

SAFELY GUIDED BY INSTINCT NEW HOPE FOR SIGHTLESS

Lower Animals Avoid Danger in a Manner That to Mankind is Remarkable.

The Metropolitan railway in London, England, generally known as the "underground," is infested with rats, and every effort is made to exterminate them.

An official on the railway, who was setting traps on the line bank, told a newspaper representative that at certain places the rats can be observed, and he had noticed how careful they were to avoid the live rail.

They make their holes along the banks of the railway, and actually within a few inches of the deadly rail. "I have watched them making their way across the lines from one hole to another," he said, "and noticed that they go unhesitatingly over the ordinary metals, but they never go near the rail through which the current is passing. They will carefully go under it, but will not even touch the wooden rails which are on either side."

Special men are employed to keep the rat population down, and they have noticed this artfulness.

Asked if rats had any special sense which enabled them to detect danger from electrically live metals, a zoologist said that the problem was an interesting one, but obscure.

Official of the Zoological society said that no experiments had been made to his knowledge to test this, but it was known that many animals possessed a faculty for detecting danger which human beings lacked.

In this case the extreme sensitiveness of the end of the rat's whisker might be the key.

In like manner, many cases have been recorded of such highly developed senses in dogs and cats.

Most dogs know when a person is in fear of them.

BROUGHT HIM INTO PICTURE

More or Less Happy Bridegroom Not Absolutely Left Out of the Wedding Notice.

Jenkins was substituting for a day or two during the temporary absence of the regular society editor.

"Who was the unhappy man?" "You mean the groom?" "Yes, there has to be a groom at a wedding of this sort, doesn't there?"

"To be sure," and Miss Daisy blushed a bit. "It was Mr. William Smith—didn't I have him in?"

"Not that I can see." "Well, put him in somewhere, please. Of course he was present also."

So Jenkins wrote at the bottom of Miss Daisy's exquisite little sketch: "Bill Smith was also present."—Harper's Magazine.

The Chimpanzee.

Chimpanzee is the native Guinea name for a large ape of equatorial Africa, belonging to the anthropoid or man-like monkeys, and to the same family as the gorilla.

It is sometimes five feet tall when full grown, with black hair, but is not so large and powerful as the gorilla. Like the orangutan, it has the hair on its forehead turned backward, but differs from it in having an additional dorsal vertebra and a thirteenth pair of ribs.

It walks erect better than most of the apes. The chimpanzee feeds on fruits, often robs the gardens of the natives, and constructs a sort of nest among the branches. In menageries, where it is common, it shows much intelligence and docility.

Needlessly Disturbed. Mabel was trying to cross a busy street. The young man who lives next door happened along and gallantly offered to see her across.

No sooner had they started, however, than he insisted on taking Mabel's hand. This she resented. He did it under the pretense of keeping her from being struck by an automobile, a flimsy excuse she shot at thought. But her mother said the young man was quite in the right.

The fact is, Mabel is only five years old.

Cause for Congratulation. A city motorist got lost in the back districts. He scratched his hands removing climbing briars from sign posts. He made many a weary trip to farmhouse for directions.

We are all ready to start the summer, said the captain of the first team. So she we, responded the captain of the second driver team.

French Scientist Asserts That It is Possible for Persons to See Through Their Skins.

A Frenchman has lately startled the world with the extraordinary theory that the sightless may see through their skins!

The scientist is Doctor Farigoule, and he points out that there is no scientific law which in itself opposes his theory that man may be made to see through his skin, even though he cannot do so with his eyes.

There is scientific proof that two creatures which have no eyes at all can yet see. These are the ordinary earthworm and a certain beetle which only comes out at night.

Many living things without ears, or any apparatus corresponding to ears, seem to have a fine sense of hearing. It is a well-known fact that our skin not only feels, but breathes, and to a certain extent does the same work as the kidneys in expelling waste matter.

It is not suggested that a man may close his eyes and suddenly see through his skin but it is asserted that a man who cannot use his eyes may be trained to use his skin instead, and by this means distinguish colors and shapes and even read letters and letters.

Scientists are learning new things about the human skin every year, so that these wonders may yet become true.

LEGEND OF CYPRESS TREE

Mythology Has Many Interesting Stories Concerning It—May Have Been Used at Crucifixion.

The story mythology tells of the cypress tree is that Cyparissus, son of Cyprius, while hunting one day accidentally killed one of Apollo's favorite stags.

He became so filled with remorse at the mishap that he begged Apollo, his dearest friend, to put him out of his misery. The god compassionately metamorphosed him into a tree; hence its name.

