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In the Kaiser's Stable. The Kaiser has recently got after his master of horse and is looking after his stables a bit himself. He found that he was employing four men whose only duty was to braid the tails and manes of the imperial horses. He dismissed all four. Then he found that 400 men were employed to care for 850 horses and 340 carriages, and more heads fell. Pretty Marriage Custom. A pretty little custom is observed in the British navy whenever an officer gets married. Two wreaths are hoisted in the most conspicuous manner, and interlocked with them and hanging from them are colored ribbons. These hang from 8 a.m. till sunset on the wedding day. The cost of the wreath is generally subscribed by the officer's shipmates.

HOW VARIOUS NATIONS SLEEP.

Wooden Neck-Rests Serve as Pillows in Japan. It is evidently custom that makes comfort, even in the way men take their rest, says the Scrap Book. The feather beds so necessary to the last generation are little less than actual torments to this, while the Japanese doubtless would find even our firm flat mattress too soft, after their matting couch and wooden neck-rest. The Anglo-Saxon race, so far as its sleeping arrangements and means of rest are concerned, is the most luxurious in the world. The Egyptians had a couch of a peculiar shape, more like an old-fashioned easy chair, with hollow back and seat, than a bed. The Chinese use low bedsteads, often elaborately carved, and supporting only mats or coverlets. A peculiarity of the German bed is its shortness; besides that, it frequently consists in part of a large down pillow or upper mattress, which spreads over the person, and usually answers the purpose of all the other ordinary bedclothing combined. The ancient Greeks and Romans had their beds supported on frames but not flat like ours. In the tropics men sleep in hammocks or upon mats of grass. The East Indian unrolls his light portable charpoy or mattress, which in the morning is again rolled together and carried away by him. Great Depths in Lakes. The "Bavarian Courier" publishes an interesting comparative statement of the depth of lakes. Among European lakes the Achensee, in the Tyrol heads the list. At some points the depth of this lake amounts to two thousand five hundred feet. The greatest depth of the lake of Constance is about nine hundred and seventy-five feet, that of the Chiennes about four hundred and fifty-eight feet, and that of the Walchen and Kossence six hundred and eleven feet. Three measurements made at the Dead Sea showed that at its deepest part its depth is one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six feet, but if we consider that the level of this lake is already one thousand three hundred and a ninety-four feet below the level of the Mediterranean, then we find that the total depression in the soil here amounts really to three thousand two hundred and thirty feet. The lake of Tiberias is extremely shallow in comparison; on its eastern part the average depth is only twenty-six feet, while on the western side it lies between nineteen and twenty-two feet. In Lake Baikal, in the province of Irkutsk, Siberia, depths have been found which for a lake are utterly astonishing. In the upper part of the lake the depth is ten thousand eight hundred feet (about the height of Mt. Etna), but down the lake the bottom constantly ascends, and near the opposite bank, the depth amounts to three thousand two hundred and thirty feet. The depth far exceeds that of the Mediterranean Sea, which at its greatest part measures only seven thousand eight hundred feet. Catalogue of Misnomers. "A silver shoehorn is a misnomer," said a philologist. "So is a wooden milestone. So is a steel pen. "A shoehorn is a piece of horn, according to its name. How can it be made of silver, then? In like manner a milestone can't be made of wood—through they have them, the same as nutmegs in Connecticut—nor can a pen, which strictly means a feather, be made of steel. "Irish stew is a dish unknown in Ireland. Jerusalem artichokes were never heard of in Jerusalem. Prussian blue does not come from Prussia, but from the red prussiate of potash. "Galvanized-iron is not galvanized; it is zinc-coated. Catgut is not the gut of cats, but of sheep. Kid gloves do not come from kid skins, but from lamb skins. "Sealing wax has no wax in it, nor is it a by-product of the seal. Worm-wood bears no relation either to worms or worms. Rice paper is never made from rice. Salt is not a salt. "Copper coins are bronze, not copper. India ink is unknown in India. Turkeys come from our own country, from Turkey never." Sugar and Spring Flowers. Why do the flowers bloom in the spring? We all know the place of the flowers in the economy of the plant, but what is the precise cause of its periodical appearance? It is, of course due to some form of irritation, and a recent re-examination of the question has been made by a plant physiologist, Oscar Loëy, who lives in Japan. His researches have been made particularly with the Japanese cherry blossom. Despite the abundance of their blossoms the Japanese cherry trees do not produce a perfect fruit, for the climatic conditions cause the cherries while still in an unripe state to drop from the trees. Herr Loëy found that the nutritive matter which the tree provides to bring its fruit to ripeness ceased to be operative after the unripe cherries had fallen off, and was stored in the form of starch in the bark. This starch in the following spring was transformed into sugar and appeared in an unusually large measure in the sap of the tree. To this fact is due Loëy's impression that the sugar is the cause of the irritant influence that leads to the formation of the blossoms.

TESTING THE SILVER DOLLAR.

