

ABOUT THE OSTRICH.

YOUNG BIRDS HATCHED IN LARGE INCUBATORS.

Their Raising Demands Much Care—How They Are Picked—A Business That Yields Almost 100 Per Cent. on the Money Invested.

Ostrich Farming.

The wife of an English ostrich-breeder in Cape Colony compares the young ostrich that has just cleared its nest to a hedgehog mounted on stilts and provided with a long neck. The feathers are nothing more than grayish bristles, while head and neck are covered with a fine, speckled down, soft as velvet. A difference of the sexes is not yet discernible in the plumage.

Very few ostriches are born nowadays out of captivity, for the fashion of the day has developed ostrich-breeding into one of the best-paying industries, which yields a handsome revenue to several countries, especially the deserts and waste lands of Southern Africa.

The valuation of the South African

any idea of the beauty of the later crops. During the second year they become much more likely, although still narrow and pointed. But at the third plucking they are soft and broad, as they should be.

On the large breeding farms men mounted on horses drive the birds



together for the picking, for the ostriches are apt to stray far away from home. They are driven in detachments, first into a large fold and from this into a very small pen, the so-called picking-pen. In this latter the birds are so densely packed together that the dangerous individuals have no room for kicking, for the ostrich has power enough in his long legs to deal mortal blows with them.

THE BOTTLE IMP.

An English Hoax That Was Repudiated a Century and a Half Ago.

The bottle-imp hoax was one of the most gigantic of the many hoaxes and impostures played on the English people during the eighteenth century, says American Notes and Queries. The Duke of Montague, in the year 1749, laid a wager with another nobleman that if an impostor, advertising that he could jump into a quart bottle should come along, all London society would flock to see the wonder. In order to decide the bet the following advertisement was put in all the papers:

"At the new theater in the Haymarket on Monday next, the 16th inst., is to be seen a person who performs the several most surprising tricks following, viz: First, he takes a common walking-cane from any of the spectators, and thereon plays the music of every instrument now in use. Secondly, he presents you with a common wine bottle (which any of the spectators may first examine); he then places the bottle on a table in the middle of the stage, and he without any equivocation goes into it in sight of all the spectators. While in the bottle he will sing all the popular songs of the day. During his stay in the bottle any person may handle it and see that it does not exceed a common tavern bottle in size."

This advertisement excited the curiosity of the people, and on the evening mentioned a prodigious number of people gathered in and around the Haymarket. Royalty went in disguise and begged in their everyday clothes. Not more than half the crowd, the account says, could find seats in the great building. Finally the supposed conjuror appeared on the stage. The majority of these confidently expected to see him soon in the odd-shaped bottle sitting on the table. Not until he brazenly told them that if they would pay double fare he would go into a pint bottle instead of a quart did it dawn upon them that they had been sold. A general row ensued, during which masks were removed by force and many aristocratic features exposed.

MILES STANDISH'S GRAVE.

It Is Said to Be Located in a Duxbury Churchyard.

Nathaniel Morton, secretary of Plymouth Colony, is authority for the statement that Standish was buried in Duxbury, which accords with Standish's will, in which he asked to be buried near his daughter and daughter-in-law "if he died in Duxbury. In the year 1875 the number of tame ostriches in the Cape reached the astounding sum of 32,000, although the breeding of ostriches was not commenced until 1863. To-day that number has more than doubled itself, for in the meantime the incubators have been largely improved.

During the laying season, which comes with the end of the rainy period, the ostrich hen lays one egg every other day until she has deposited from fifteen to twenty eggs in the sand-pile nest, a quantity just large enough to cover the same with her body when hatching. By gradually taking away one egg after another, as we do with our hens, the big bird can be induced to lay an average thirty eggs, and in exceptional cases even sixty eggs have been accumulated. These surplus eggs are artificially hatched in large incubators, but the eggs must be turned every day. In from eight to ten days the first signs of life are noticeable. Shortly before the young bird is ready to break the shell of his prison, which is between the forty-fifth and fiftieth days, a squeaking noise is heard within and a constant pecking against the shell, which is as hard as a rock. In a little while he succeeds in punching a triangular hole through the shell, which the little inmate tries hard to enlarge, in order to become entirely liberated. If he is not very strong he must be helped in his attempt to escape. The artificial hatching are always preferred to the natural ones.

