

## LIZARD EGGS HIGHLY PRIZED

These of the Water Monitor Are esteemed a Delicacy in Many Parts of Malay Peninsula.

The water monitor is one of the standbys of the natives of India, Ceylon and the Malay peninsula and island and the eggs of this species of lizard are more highly prized than hens' eggs.

You might shudder when you suddenly confronted a water monitor in the jungle. Not so the native, hunting its eggs and rejoicing to get near such treasures.

The monitor is equipped with a long forked tongue, extending from a sheath like a snake's. It is one of the largest of existing lizards, reaching a length of seven feet, although its nearest relative, the gigantic Australian monitor, grows from twelve to thirty feet long. The monitor lays twenty or more white, soft-shelled eggs in hollow trees, and in Burma these bring a much higher price than hen's eggs.

"The monitor is well fitted for its life," says a writer in the *Scientific American*. "It is a swift runner, able to overtake the speediest mammals, dogs, turtles and snakes on which it feeds. It often startles hunters by crashing through the jungle, making as much noise as large game. It climbs trees for squirrels, birds and their eggs. At other times it may be found digging along stream banks for the eggs of the crocodile, of which it is most fond. Either in running or swimming it can leave its enemies far behind. If surprised when up a tree it drops into the water, swimming with powerful strokes of its flattened tail, which acts as oars and rudder. When being captured it fights with teeth, claws and tail.

"The natives term the monitor 'Kabar-Goya.' Although it is harmless and non-poisonous, it is used to produce deadly poisons. The Singalese are experts in brewing a deadly poison termed 'Kabarale.'

"They extract poisons from venomous snakes, adding arsenic and other drugs, boiling the combination in human skulls. And here the monitor comes in as a part of their superstition. They tie three monitors on three sides facing the fire. Then they torment the monitors with whips and make them hiss to cause the fire to blaze up. The natives believe that the hiss of the monitors adds to the poisonous quality of the deadly brew."

Making Airplanes More Handy. From Dayton, O., from whence came the news, at first incredible, that the problem of mechanical flight had been solved, now comes the news, almost as hard to believe, that there has been invented and successfully tested there a propeller for airplanes that has something of the diversity of action possessed by the motor organs of birds. The vanes of the new propeller, it is reported, are not immovable on the central shaft, but can be more or less changed as to angle with that shaft to meet the aviator's will or need.

If this has been done without introducing weakness that goes with complexity of mechanism, the operation of airplanes, especially at the enormously important moment of starting and alighting, will be improved exactly where it most needs improvement. Already wonderful things are done with these machines, but the sparrow that flies to and stops on a telegraph wire or a slender twig does something at which the most skillful aviator hitherto has looked in hopeless envy.

That a propeller with movable vanes would permit the emulation of the bird's achievements in rising and alighting is not obvious, but it certainly would be a step toward the ideal airship.

Of Course He Wants Money. A German professor in whose family a young Englishman was living when the war broke out has now sent to the boy's father a bill which the London papers find amusing. The student's departure, on the outbreak of hostilities, was hurried, as can be imagined, and he was for long quite busy as a soldier and officer fighting Germans. Now his proud parent is reminded that not only did the boy owe something for board when he went away, but that he had made what custom counted a contract to continue boarding till the end of the scholastic half year. Also, he requested to remit English money, which the German professor prefers, evidently, to that of his own country.

The episode is not quite as funny as the London papers seem to think it is, for lodging and board received did create a debt, but the plea for recompense for the broken contract is naive in the true Teutonic way.—New York Times.

Defined—All Right. The third-grade teacher was reading "Chanticleer" to the children. One boy did not seem to be giving attention and she thought perhaps he did not understand the story. So she decided to find out by a series of questions. The first one she asked was: "William, what is a chanticleer?" For a minute William was confused. He wriggled in his seat and then knowledge came to him and he returned: "Why a chanticleer is a hen that crows."

His Sensation. "Well, sir, I didn't realize how green I was till I got here to Kay See and mingled a little," confessed the gent from Simpson Junction. "But now, by jovey, I feel like an oasis in the midst of the great desert of this town"—Kennebunk City Star.



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