

#### AWFUL EXPERIENCE.

##### A Delaware Woman Has a Snake Coiled Around Her Neck.

Mrs. Stetson and daughter of Union township were berrying in the vicinity of Harbor Bridge, says a Newcastle (Del.) letter to the Philadelphia Inquirer, when they had a lively encounter with a snake. Mrs. Stetson was making her way through a thicket of small trees and bushes, her daughter following at a distance of fifteen or twenty yards. Suddenly a long snake of a greenish-brown color swung from a small tree at Mrs. Stetson's side, and, quick as a flash, began coiling itself around her neck and shoulders.

Almost paralyzed with fright, the woman stood rooted to the ground for almost a minute. Then recovering her senses she screamed loudly for help. Miss Stetson rushed forward to ascertain the cause of the outcry. She was horrified upon reaching the spot to find her mother in the coils of the reptile. The poor woman had succeeded in getting her hands around its slimy body about six inches from the head. Her hold was a firm one, but it required all her strength to keep the snake from getting its head close enough to do injury with its fangs, which it kept thrusting at her face.

All this time it kept tightening its grip around her neck, and soon her face began to assume a purplish hue, while her tongue, swollen to twice its natural size, hung from her mouth, and her eyes bulged almost from their sockets.

Mrs. Stetson is a cool and nervy young lady, and grasping a stick she hit the snake a telling blow on the head. This caused it to loosen its coil, but not before the woman had fainted. Her daughter then attempted to pull the serpent away, but found her mother's fingers deeply imbedded in its flesh, and all efforts to get them loose failed.

The young woman then proceeded to carry and to drag by turns her now unconscious parent to a stream of water about fifty yards from the place. A liberal application of the cool liquid brought her back to consciousness.

She still grasped the snake in her hands, and it required no small effort, accompanied by pain, for her to straighten her fingers sufficiently to allow the snake to drop.

She was then assisted to a farmhouse half a mile distant, where she was kindly cared for, after which she was conveyed to her home in a carriage. The shock was too much for her, and Mrs. Stetson is now lying at her home in a critical condition.

#### COOKING A STEAK.

##### An Old Butcher Tells How It Should and Should Not Be Done.

Now if you only knew how to cook a steak to make it good that would do, but it always makes me sick to see a woman cook a steak, says an old butcher. She invariably puts her frying-pan on the stove, and puts in a chunk of grease about as big as my fist; and when it is hot enough to begin to crackle, she puts in her beef, and never thinks of covering it. The smoke and steam from it goes to the very ceiling. After she cooks it in this way until it begins to look like an old rubber shoe sole, she calls it done. When you go to eat it there is no more taste in it than a chip. Now, if you want a good bit of steak, have a clear hot fire, set your clean empty pan on a spot, cover it up, then round your steak, and when your pan is very hot lay in your steak, and cover quickly. As soon as it has crisped enough to let go its hold on the pan, turn over and cover quickly; turn again as at first, and continue to do so about every two minutes until you have turned it about six or eight times. Have a hot buttered dish ready for it and lay it in; add a sprinkling of pepper, salt and sugar, and cover tightly. Now, if you wish a gravy, put a bit of butter in your pan. When hot, rub in a pinch of flour, add a small teacupful of boiling water, let it boil a few minutes, then put in a gravy boat instead of putting it over your beef to draw out the juice. Now try this just once, and you will see you won't know nothing about cooking a good steak.

#### THE COBRA.

##### Indian and Chinese Superstitions About the Venomous Snake.

Some very interesting facts have been brought to general notice on the alleged avenging habit of the cobra in India and Chinese folk lore. The belief in India is that a wounded cobra which escapes will sooner or later revenge itself on the man who has caused the injury, wherever he may go or whatever he may do. This belief is also deeply rooted in Indo-China and China itself as well as in India. In China there is also a strong prejudice against killing a cobra, lest its spirit should haunt the slayer ever after. In that country cobras are, therefore, shunned rather than pursued and attacked.

Popular stories of the dire consequences of slaying them keep up the superstition. A high official who had killed one died soon afterward of some mysterious disease, and the death was, of course, attributed to the slain snakes. The spirit of the snake is, furthermore, supposed to enter into possession of it, slay and employ the vocal organs of the latter in uttering imprecations on himself until death mercifully removes him.

The marvel is that any snakes at all are killed in China, so many dreadful punishments are supposed to overtake their destroyers, and it is considered a work well meriting favor, here and hereafter, to purchase captured snakes and liberate them. Nevertheless, poisonous snakes are not numerous in China, probably because their presence is inconvenient to Chinese farmers, and they are therefore destroyed, folk lore notwithstanding.

#### She Was Tired of It.

"Mr. Smithers," said his wife, "if I remember rightly, you have often said that you disliked to see a woman constantly getting herself into print."

"I do," said Smithers.

"You consider it unwomanly and indecent, I believe."

"Very."

"And you don't see how any man could allow his wife to do anything of the kind."

"Yes, I think so now."

"Well, Mr. Smithers, in view of all the facts in the case, I feel justified in asking you for a new silk dress."

"A new silk dress?"

"Yes, for the last eight years I have had nothing better than 8-cent calico and I want something else. I'm tired of getting into print."