Cypress wood was used in the construction of St. Peter's gates at Rome. After eleven hundred years' use they were taken down, comparatively new, to be replaced by brass.

Cypress was said by some to have been the wood the cross was made from, while many refer to the material as hewn from oak; but the aspen is the more generally accepted as the wood used for the cross of the crucifixion.

According to the Missouri Botanical Bulletin, the oldest known tree in the world is a bald cypress growing in Santa Maria del Tula, Mexico. It is about 125 feet in circumference and from 4,000 to 5,000 years old.

Oil Has Enriched Indians. Statistics compiled for the secretary of the interior show that the Osage Indians of northern Oklahoma comprise the richest Indian community in the world.

Oil leases of their families, since oil was discovered there eighteen years ago, have brought \$130,014,397 up to May 1 to the 2,229 Osages, every man, woman and child sharing in the distribution. Between 1915 and 1923 these 2,229 Osages and their heirs have received an average of \$1,800,000 a month.

Each Indian of \$5,375. In April bonuses and royalties paid these Indians amounted to \$1,020,000, or \$2,722 for each Osage man, woman and child. Last May's income was expected to exceed this figure.

In addition to their prior receipts the Osages received \$26,570,800 in 1922. This gave each man, woman and child \$11,700, according to the secretary of the interior's figures. On the Osage lands 4,500 oil wells have been drilled. Of these only five were dry, the smallest proportion ever known in oil drilling operations.

Old Roman Road.

Watling street is an ancient Roman military road in Britain, extending across the island in a westerly direction. Commencing at Richborough or Dover, it ran through Canterbury and Rochester to London, and thence across the island to Chester and York.

Portions of the road still exist as an important highway, and the part that extends through London retains its name to the present day. Watling street, in the days of the Britons, was a mere track through the forest, but was converted into a military highway by the Roman general, Vespasian, whose name was corrupted into Watelatin, and this later into Watling.

The term "Watling street" was frequently used in England during the Middle Ages to denote the milky way.

Increasing Use of Radio. Britain is behind in the development of radio and the authorities are being criticized for their failure to promote radio communication on a world scale, and with permitting France, Germany and the United States to occupy this field to the exclusion of England.

It is pointed out that France is planning a great station at Pondicherry, India, and that in July she will open a high-power station at Buenos Aires. Later in the year two other stations will be ready in South America. These will be in direct communication with the French station at St. Assise with Nauen in Germany and with Long Island, New York. From St. Assise France by radio will reach India, China and Japan on the east and North and South America on the west.

"ROUGH STUFF"

By JOAN M. GRAY

(St. Louis, Mo. McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

BOBS FREEMAN descended upon her sister, Barbara, one summer afternoon with bag and baggage and announced that she had broken her engagement to Dick.

When Barbara's young husband came home from the city he reported a dismal young lover blooming around the town.

Bob's deliberately vamped Percy in the shadowy garden that evening. When at length she said she must go in, Percy invited her to ride to Laurel Beach next evening, and Bobs accepted.

"That's what I want to be," flamed Bobs. "I want to be treated rough!" She rushed upstairs, past Percy, snaking back to his room from the hallway, where he had heard her confession.

"Don't look like a soldier," he said that if it were Percy she would like to be rough for him.

"That's not rough," she said in a small voice. Percy obeyed, puzzled. Bobs Freeman had certainly wanted what she got.

After a satisfactory conversation with Grandmother Corless the next morning, Dick drove away through the acres of pine trees which surrounded her house and smiled at a rough cabin, standing in among them.

That evening, at Barbara's request, Bobs sauntered through the darkness to the garden wall in search of a book. Some one rose from the other side, flung a scratchy blanket over her head and dumped her into a car. Then she whizzed away.

Struggling frantically, she threw the blanket off and stared at Dick, square-jawed and ferocious.

"Get back to that corner," he growled, "and keep quiet, or I'll knock your block off. You prefer being dragged off by the hair, but I prefer this way. See?"

Bobs was secretly thrilled to the eyes. Finally they stopped before a rough cabin.

"Get out!" "Get out!" He dragged her in and shut the door.

"Get something to eat." "I won't." "Get something to eat and get it quick. Who do you think you are?"

He pushed her to the rusty stove. She struggled with a fire and he smoked a cigarette, watching her with considerable enjoyment.

Finally she set a tolerable meal before him. "Open the door," he growled. "It's hotter than blazes!"

Percy was on Grandmother Corless' piazza, asking her advice. She was a friend of his mother's—he felt he had a right. She advised him to go back to Ann Appleton.

