

# THE JUNIOR PALLADIUM

WEEKLY SECTION OF RICHMOND PALLADIUM

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## The Snail Is

### A Queer Animal

Say, fellows, did you ever stop to consider what a wonderful interesting "critter" a snail is. You didn't? Well, you don't know what you're missing.

Snails generally are conceded to be slow, and in fact, they are, but when you find out something concerning the unique method of locomotion of this creature, it hardly is probable that you again will compare any lazy fellow with a snail. Why take from the dignity of a snail?

It only has one foot, but it consists of the entire lower side of its body, and along the sides of this foot are organs, which secrete an adhesive substance that enables it to cling to any surface it may be crossing. The smoother the surface the harder it is to make him let go. And, too, the snail often-times travels bottomsides up. When it moves it does so in what appears to be a glide, so little is the motion connected with its muscular effort. The snail always leaves a shining trail due to the mucus it secretes as it goes.

Turn over a few old stones, or bricks and you are likely to find a small grayish object on one of them. This is a snail without a shell. Soon his snailship is bothered by the sudden change of light (for he prefers the dark) and concludes to find out what has happened. His body stretches out to an almost inconceivable length and the "horns" come stretching out. These are his eyes, which are arranged conveniently on the ends of the stalks. If undisturbed he first pokes out one eye to get the topography of the immediate vicinity. If this bumps into anything he pulls it back and prospects with the other.

Just below the eyes is another shorter pair of "horns," which are used in the capacity of feelers, for determining the nature of the surface on which the owner is crawling. They operate in the same manner as the eyes.

When attacked, at first, the snail draws in his eyes and feelers and also his head, so that all that is visible is his shell. If the disturbance continues he retires completely, and if he experiences a drought, makes a semi-transparent covering out of mucus for his door, so as to stop evaporation of himself, which largely is moisture, and this is needed to manufacture mucilage.

The surface of a snail's body is rough and divided in plates, and under a glass has the appearance of pebbled leather.

Its eggs are the size of small peas, semi-transparent, covered with a soft shell, and are fastened together with mucus.—Lone Scout, Raymond Farley.

### JUST THINK!

The nearest known star to the earth is Alpha Centauri. If you were on a train going to this star, if such a thing could be, it would take you, going a mile a minute, 48,000,000 years. This means that the star is thirty-five trillion miles away.

At the rate sound travels, if people would sing a song on this star it would take 2,800,000 years before we could hear them on this earth.—Lone Scout.

