MEKRAN, LAND OF MYSTERY

Bs Desiccated by Nature and Shunned

By Man—Few Tribes

Linger There.

Mekran, mysterious Mekran, is thei Band stretching almost from the Industo the entrance to the Persian gulf. The greater part of Mekran is desolate] and forsaken, a land desiccated by nature and shunned by man. The few tribes which linger there are the jetsam of history, stray wreckage which has drifted into this obscure corner of the world in the backwash of great events. It is even believed that the Dravidians passed through Mekran on gheir way to southern India and left stragglers, whose descendants have liwelt there ever since. There are batches of Mongols from the days of Genghiz Khan; colonies of half-breed Arabs from the time when an Arab dynasty held Sind; unmistakable Rajputs, who were there before Alexander: African negroes, the offshoots of medieval slavery, and traces of still older peoples, whose origins are lost In the mists of time. Yet Mekran cannot always have been either so dry or so deserted. Then there are vast masonry dams, obviously built to catchthe water in the hills just as engineers mre making dams in the Indian ghauts koday. Sometimes the hills are terstaced for cultivation, after the fashion of hills in southern Japan and elsewhere; only in Mekran the terraces are dry and bare and not even a blade of grass remains. The crumbling ruins of whole cities, the very names of which are forgotten, lie concealed bestween the serrated ridges.

VETERINARY SCHOOL IS OLD

To Celebrate 150th Anniversary in Lyons, France, in May 1912.

The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the erection in Lyons, France, of a veterinary school will be celebrated in that city about the middle of May, 1912. Preparations are mow forming to commemorate the event in a fitting manner, and invitations are being issued to all veterinary schools in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of having idelegates in as large a number as goossible.

It is authentically recorded in the sannais of veterniary science that the world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyons in 1761, since which stime similar institutions have been inaugurated in many countries, the last being reported from Abyssin's.

In connection with this anniversary
It is planned to establish a local museum, the exhibits of which in archives, illustrations, instruments and appliances will give a complete view of the evolution of instruction in veterinary medicine and surgery. Particular attention will be paid to the development of the ploneer school in Lyons.

Power From Tides and Winds. At the recent meeting of the British association the question of economical production of power from tides and winds was again under discussion, and it has been taken up widely by scientific journals in Europe. La Revue Scientifique calls attention to a system of utilizing the power of see waves to actuate a dynamo which has been employed during the last six months at the mouth of the River :Gironde. An air chamber is connectyed with a well, which communicates with the sea at a depth below the flevel of the lowest tides. By the advance and recession of the waves changes of pressure are produced in the air chamber, and a system of valves enables the resulting air currents to be applied to rotating a kind Eurbine. It is said that the apparatus works equally well in calm and in stormy weather.

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Masked Explorers. The natural conclusion upon meethog a masked man in an unfrequented socation is that we are in for an encounter with a highwayman, but this as not necessarily the case, for the person might be a scientist cogneed in exploration work. Mountain climbers and there are many of these at present, some making their excursions into the clouds for pure pleasure, have found that some such protection is resquired to ward off the pain and inconvenience of snov scald. Along the Pawific slope there are several organisations of amateur mountain climbers, and the advantages of some protection. for the skin of the face was first appreciated by them.

The Sitting Room.

An ideal sitting room may have a wall paper entirely cream, with clusters of blue and white china arranged on the chimney shelf and in one or two other parts of the room. If the ceiling be low it may have a frieze shelf in white or dark oak, whichever color is selected for the room, with the collection of blue and white china displayed thereon. A blue and white Chinese carpet should cover the floor, while the windows are veiled with abort frilled madras muslin cur-

A Hint of Economy.
"I wish you would quit talking about the well Gledys Ann paints and plays (the piano," said Mrs. Cumrox.
"Why, I was kind of proud of her

incomplishments," replied her hushand.
"I know that. But the first thing tyou know people will think we are depending on homemade art." THERE WAS ONE TOO MANY

Farmer Suspicious of Literary Man's Methods of Rearing Children.

The following is told at the expense of a New York literary man, into whose family a fifth child came last

The family were at their country, house in the north of the state, and for a time much of the care of the other four children devolved upon the father, who entertains some Spartam notions touching the rearing of his sons.

One morning he carried his threeyear-old to the creek near his home, to give him a cold plunge. The lad objected vigorously to this proceeding, but was firmly held and ducked, deapite his protests.

Just as the father was "sending in" the youngster for the second time, a powerful hand stayed him, and he found himself in the grasp of a big farmer, a neighbor of his, who began to roar at him in this wise:

"None o' that! None o' that, or I'T

hand you over to the law!"

