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WHY Shellfish Beds Should Be Protected From Birds

Complaints that ducks destroy numbers of commercially valuable shellfish in Massachusetts have been received and investigated by the United States biological survey at Washington, which reports that all the important shellfishing grounds of the state were visited, testimony was taken, observations made and specimens collected. Of the 11 species of wild fowl the stomachs of which were examined, none had eaten a significant quantity of shellfish other than the common mussel or the scallop. As the mussel is unimportant, the inquiry resolved itself into the study of the relation of wild fowl to scallops.

"Scoters," or "coots," of two species, reports the survey, were found to be the chief offenders. The yellow-billed root is not so hardy as the white-winged and at season when damage to scallops is said to be greatest, in the most severe part of the winter, comparatively few of this species are present. The white-winged scoter, however, is abundant and makes nearly half of its food from scallops. The bird does no good to offset the damage which it does and the economic status is a problem.

"Fishermen want the open season extended so that they can shoot the birds, but it is inexpedient and impracticable to extend the season on a single specimen of duck. It has been found that scoter and other wild ducks are easily driven away from the scallop beds by running a boat near them. They feed on the beds only by day. It would seem, in the opinion of the survey, that scotop fishermen should be willing to undertake the small cost of patrolling the waters over the scallop beds from which their income is derived, but for the upkeep of which they are at no expense."

GET RICHES FROM RUBBISH

Why Cities of the Old World Have Revenues Which Are Unknown in America.

This country is looked upon by the less bountiful and more thrifty countries of Europe as a land of great extravagance and waste. In Paris, long before the household is awake, a whole army of scavengers and gleaners has passed through his back lane and ransacked his garbage (his, some collecting hair, some rags, some bones. By eight o'clock in the morning there is very little left for the regular department to carry away. Modern science has discovered ways of turning almost every kind of rubbish into something useful. Refuse is burned in specially constructed furnaces and the heat produced generates steam to drive the dynamos that produce electric light. The ashes are used to make concrete. Soapstuds, instead of flowing away to pollute the streams and rivers, are strained, mixed with lime and pressed into fuel bricks which when burned give out a greater heat than coal gas would produce. The carcass of a horse may be put to all most endless uses. The hair is woven into hair cloth or used to stuff mattresses. The hide makes good leather. Glue and gelatine are obtained from the tendons. The bones reappear as knife handles and buttons. Other by-products are prussiate of potash and artificial manure. Fish scales are the material from which some of the most beautiful artificial pearls are manufactured.

How Birds Soar

How birds soar remains an unsolved problem. Observation has failed to detect their method, and theories need confirming facts. The writer hoped to get some new light on the matter when once from the edge of a cliff near the top of Mt. Fremont he watched through powerful glasses a golden eagle calmly sailing in circles below him, apparently in perfectly quiet air. He had studied such soaring from below, and had discovered no movement of the wings. Perhaps, he thought, something more could be seen from above a bird, but he failed to detect a single quill tremble. The wings were absolutely motionless. Yet he knew that if he shot a rifle-ball through that eagle's heart it would tumble to the earth head over heels, and that its outstretched wings would little hinder it.

Why Vibration Affects Sound

It is said that certain experiments have shown that a vibration of sound having an amplitude of less than one-thirtieth of a centimeter could still affect the sense of hearing. Such a vibration would be so short that it would have to be enlarged 100 times before the most powerful microscope could render it visible, supposing that it were capable of being seen at all. (Old persons, it is said, do not hear high notes which are audible to young persons and there is reason to believe that babies hear notes that are inaudible to their elders.)

Why Eastern Peoples Like Pearls.
In Persia and Arabia pearls are believed to be conducive to contentment of mind, body and soul, and the beauties of ancient Egypt, about the time of good old Tut-Ankh-Amen, took pulverized pearls to make their eyes big and brilliant, just as atropine is used today. The Hindus, who recognized only four shades in the color of pearls—yellow, honey, white and blue—wear the first to bring wealth; the second, the honey, to get understanding; the third to bring fame and the fourth, the blue pearl, to bring them good fortune in any of their undertakings.

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TAKING IT TOO SERIOUSLY

Lordlord Could Not Help but Think, Citizens of Petunia Were Overdoing Their "Cooe."

