

LETTING CATS OUT

CLARA C. HOLMES

Minerva, here comes Jane. I'm going to hike over to Peggy's. "I wouldn't, Cynthia; what's the use of harboring grudges against folks? Well, I'll let Jane see how I'm off-ended. She says I'm forever lettin' cats out of the bag. The idea of her lettin' me down for just a tellin' Sammie Tobias' folks it would be just as well for 'em to dress up a little. Minerva finished feeding her pigeons, pigeon raising being her hobby. Cynthia ran into the cottage to answer the telephone ring. Meanwhile Miss Jane came into the doorway. Cynthia sneaked into the dining-room cupboard. "Good morning," greeted Jane. "I came to say that we are to have a knitting-bee at Aunt Julia's." "What I really came for," continued Jane, hesitating, "was to plan for Wilfred."

MENUS OF TOWN AND FARM

Statistics Supplied by Department of Agriculture Reveal Rural Conditions Notably Satisfactory.

"How are the folks on the farm faring?" is a question that is answered with a "Very well, thank you," by the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Looking into the average American farm method of living, the department finds that the farmers are as generously supplied with meat as any other class of people, observes Gus Karger in the Cincinnati Times-Star. Strangely enough, they don't use eggs as abundantly as the folks elsewhere but they use more milk, even where there are fewer than the average number of children. Except in Southern states, where "quick" breads are often preferred, wheat bread is the staple. A relatively large proportion of starchy vegetables is consumed and a relatively small quantity of the green and succulent kinds, in spite of the fact that farm families have the best opportunities for growing vegetables at home. The studies of the home economics division of the Department of Agriculture "bear out the general impression," the report states, that on the average the farmers' families have an abundant diet, with enough different kinds of food to insure good health. Whether the food is well cooked and attractively served the studies do not show. The fact that almost twice as much cooking fat was used by the farm families as by the general average indicates that farm housewives are inclined to cook too many foods by frying. The only recommendation is that it would be well for the farmers to use more eggs, more coarse cereals, and a greater variety of vegetables and fruits, especially more green vegetables.

FINEST TRAINING FOR YOUTH

Business Man Tells Why He Would Have His Son Get Full News-paper Experience.

"Journalism teaches that results alone count, that excuses and equivocations are failures," writes Henry Scott, vice president of a paper company. "There is a discipline in big newspaper offices that does not exist in the average business, and that discipline is based on the motto, 'No excuses.' It is accepted in ordinary business that when a man is told to do something he usually expects detailed instructions. 'Where do I go, what do I do, how do I do it, what do I ask, and what will I do then,' are the questions that show their utter helplessness and lack of action. "On the other hand a reporter gets his training as no one else does. He learns to lean on his own initiative. He gets an assignment, plans his campaign, and then carries it out without asking any questions. When an obstacle comes up in the path of the average young man he stops and yells for help. But a newspaper man learns to either go through it, knock it down, or skim around it in a hurry. He has learned that excuses can't be cashed at the bank. "If I had a boy and wanted to give him a rigid business training in order that he might bring distinction to himself some day in his profession, whatever it might be, I would like to give him about two years under a first-class city editor, the kind that commits mental murder three or four times a night."

Claims to Transplant Eyes.

New eyes for old can be given blind restorers, claims a young Hungarian zoologist. He says he can transplant sound eyes from living creatures to others that are blind. Before the Vienna Biological society he said that he had experimented first with fishes and frogs, and then with rats, moles and other small animals. He had observed that fishes which had lost their sight sometimes lost also the coloring of their bodies. By replacing their blind eyes with sound ones taken from another living creature, he had restored their sight and their coloring too. Frogs, when they became blind, gave up seeking food, but with their new eyes were as diligent as ever in this respect. Professor Kolmer declared that he had examined some of the eyes transplanted by Koppanyi under the microscope and had found them normal.

Toasted a Dead King.

Now that the city fathers of Paris have got back from their trip to Scandinavia, they are telling a mean story on M. Le Corbellier, who is president of the municipal council. It is about as close to being mayor of Paris anybody can be for Paris has no mayor in the American sense. M. Le Corbellier was called upon, at a Stockholm banquet, to respond to the toast of "La Belle France," the president of the republic, and so forth. Raising his glass of applejack, he replied: "I drink to the health of King Oscar, that of the royal family, to the ministers."

