toys mark a great ad-

It is important that wild animals should be carefully bathed and groomed in order to keep them in good condition and make them presentable for exhibition purposes. Herewith is reproduced a photograph of a hippopotamus undergoing its daily toilet. The bath consists of a very vigorous scrubbing administered with a coarse brush, with plenty of soap and

Fighting the Mosquito.
The director of the Breslau hygienic institute has announced the results of his mosquito war experiments. The first object was to destroy egg-bearing females, which were found in large numbers in Breslau cellars. Fumigation was placed on the floors often ran up to more than 2,000 mosquitoes. For destroying the larvae in pools of water fifty grains of "arsenide" was put into a cubic metre of water and poured into the pool. This kills all the larvae within half an hour, but does not harm from and fish. To destroy the pupae is another question which will receive attention from now on. Breslau seems to be the first city in Europe to wage a systematic war against this plague, and other German cities suffering from mosquitoes are preparing to imitate its plans.

New York at present boasts a man on whom the surgeons have operated thirty-two times. But Milan, Italy, has one who has been operated upon thirty-five times, though he is only forty years old; while Pembroke Dock, South Wales, believes it holds the record with a woman who has undergone forty-eight surgical operations. The clock at the entrance to Lord Ellice's estate at Worley strikes thirteen at 1 o'clock. This peculiarity is due to the fact that the clock is set to strike the hour of the day. Noticing many of the workmen loitering around after the noon hour one day he made inquiries and was told they had not heard the clock strike one. So he had it fixed so that it would strike thirteen.

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The "jury mast" has nothing in common with a jury except its derivation from the same word "jury," the French word meaning hour. The jury mast is one which is put up temporarily for a day—just as a jury in its final terms may be a tribunal summoned for a short period only.

Rats, mice and squirrels uneasily gnaw at something, but out of pure mischief, as people are fond of imagine, but because they are forced to. Animals of this class, especially rats, have teeth which continue to grow as long as the owner lives. This being the case, the rodent is obliged to continue his gnawing so as to keep his teeth ground out to a proper length.

Best Sugar in England.

FOR several years the feasibility of manufacturing best sugar in England has been discussed, and experiments have been made. It now seems indubitable that sugar production is actually to be undertaken, for the site of the first English beet sugar works has been secured. It is located at Owston Ferry, in Lincolnshire, on the banks of the River Trent, which, being navigable, will give the enterprise a very convenient means of transit.

The soil thereabouts is said to be peculiarly well adapted to beet culture. On the three thousand acres untried soil to be available a correspondent of a local newspaper avers that 60,000 tons of sugar beets can be raised, though this estimate, since in the most important experiments hitherto made in England the yield has averaged about sixteen tons. The Lincolnshire tract, however, is said to be marvelously fertile in root products.

It is estimated that the yield of 60,000 tons would bring the owner about £200,000—more than double the result from a sowing of wheat on the same soil. The 60,000 tons of beets, it is further estimated, would yield 8,000 tons of sugar, which, with various by-products, would sell for about £40,000. Deducting from this all expenses of every character, a fixed dividend of eight per cent on the share of stock is figured out, still leaving a substantial sum to be distributed among the growers and a further sum to go to the reserve fund.

The Victoria Cross was instituted fifty years ago last month, and in the half century intervening only 320 persons have received it. Of these, three were civilians acting as soldiers in "the face of the enemy." The other 317 winners were the greatly merited trophy were soldiers or seamen of the imperial forces.

King Edward III. of England was the first of the sovereigns to authorize the use of the "woodcock" on which the Lord High Chancellor sits, which is a large bag of wool, covered with a red cloth. He pointed out that its use might help in the friendly relations with Flanders, whose wool trade at that time England was cultivating.

Luther Burbank, the California naturalist, has been overrun with visitors, taking much valuable time from his experiments and scientific work, and he has had to call a halt. A circular has been issued calling attention to the annoyance to which he is subjected, and requesting the discontinuance of visits by the public. In 1905 more than 6,000 visitors were received.

DAILY BATH OF A HIPPOPOTAMUS.
The sea frequently brings to light curious mementoes of past events, just as it holds in its bosom many others which it never surrenders. At first sight this object would puzzle the ordinary mind to determine just what it might have been. It was recently washed out of a crumbling cliff at Southwold, England. It is a cannon, the which must have been active service in its day. Compared with modern ordnance, it shows how far the world has progressed in the science of military slaughter. The best authorities think it was one of the pieces of artillery used in the great Sole Bay fight.

Captain Joseph Burger, of St. Paul, believes he reached the rank of captain younger than any other man in America. He enlisted in 1861, when thirteen years old. He was the battle of Mill Spang's, or Lord of the Sea. Captain Burger, in the war. He also fought at Corinth, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Tulahoma. In his second engagement, at Dalton, Ga., he lost his left arm, besides receiving wounds in his right hand and head. He was promoted to a captaincy when stationed at Fort Douglas in 1864, when only sixteen.

