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ALPEN-GLOW
By MARI ON E. JONES

CLINK! Clink! The faint tinkle of fragile silver spoons against china shaded with the alpen-glow purple of the mountains at sunset; fragrant aroma of coffee rising to pleased senses, and slim, white hands about to serve you. What more could one more man want?

Bronson West looked a little else was needed to complete his rather hazy idea of heaven, as he leaned back comfortably in the yielding depths of a big chair, gazed contemplatively around at the drifting shadows of the rock of the room, then brought his gaze back to the soft, orange glow of light encircling himself and the adorable bit of charm that constituted Alta Rodman.

Conscious of the depth of meaning behind his laughing gray eyes, she faltered an incoherent bit in handing him his coffee, but sufficiently to drop the cup on the tray, where it shattered into innumerable, glistening memories of the beauty that had been.

"What a shame, Alta," sympathized Bronson, as he saw the quick tears rise and brim over.

"This is the first one to break," she grieved, "and they have been in my family for years, and years, perfect heirlooms. It's dreadful to think I am the first one to break the set, after the many hands that have held them safely. Why, I feel like a criminal."

"Nonsense, dear girl," came the quick retort. "I can appreciate your feeling about breaking the set, but it couldn't last for ever, so why mind so much because you are the first 'concoct'?"

Alta looked up in wide-eyed surprise. "Aren't you slightly misusing that word, Bronson?" she queried.

"Not at all. That is just what I meant to say. I don't really believe like that are too apt to fall into the same class with Ida, and an exaggerated opinion of their value is formed that is out of all proportion to the real thing. Why, just because of the passage of some years with hosts of happenings being since forgotten, why should such tenderness of wear grip be wasted on our few, valuable remnants that chance to be left?"

Alta looked at him oddly. "Listen, Bronson, I want to tell you the story of these cups and see if I can make you understand my love for them." She took up one of the cups and held it tenderly in her hands as she talked.

"Away back in the dim past you speak of so allegorically, one of my great-grandfathers married a pure, lovely girl that has been in our family through Europe on their honeymoon and came to the Alps.

"During their first evening there the sun set in a gorgeous food of myriad colors, and as they looked up at the white-capped mountains they saw a wonderful purple glow.

"They turned at last and walked slowly back to their lovely white tent where they were staying. On the way back they were stopped by a man who had just suddenly appeared to them. They went in and found so many lovely things that they spent some minutes away in a dim corner and talked with just.

"The little girl picked up a cup and feeling it with her hands to reveal the color of the inside, she found the color was just like the beautiful scene they had just left. So they purchased the set."

Alta paused for a moment and looked at him earnestly.

"Bronson, the next day when they were climbing the mountains, that lovely young girl slipped into a chasm and was never seen again. Though my grandfathers searched frantically for days, they could not even find her body, and friends had to forcibly make him leave the place.

"For a time his mind almost gave away, but at last sanity prevailed and he took up his life again. Years later he remarried, and to all of his descendants these cups have been handed down, his most treasured possession, and only a reminder of that last evening with his first bride.

"Do you wonder, after all, that I feel so tenderly about them, knowing they are a symbol of a love so fine and sweet that it has the years gone by have not faded? Is it not true? We all owe a debt to the past, especially to the fine, strong ancestry from which we inherit what few good traits we have, so why should we begrudge respect and care to something that meant much to them? Let it be the least we can do."

Bronson leaned forward and very gently took the cup from her hand. "You have made me see it all quite differently. Alta, as you always do whenever I become cynical, I have only this to say: No girl ever lived who was any purer or lovelier than you, and I can't wait any longer to know if I may have the right to guard that loveliness for the rest of my life. Alta, I want you for my wife, my very own. What is my answer?"

The eyes that were raised to meet his were misted over with tears, but their message was unmistakable and hardly needed the tender "Take me, dear" to assure him of the love he had won.

All—Willis.
The office had been seeking the man. "What track did you have?"
"The usual luck. Every fellow I approached admitted that I had come to the right man."

GUARDIANS TO BE TRUSTED
One Would Think, However, Resourceful Thief Might Consider the Use of Poisoned Bait.

Thieves are plenty in Annam, in southeast Asia, but steel safes are scarce, so the native prince, ruler of the country, uses crocodiles to guard his treasures. Rulers in that country have great wealth in valuable jewels, gold, and silver.

The prince of Annam was puzzled for a long time how to keep his treasures safe from those who coveted them. He could not trust armed guards, because like as not the guards would turn around and steal some of the gold or silver or precious jewels when the prince was not looking. Finally he thought about crocodiles. They are ferocious animals and do not steal.

In the interior of his palace he caused to be constructed a basin which he kept filled with water. Then he procured several tenk logs, bored them through, placed his valuables in the logs, sealed both ends and sunk them in the basin of water.

Having obtained two crocodiles, he put them in the tank of water to guard the treasures. The crocodiles are fed just enough to keep them perpetually hungry. The prince feels safe. Anybody attempting to fish the logs out of the pool will be a nice meal for the crocodiles.

