

SNAKES CARRY LANTERNS

New Story of the Uncanny Vermin in India.

"CHARMERS" MERELY HUMBUGS

Consul General Michael at Calcutta Exposes Some of the Deception of the Mystics of the East.

CALCUTTA, India, June 15.—(Special Correspondence.)—An old inhabitant of India, whose researches on lines of science are recognized by Indian scholars, showed me a stone he took from the mouth of a snake he had killed, which he called an amulet stone, but which is more generally known as "snake stone." Certain species of snakes carry this stone, which is semi-phosphorescent in the mouth for use as an insect or frog decoy. The snake deposits the stone on the ground and conceals itself nearby and when the light of the stone attracts enough insects, or the assembled insects attract a frog or toad in search of prey, the cunning reptile glides upon the unwary hopper and makes a meal of him. The representative of the snake's devourer, the snake, then swallows the stone, and the stone, which is known as "snake stone," is passed on to the snake's stomach. The snake will then bring forth a snake, which is known as a "snake stone," and which is passed on to the snake's stomach. The snake will then bring forth a snake, which is known as a "snake stone," and which is passed on to the snake's stomach.

It is firmly believed by many people in India that the snakestone has curative or antidote qualities and that if it is applied to a bite in time it will extract the poison. If it possesses any virtue in this regard it is because the stone is porous and absorbs the poison if it so happens that the poison lies in fatty tissue and has not yet been taken into the circulation. Sucking would accomplish the same purpose. But if the poison was injected by the snake into a vein or artery neither would do much good, if any. That the snakestone has relieved snake bite can hardly be doubted. In the face of evidence in possession of reputable persons in India.

Snake Charmers Are Fakes. Indian snake charmers always have "snakestones" for sale to credulous people. They are simply spongy or porous stones rubbed into a round, flat shape. The snake charmer is the prince of fakes. He blows on a tube, a reed or the cobra raises his hood eight to ten inches above the ground or out of an open basket in which the reptile is carried about, expands his hood and waves his head and neck back and forth as if trying to keep time with the weird music. I am satisfied, however, after close observation of this performance, many times, that the snake is not "charmed" by the music, but that it has been trained to do its stunt by use of a cane, and that it expects to be tapped with the cane if it does not raise its hood, expand its hood and wave its neck and head. It does this same thing when a rattle instrument is used, and that it is angry and will strike in its defense. The "charmer" almost invariably raises a stick with one hand when he blows on the reed and the snake places itself in readiness to resist attack. This is about the whole story of the Indian snake charmer, who is really a charmer at all, but a humbug. He handles the cobra and other kinds of snakes, but one may readily find that the "fangs" have been extracted and that the snake he handles is powerless to do harm. Besides a snake can be tamed to a certain extent and comes to know its keeper and is quite in the case in time museum shows, and the snake performance is much more interesting and exciting than anything of the kind to be witnessed in India.

The Indian snake charmer, the fakir, the Yogi or sun worshiper surrounded by his harem, the "magician" of the esoteric Buddhist, and the whole host of fakirs, dervishes, mystics, clairvoyants, and other powers, are humbugs pure and simple. I have known a few really sensible and respectable people in the United States who went daff on the subject of esoteric Buddhism. They had read several books written on the subject by real and not by fake powers, and they had seen the fakirs, who "claimed to have sat at the feet of the wise men of the east," who by self-concentration of thought and by reincarnation had come to possess infinite power and wisdom. One of the persons who went daff on this subject was a surgeon and physician of high standing, who brought himself to believe that it was possible for him to acquire by following the instruction of the Yogi of India the power of diagnosing any case correctly simply by exercising the power of penetration; that he could "protect his sensitive" any distance and "see" and "know" what was going on in the most secret places of the body of the Yogi, the spiritualized child, who has been represented to be able to do.

Sample of Yogi Wisdom. A case was before a magistrate in Calcutta only a few months ago where a Yogi was charged with having been accessory to the murder of a boy of seven years of age. The mother of the boy was afflicted with a disease which the Yogi pronounced incurable except by bathing her entire person with the blood of her eldest male child. Acting on the "wise" and "holy" man's advice the father of the boy killed the child and bathed his wife with his blood. Of course it did no good, but landed the credulous parents and the Yogi in the court. Probably the decision of the magistrate, who was a Hindu, was quite an extraordinary one as the prescription of the Yogi. The court decided that as the Yogi

CLYDE GETS SHIPBUILDING

Trust Abandoning Belfast for Scottish Plant.