Traditions of half a dozen families of the town, handed down from sire to son, locate the grave in the old churchyard between Hall's and Bayley's Corners, and this graveyard, in one corner of which stood the first church in Duxbury, is the only one mentioned in the early records. These traditions were to the effect, furthermore, that two triangular stones marked the spot where Standish was buried.

In 1889 stones answering their description were brought to light, and in April, 1891, duly authorized persons opened the supposed graves of the Standish family and examined the remains found therein.

Two of the skeletons were those of young women, two were boys, and one was that of a man, corresponding with the generally accepted physique of Standish, indicating very unusual strength and evidently that of a person well along in years.

From all the facts known the speaker, who was one of those present at the exhumation, deduced the inference that these were the graves of Standish, his two daughters—i. e., his daughter and daughter-in-law—and two sons named Charles and John, who died young.

The remains, said Mr. Hinckin, were carefully placed in new caskets and reburied in the old graveyard—Boston Globe.

Armoring of Ships.

The limit in the heaviness of armor applied to ships may perhaps have been reached, and it seems natural that, its development having run a course much like that of the armor of men, may come eventually to a similar end. In the middle ages, when gunpowder was first introduced, the armor of knights and men at arms was gradually increased, in weight to meet the new weapons. As the quality of powder and the guns improved armor was added to until it reached a point where if a knight was unhorsed it required several squires to get him into the saddle again, or if a man fell he could not pick himself up unaided. The next step was to limit the armor to the more vital portions, retaining only the cuirass and helmet. Finally even these were thrown away. Somewhat similar may be the transition in modern navies. The guns having beaten the armor, ships may have to discard their coats of mail and rely upon offense as the best protection, just as intelligent pugilists defend themselves by the counter rather than by the simple guard.

The raising of the young ostriches requires great care and patience and a large percentage of them die annually from diseases and other accidents. The ostrich is fully grown when 5 years of age. It is then that the male bird has the most beautiful plumage of a black, satiny sheen. The female bird's feathers are light-gray. The most valuable plumes hang in a delicate fringe all around the body of the bird. When the bird is 6 months old its feathers are plucked, for the first time. At that time they are still stiff and narrow, with pointed tips, and do not give

FIGHTING IN TEXAS.

The Little War that Is Raging Along the Rio Grande.

The United States has a little war on hand along the Rio Grande, the dividing line between Texas and Mexico. The fact that so many men have risen to the Presidential chair of Mexico by means of military filibustering has left an influence that is keenly felt in that territory, and thus it's not surprising that at present we find the adventurer, Catarino Garza, trying to create a division that may elevate him to the place now filled by President Diaz. Did Garza confine his operations to Mexico the United States could remain a mere spectator, but unfortunately Garza has violated and is violating the neutrality laws of the United States and as a consequence our Government is opposing him with military force. Already conflicts have taken place between Garza's troops and the United States forces in Texas.

So long as Garza's forces are few there may be enough glory in a conflict for United States troops, but as the Texas side of the border abounds in sympathizers for the adventurer, there is no knowing how many men he may at any time become leader of, and no doubt if able he would plunder our border forts. Garza's policy is to create small army on the border and then march toward the center of Mexico, trusting to internal disaffection with the present Government to cause a reaction in his favor as President. As the Mexican States bordering on the Rio Grande are well supplied with soldiers, Garza naturally is collecting his followers on the

which I have seen, when a stoat, before killing a rabbit, proceeds to mesmerize it by cutting circles around it, except that the stoat accompanies his circles by wonderful somersaults, which were lacking on the present occasion. The wood-pigeon's behavior was almost an exact repetition of the rabbit's. Arriving so suddenly on the scene, I unluckily startled the principal performer, who stopped; and, to my surprise, I then saw that it was a squirrel. The bird was at first so utterly bewildered that it was several seconds before she sufficiently recovered to fly away. When at last the wood-pigeon had flown off, and not till then, the squirrel also left the scene and betook himself up a tree. It would be interesting to know whether such conduct on a squirrel's part has been noticed before, and what would have been the upshot of the affair had it not been interrupted? Is it to be supposed that the squirrel intended to kill the ring-dove?—Mechanical News.

