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**MRS. ASTOR TELLS SOCIETY WOMEN**

**She Deplores Their Frivolous Entertainments and Notorious Seeking Activities.**

**BUT DEFENDS OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**  
 Says They May Go to Excess in Amusement, but Are Not Dangerous—Criticizes the Politicians—Actions Harm Name of Society.

New York City.—In an interview Mrs. William Astor who for years was the recognized leader of New York society, is quoted on the subject of society, America's "soft" entertainment, and "frank" entertainment. The interview is printed under the name of Rebecca Lacey, an English woman. In part it is as follows:

"I can speak with authority about our young people. They are of a new age and have ideas different from my conservative ones. They are full of health and exuberant spirits. It is perhaps true that they go to excess in amusement, but they are not degenerate and not vicious. Our young men enter seriously upon their business interests, and they often take up an individual profession, going in for healthy sports only as well-earned diversion.

"Our young women are trained in domestic matters and taught to appreciate their responsibility to the poor. All my friends do a great deal for the poor, and the daughters are brought up to regard charitable work as an important part of their lives.

"I have heard that our young women smoke and drink and do other terrible things. I know a great many of them and know them very well. I have known them since they were born, and I am quite sure that there is not one in my circle who is a cigarette fiend or drinks to excess. I am not vain enough to think New York will not be able to get along very well without me. Many women will rise up to take my place. But I hope my instance will be felt in one thing, and that is in discountenancing the undignified methods employed by certain New York women to attract a following. They have given entertainments that belonged under a circus tent, rather than in a gentleman's home. Their sole object is notoriety, a thing that no lady ever seeks, but rather shrinks from.

"The best women in New York society, those with the greatest influence, and those who give it its true tone, are almost unknown outside of their own circle. Society newspaper notoriety is an interesting thing to them as it is to me, as a steady, very amusing one, too, sometimes, as one gains so much information about certain women supposed to be long to us, but whom we never see, and do not know even by sight.

"The political hostesses of London have a much better chance of realizing an ideal-to-day than the women of New York. Over there you find at the big balls and musicales a brilliant array of Cabinet Ministers, journalists, Ambassadors, men and women of the stage, painters and poets, and the power of the money world, such as no leader in New York could bring together, or would attempt to bring together. I have thought of doing it all my life, but have never seen the possibility of success.

"In the first place, we have too many politicians in America, where in England they have statesmen. Many of our Senators and Congressmen seem to owe their title to privilege upon their uncouth manners and lack of refinement, on the fact that they have discarded socks, or once wore blue jeans.

"If they were all like Mr. Roosevelt, what a difference there would be! Mr. Roosevelt is a true American, but he would be at home in the most elegant court in Europe. He is not above paying scrupulous attention to his wardrobe and his manners. Any hostess in New York or Newport would be proud to entertain him, and the men in Washington like him.

"Many people seem to think I could have done a great deal in making New York society as democratic as it is in London, and open to anyone of intellectual attainments as it is over there. But one can do only one's best under the conditions. English people all recognize a certain authority in social matters. The King is the leader of society and the hostesses go rather about them such brilliant men and women can be as independent as they wish to be without assuming the responsibility of an onslaught upon their own domains. The King's authority is never questioned, and the authority of the great old families is never questioned.

"We have to be more exclusive in New York, because in America there is no authority in society, and Americans in general are not inclined to admit its possibility. Each woman is for herself, and trying to outdo the others in lavish display and extravagance, with little thought of any ultimate good or any ideal."

**SHANNON'S REPTILE HOUSE**  
 Poliovirus Variety Show, Different in Keep in Quarters.

The various kinds of snakes in Shannon's Reptile House, which are kept in quarters different from those of other reptile houses, are active feed every day, and the big constricting snakes, which are kept in the same position for a week at a time, do not require a meal of food more than twice a month. As a rule the smaller snakes are fed every two days, while the large and pythonic reptiles are fed every three weeks.

Nearly all the big snakes have the habit of fasting for indefinite periods. After feeding regularly for three or four months, a python will steadily decline food for about the same period, after which it again begins feeding voraciously.

During these long fasting spells the keepers follow their charges with close attention, for it is at these times that the dropped snake may form in a serpent's mouth, and unless immediately counteracted by antiseptic washes it becomes dangerous and often fatal. A three months' fast of a healthy snake never worries the keeper, for the reptile usually begins feeding again without the slightest sign of emaciation.

A most elaborate menu is required in the reptile house. The constrictors eat rabbits, chickens and pigeons, while rats, mice and sparrows are eaten by the smaller snakes. Lizards eat large quantities of meal worms, which are varied by flies caught in traps through the summer months. Quantities of fish are fed to the alligators and water snakes, while vegetable of many kinds are the food of the tortoises and aquatic turtles.