GLOOM SPREADS OVER IRISH

Trouble with Government, Labor Difficulties and Complications Bring About the Decision to Move.

PRESERVE PURITY OF RACE

Englishman Sympathizes with People of Pacific Coast on Japanese Question.

GLASGOW, July 20.—(Special.)—Writing to the Glasgow Herald on the subject, "The Yellow Peril," Mr. A. Henderson of Edinburgh, says: "Might it not be that the feeling which inspires the Californian to protest, however roughly, against the presence of the yellow man in his midst is as praiseworthy and springs from as high a source as the wonderful patriotic calm extolled in the Japanese official. Explain it how you please, the white man does not love his yellow brother. To give a reason for this feeling is a more difficult matter. The motives ascribed to him are many and varied. Perhaps the one we hear most frequently is the white man's fear for the purity of his race. This is no idle fear or piece of sentimentalism. Let a home born Britisher stumble into a train car in one of our colonial cities and see for the first time a white mother crowning over a little plebeian, almond-eyed picanniny, and he will get a shock he is not likely to forget in his self-respect and pride of race will be rudely shaken. "But perhaps the broad and better side of the problem is the one most easily grasped by the 'man in the street.' The Asiatic can live on what a white man would starve on. To put them into competition therefore is unfair. Many indeed praise the colonial policy already followed by the increase of the acreage of the firm in Belfast. Indeed the natural trend of things was in the other direction. "Turn Business to Clyde. Any work they had to do would go to the Clyde, and he said that emphatically. There was a fine yard there and there was every opportunity of extending. As regards Southampton, he said they had already started a large repairing works there and there was also plenty of ground there for shipbuilding purposes. The arrangements for going to Southampton with these improvements were under way long before it was even contemplated to remove the White Star Line or any other of the fleets for which they built. He hoped that Belfast and Ireland would still go ahead and he was only sorry that such short-sighted policy had been allowed to go in the harbor board office for the last five years or so. It had been a standing source of trouble. They had allowed not only their docks, but their entrance, to silt up, and in some instances they had had the greatest difficulty in inducing these officials to remove the silt even before the launching of a ship such as had just been launched. "The disposition of the new 'shipbuilding trust' to discriminate against Ireland in general, and Belfast in particular, and the removal of several other notable manufacturing institutions, has caused an atmosphere of gloom to prevail in business circles. One of the largest of these manufacturing concerns has just decided to remove a portion of its plant to certain spots in its employes to Troy, N. Y., though a portion will remain in Belfast. The name of the concern is the Sirocco company, an engineering concern whose specialty is the manufacture of fans, etc. The gloom caused by the announcement that this concern would send a large portion of its men and machinery to America was somewhat dispelled by the publication of extracts from a Scranton, Pa., newspaper. This particular Pennsylvania newspaper in reporting the proceedings of the Board of Trade of Scranton stated that the Sirocco company manufactured linen, and that a learned discussion had taken place in the Scranton Chamber of Commerce as to the chances of that city capturing the American plant, it being argued that the concern manufactured linen and that as much as there was a disposition among linen manufacturers to centralize their plants the removal of this institution might naturally be expected to cause others to follow, with the result of a large number of linen factories being centralized in Scranton. Inasmuch as the name was selected originally because of the ability of the machines to cause hot air to circulate after the fashion of the spinning of flax, and the concern had never had anything to do with the linen industry, the joke was readily appreciated here and in Belfast, the error into which the Scranton Board of Trade having tumbled being the cause of much merriment. "Visitors to Dublin Exposition. Among the recent visitors to the Dublin exposition may be mentioned one of the most prominent and representative Irishmen of New York state, Mr. Richard Monan of Buffalo. Mr. Monan is really on his way to County Down, his native place, where he intends to spend his summer holiday. Mr. Monan was interviewed about the situation that has arisen in consequence of the rejection of the Irish council bill by the Dublin convention. He stated that he had found that that decision was thoroughly endorsed by the Irishmen of the great city to which he belonged and that he held the view that for the Irishmen at home to accept half measures would be almost certain to prove fatal to the whole movement. Asked whether he had any view taken by Irish-Americans generally, Mr. Monan said that Irish-Americans could hardly take any other view, and that among his acquaintances on the other side of the water he had yet to hear of a single Irish-American who approved of the measure. "The meeting of the Catholic Truth society, just held, shows that the work of the society is rapidly expanding and that its executive is eager to push forward its activities in every congenial and feasible direction. There was a good deal of discussion with regard to new projects of a more ambitious character than the society has yet undertaken. It is argued that it is advisable for the clerical readers of the day to be brought into closer touch with some of the results of continental Catholic scholarship of the present day, though it was agreed that the fields to be exploited should be carefully chosen. "Irish butter merchants, who have been quarrelling for years with their correspondents on the other side of the channel as to quality and price, say that there is every prospect of an improved market for Irish butter in England by reason of the falling away of the Siberian supply. It is stated here that no one could have imagined that the Russo-Japanese conflict could have done a good turn for England, but this appears to be the case. London is getting less and less butter from Siberia, although largely dependent upon that source of import, and one reason for this is said to be the fact that the war itself taught the