STEPHEN B. ELKINS.

Recently Named by the President as Secretary of War.

Stephen Benton Elkins, without having held any high official position, has been a conspicuous figure in national politics for twenty years. He was born in Perry County, Ohio, fifty years ago, and graduated from the University of Missouri when 19 years old. He began the study of law, but before he got a chance to go into practice the war broke out, and he enlisted in the Seventy-seventh Missouri Infantry, serving as a Captain throughout the campaigns of 1862 and 1863. In 1864 he left the army and went to New Mexico, where he was admitted to the bar. He also engaged in mining and stock-raising, and amassed a fortune. In 1865 he was a member of the Territorial Legislature, in 1868 and 1869 Attorney General of the territory, and from 1870 to 1872 United States District Attorney. He was elected a delegate to Congress, and served two terms from 1873-77. It was while in Congress that he formed a close friendship with James G. Blaine. He was a member of the Republican Committee for twelve years ending 1884. Since 1875 he has spent most of his time in New York City, though he has made his legal residence in West Virginia.

From the press the cheese is taken



CATARINO GARZA.

Texas side, where there are few troops and many sympathizers. United States troops under Capt. John Bourke, recently defeated the Mexican revolutionists, who then crossed the Rio Grande and marched toward Mier, a stronghold of Garza. Here, however, they again suffered defeat by the Mexicans and once more recrossed the river into United States territory. Along the line of the Rio Grande the United States has now 1,000 troops and preparations are being rapidly made to augment them. Between these two fires Garza seems to be in rather hot quarters, but the changes in Mexican affairs are so many and startling that we would not be much surprised to hear of a considerable number of Mexican troops declaring for the adventurers.

Catarino Garza was born in Mexico and reared in Texas. After graduating from the University of Mexico he entered the army, but an act of insubordination sent him to the Texas side of the Rio Grande. While living in Rio Grande City he shot a man named Sebree, and is said to have killed two customs inspectors. At Doyal, Texas, he started a paper in opposition to the Mexican Government. Disappearing for a time, he reappeared last September at the head of a revolutionary force, crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico, and was there defeated by Government troops.

Since then he has lived the life of an outlaw until a few weeks ago, when he again began active opposition to the Diaz Government.

OUR FIRST BATTLE-SHIP.

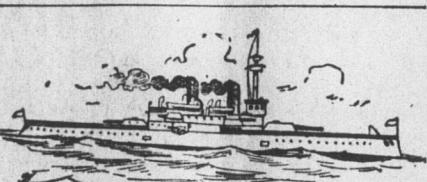
The Magnificent Oregon, Now Building In San Francisco.

The first great modern battle-ship of our new navy, to be known as the Oregon, is now under construction at the Union Iron Works of San Francisco. This is a monster, beside which ships like the Chicago and Newark will look small. She is one of the three largest ships yet planned by the Government.

The Oregon is to have a displacement of 10,000 tons and will be 348 feet long, 69 feet 3 inches wide, and 42 deep. She will cost, exclusive of her armament, about \$4,000,000. Her minimum speed is to be not less than fifteen knots. The hull is of unsheathed steel.

Her framing will be on the bracket system, and she will have a double bottom extending from armor shelf to armor shelf and forward and aft. The sides, from armor belt to main deck, will be protected by not less than five inches of steel armor.

Her armament will aggregate 631 tons. It includes four 13-inch breech-loading rifles, weighing sixty tons



each, with their mounts, shields, and equipments; four 8-inch breech-loading rifles; four 6-inch breech-loading rifles; sixteen 6-pounder rapid-firing guns; six one-pounder rapid-firing guns, and two Gatlings, will all necessary mounts and shields therefore. It will require 306 tons of ammunition to complete the vessel's fighting outfit.