Canadian Furs.

Furs taken in Canada in the 1918-1920 season were valued at more than \$21,000,000. Ontario contributed the greatest share, with Quebec in second place. The muskrat furs were first in value, amounting to nearly \$6,000,000. Beaver, marten, mink, silver fox, red fox, ermine and skunk followed in this order.

"LIVE UP TO" THE CHILDREN

Writer Condemns Old-Fashioned Idea of Repression and Stern Punishment for Trivial Offenses.

It seems to me a great mistake to "live down to" children. They are capable of understanding and responding to deep and fine thoughts and feelings. Never from the first did we criticize or humiliate our boys in any way. We gave them credit always for the high and right motive, and suspended judgment till they had told their side. But if they were wrong they were not punished. The fact that they had fallen below what had been expected of them was punishment enough. A certain standard of conduct was thus established that they longed always to realize. They were able, even then, to see the beauty of certain qualities and the ugliness of others. It was lovely to see them trying to conform to the habit in the household, of unfeeling courtesy and unselfishness and restraint. They often failed. They often showed their temper. But they grew to be more and more ashamed of their failures.

Character cannot be built from the outside.

Character cannot be built from the outside. Coercion does not make for strength—only for compliance. That, it seems to me, is the great mistake some parents make. They exact obedience when they should instill principle. Inspire! That is the better word. Then the child will have an inner light to guide him, a compass to steer him to a certain goal.

SHAFT IS WELL PROTECTED

Washington Monument Made Immune From Lightning by Scheme That Has Proved Its Worth.

The apex of the Washington monument is surrounded with parallel bands. The bands are made of gold-plated iron a foot wide, and the points are spaced a foot from one another. According to the original plan of the monument it was protected from lightning by an aluminum tip that was connected with the metal framework of the elevator. During the very first summer after the monument was completed, however, it was struck twice and a piece of stone was chipped from the top. Experts from all the scientific departments of the government were called on to contrive a plan for the better protection of the shaft. They agreed on a number of iron bands, heavily galvanized and gold plated, to prevent rusting. The bands are connected with the aluminum point of the monument, and at the base iron cables lead the electricity into a deep well, where it harmlessly expends its force. The protection has proved to be perfect.

Why "Actors Hate Cats"

Speaking at the International Women's Franchise club in London, Miss Horniman, the English theatrical manager told some entertaining stories of the theatrical experiences Actors can stand a good deal, she said, but they hate a cat, for they know that as long as it is on the stage the audience can look at nothing else. Miss Horniman had some amusing stories of the Gaiety cats. Trixie, who was killed on the scene of her public triumphs by the fall of the safety curtain, once spoiled the last act of "Hindle Wakes" by getting under a table where the actors could not see her, but the audience could, and cheerfully pretending to chase a mouse. Then strutting across to the stage fire, she turned from it with disdain and settled herself for warmth among the footlights. Another cat intruded into a quiet scene of tragic farewell and led the short-sighted lover on a futile chase among the overturning furniture.

Radio-Active Lead.

At least two kinds of lead exist, writes Prof. Theodor W. Richards in Science. One, the ordinary metal disseminated throughout the world; another, a form of lead apparently produced by the decomposition of uranium, radium being one of the intermediate products. If we leave out of consideration the probable insensational differences in radio activity, the two kinds are very closely if not exactly alike in every respect, excepting atomic weight, density and immediately related properties involving weight, such as solubility. Thorium lead appears to be a third variety, with similar relations. Shall we call these substances different elements, of the same?

European Jiu-Jitsu.

Jiu-Jitsu is supposed to come from Japan, but an art of self-defense virtually identical with it was taught in Europe during the seventeenth century. Its principles are expounded in a book by one Nicholas Peters, published at Amsterdam in 1674, which bears the long explanatory title: "The art of wrestling, and how one can protect oneself in all kinds of quarrels that may occur; how one can with agility and rapidly repel all unfair attacks, and meet one's adversary with science."

After the Marquis

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.