#### SUICIDE OF A BABOON.

##### Inconsolable at the Death of Her Offspring, She Swallows Matches.

Here is a queer story vouched for by the staid and sober Philadelphia Inquirer: The crew of the bark Edward May, which arrived yesterday from the Phillipine Islands, are disconsolate. Not even the fact that the vessel on board of which they had sailed so many thousands of miles was safely moored in the placid waters of the Delaware could assuage the grief of the jack tars. The pet of all on board, a beautiful baboon of a very rare species, had committed suicide when within a few days' sail of port.

There were several monkeys on board when the vessel left Iloilo, but they all died except the big baboon, which shortly after coming on board gave birth to a baby baboon, of which she seemed very fond. This is the first known instance of such an interesting event occurring on shipboard. All went well until the cooler atmosphere of more northern climes was reached, when the little one sickened and finally paid the debt of nature.

The mother was frantic, refused all nourishment, flew at every one who approached her, and finally succeeded in getting hold of a box of lucifer matches. These matches the creature swallowed, the result being that the creature died in great agony the following evening. Had she and her offspring survived it was the intention of Captain Mehanan to present them to the Zoological Society's gardens.

The bark had a passage of 129 days, and met with some curious phenomena when in the neighborhood of the equator. Calms, heavy rains, water spouts, thunder and rain storms were experienced to an unprecedented extent.

During one heavy thunderstorm the lightning played up and down the shrouds, while on each yardarm were balls of fire like "will o' the wisps" lanterns."

#### A NOVEL ROAD.

##### Switzerland Proposes a Hanging Highway Over the Mountains.

The cantonal authorities of the districts around Mount Pilatus have under consideration a proposal for the construction of a novel kind of road which has been submitted to them by M. Leonardo Torres de Santander through the central government at Berne. This road would connect the so-called Oberhaupt, or highest point of Pilatus, with the Klimeshorn. The object would be to make the ascent of the mountain easier on the northern side and to shorten the ascent for tourists coming from Hergiswil. The difference in level between the two points is set down at 194 meters; the distance between them at 465 meters. The road apparatus (for such it must be called) would consist of six wire cables, quite independent of one another, on which six light pulley wheels will move, and from these wheels a small omnibus capable of carrying eight persons will hang. The omnibus will be drawn by a rope attached to a steam engine to be placed on the Oberhaupt, near the Bellevue hotel.

#### Dwarf Trees of Japan.

One of the interesting things seen at the Paris exposition are the dwarf trees which the Japanese horticulturists are showing, and which are attracting much attention. Pines, thujes, and cedars, said to be 100 or 150 years old, are only eighteen inches high, and with such specimens it would be easy to have a coniferous forest on a balcony. These arboreal deformities are produced by great labor, and if the truth is told about their ages, this work of arresting the tree's development and forcing it into contorted forms must be persisted in by several generations of foresters. All this painstaking is hardly paid for by the beauty of the resulting abortions, but a look at these trees will explain where the fantastic forms come from which serve as models for the plants we see on the lacquered trays, bronzes, and embroideries which come from Japan.

#### PHOTOGRAPHING LIGHTNING.

##### How It May Be Done by Amateur Students of the Camera.

At a recent meeting of the English Photographic club Mr. W. Marriott, fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, was requested to draw up instructions for taking photographs of lightning. The following brief rules are offered: 1. The camera should be focused during the daytime to some distant object and a mark made on the camera, so that at night it may be quickly adjusted when a storm is approaching. 2. A rapid rectilinear lens, with full aperture, should be used. 3. The camera should be directed to the part of the sky where the lightning is most likely to occur. 4. The camera should be firmly screwed to the tripod stand. 5. It may be necessary to tilt the camera slightly, especially if the lightning be mostly in the zenith; if this is done a note should be made of the amount of inclination. 6. A portion of landscape, roof, chimney, etc., should, if possible, be included on the plate; if this cannot be done the top of the plate should be carefully marked before it is removed from the dark slide. 7. The exact time of each flash, the interval in seconds between the lightning and thunder, and the point of the compass in which the flash appeared should all be carefully recorded. 8. It is desirable that there should only be one flash on each plate. 9. If circumstances permit two cameras should be used—one fixed on the tripod stand and the other held in the hand—and two separate photographs obtained of the same flash. 10. It would be very interesting and valuable if two or more photographers could obtain pictures of the same flash from different points of view. By this means it might be possible to determine accurately the distance of the flash, and also its movements in the atmosphere.

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#### New Use of Electricity.

The Philadelphia & Reading railroad company has recently been experimenting with an electric device to increase the friction of locomotive wheels upon the track and prevent slipping. A low tension current, generated by a small dynamo, is passed from the front driving wheel to the track, and from the track again to the back wheel. It is said that the effect of this current is more marked than that of sand sprinkled on the track, and that experiments have fully proved its value.

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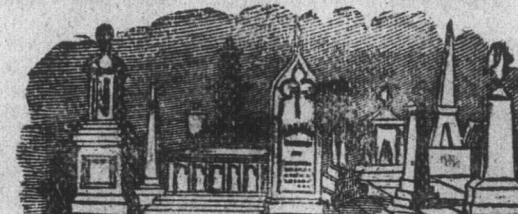
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