ANTS' KEEN SENSE OF SMELL
Are Said to Have Neither Sight Nor Hearing, but Remarkable Olfactory Nerves.

Ants are said to be both blind and deaf, but none are known to be destitute of the sense of smell. The olfactory organs are little sensory pits in the antennae. It is evidently by means of their sense of smell that ants recognize the members of their own nest, and those of other species which they treat as enemies.

However, certain species of ants are evidently not deaf, because they are capable of producing sounds which must be heard by others of their own kind. One species has a file-like sound-producing apparatus on the abdominal segment. Another ant of this group is provided with a vibrating file, and in another ant there is a stridulating organ consisting of a band of very fine raised lines on the second segment behind the node. Other ants tap on the surface of a leaf with their heads, producing a sound audible to human ears, as does another species by scraping the end of its abdomen on the dry leaves of its nest.

Discipline.
A northern guest in Pinehurst happened upon an old negro who was beating down a dead cotton stalk. "Uncle, what did the boll weevil do to you this year?" he inquired.

"The old man looked up, saw 'one of dem white boys,' and answered, 'him in this manner." "Lawsd, boss, dey was de worst here dat dey has ever been. Why, one night, I was awoke from my rest by such a noise dat I can't never hear de lak of 'befo'. I takes my lantern and goes out in de yard 'over dere and what do you sence I found?"

"I have no sence, uncle. What was it?" the northerner replied.

"Lawsd, up de hill puppy boll weevil had a big sack bearing all de little bolls, weevils 'cause dey wouldn't take two rows at a time."—North Carolina Boll Weevil.

United States Citizenship.
The fact that a child of a citizen of the United States is born abroad does not affect that child's citizenship in the United States. By the revised statutes of the United States a son born to parents who are citizens of the United States while they are traveling in Europe is an American citizen as fully as if he had been born in this country and is entitled to all the rights of a citizen when he becomes of age. The federal Constitution provides that no person except a natural-born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President, so that a naturalized citizen cannot become president.

How She Interpreted Dream.
Sir Frederick Bridge, for over 40 years the organist at Westminster abbey, tells a story about a lottery which permitted the choice of special numbers on the tickets.

A little girl bought a ticket for a lottery, and insisted that she should be allotted No. 23. As she would buy no other ticket, her wish was granted, and she won a considerable sum.

"Why did you want that number?" she was asked afterwards.

"Well, I had a dream," she said, "I dreamt that I had bought No. 7, and I dreamt it three times." So I said to myself, "Three sevens are twenty-three, and that's the number for me."

The Canterbury tales.
How essentially, how intimately English the famous poem is! So admirably has he managed to interweave the various tales with the encounters and casual dialogues of the actual wayfarer that, long before Brough-ton on Fleet is reached, we have come to feel that we ourselves might be one of the company, so vividly is the motley troop brought before our imagination as it ambles forward up hill and down dale, across the broad bearing acres of Kent—Llewellyn Powys, in "Thirteen Worthies."

HOW

KIDNEYS REMOVE WASTE PRODUCTS FROM BLOOD.
—The kidney acts like an ordinary filter in removing waste products from the blood, Professor A. N. Richards and Dr. O. H. Plant, of the University of Pennsylvania, have discovered as a result of experiments which show that in the kidney there is a miniature microscopic filtration plant of extreme complexity.

The blood flows through the finely divided network of blood vessels in the kidneys to many thousands of microscopic filaments. Since the blood passes over the heads of these filters under considerable pressure, some water and waste products pass through them, ultimately being excreted, while the bulk of the blood passes back to the main blood stream. Increase in the pressure of the blood on these filters increased the amount of waste products eliminated, just as increase of pressure on a water filter augments the flow of water through it.

In order to carry out such an investigation, it was necessary to develop microscopic instruments and a very fine technique. Although the filtration theory of kidney secretion has been held for years by physiologists, so difficult was the technique to prove it that not until the present time has it been satisfactorily verified.—Science Service.

HOW NATURE HAS EQUIPPED FISHES
With "Nostrils" Much on Order of Land Animals.

Fishes possess a smelling faculty, according to a writer in Aquatic Life. An examination of the nostrils of a fish reveals the fact that they are not connected with the air tube system, as in most animals, he says, but lead into blind pockets, lined with delicate membranes well supplied with nerves.

"There is very little doubt," he asserts, "that fishes can smell very well. It would appear that it is necessary or advisable that the sense should be somewhat unusually developed, or receptivity increased, for, in place of the usual pair of nostrils most fishes have two pairs of external openings, the one placed above the other. A moment's thought will indicate that the means by which smelling is accomplished cannot be the same in water-breathing animals as in those that live on land and breathe air.

"In the latter, the air containing the odoriferous particles is drawn through the nostrils into the lungs and the nature of the odor is quickly analyzed en route. The moment the odor is detected as objectionable, the passage to the lungs is closed and a more searching analysis made by the action known as sniffing. The same process takes place when the odor is very faint. More air is drawn into the nostrils by sniffing so that the sensation may be increased.