The Oregon will carry twelve torpedoes. There will be seven above-water torpedo tubes—two forward, one aft and two on each side.

There is only one real remedy for the weak and wavering mind that finds it so difficult to meet the ever recurring questions of life promptly and decisively, and that is continual practice. He who is conscious of this infirmity of purpose may do much to cure it by strict self-discipline. Having weighed the arguments on each side, or compared the advantages of different courses for a reasonable time, let him compel himself to choose one and refuse the other without longer delay. If he does this regularly and constantly, in small things as well as in great, it will gradually become more and more practicable, and what once appeared to be a herculean task may at length become natural and easy.

FREQUENT BURGLARIES alarmed the residents of a Japanese village, as no clever thief could be obtained regarding the perpetrator. An ingenious fellow, whose home had been plundered, proposed that each villager should write the name of the man he suspected on a slip of paper and put it in a ballot-box. On the votes being examined, it was discovered that fifteen named one man, and the rest were blanks. The robber was so astonished at the result of the ballot that he actually confessed his identity.

A MAN never steps outside the door without first putting on his hat, but a woman will stand for hours in the cold with her arm rolled up in her kitchen apron, and nothing on her head. Since men have the doctor's bills to pay, here is another instance in which the women need regulating. Strange conduct of a Squirrel.

One day in October last, while walking through a public park, I suddenly came upon a remarkable sight. A reddish animal was careering in rapid circles around a wood-pigeon stationed on the ground, and which, in a dazed fashion, kept running round and round to watch the whirling performance; in fact, the procedure was almost exactly that

HOW CHEESE IS MADE.

Facts Which Are Not Widely Known as They Should Be.

The first stage in the making of cheese is that by which the curd is separated from the whey, says Harper's Young People. This is done by heating the milk to a given temperature, varying according to the season, and afterward adding a certain proportion of rennet. When the cheese is to be colored the dyeing matter is put in before the rennet. In less than half an hour after the heat has been applied the coagulation has so far progressed that the curd, from which the whey has been drawn, is ready to cut.

Almost the only instrument used in the making of cheese is the curd-knife, a curious-looking arrangement something like a double comb with long teeth. The immature cheese is both cut and stirred with this, the curd being separated into small bits, none of them being larger than an ordinary walnut. The stirring and heating must go on until the curd has reached a proper stage of what is called "digestion." It is then torn into narrow strips like ribbons, for the curd by this time is as firm in fiber as the breast of a roasted chicken and, indeed, looks like it. These strips are then fed into the salting mill, where they are thoroughly mixed with salt and made ready for the cheese-press. Enormous pressure is applied in this cheese-press in order that all the whey that by any possibility remains may be squeezed out.

The pit became more like a witch's caldron than ever. Blood-purple faces, blue-swelling veins, hoarse, articulate yells, uncouth, joint-loosening gestures—all the animal things in man most pugnacious. Saw you ever the tigers fed in the Zoological? Bah—a very gentle sight to this.

694.

The bears yelled louder. The market was bending to them. It was, with many of them, a fortune either way. It was the battle for wealth crowded into hours; many drag it through a lifetime. But all the fierceness of a life's struggle was essential here.

695.

The bulls leap in very frenzy of glee. It was another cable from London. "Strong buying tendency." Then advices of a panic in the West—wheat

risings like a kite.

696.

The bears began to waver. The "shorts" trembled. It was the bulls' opportunity—to become rich suddenly. To break others—no matter.

697.

The climb began. The fractions were despised. The jumps were by cents.

698.

If it had been hell on the floor before it was a greater inferno now. The shorts turned pale. But they still fought. Grim, savage, desperate, bloodless.

699.

It was no use. The price went up steadily as the thermometer toward a summer noon. There was a fever in the West, and it was contagious—by wire.

700.

Would the clock never strike the closing hour? No; there were fortunes to be made; lives to be ruined. For the wheat itself, who cared? It was the same wheat all the while, but

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Still upward.

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