Six Taken From Every Mintage and Carefully Examined. When the phrase "just like coining money" is used, the speaker usually refers to something which yields large returns for comparatively little effort. Yet coining money is about as difficult an undertaking as any that engages the attention of men, and after the work is done it may not be right. The precautions taken to test and insure perfection in the coins which Uncle Sam turns out are really as complete in their workings as the original process of minting the bullion into the coin. Out of every fresh batch of silver dollars made at the United States mints half a dozen are sent to the treasury at Washington to be tested as samples. If they turn out to be of the requisite fineness and weight it is taken for granted that the whole edition is correct. For the test, the coin, after being weighed, is rolled out in a thin flat strip more than a foot in length. Then the strip is placed beneath a row of punches, which punch holes in it, so that after passing beneath the instrument it has the look of a colander. A great many little silver disks are thus obtained, and of these a dozen or so are taken and assayed, to find out how much silver they contain. Being obtained from various parts of the coin, they represent fairly the average fineness of the dollar throughout. If the weight is too little, beyond a very tiny fraction, the whole batch of coins must be melted over again, and the same thing must be done if the fineness is not up to standard. Otherwise the assayer indorses the mintage and the dollars go into circulation. Properties of Glass. Glass is one of the most interesting as well as one of the most peculiar things in the world. It has curious and contradictory qualities, and many astonishing phenomena are connected with it. Brittle and breakable as it is, yet it exceeds almost all other bodies in elasticity. If two glass balls are made to strike each other at a given force, the result, by virtue of their elasticity, will be nearly equal to their original impetus. Connected with its brittleness are some very singular facts. Take a hollow sphere, with a hole, and stop the whole with the finger, so as to prevent the external and internal air from communicating, and the sphere will fly to pieces by the mere heat of the hand. Vessels made of glass that have been suddenly cooled possess the curious property of being able to resist hard blows given to them from without, but will be instantly shattered by a small particle of hot droppings into their cavities. This property seems to depend upon the comparative thickness of the bottom; the thicker the bottom is, the more certainty of breakage by this experiment. Some of these vessels, it is stated, have resisted the stroke of a mallet given with sufficient force to drive a nail into wood; and heavy bodies, such as musket-balls, pieces of iron, bits of wood, Jasper, stones, etc., have been cast into them from a height of two or three feet without any effect, yet a fragment of flint not larger than a pea dropped from a height of three inches has made them fly.

COLORS MADE FROM MUMMIES.

Bodies of Ancient Egyptians Constituted Basis of a Paint. "Imperious Caesar, dead and turned to clay," could scarcely come to a less dignified service than the mummies, whom the skill and care of the wise Egyptians preserved so marvelously and stained so beautifully that they are invaluable to the color-makers of today, says the Scrap Book. When a person died in the East a century or two B. C. he was preserved in the finest bitumen. The remains of a body treated thus in those times, on being unwrapped today, present an appearance similar to light-colored leather. The bitumen and the leather-like remains are ground down by machinery, and turned into a beautiful brown liquid paint, the delight of all artists. The big color dealers generally keep a mummy locked away in an air-tight case for use when required. A single one will last for years, and make a stupendous amount of color. In the manufacture of artists' colors animal, vegetable, and mineral substances are largely used. Crimson and purple lakes and carmine are all obtained from the cochineal insect. Sopa is the dark fluid discharged by the cuttlefish to render the water opaque for its own concealment when attacked by a larger fish. Prussian blue is made by fusing the boots of horses with impure potassium carbonate, and ultramarine is obtained from the precious mineral known as lapis lazuli. Gamboge is the yellow sap of a tree which grows in Siam, and raw sienna is the natural earth from Sienna; when burnt it becomes burnt sienna. Turkey red is made from the Indian madder plant. There is only one color that English people do not know how to produce, and that is Indian ink. Only the Chinese can make it, and they refuse to divulge the secret of its composition. How National Miles Differ. It is rather surprising to learn that we can walk five miles while the Swiss pedestrian is covering one, yet upon closer examination there doesn't seem to be so much reason for self-congratulation as at first appears. Indeed, a ten-mile constitutional, according to the Swiss standard, might daunt the most enthusiastic walker. The following table gives the miles of various countries: English and American mile..... 1760 Scotch mile..... 1774 Irish mile..... 2240 German mile..... 8104 Dutch and Prussian mile..... 6480 Italian mile..... 1766 Vienna post mile..... 8286 Swiss mile..... 8158 Swedish and Danish mile..... 7841 Arabian mile..... 2143 Roman mile..... 1617 Tuscan mile..... 1808 Turkish mile..... 1826 Flemish mile..... 6869 The nautical or geographical mile is another measure of distance. It is 6076 yards. Corticite. An invention which should prove of great value to the electrical and technical world generally has been perfected by a Portuguese cork firm. It is a general non-conductor, and as for its principal component granulated cork, and is called "corticite." Its application would appear to be practically unlimited, as it forms a perfect insulator, will resist the utmost extremes of climate, and the attack of insects, even white ants, are powerless against it. It is not inflammable, and might be used for partitions in buildings and to replace woodwork in battleships, as it can be saved or bored like wood. It is said that if boiler tubes and boilers are covered with sheets of corticite, there is not only a great saving of heat, but the temperature of the boiler room is reduced to an agreeable degree.—Harper's Weekly. Anecdote of Mark Twain. The following is ascribed to our old friend Mark Twain: "Well, young man, I'll give you a little advice, and to illustrate my point I'll tell you a little story; and you can draw the moral to suit yourself. I went to church once, and the minister preached a sermon about the poor heathen. The sermon touched me, and I thought I'd just give that hundred dollars I had in my pocket toward helping the poor heathen. But the minister kept on preaching, and my enthusiasm began to drop. So did my hundred dollars, twenty-five dollars at a time, until there was nothing left for the poor heathen! And the minister was still talking, and by the time the plate was passed I had to sneak a nickel from it to get even."