If a live rabbit or chicken were put into the cage containing six or eight of the big snakes trouble would be inevitable. Several of the reptiles would seize the creature at the same time, and in the excitement that followed all would become embroiled in each other, the smaller snakes would fare badly. If, after the prey is killed and a large snake begins to swallow it, a smaller snake is present in the hold on the prey, the small snake may find a resting place in the stomach of the larger one.

The feeding of a cage of pythons is an operation which requires time and skill. The first thing done is to separate the big fellows, which are usually crouched in a great mass. The keeper then hands them their chickens one by one, keeping many of the snakes crouched with blankets to prevent fighting. To throw the food at random into the cage would result in the more powerful specimens eating everything, besides fighting among themselves.

The poisonous snakes are the most difficult to keep in captivity. They are so nervous that the slightest noise causes them to spring in a coil of defence, and these reptiles often liberally starve themselves to death. Because of this nervousness the poisonous snakes are usually fed at night when the reptile house is absolutely quiet. This disposition belongs only to the viperine snakes. Though the cobras are always on the lookout for trouble they eat regularly and voraciously.

In the reptile house of the New York Zoological Park, the snakes are kept in an appetizing and unobtrusive way. The specimens are thrice fed in length and strictly sanitary. Nothing but snakes will be taken, and still more, the smaller specimens are fed on mice which are readily obtained.

Before the toxic snakes were introduced into the building six months ago had depopulated a cage full of black snakes and destroyed a collection of Southern coach-whip snakes, and all the large specimens which the park could spare. More black snakes were ordered, but, as the cobra demanded four or five of these at a meal, the situation became embarrassing.

It was finally decided to remedy conditions by an ingenious method. A black snake was killed and skinned full of fish, until its stomach was about six times beyond the normal when it was cast into the cobra's quarters.

After inspecting the stomach for some time, the cobra began to swallow it slowly. It was an operation that occupied a full half hour, after its completion the snake's appearance demonstrated that he was enough to satisfy the most voracious appetites.

When valuable snakes arrive at the reptile house, and are not apparently inclined to eat, they have a certain length of time in which to show signs of appetite, and then, if still unresponsive, compulsory feeding is resorted to. One time, the twenty-foot python in the reptile house, was allowed to fast five months before vigorous measures were used.

A force of men was organized into a python squad, numbering about a dozen members. The big snake was taken from the cage, and a number of rabbits, fastened together in a long string, were run down the serpent's throat with a bamboo pole.

Between Tomopah and Maribatan, Nov. fifty miles, there is an automobile service, round trip, \$25.

The traveler in Mexico is seldom out of sight of mountains.

**BOBING PLAGUE KILLS MILLIONS**

**Indo-Chinese Strife Promotes a Much Greater Power of Diffusion**

**ALMOST WHOLE WORLD VISITED**  
 After Small Beginnings in 1894, More Than 1,000,000 Died in India in 1904—It Was Established That in Advance of Moderns.

Washington, D. C.—Burgess Co. and Marine Hospital Service has issued its pamphlet form a paper prepared by Assistant Surgeon General J. M. Hager, giving a history of the bubonic plague during the last forty years. No study presents more important and difficult military problems than the bubonic plague in its advance from the remote and remote focus of the disease in the province of Yunnan, China, to the numerous countries in all quarters of the globe, where in many instances it has established itself in defiance of the most carefully planned preventive measures.

The revival of the plague, Dr. Hager says dates from 1894, when a complaint from the western Chinese province of Yunnan, it reached America. It appears to be well established that there are two distinct "waves" of plague, differing in the location of their permanent home and in their facility for spreading outside them. The strain which is known as bubonic plague in the United States, Asia does not possess the same power of diffusion as the Indo-Chinese "strain." It was the latter which, coming from the island of Formosa, first reached the United States in 1900.

From 1870 to 1894, and a single year passed without an appearance of plague in the United States. However, in 1894, the plague struck Manila, and from there it spread to Cebu, and then to Iloilo, and finally to Zamboanga, where it was first reported in the United States. During the year 1900, the plague was reported in Manila, and from there it spread to Cebu, and then to Iloilo, and finally to Zamboanga, where it was first reported in the United States.

The world was touched by the bubonic plague in 1900, when it was first reported in Manila, and from there it spread to Cebu, and then to Iloilo, and finally to Zamboanga, where it was first reported in the United States.

In 1897 the number of deaths in India was more than 12,000, and in 1904 it was more than 1,000,000. In 1904, the plague was reported in India, and from there it spread to Cebu, and then to Iloilo, and finally to Zamboanga, where it was first reported in the United States.

The great recent epidemic in India, the year 1904, was a great success. The number of deaths was 1,000,000, and the plague was reported in India, and from there it spread to Cebu, and then to Iloilo, and finally to Zamboanga, where it was first reported in the United States.

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**THE GREAT RECENT EPIDEMIC IN INDIA**

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