

LOCUSTS IN PHILIPPINES.

They Are a Source of Great Annoyance—A Peculiar Fungus Which Destroys Them.

The Bureau of government laboratories through the board of health, has recently been distributing throughout the island a fungus which is capable, when properly applied, of destroying the locust swarms and of annihilating this formidable pest.

When grown in the laboratory upon a suitable medium, the fungus appears at first as a grayish or mouse-colored layer which even without the aid of a microscope can be seen to consist of extremely minute branching filaments, or hyphae.

Excelsior results have been obtained in the province of Bulacan, in these islands, on the plantation of the Philippine Sugar Estates Developing Company, as well as in Cape Colony and the Transvaal in South Africa.

THE END OF A CHINAMAN.

When a Chinaman dies his body is dressed in his best clothes and laid on the coffin; pigs roasted whole and other viands are spread out to feed the spirits of the dead, and in many cases mourners are hired to chant the praises of the deceased.

USEFUL THING WITH A HARD NAME.

For 40 years physicists have been seeking some substance to serve as a screen, cutting off all the light and heat-giving rays of the spectrum, while allowing the invisible ultra-violet rays to pass.

ROAST DOG IN HAWAII.

The commission of United States senators in Hawaii accepted an invitation to a native banquet. The principal dish was cooked dog, which the Hawaiians have long considered one of the greatest delicacies.

LOVELY PORTO RICO.

The Island Would Make a Glorious Garden Patch for the United States.

It is said that if you put a toothpick in the ground there a broom will sprout and grow, the soil is so very fertile. Think of living in a country where you can have strawberries all the year round, a country where you can stay out of doors all through the year.

What a glorious garden patch this same little island would make for the United States! Some enterprising truckman could go down there and soon make a fortune if he only had the proper transportation facilities to New York.

NATIVE HOMES OF MOROS.

Inherit from Pirate Ancestors the Custom of Building Over the Water.

The houses of the Moros are more interesting on the inside than the exterior indicates. From their pirate ancestors they have inherited the custom of building out over the water, so that they might slip out the more easily in case they were attacked.

PUPILS IN PORTO RICO.

Under American Civil Government They Have Improved Educational Advantages.

The annual report of the commissioner of education for Porto Rico, Samuel McCune Lindsay, says that the poorest schools there are as good and in some respects better than the poorest of the same grade in many parts of the United States.

The high-water mark during the year in the enrollment was in the ordinary public schools, 59,096, to which should be added 2,767 pupils enrolled in the high, normal and special schools, giving a grand total of 61,863.

Some Days. Some days nothing seems to come our way but trouble.—Washington (D. C.) Democrat.

REVOLUTIONISTS' SUFFERINGS.

Supporters of the Movement for Independence Paid Heavily Before the Real War Began.

The battle of Arzobispo and his men with the wilderness as they struggled along Dead River and the Chaudice furnishes dramatic material for the third installment of Justin H. Smith's "The Prologue of the American Revolution," in Century.

"The 2d of November found the troops one day nearer starvation. Melvin shot a squirrel and a little bird, and possibly some others were equally fortunate; but no one tells us so. All the candles had been used up long ago to enrich the gruel, and now scraps of shaving soap, lip salve and pomatum were devoured.

LAST MARCH OF DOUKHOBORS.

Descriptive Sketch from an Account of the Crusade of That Singular People.

And so the march on Yorkton began. The procession moved slowly because of the number of children and of sick and feeble folk. Ten or 12 miles daily was all it covered, says an account of the crusade of the Doukhobors in Leslie's Monthly.

JEALOUSY AMONG MINERS.

It Has Led to the Adoption of a Fixed Plan in Building Their Homes.

In the new mining towns in the coal fields of eastern Illinois stand many long rows of little houses, all in each town exactly alike, the same size, the same color, facing the same direction.

WHEN THE STAR ENTERS.

In This Country the Leading Actor Thinks He Should Be Received with Applause.

One of the stage conventions altogether American concerns the "entrance" as it is called. This is the applause that greets the star when he first comes on the stage; and no American actor who can have a say in such a matter would think of accepting a play that did not allow him to come first before the public in some striking fashion that would arouse the audience to an outburst of enthusiasm.

GETTING HIS MONEY'S WORTH.

Clerk—Yes, sir; we'll send the coal up to-day.

THE FIRST STEP.

An innocent-looking banana skin is often the first step in a downward career.—Chicago Daily News.

PITE AND POINT.

Beware of the man who offers you advice at the expense of a mutual friend.—Chicago Daily News.

Mrs. Wagon Ayr.—"Your daughter, sir, is a peerless beauty." Mr. Bijlons.—"You're dead wrong. She accepted Lord Gethewayne this afternoon."—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Remains to Be Seen.—"Going on an exploring expedition, are they? Where to?" "It's impossible to say—they are going in a dirigible balloon."—Brooklyn Life.

Brown.—"I say, Jones, you do not know Miss Armour; why did you raise your hat to her?" Jones.—"I didn't. It's my brother's hat; he knows her."—London Tit-Bits.

Lawyer.—"Have you ever seen the prisoner at the bar?" Witness.—"No, sir; but I have seen him many times when I strongly suspected he had been at it."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Judge.—"I see that your son has come back from college and is now going to enter the business world. What seems to be his natural bent?" Fudge.—"Natural bent? I wouldn't call it 'bent.' I'd call it 'broke.'"—Baltimore Herald.

Tess.—"You don't mean to say she wanted to take her dog into church with her?" Jess.—"Yes, but the usher objected." Tess.—"I should think so. The idea of such a thing!" Jess.—"She said she thought they wouldn't object to this particular dog, as it was to a certain extent religious. It's a St. Bernard, you know."—Philadelphia Press.