"Well, no," admitted the landlord of the Petunia tavern. "The town isn't as lively just now as it might be. You see, at present the Cooe craze is raging here, and it seems like our folks can't get up much interest in anything else. No use to attempt to buy, sell or beg, or ask a direction or expect a favor, for the party you speak to is pretty sure to be muttering. Every day, in every way, I am growing better and better, and walling his eyes at vacancy as he does so."

"Tutler evening the I. X. L. store was robbed. Constable Slaekputter saw the villains leaving with the goods, but he was just starting to say, 'Every day, in every way—', and so forth, and by the time he had repeated the formula 20 times the robbers' car was clear out of hearing. A feller started to propose to a girl lately, but she had begun to state 20 times that she was better and better. This gave him opportunity to think it over and he got up without committing himself, and left. Any minute I am looking for a building to catch fire, and the fire company be in the midst of declaring that they are better than ever before and the structure be holocausted before they get to it. There are so many citizens growing better and better that I don't believe the town will amount to anything till they quit it."—Kansas City Star.

Later, He Knew Better.

Loren was nine and Edmund five. One evening mother put them to bed rather early. About nine o'clock she heard a crash, and knew that one of them had fallen out of bed. As she ran upstairs she decided it was probably the younger, but upon entering his room she found him sleeping soundly. When she reached Loren's room he was just climbing over the edge of the bed.

"Why, Loren!" she exclaimed, "I thought it was Edmund!"

A sleepy voice answered her, "So's I, at first!"

Natural Curiosity.

A natural curiosity is the "Devil's Well" in Washington, 35 miles north of Spokane. This well is a cylindrical shaft, 40 feet in diameter, sunk by some natural agency in solid basalt rock on a mountain top. The water level varies according to atmospheric conditions, the average being about 30 feet below the mouth of the well. The swirling water with logs floating on its surface is said to inspire a feeling of awe as one stands at the brink and looks along the smooth, sheer walls into its blue depths.

Flowers and Love.

Ever dear to the lover have been the fancies woven around flowers and the charms they were held to exercise in the profession of love. For instance, to discover the initials of a future lover's name you were only supposed to go and cut a bracken stem, and the initials would be found there. How long you would wait before wedlock was ascertained by blowing the clocks of the dandelion—just as children today by the same means tell the hours.

Found Nearsightedness a Boon.

Most persons pity sufferers of myopia, which is a blurring of the vision through nearsightedness. But one victim of the affliction, a theatergoer, says his nearsightedness is a distinct advantage.

"Being a lover of beauty, when I go to the theater I like to see loveliness all about me," he said. "Now, you know that one of the disappointing things you can look at is makeup at close range. Yet we all like to sit close enough to the stage to hear clearly."

"Through my nearsightedness the garishness of the paint is softened and I see only a becoming glow on the cheeks of the players. When my friends have told me of unbecomingly things which they have seen upon the stage I have felt grateful that my eyes are slightly dulled by myopia."—New York Sun.

There's enough happiness wasted to supply the whole universe.

A hearty laugh leaves a residue of jollity for a long time after.

MELODY THE LIFE OF MUSIC

No Training So Complete or Thorough Will Suffice Without It, According to Master.

What gives life to a work, what makes it true, will never be its characteristics, polygonal or atonal, but, rather, its essential melody. Thence springs its real power, because it comes straight from the heart of the musician. There is no training so complete or so thorough that it can suffice without that melody source. Darlus Milhaud writes in the North American Review. It is the primary element, the authentic organic one, that comes from the pure sentiment itself and that is conducive to rhythmical and harmonic design. Without melody all composing will fall or end in vain rhetoric, quite conventional and empty. It is the entire secret of music, which I found out one day when I was studying at the conservatoire with my master, Andre Gedalge. I was showing him some vast symphonic plan or other and he said to me: "Just write for me eight measures that can be played without any accompaniment."

Melody is thus our aim and greatest ambition.

It alone will allow us to work by our imagination and yet keep close to the tradition which we feel to be ours.

Original "United States."

There were only 13 original colonies, and New York state has never been included in New England. The "Thirteen United Colonies" that sent delegates to the Continental congress on September 13, 1775, and afterward called themselves the "United States" were Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. The colony of Maine belonged to Massachusetts and Vermont was claimed both by New Hampshire and New York. Vermont was admitted into the Union as the fourteenth state on March 4, 1791. The New England states are Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.