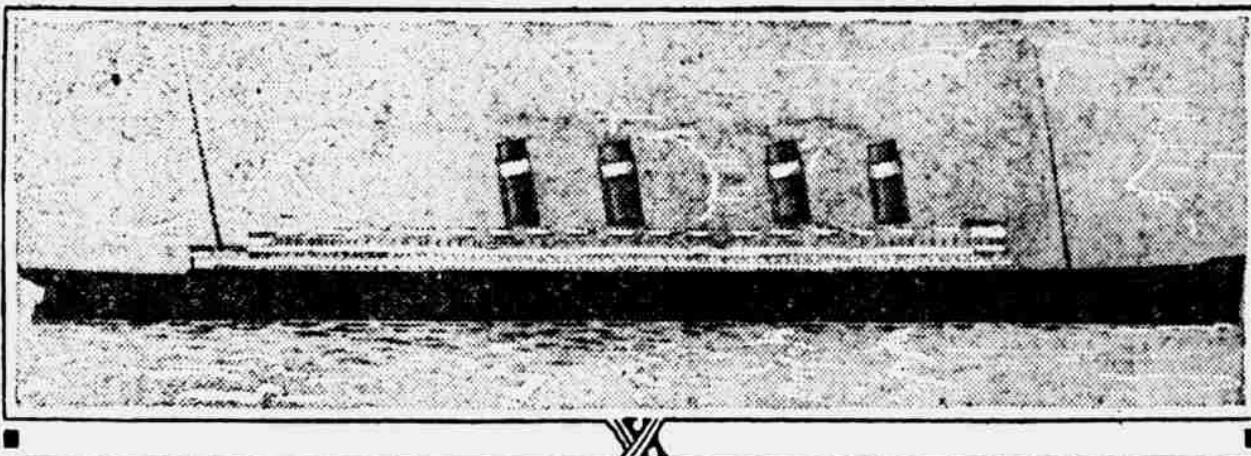
### THE PORCUPINE'S HABITS

When you come suddenly upon the porcupine in his native haunts, he draws in his head and down, puts up his shield, trails his broad tail, and waddles slowly away. His shield is the sheaf of larger quills upon his back, writes John Burroughs, which he opens and spreads out in a circular form, so that the whole body is quite hidden beneath it. The porcupine's great chisel-like teeth, which are quite as formidable as those of the woodchuck, he does not appear to use at all in his defense, but relies entirely upon his quills.—Christian Science Monitor.

The happiness of your life depends upon the character of your thoughts. —Marcus Aurelius.

A half dollar dated 1796 brought \$251 at an auction sale on June 26, 1890.

## Uncle Sam Plans 1,000-Foot Liners That'll Cross Ocean in Four Days



How the huge new steamships will look when completed.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—Two steamships capable of making a trip across the ocean from Montauk Point, L. I., to Plymouth, England, in four days are to be constructed as additions to Uncle Sam's merchant marine. Each vessel will displace fifty-five thousand tons, measure one thousand feet and be capable of a speed of thirty knots. The fuel will be oil and the tanks will hold enough for a round trip.

In deciding upon ships 1,000 feet long and 102 feet maximum beam, the federal authorities have gone the limit so far as the accommodations of the locks of the Panama Canal are concerned. That is to say, the usable maximum length of the locks is just 1,000 feet, and, similarly, a breadth of 110 feet is available. This fact is of prime military importance, because these liners are potential naval auxiliaries and are intended to carry powerful armaments of rapid fire guns in time of war. In this respect we are virtually patterning our course after the examples set us abroad; and the recent conflict has emphasized the wisdom of this foresight.

Great Britain while a free trade country spent many millions for the protection and the maintenance of her supremacy in ocean shipping when she called into being the *usitania* and the *Mauretania*. Those epoch-making vessels were built with money loaned by the British government to the Cunard company, at a very low rate of

interest, and that interest and the refunding of the principal were covered by governmental bounties, in one form or another, which placed the steamship company in the unique position of virtually owning two magnificent craft for which they were not expected to pay. This was because the admiralty reserved the right to call upon the company to surrender—at a handsome rental—those ships at any time during a period of national peril.

From upper deck to keel, the giant liners will have a hull depth of seventy-four feet, and towering above the main body there will be several other decks devoted exclusively to the accommodation of first-class passengers. Their navigational bridges will, therefore, be in the neighborhood of quite seventy-five feet above water, with thirty-five feet of the hull submerged. These figures help the lay mind to get some understandable idea of the tremendous bulk of these ocean-going monsters. The dead weight or displacement of each of these vessels will be not less than 60,000 tons. The latest of our superdreadnaughts, the *Massachusetts* and *Iowa*—the last word in titanic battlecraft—will have trial displacements of 43,200 tons, and this fact enables us the better to picture the enormous mass represented by each of the 1,000-foot express steamers which, so we are told, are to be the beginning of a fleet of magnificent passenger

ships to carry the American flag. It is reported that the United States shipping board contemplates taking two more craft of this character in hand shortly after the keels for the first two are laid. Indeed, it is not unlikely that the United States will thus organize a two ocean service, trans-Pacific and trans-Atlantic, linking the terminals on the eastern and western seaboard by means of our transcontinental trunk lines.