It Worried Him.—The Kansas farmer was looking anxiously at the sky. "I hope," he said, "that none of them there cyclones come along." "Are you afraid of them?" asked the stranger. "I ain't never been before," answered the farmer, "but I lifted the mortgage off the place yesterday, and it's so darned light now it wouldn't take much of any kind of a wind to blow it away. The mortgage sort o' weighed it down before, you know."—Chicago Post.

FAT INDIANS FOR SALVE.

The Hindus Believe They Should Be Boiled and Applied to the Wounds of Soldiers.

London Truth publishes an extract from a letter from a Hindu gentleman, said to be of good standing and reputable, which furnishes a curious illustration of oriental credulity, and incidentally of the important part which rumor might play among the Indian masses should they become disaffected.

SOMETHING ABOUT HAWKS.

They Are of Great Value to Farmers in Destroying Noxious Insects and Mice.

The hawks belong to a great bird family known as Falconidae, which also includes falcons, eagles, kites, etc., and which has 350 branches, or species, distributed all over the world. Of these, about 35 species are found in North America, writes E. H. Barnes, in Woman's Home Companion.

PRIVILEGES OF FIRE DREAMS.

Nobody associates fires with spinsters in any pleasant way. I have often wondered at it—wondered why it was that to sit before a blaze and dream has been by a common consent pictured as the privilege of very young girls, who, chin in hand, rest there, or as the privilege of bachelors building castles that are one day to shelter the lady whom they love.

SHOPLIFTERS GET THE BIRCH.

West end shopkeepers have pursued for years the policy of giving every woman detected purloining articles the option of being summarily birched by the manager or being prosecuted, and in all twenty English women have accepted the ordeal of the birch. In addition two young girls of foreign nationality, in consideration of their tender years, were treated to a milder form of chastisement.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Twenty thousand illustrated post cards pass through the Brussels post office daily.

It costs the government of British India about \$3.50 per square mile to protect the forests against fire.

Forty pounds has been offered as a prize by a Vienna confectionery company for the best translation of the English word "cake."

The Mohammedan law against alcoholic drinks has recently been made more stringent in Constantinople, on account of its general violation.

One consequence of the Belgium anti-gambling law is that even the game of lotto has been prohibited in the fishermen's public houses at Blankenberghe, near Ostend.

Borosa Kolompar, a notorious Hungarian gypsy woman, who had acted as a receiver of stolen property nearly all her life, has just died at the age of 110.

A rich Chinaman at Wellington, New Zealand, has given \$50,000 to pay for the transportation to China of 6,000 bodies of Chinese who had not left enough money for sending their bodies home.

STRENGTH OF PAPER MONEY.

Government Treasury Experts Explain Why Our Banknotes Are So Tough.

"The way some cashiers pay out small bills in exchange for large must make other men as tired as they wearied me," remarked an observing businessman to another Washingtonian as they watched the cashier of a fashionable uptown cafe pull at and strip the ones and twos in exchange for a ten, as though he were pulling a piece of molasses candy over a hook and hated to let go.

"It does," acquiesced his friend, who happened to be a United States treasury expert. "The way some cashiers jerk, snap, and pull at bills as they pay them out is utterly absurd. The old adage about pinching a silver dollar until the eagle screams pales before the way the up-to-date, flip cashier jerks the long green he handles.

"I will give you a fact that is not generally known, and I doubt if ever published, and that is the weight a new treasury single note, and four notes in a sheet, will sustain without breaking. Director Meredith furnished me with the figures, and they may be accepted as official and accurate.

"A single treasury note measures 1 1/2 inches wide by 7 1/4 inches long and will suspend 41 pounds lengthwise and 91 pounds crosswise. Notes are printed four to a sheet, the latter measuring 8 1/4 inches wide by 13 1/2 long. A sheet will suspend 168 pounds lengthwise and 177 pounds crosswise.

"It will be observed that a single note will sustain crosswise 13 pounds, over double the weight it sustains lengthwise, while in the case of the sheet the crosswise sheet is about 39 pounds of double the sustaining power of the lengthwise sheet."

The cashier had interestedly listened to the treasury expert's explanation of the weight-sustaining and necessarily resisting power of wear and tear of our paper money, and then he said: "You see, it is this way: Bills stick together, see, and we cashiers have to make up any shortage out of our own pockets, and that's one reason why we snap and jerk the bills so hard, so we will not pay out two for one, as might be done. Again, a \$2 bill is frequently mistaken for a \$3, and vice versa, and by counting out our money as if it were drops of our life blood we are less liable to pass out one for the other."

The two gentlemen paid their account and agreed as they passed out that the cashier's excuse was lame, and that it was a good thing for the rest of the public who handle money that the breaking strength of our treasury notes is so high, or there would be nothing left of them after they had passed through a dozen cashiers' hands.

PRIVILEGES OF FIRE DREAMS.

Nobody associates fires with spinsters in any pleasant way. I have often wondered at it—wondered why it was that to sit before a blaze and dream has been by a common consent pictured as the privilege of very young girls, who, chin in hand, rest there, or as the privilege of bachelors building castles that are one day to shelter the lady whom they love.

When a woman is past twenty she is always represented, when before a fire, with a baby on her lap, or as an old grandmother thinking of the babies that have been but who now hold children of their own before other and brighter fires far away. Or she is some very old grandmother of the fairy-tale crooning over her embers. When an old maid is pictured by a hearth, she is made a witch dreaming, not of love or of children, but of mischief! Love and children, it would seem, are not seemingly subjects for old maids to dream of over fires. Yet I ask myself: "Why not?" since of all things else in the world they are the most beautiful.—Century.

JOBS AND SOFT SNAPS.

If the average man would quit looking for soft snaps and stick to his regular job he would be better off financially.—Chicago Daily News.