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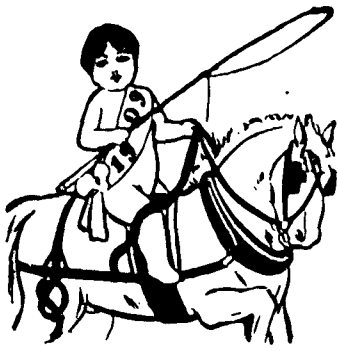
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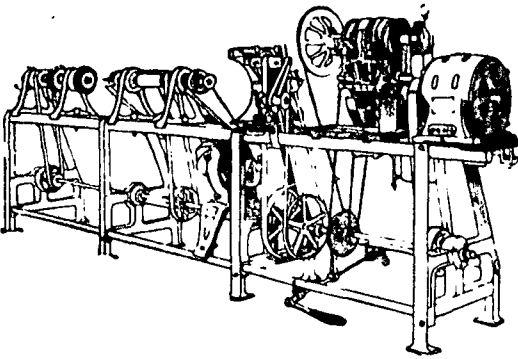
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### THE EGG AND THE HARE.

Two Different Symbols of the Easter Anniversary.

Of late years there has been a marked and growing tendency on the part of Easter artists and confectioners to substitute the rabbit or hare for the old familiar Easter egg as a symbol of the joyous Easter anniversary. In the well remembered "not long ago" the egg held absolute and undisputed sway as the universal emblem of the resurrection. Then the egg ripened and the fuzzy little chick added its running presence to confectioners window decorations. So far the connection between the symbol and the event was so easily understood that comment or questioning would have been entirely superfluous, but with the advent of the "bunny" tribe the complexity became too embarrassing for silence and one is anxious to have an answer to the question "Why?" The usual dainty little long eared rabbit is certainly cute and attractive, but what has it to do with Easter? No one questions its beauty or effectiveness but where lies its appropriateness?

In seeking an answer to this reasonable inquiry one finds an easy view in the work of Chinese, Japanese and Hindu artists who agree in associating the hare with the moon. In the minds of these authorities the "man in the moon" with whom one is so well acquainted, is not a man at all, but a hare and it is found in studying the mythology of these countries that the hare and the moon are identical to their mythology. The Chinese represent the moon as a hare pounding rice in a mortar. After establishing the connection between the hare and the moon the rest is easy for Easter is ready a festival of the moon, its date being fixed by the coming of the moon to the East as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox.

So the moon being early related to Easter and the hare being related to the moon the hare is early related to participate in the Easter story.

Of course it is not possible to do a full and complete story of whose answers are to be found in dusty musty books of mythology and the search is too long and tiresome to be interesting. Just why the hare should have been adopted as the symbol of the moon is not easy to determine satisfactorily, as history on this point is shrouded in the clouds of antiquity and complicated by conflicting testimony. One account has it that Buddha once desired to feed a hungry fellow creature and to do this took the form of a hare. In this form he was transferred to the moon where he still remains.

Equally reliable is the account of Indra's being at one time in a famishing condition when the hare being an extremely sympathetic creature was naturally heart-stricken at such distress and able to relieve the great man's hunger in any other way, the hare threw himself into the fire and thus saved Indra from starvation. Out of gratitude for this sacrifice Indra transferred the animal to the moon.

Many more recent fables for linking the hare to the moon could be found as the fact of its carrying its young a lunar month being natural in its habits its young being born with their eyes open and the moon being called the "open eye" and a superstition that the hare changed its sex annually the moon's sex being changed from masculine during its waxing period when it was called the "lord of light" and considered as the sign of new life and feminine during the waning period.

Many other myths connect the hare with the moon and thus indirectly with Easter but the best of these legends makes the hare's mother, together with its eyes and the hare's watching like the present living power of the old and new year's Eve and rabbit hunt at midnight in the dark of the moon by a rosy-eyed, robed gentleman to bring unending good luck to his possessor.

To seek the reason for this wonderful fact we see in the part of the rabbit's first word again involves one in the formidable mythology so suffice it to say that in the old legends the hare is the sign of fertility and the keeper of the keys to the underworld. The tri-umph over evil. All the other conditions which are now necessary to close the cycle with power are here as the hare is a symbol of the original mother's significance.

#### An Easter Myth.

One of the most ancient and interesting of myths is that which connects the hare with Easter. The relation is much clearer than would seem possible at first impression. It all comes through the moon. Easter is well known, is a movable feast dependent on the phases of the moon. The date of the full moon following the vernal equinox fixes the date of Easter. The frisky hare it seems, has also its connection with the moon. The moon appears only at night, so does the hare which is a nocturnal animal and comes out after dark to feed. Each little German child is taught that if his department has been satisfactory a white hare will come quietly and hide colored eggs in the house for him to hunt on Easter morning. The practice of presenting eggs, now so universal, was brought down to us from the ancient Egyptians or Persians. It springs from the old fable of the mandian egg, for which Armuzel the Persian spirit of good and Ahrlman, the evil spirit, were to contend until the end of the world.

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### EASTER

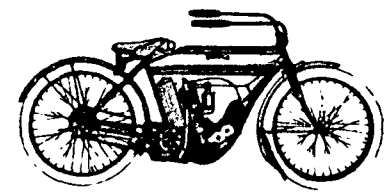
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