"In fishes water is not drawn through the nostrils but merely into the small pockets, and though these may be supplied and refilled, the quantity of water brought into contact with the nerves of smell must be comparatively small. In some few fishes, as in the globe fishes and puffers, for example, there is no nasal pocket, the nerves being directed into external processes and seeing that such would come into contact with a greater volume of water than could enter the nasal pockets, are wonders that such a system is not the rule rather than the exception."

How Trees Grow Knots.
Trees are formed of three parts—the roots, the parent stem or trunk, and the branches. When the tree is cut up in lumber, the first of these parts is useless, and generally is left on the ground to be salvaged later for other purposes.

The branches of the tree are also comparatively useless, but the trunk produces a number of valuable planks in proportion to its diameter.

In spite of the fact that the branches have been lopped off, they leave their mark upon the parent stem in the shape of hard round or oval spots, which we call "knots." Each of these knots shows where the limb of the tree was growing, because the limb had its beginning in the heart of the trunk, drawing its sustenance directly from the central source of supply.

Why Helium Cannot Be Used.
Official statements in connection with the bureau of mines reinforce the view that helium gas is beyond reach for the inflation of nonflammable passenger airships. Four years' work by several official plants in the United States has produced 2,400,000 cubic feet of gas, which is the amount required (including reserve supply) for one big airship. The cost remains prohibitive, for the lowest figure hoped for in the near future is 10 cents per cubic foot, and the haziest expectation that ultimately the cost will be reduced to 2 or 3 cents per cubic foot does not alter the facts.—Scientific American.

Why the Kettle Sings.
It is the pressure of gas coming out of the kettle that makes it sing. When the water boils vapor forces its way out of the spout. The kettle trembles, sending vibrations that make your ear tremble.

Why the Wind Blows.
Wind is air in rapid motion, caused by changes in pressure. When air becomes heated it is displaced by cooler air, and these currents at different temperatures leave "pockets" of space into which air rushes.

WHY

Light Has So Much Effect on the Atmosphere

It is of much interest to those engaged in sign lighting and glowing to know that lights of different colors show varying degrees of ability to penetrate atmosphere. Some calculations based on experiments give the following results for the minimum intensity visible in a clear atmosphere at a range of two miles. In these calculations light sources of equal area are assumed:

- Red 2.37 candlepower
- Green 1.96 candlepower
- White 1.71 candlepower

The range of visibility of any light source depends, of course, upon the intensity of the source. However, it must not be supposed that by doubling the intensity the range will be doubled. The relation between range and intensity varies for different colors.

The great absorption of light in an atmosphere laden with water vapor is a well-known fact. A foreign government found that arc lights of 1,000,000 candlepower which were installed in a lighthouse had less ability to penetrate a fog than a 10,000 candlepower oil lamp. This indicates that electric incandescent lamps, having more red rays, would be superior to arc lamps for use in lighthouses.

Dust and smoke unquestionably interfere more with the transmission of blue or green light than with red light. Therefore, when viewed through atmosphere all lights would appear to become redder. On weighing the evidence, it seems that reddish illuminants should have greater penetrative power than bluish lights, and where details are to be distinguished at a distance the red light is more readily focussed than light of any other color.

PLAN TO EXTERMINATE PESTS
Why the Department of Agriculture is Promoting Civil War in the Insect World.

Civil war in the insect world is to be further promoted by the United States Department of Agriculture in its fight on the gypsy moth, the insect pest which has caused such great damage to trees and other vegetation in New England and neighboring states. S. S. Crossman and Ray T. Webber, of the bureau of entomology have called for Europe to recruit reinforcements for the army of insect enemies of the moth.

In its ancestral European home the gypsy moth was afflicted with hereditary enemies which served to control its numbers. When it was introduced into this country its enemies stayed behind, with the result that the invader had things all its own way for years. Then the Department of Agriculture imported some of these enemies, which are parasites preying upon the eggs and caterpillars. These were shown to have an appreciable effect in keeping down the numbers of their enemies, and now the department is sending abroad for reinforcements and also to investigate the possible existence of other similar enemies of the pest of the northeastern states.

Why Moon Affects Earth.
Observations now being carried out on the structure of the Tower of London by the staff of the National Physical Laboratory, show that the building moves upwards and downwards in unison with the tides by a fraction of an inch, each day. This is a reminder that not only the sea, but the solid earth, responds to the pull of the moon. A series of elaborate measurements carried out with special apparatus have enabled the amount of this earth movement to be measured. Twice every day the earth moves upward by two-thirds of an inch and twice downward the same distance. Some big buildings, too, are very sensitive to changes of temperature. The Eiffel tower varies with every change of temperature, a passing cloud causing it to decrease by as much as two centimetres, and the measured difference in its altitude on one day has amounted to nearly three inches.

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