REAL STUDIES OF ROOT LIFE

Bureau of Plant Industry Carrying on a Valuable Work in the Field.

ARE BANK THEFTS INCREASING?

Elaborate Precautions Have Failed to Check Their Frequency in New York.

The experts of the bureau of plant industry of the Agricultural department are getting at the roots of the matter. This is literally true, for the root experiments with plants are the outcome of a study of the problems involved in wide and shallow root development would enable the farmer to do well with very little rain; in the latter, his reliance is entirely on rain. Experimenters have hitherto been handicapped by the absence of a device properly to study root growth, but this difficulty has been overcome by A. M. Ten Eyck, a member of the bureau of plant industry, who has devised a trench two feet wide about a foot deep, in which he has grown some plants, the roots of which he desired to study. When the block stood quite clearly alone he made a light wooden frame to fit around it and covered this with common poultry wire netting. This held the earth in place and enabled him to pierce it through with small wire rods, which were then fastened at both ends to the netting. When enough of these thin wire rods had been run through, to hold up the roots in case the earth was washed away, he covered the top of the ground with a thin plaster of paris paste, which soon dried, forming a hard surface. He then desired to examine firmly around the base of the plants. "The subsequent stages of this process, which has been adopted by the bureau experts, involve the washing of the earth from about the roots with soft, warm water, leaving them wholly exposed and suspended upon the wires which had been forced through the earth. It becomes easy then to lift the roots with its plaster of paris roof, holding the desired plants, to such a place as desired for study. Care is taken to dig the surrounding trench deep enough in the beginning to avoid the possibility of the roots being still connected with the earth below. "The root experimenters have met considerable difficulties. One thing the fine threadlike portions of the roots are destroyed at their extremities by the warm water washing. The threads, however, at the points where they ended, have been analyzed and it has been found that even at this early stage of the progress of the nourishment upward, the great chemical work, sodium, nitrogen and the like had been completed by the tiny filament. Somewhere, a little further on in the soil which had been washed away, the work had been going on. It is the understanding of this process which is now desired and which is still apparently as far off as ever. "Nevertheless, some valuable results have already been obtained. Naturally the investigations so far have concerned the plants most valuable to man—wheat and corn, potatoes, beans and the like. "Roots," observed one of the bureau's investigators, "seem to possess actual sentience in regard to their search for water. One of the interesting and valuable work of this investigation is that now science can determine which of the plants are deep feeding and hence which are most suitable to dry, insufficiently watered soils. For instance, a species of wheat which had the power to dig down six feet in its search for food and moisture would be better adapted to the dry regions of the west than one that could dig but four. There are also certain species of alfalfa, but whose roots are too weak to dig through heavy soils. This cannot be determined by simply pulling up a stalk. It requires such an investigation as this which the government has inaugurated. "Another thing which has been proved by the investigation is that now science can determine which of the plants are deep feeding and hence which are most suitable to dry, insufficiently watered soils. 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