An Insane Sculptor.
POETIC license speaks of "the children of the brain." That was considered a striking and expressive figure, even though it did not deal with anything that had definite shape, so far as man and beast were concerned. But here we have what is apparently a combination of both man and beast. And what is more, it is the child of a brain—a disordered one, it is true, but nevertheless a brain teeming with vivid fancies.

Origin of Sea Terms.
THERE is hardly a language which has not been called upon to provide at least one of the curious sea terms which are in constant use and whose origin is so little known. For instance, the word "Admiral" is not of English origin, but is from the Arabic "Emir al Bahar," or Lord of the Sea. Captain comes from the Latin caput, but mate is from Icelandic, which means a companion or fellow. The word "deck" is derived from the Dutch "dek," which means a platform or stage. The word "crew" is derived from the Old Norse "kryr," which means a group of men.

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gas railway companies have adopted a measuring arrangement for half fares. Every one who asks for a half fare is to be measured. A measuring machine being fixed near the ticket office. The children under three feet one inch in height will be passed as half fare, but those above what ever their age, are treated as adults.

A "Scooter."



THE scooter is a common sight on the great stretches of ice which lie on the south shore of Long Island in the winter months. It consists of a thin, shallow, shell-like body, supplied with steel runners and a small sail. With a good motor, these scooters are capable of making long trips. They have been used to travel at the rate of a mile a minute.

In Manchuria the rivers have long been the great highways in summer and their icy surface is much used for carting merchandise in the winter. When the ground is frozen hard there are other roads which serve tolerably well that are little used in spring and fall. Newchwang is the principal port of Manchuria, and this winter it is said that from fifteen hundred to two thousand loaded carts have left that city every day, on the average.

A Curious Relic.



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The man who was the mental sponsor for this monstrosity also drew it, and, it is thought, possessed no inconsiderable talent as an artist. It is a madman's conception of the musician, which inhabits his brain and plays wild melodies, sometimes moving its possessor to tenderness and tears and again driving him into the wildest frenzies.

J. G. Jenkins, agent general for South Australia, stated in a lecture in London that suitable land for cotton growing was being offered in North Australia up to five then at a rental of three cents an acre per annum, with right to purchase at sixty-two cents an acre.

It has always been a moot point in Australia as to how an officer ought to salute a brother officer when he has a lady on his arm. This delicate point, however, has been settled by the issue of an official army order. In future if the lady is taken in the arm of the officer, then he can salute as of old, with his left hand, and must give the salute with his left hand. If the lady is on his arm, he is to salute with his right hand.

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Coffee-Chewing Habit.

PHYSICIANS claim that the habit of tobacco chewing is dying out, but as insidious a habit has come to take its place. This is coffee chewing, which is a very bad thing for the health, for it creates nervousness, makes the skin yellow, blackens the teeth and diminishes the appetite.

The habit seems to have originated in the coffee roasting establishments. When visiting one of these plants one sees nearly all the men taking coffee grains from a little pouch which is sewn on the front of their jumpers. Every little while they take a half dozen or more grains from it and chew the coffee with great glee. The women who work there are addicted to the same habit.

A specialist of Philadelphia has made a study of the coffee chewing habit and says: "This is a habit which is contracted, for the taste of the crisp, roasted berries is not unpleasant, and the exhilaration, the stimulus, that the berries give is quite as marked as that which would be obtained from a glass or two of beer, or from a drink of whiskey.

"It is this exhilaration, I am convinced, that causes the habit to be formed, and that makes it a hard habit to break away from. It should be broken away from; its effects are highly injurious; they are more injurious than those of tobacco chewing.

The coffee chewing habit wrecks the nerves, it makes the skin sallow and it destroys the appetite. I have had occasion to treat a number of men for it. I always advise such men to break off the habit, and to give three or four months to the task. Some succeed, and some do not. Men who work in coffee plants find it almost impossible to succeed.

Coffee experts seem to be the only employes connected with the coffee trade who have not this habit, for if they did their sense of taste would be dulled. The experts, by smell only or by taste only, distinguish without the slightest difficulty the quality of the coffee. The Arabians, the Javanese, the Guatemalan, the Costa Rican, the Bogotan and a dozen other nations could not do this if they were coffee chewers.

During the last few years the United States has come to be the world's greatest consumer of coffee. There were used here last year 800,000,000 pounds—enough to make 87,500,000 cups of the beverage. The United States uses nearly one-third more coffee than the rest of the world put together. This excessive use of coffee is said by a great French authority to be the reason for the Yankee's leanness, sallowness and nervousness.

Lowering an Emergency Lifeboat.
It is required by law that on every voy- swung clear of the ship's side and lowered into the water.