QUIN AND RATHERSIA.

Formation of Various Gums. Greg Smith reports in the Journal of the Royal Society of New South Wales the results of his investigation of the part played by bacteria in the formation of various vegetable gums. The action of the bacteria appears to be more complex than might have been supposed. There are, for instance, two kinds of gum arabic, one soluble in water, the other insoluble, and Mr. Smith finds that they are produced by two distinct kinds of bacteria. By the cultivation of suitable species of bacteria it is possible to augment the production of gum by certain trees. Under ordinary circumstances some species of gum-making bacteria live and multiply without the production of an appreciable quantity of gum, both the product is markedly increased by furnishing tannin to the micro-organisms. Thankful For His Blessings. A few years ago a railway porter wrote to Admiral Boreaford of the British Navy saying: "Our home has been blessed with twins, and I write to ask your lordship if you will call the Princess of Wales if we may call the little girl Princess of Wales Brown and the little boy Lord Charles Boreaford Brown." Lord Charles procured the necessary permission from the Princess and sent it, together with his own. A month later came the following from the same man: "My Lord—I am happy to inform you that Lord Charles Boreaford Brown is well and hearty and that Frances of Wales Brown died this morning." Substitute for Benzoin. A substitute for benzoin has been discovered in the leaves of the wild palm, a product of the island of Madagascar. The wax is extracted by the simple process of boiling the dried leaves on a vat of small water. The particles are then gathered and boiled. The resultant wax is kneaded into small cakes. Experiments are being made with the new substance to find out its commercial value—whether it may be used for bottling purposes, in the manufacture of phonograph cylinders, etc. Samples of Bird Mists. Henry Oldys, assistant biologist in the Department of Agriculture, has 1,000 samples of bird mists written in popular form so that it is possible for the human voice exactly to imitate the songsters of the field and forest. He has recorded the actual tones, setting them in the proper key, and their reproduction is easy for anybody who can read music symbols. Mr. Oldys has been gathering bird language for 12 years. Notes in a Courtroom. The acoustic properties of the courtroom in London's new Criminal Courts Building are so bad, it is said, that the other day a plaintiff who had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for a crime, thought he had been sentenced to 12. He said to a witness: "One of the benches gave me six months and another of 'em gave me six months before." Also, besides echoes, "reverberations" are complained of. Machine For Shuffling Cards. Someone has invented a machine for shuffling a deck of cards, and it promises to become popular, as no one can see the cards while they are being shuffled, nor are the cards, in the least injured. It is said that the machine changes the position of nine out of 10 cards in the pack. It stands about 11 inches high, weighs four pounds and can be attached to any card table in a moment. Carpet 150 Years Old. A fine old Axminster carpet is at present in the carpet factory at Wilton, where it is being repaired after having been in use for fully 150 years. It was purchased by the present owner's great-grandfather. Carpets had been made at Wilton for 150 years, but the trade languished, and finally stopped. No wonder, when a carpet lasted 150 years! A Well-Informed Author. Zangwill the author is a very well informed man. He was asked recently to write an article for use in a newspaper the next morning as to famous trials. He sat down at once and dictated about 3,000 words, covering the famous trials of the past 300 years, a thing few lawyers could do on hand. Bishop Who Wears a Beard. The Bishop of Oporto is said to be the only Roman Catholic Bishop in the world who wears a full beard. He was given permission to by the Pope because of the great work he has done in Africa. It is said that he is the first prelate who has ever applied to the Vatican for such a permission. Habits of King Leopold. It is said that King Leopold of Belgium is the most fussy of all the royal dudes. His beard is his special delight, and he insists on its being washed each night to keep it from being matted. Fish of the Nile. The Nile is noted for the variety of its fish. An expedition sent by the British Museum brought home 2,870 specimens.

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Field Calls. Get a bunch of field calls. Get a bunch of field calls. Get a bunch of field calls. Get a bunch of field calls.

Machine For Shuffling Cards. The machine for shuffling cards. The machine for shuffling cards. The machine for shuffling cards. The machine for shuffling cards.

It Comes Right Off. Adhesive removal. Adhesive removal. Adhesive removal. Adhesive removal.

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