Grandmother collapsed. "Those silly children! If Percy sees them he is sure to misunderstand!"

Which is what Percy did. Coming upon an oblog of light among the trees, he crept forward and discovered Dick Abbott angrily facing Bobs Freeman across a littered table in a badly-lighted cabin.

She grabbed her and kissed her many times, and hard. Bobs forgot everything in the discovery that he could be rough. Finally she sighed, lifted her head, and stared straight at Percy. Dick felt her stiffen. He turned, and the three stared at one another until Percy disappeared.

He bumped into a tree and said a word. Then "Bobs Freeman! Well! well!"

Dick gathered his forces. "Get some sleep," he said gruffly. "I'm going to sit right here all night." Bobs sank upon the cot speechless.

HAVE PEST OF CATERPILLARS

Myriads of the Insects Strip Trees in Bohemia—Peasants Carry Umbrellas in Woods.

Oscar John, a New York musician who returned recently from Czechoslovakia, said that the great forests of northern Bohemia were being destroyed by a caterpillar pest, according to the New York Times.

"The caterpillars in northern Bohemia," said Mr. John, "originate in myriads from the black butterfly called the nonne, or nun in English, which lays its eggs on the ground in the forests. Directly these insects are hatched they swarm up the trees, applying its life as they climb up the trunk by eating all the green shoots and leaves.

"On reaching the top the caterpillars swing by their own saliva across to the next tree and destroy it as they go down to the ground. Millions of these crawling pests make a mass when they are doing the aerial trapeze act and fall to the ground so thickly that it is just like rain.

"Peasants walking through these dense forests have to carry great cotton umbrellas to prevent themselves from being smothered by the caterpillars. There are no plumes under the trees, but also a soup basin would be filled up before there would be a chance to eat the contents.

"The only thing that can be done with the trees after the caterpillars have finished with them is to cut down the dead trunks and saw them up into logs for firewood.

"It gives one an uneasy feeling to walk through the great dark forests of northern Bohemia and hear the ghemo crack of the buzzsaw from the lofty branches of the trees and the pitter-patter of the caterpillar rain on the big umbrellas carried by the peasants."

MOTOR CAR CAMPERS MANY

They Are Doing Good Work Building Great Fraternity of Outdoor Sports Lovers.

We have heard the lure of the outdoors preached as long as we can remember, says the Sportsman's Digest, and while no one disputed the value of time spent close to nature, it remains a fact that only since the motor car has come into universal use have appreciable increases been made in the number of people who spend a part of their spare time in the open.

A few years ago the motor car camper was a rare specimen—a curiosity that would attract attention at any cross roads. Today he is a fixture to be found on every highway and by-way of this broad land.

Each season he is carrying more and more of his fellows out into the open, thus aiding, to a great extent, the purpose that the outdoor press has so long advocated.

The camper is to be encouraged, for through him a great fraternity of outdoor sports lovers is being built. The community which has not made provision for the camper and is not ready to welcome him is far behind the times, not only in the way of failure to cooperate in a growing movement, but from a selfish standpoint also.

The camper depending on the treatment he receives, can become a great asset to a community.

Yes, the camper is a fixture and it seems to be up to the various communities to receive him well and to send him on his way pleased with the courtesy shown him—an ardent booster for the communities which he has visited.

Wilder Than the Animals.

"With all our so-called wisdom and civilization, we have not learned much about dress," said one park bench philosopher to another, wiping the perspiration from his brow and from beneath a wilted collar.

"You're right," said the other, his roving eye catching a glimpse of a feminine apparition as it flitted by, "some of the styles in women's dress I've seen would make Mark Anthony weep."

"What I was about to say," the other continued, "was that a sweltering day like this is no time for a coat." He began to shed that part of his attire. "Speaking of extremes, I just passed a woman wearing a heavy cape and furs about her neck. Even wild animals shed their fur in summer time."

"The trouble is," said the other, "some women are wilder than the animals."—Exchange.

Effects Not Pleasant.

An Evansville young woman, teaching her first term at school, was not only impressed with the nobleness of her profession but had determined that all her friends should so be impressed.

"Oh, it is wonderful work," she said when at a friend's home, "this teaching the young to shoot."

The friend pointed to her kitchen window, which had been broken earlier in the day by a shot from a slingshot.

"Yes," she agreed, "it is wonderful work, but you must make it still more wonderful by teaching them how to take poorer aim."—Indianapolis News.

Canada's Urban Population.

The population of Canada is about equally divided between city dwellers and country dwellers. The total urban population is given as 4,352,773 and the total rural population 4,435,710. In Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan the rural population runs about 75 per cent of the whole.

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