What, in "The New Pacific" that the Washington conference is believed to have created, will be the future of France's island possessions nearest to the United States—the Marquesas? In a few years these fertile, lovely islands, now left practically alone, may be treated as a geographical clean slate, for the natives are rapidly dying off. The Spanish navigator, Mendana, first discovered the islands with their towering black cliffs, and sailed through a break into a wonderful bay, once the crater of a huge volcano. What must have been his amazement is shared by the traveler today. Within the bay, what a contrast! Where once telluric fires burned, the luxuriant verdure of the tropics now overruns the immense amphitheater in riotous profusion. It is as if nature in repentant mood were pouring out her gifts with unstinted hand to cover the scars and desolation wrought by volcanic fury.

Tree and vine, flower and shrub, cover the abrupt, almost vertical sides of the huge basin and clamber high over ridge after ridge of the knife-like hills; choke the deep ravines and valleys with their prolific mass of bloom and foliage, and creeping in rich abundance almost to the water's edge, climb the black basalt cliffs towering over the bay, thus seeking to soften their harsh, broken outlines beneath a rank growth of vines and mosses. Great cascades, springing from the living rock high on the mountain side, leap over mighty precipices, gleaming like strands of silver in the sunlight, to be lost in the mysterious depths of dark gorges far below. These waters wind through dark, tortuous ravines and form the racing stream that tumbles swiftly between the twisting hills into the steep valley of Hanavave, where it rushes over its rocky bed to pass into the blue waters of the quiet bay.

Beyond the crescent of white sand that lies between the cliffs, banyan, mango, and breadfruit trees mingle their brilliant foliage and blossoms with the slender brown trunks and waving "fruits" of the pandanus and coco palm.

Less than a century ago this forest was thickly dotted with the brown thatched huts of the Hanavavans, each upon its papae or platform of stone constructed without mortar or cement. Thousands of these papae, no longer in use, cling to the vertical sides of valleys and ravines in a state of perfect preservation, the platform usually 20 by 30 or 40 feet, level and unbroken, often waited up 10 or 15 feet on the lower side.

Beautiful Women, Fierce Men.

To describe the dainty, graceful Marquesanne as she unquestionably was before Cook's advent may lay the describer open to the charge of exaggeration. But from Mendana to Stevenson, with Mendana for good measure, her remarkable beauty was a source of surprise and admiration.

When women possess beautiful, luxuriant hair, fine eyes, perfect teeth, a slender, graceful form, a skin of velvet texture and unblemished surface, and these physical attractions are combined with a vivacity of spirit and action, exaggeration becomes difficult; and unless all chroniclers of the islands have for several centuries agreed to describe the world, such was the Marquesanne; so she is today when sickness has not diminished her charms.

The men were fierce, cruel cannibals, whose chief occupation, aside from the indulgence of their amative proclivities, was the killing of both men and women of other tribes for gastronomic purposes.

The all-powerful tapu was the "law and the prophets" of the Marquesans. Some of the tapus for the guidance of the women would probably include a sutra to eat "long pig"; nor brown pig, a delicacy much enjoyed by the men folk in the absence of the longer variety.

Nor daily with bonito or squid, the two fishes most in favor with the Marquesan palate.

Nor, except on special occasions, eat fresh breadfruit, bananas, or coconut. Nor could they go in canoes, a provision to keep them from being captured by enemies lurking outside the bay.

And, a tapu savoring of Solomon in its wisdom, women could not weep! It would be a grave error to conclude from the taboos mentioned that the life of the Marquesan woman was a hard one.

They Had No Agriculture.

Agriculture in any form was unknown. The natives took the bountiful variety of flora the islands provided, but to assist nature in any way by tilling or replanting never occurred to them. Content with their gratification of the desires of the day, the Marquesans took literally no thought for the morrow.

The most favored intoxicant in the Marquesas is manu-ehi, or, as it is more commonly known, koko. Ehi is Marquesan for coconut, and it is from the coco palm that this most insidious and delectable of drinks is made. A tall coco palm that has been wind-blown so that its plummy top leans far out of the perpendicular, is chosen. The buds, from which eventually fifty or sixty nuts would be produced, grow in a compact, oblong cluster near the top of the palm. The native climbs the tree and, using long strips of bark or fiber, binds the cluster of blossoms tightly round and round, until the result resembles a huge, fat cigar protruding from the fronds. Underneath the point of this bowl is suspended and the tip end of the wrap sliced off.