A bull entered a china shop at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, England, the other day, took a walk round, surveyed the display with apparent interest and departed without having done more than twenty-five cents' worth of damage.

Marriage Customs.
It is customary among the Lolos of Western China for the bride on the wedding morning to perch herself on the highest branch of a large tree, while the other female members of her family cluster on the lower limbs, armed with sticks. When all are duly stationed the bridegroom clamors up the tree, assailed on all sides by blows, pushes and punches from the dowagers, and it is not until he has broken through their fence and captured the bride that he is allowed to carry her off.

Similar difficulties assail the bridegroom among the Mongolian Koraks, who are in the habit of celebrating their marriages in large tents divided into numerous separate but communicating apartments.

At a given signal, as soon as the guests are assembled the bride starts off through the compartments, followed by her wooer, while the women of the encampment throw every possible impediment in his way, trip up his unwary feet, holding down the curtains to prevent his passage and applying willow and alder switches unmercifully as he stoops to raise them. As with the Koraks, on the morning of the wedding the bride is invariably captured, however much the possibilities of escape may be in her favor.

Of all the land frequenting fish the most famous in the climbing perch of India, which not only walks out of the water, but also mounts into trees by means of sharp spines situated near its head and tail. It has peculiar breathing apparatus, which enables it to extract oxygen from the water stored up within a small chamber near its gills, for use while on land.

A Full Hand.
T'ient often a man draws a hand like this. This is a nest of baby rattlesnakes, which are just as poisonous as full grown ones. The infants are perhaps a trifle less knowing than their elders, and, therefore, strike less often, but the trick in handling rattlers or any other kind of venomous snake is not to startle them with quick movements. The young man holding these baby snakes has made a scientific study of all kinds of reptiles and is with-

out fear of them, although he realizes the necessity of caution. He will go to any kind of a snake haunt and pick the reptiles out bare handed, and in several years of study he has been bitten only once or twice.

In the capital of Belgium a prize was offered recently for the best patriotic songs for the use of Belgian school children. A Frenchman won it.

A BULL TRAINED TO HURL.



HURLING horses are common enough, but it has remained for a Western cattleman to train a bull to leap hurdles the word command. The hurdles in question are more than two feet in height and are placed at comparatively short intervals. The bull's method of jumping is clearly illustrated in the accompanying photograph.

The shorthorn holds the record for long distance swimming. One of these creatures has been known to cover 800 miles in three days.

The Babies of Arabia.
THE life of a baby in Arabia, especially for the upper classes, is peculiarly difficult. A royal baby's first toilet there consists in winding a handkerchief about its body after it has been carefully bathed and perfumed.

If the child be a girl, on the seventh day after her birth holes, usually six in number, are pricked in her ears, and when she is two months old heavy gold rings are attached to them, to be worn throughout her lifetime, except during periods of mourning for relatives. On the fortieth day the baby's head is shaved, and the disposal of the hair is regarded as a very weighty matter. It must not be buried or carelessly thrown away, but burned, thrown into the sea, or hidden away.

The fortieth day marks a turning point in the child's life. Hereafter it has only been seen by few, but now it may be seen by anybody, and is regarded as fairly launched on the tide of existence. Several charms are attached to its body for protection against the "evil eye." Everything the child uses is perfumed and covered at night with jessamine, and before it is used sprinkled with amber and musk, and sprinkled with attar of roses.

San Francisco is said to contain the largest families in the world. It boasts of having thirty-nine families, each having more than fourteen children and sixty-five families with more than eight children each.

So strong are French peasant women and so frugal, that one can bring home from the forest in a single load, fagots enough for a month—since she uses them only to form a nest, and moves about to keep herself warm.

A Waterproof Photograph.
WHILE waterproofs are comparatively common in tropical seas, it is very unusual for a ship to approach near enough to them to obtain a good view. Even the smallest of these waterproofs are very dangerous. For a ship to approach close enough for one to obtain a photograph of a waterproof is practically an unheard of thing. Herewith is reproduced a photograph, however, slightly retouched, which gives a very good idea as to the formation of these curious columns of water.

Match Prices Advanced.
Owing to the troubles in Russia, the Austrian manufacturers of matches find it impossible to procure the necessary quantities of Russian poplar wood with which the so-called Swedish matches are made.

The largest Austrian match factories have been obliged to reduce their production on this account. As, in addition to this, the cost of other materials required in the manufacture of matches has increased and the workmen demand higher wages than formerly, all manufacturers have made an increase of 1/2 per cent on the price of Swedish matches.

On the Banks of the Seine recently considerable surprise was caused by a perambulating motor for sheering dogs. The engine is two and one-half horse power and can steer six dogs an hour. There is little doubt that before long this means of clipping will be generally adopted.

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