It is a coincidence, of course, but it is nevertheless an interesting fact that we have recently been celebrating the centennial of the first crossing of the Atlantic ocean by a steam propelled vessel—i. e., the memorable voyage of the steamship *Savannah*, which covered that long stretch, intermittently helped by her engine, in twenty-four days from land to land. The first runs entirely under steam from one side of the Atlantic to the other were made in 1838 by two British side wheelers, the *Sirius* and the *Great Western*, which reached New York within a day of one another—the *Sirius* doing the voyage in seventeen days and the *Great Western* in fifteen days. The *Savannah*, of 350 tons, was 120 feet long over all, and had a beam of twenty-nine feet—thus in 100 years we have magnified the length of our liners almost nine-fold, and in the matter of speed they have gained six times that possible with the engine and boiler power provided for our trans-Atlantic experiment of 1819.

## A Child's Garden.

So many garden flowers!  
And in so many ways  
They grow and blossom brightly,  
Through all the summer days.

The foxglove bells and larkspur,  
Against the garden wall,  
With hollyhocks so haughty  
Climb highest of them all.

They are too tall and stately  
For little folks like me;  
I leave them to the grown-ups,  
And to the wind and bee.

Our poppy flowers bloom scarlet,  
An hour, and then they fade,  
But generously next morning  
Fresh poppy flowers are made.

The sweet peas and ayssum,  
Clove pinks, and mignonette  
Are fragrant-fair, but dearer  
Grow in the garden yet.

Down in a shady corner  
From early spring till late,  
With sunny, folk-like faces  
My nicest flowers await.

Deep velvet, ruffled pansies,  
My own loved blossoms sweet,  
Make all the flower garden  
More perfect and complete.

## The Telltale.

Something must have happened  
Out in Nature's school!  
Did the breezes whisper,  
Cricket break a rule?

High within a pine tree  
(Nobody can reach her)  
Hear the tattling oven bird:  
"Teacher, teacher, teacher!"

Bees are humming softly,  
Spelling words, I think;  
At his music lesson  
Trills a bobolink.

Peace and happiness enfold  
Every summer creature,  
Save the saucy, calling bird:  
"Teacher, teacher, teacher!"

Till the pupils all exclaim  
(Tones designed to reach her):  
"Hush the racket, tattletale,  
Nature is the teacher!"

—Christian Science Monitor.

## Georgianna is the Youngest Violinist in Richmond

After nine months' practice and lessons on violin, little Georgianna Doan, of South Fifteenth street, likes her violin better than ever, and thinks no music is quite as beautiful as the music that comes from a violin. Georgianna was just six years old, last June.

She was only four years old when she heard Miss Amy Neill from the Richmond Chautauqua platform in 1917. Georgianna went into a spasm of delight over the music played by Miss Neill, (who is an artist with the violin though she herself is only twenty-three years old), and wanted a violin of her own right away. Her parents, however, thought her sudden love for violin music was something that would pass away as suddenly as it had come, so they bought her a toy violin to play with.

"It don't sound right, mother, it don't sound right," she would say as she sawed away on this toy violin.

Couldn't Wait For Fifth Birthday  
It was the day before her fifth birthday, the twenty-seventh of June, 1918, that Georgianna proved to her mother that she had not forgotten her love for the music of the violin, nor her wish to know how to play it, for on that day she told her mother, "I can't wait till my birthday comes, mother, because there's going to get me a violin."

But such violins as will fit under the small chins of little girls like Georgianna are not very easily found, and so it was August of that year before a real violin was bought for her, a half-size violin, it is called, because it is only half the size of the violin that is used by grown-up violinists.

May Change Doll's Name  
Every week, Georgianna goes to take a lesson from Miss Mary

Jones, a violinist whom we always enjoy hearing, and concert master in the Richmond high school orchestra, and every day she practices about three quarters of an hour. A few days ago she practised an hour—a real hour by the clock—and did not want to stop a bit when her mother, who plays the piano while Georgianna plays the violin, told her she had practised long enough for that time.

Several times little Miss Georgianna has appeared in public with her violin. She played on Easter Day and on Children's Day at the South Eighth Street Friends' church and has taken part in programs given at East Main Street Friends' and the First Methodist Episcopal churches.