When fresh from the tree the beverage resembles a delicious lemonade, with a flavor which would make the fortune of a soft-drink manufacturer who could reproduce it. Fermentation takes place speedily, however, and in a few hours your soft drink has "hardened" into a vicious man-killer that only a savage can go against with impunity.

Captain Cook's report placed the Marquesas literally and figuratively "on the map." That was 145 years ago, and since then the history of the islands is the tragic story of a losing fight by a race of savages against a civilization represented in this instance by the whaler, the missionary, the trader, the "blackbird," and finally their conquest and subjugation by a foreign power.

In 1842 Admiral Du Petit-Thomas took possession of the entire group in the name of France, ostensibly to protect the missionaries in their labors for Christianity. Forts were built on several of the islands and troops installed to enforce French authority.

The ensuing fifty years is a record of desultory warfare between the French soldiers and the Marquesan warriors, in which the latter, always at war with each other and poorly armed, were constantly defeated; of "blackbirders" from North and South America, who raided the weakened villages and sold the men and women into slavery in far-off lands, and of the frightful ravages of smallpox, tuberculosis, leprosy, and other contagious diseases.

WHEN ETIQUETTE WAS RIGID

Man of Fashion, a Century or So Ago, Had Many Difficulties to Contend With.

Women considered it unduly like in a mother's day to walk rapidly. Extremely rapid walking is not usually graceful, but so far as being a sign of bad breeding there seems to be no such idea nowadays. If a woman has to cover a certain distance on foot in a limited time nowadays she accelerates her pace accordingly. It is uncomfortable, but hardly bad manners.

The man of fashion had many more difficulties to encounter in going about in society than he has now when drawing room furniture is more substantial and when there are neither hoopskirts nor trains to become tangled in one's boots or spurs. A hundred years ago, observes a writer in the New York Sun, it was not so easy, and a book of deportment for young men, written a century ago, describes the plight of the awkward fellow who, when he first comes into a drawing room, attempts to bow, with the result that "his sword, if he wears one, goes between his legs and nearly throws him down," and proceeds from one gauche to another during his presence in a drawing room. A great deal used to be said about the manner in which a young man sat in a chair. To sit up stiffly was to indicate awkwardness and timidity. To roll back was rude and indicated vulgarity. He was, therefore, urged to lean with elegance against the back and arms of his chair and "by varying his attitude from time to time show he was used to good society."

Teheran Has Twelve Gateways. "At the distance, Teheran built in great part of the mud on which it stands, is only distinguished from the surrounding plain by the green trees of its many gardens," writes Ella C. Sykes in "Persia and Its People," "but as the traveler gets nearer he will see the outline of the constellated city wall and the tiled domes and minarets of mosques. He will enter the town by a grandiose gateway adorned with glazed bricks in patterns, the prevailing tones being blue and yellow, relieved with black and white, the whole giving a touch of splendor to its quiet surroundings.

"These gateways are 12 in number; some are adorned with the exploits of Rustum, the Hercules and knight-errant of Persia, and others depict the Persian soldier of today—all of them, however, look best at a distance, and do not bear a close examination."

Pantomime Followed Drama.

Pantomime, one of the simplest forms of dramatic art, was not originated until the drama itself had been established for over 500 years. The latter was the invention of the Greeks, but the pantomime was a purely Roman idea.

Two sprightly actors, one of whom was afflicted with throat trouble. Pylades and Bathylus, gave the first performance of this kind in the year 22 B. C. It was only a make-shift on their part because of the illness of one of the performers, but their audience was so delighted that they continued with the production of the wordless drama.

"A thousand years or so ago," Carl Van Vechten in "The Tiger in the House," tells us, "the Egyptians associated the cat with music, utilizing the graceful head and figure of the beloved animal in the decoration of the sistra. The sistra consisted of a frame of bronze or brass, into which three or four metal bars were loosely inserted, so as to produce a jingling noise when the instrument was shaken. Occasionally a few metal rings were strung on the bars to increase the sound and very often the top of the frame was ornamented with the figure of a cat."

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