Georgianna has a beautiful big doll which she loves very much, and which she named Mary Pickford. She thinks now, though, that she will change its name to Amy Neill, as she is very much in love with the artist who again appeared at the Chautauqua last Sunday. She had a long automobile ride with Miss Neill last Sunday evening, and found out that very wonderful person began studying violin just a little while before she was six years old.

Likes Patriotic Songs  
She plays exercises and likes them but says, "I like my pieces best." And who doesn't? After all we would never play any exercises at all if playing them did not help us to play our pieces better. Georgianna is already the possessor of several real pieces. When asked which one she plays best, she brought out a well worn copy of a waltz by Ernst Schmidt.

But when asked what she liked best, she did not even have to think twice about it, speaking up quickly, "Oh, I like 'My Country 'Tis of Thee,' 'Keep the Home Fires Burning,' 'The Star Spangled Banner,' and the 'Humoreske.' Oh, I do like the 'Humoreske!'"

## ARE YOU HIKING?

Even though it is too hot to do a great deal of hiking, the Juniors have not forgotten what fun it is, and many of them take a long hike or a long bicycle ride, at least once a week. The following list of rations for hikes was published recently in *Boys' Life* and is enough food for four hungry boys for three meals:

- 4 lbs. Breadstuffs, in waxed paper.
- 1 lb. Bacon, sliced thin, without rind, in waxed paper.
- 1 lb. Cheese, in waxed paper.
- 1 doz. Eggs in carton.
- 1 can Evaporated milk, not sweetened.
- ½ lb. Butter, in tin.
- ½ lb. Sugar, in bag.
- ½ lb. Dried fruit, in waxed paper; or lemons.
- ¼ lb. Ground coffee, in bag.
- 1 can Jam.
- 1-6 lb. Salt, in joint of bamboo, corked.
- Pepper, in waxed paper.

## THE AMERICAN FLAG

Tell me, who can, about our flag  
With its red and white and blue;  
How came it to have many stars,  
And of pretty stripes so few?

The thirteen stripes are for thirteen states  
That first into union came,  
To reach new state we have added a star,  
But have kept the stripes the same.—Selected.

Sault Ste. Marie, is said to be the oldest settlement in North America, having been founded in 1668. But its modern importance rests to a large extent upon the fact that it possesses the Saint Mary o' Fales Ship Canal, with its four famous locks, three of which are completed. This canal, which cuts around the rapids, takes care of more shipping than any other canal in the world.

## SOCIETY NEWS

Miss Dorothy and Master Fred Test, of Lafayette, Indiana, are spending about a week in Richmond.

Miss Julia R. Burr, left Monday, for Sharonville, Ohio, for a ten days' visit with relatives.

Joseph Cox is going to Greenfield with his parents next week to visit his grandparents. From Greenfield he will go to Indianapolis to attend the State Fair.

Miss Emily Watt entertained several of her playmates with a party Tuesday afternoon, from five to seven o'clock. The affair was in honor of her fifth birthday anniversary. Games were played during the afternoon. Miss Emily received many beautiful presents—one of which was a real watch, and telling the time on this proved to be one of the afternoon pastimes. At about six o'clock, a picnic lunch was served in the yard. The guests who enjoyed the party were: Susan Dickinson, Katherine Cook, Jean Shively, Mary Shively, Dorothy Swan, Elizabeth Reller, Gretchen Reller, Helen Lauton, Georgianna Doan, Virginia Youngflesh, Virginia Hodgkin, Alice Jean Price, Emaline Eggemeyer, and Ruth Gist.

Among the Juniors who are enjoying camping at the Chautauqua are: Lloyd Outland, Betty Price, Lois Ward, Erna Weaver, Elizabeth Riggs, William Riggs, Robert Wilson, Martha Holcomb, Julia Splithers, Marion Heiser, Eleanor Wissler, Robert W. Wissler, Virginia Merrill, Beatrice Smith, Barbara Smith, Wesley Scull, Louise Colvin, George Cummins and Elizabeth Morgan.