It consumed the better part of half an hour to convince the farmer that no attempt was being made to drown the child. Even at the end, the brawny tilier of the soil was not entirely convinced, for he kept shaking his head doubtfully and murmuring:

"I dunno about that, I dunno. You not four besides this."—Lippincott's,

FEW YOUNG FRENCH STARS

If Leading Actresses Are Not All Grandmothers, They Might Essily Be.

The impressrio, Schurmann of Paris, who has toured most of the "stars," has written a most entertaining book of memoirs under the title of "Secrets de Coulinees"

de Coulisses."

He says it is becoming increasingly difficult or organize tours abroad because of the scarcity of young talent. If all the leading actresses are not grandmothers, he rather ungaliantly

remarks, they might easily be.

The reason Paris does not revold against this perpetual eclipse of the young and ardent debutante, he goes on to say, is because the public of the "repetitions generales" is itself old and never changes. It would be conscious of its bald head and gray whiskers if it saw a new artist in the front rank.

The lady of a thousand charms may weigh a hundred kilos or so and may have lost all outward grace, but, happily for her—though unhappily for art—the habitue looks upon her with the syes of one-and-twenty. Yet the gent eral public, according to the impresario, has not the same reason for wishing to be deceived, and so—it stays away.

He proposes to attract the public to the legitimate drama by substituting younger actresses for the passe stars of the present day.

Using Time. It is always easier to wish that we had more time than to use the time that we have. So, by wasting time is wishing, we still further reduce the precious asset of the actual and only time that is really ours. The person who is not capitalizing all the time he has at the rate of sixty seconds to the minute would not be much bet ter off with forty-eight hours in his day. Those who turn out what is, to the rest of us, a discouragingly large amount of work, have simply learned the art of using all their time-pas ticularly the nooks and corners, the odds and ends, of their time. They utilize a five or ten-minute scrap of time as eagerly as they do a half-day. And so things get done, and their year's output seems stupendous. With the average man, unless he can see several hours clear for a piece of work, he will attempt little out of the ordinary; and that is why he remains an average man.—Sunday, School

The Scottish Thistie. The origin of the thistle as the na tional badge of Scotland is thus gives by tradition: When the Danes invaded Scotland it was deemed unwarlike to attack the enemy by night, instead of in pitched battle by day; but on one occasion the invaders tried a night attack. In order to prevent their tramp being heard they marched bare footed, and they had succeeded in creeping close up to the Scottish forces unobserved, when one of them stepped on a thistle and uttered a cry of pain. The alarm was given, and the attack was beaten off. Out of gratitude the thistle was adopted at the insignia of Scotland.

Composition of Austrian Parliament. According to information supplied by the deputies themselves, the new Austrian parliament is composed of 120 landed proprietors, 50 advocates, and the same number of authors and journalists, 41 public officials, 40 professors, 36 persons in private employment, 22 business men, 21 judges, 16 manufacturers, 11 burgomasters, 16 teachers, 9 doctors, 9 diet members and 9 former cabinet ministers and privy councillors, 8 engineers, 7 merchants, 5 political officials, 3 private persons, 2 clergymen and an active cabinet minister, an artist, a town councillor, an officer and a working-

Rural Joya.
"How did you spend your two-week yacation?"

"Recovering from sunburn the first week and notion by the second"

HE COPYRIGHTED A FACADE

French Architect Sued the Imitators and the Case Was Decided Against His Heirs,

The strangest copyright question ever debated came before a Paris court, when it was asked to decide the controverted copyright of a house. An architect at Boulogne-sur-Seine had built several apartment houses on a piece of ground belonging to him and had devised an original facade of colored bricks. He, at least, considered it original, as when the houses were finished he had a plate, with an inscription, placed on the walls, to the effect that the facade of the house was his copyright and imitations were prohibited. Seeing a building in Paris some time afterwards which had just been completed, the architect thought that the facade, which was also of colored bricks, was nothing but an imitation of his own. He began a lawsuit against the owner and the architect for infringement of the copyright laws, but soon afterward he died. His heirs, however, continued the lawsuit, which has now been decided by the court. Three experts were called. They agreed that the facade of the house at Boulogne-sur-Seine was pecultar, and might even be allowed the protection of the copyright laws; but, on the other hand, the house built in Paris was equally original and there was no proof that it had been copied from the others. The architect, or rather his heirs, therefore, lost their

LEARNED TO EAT LEATHER

How Morgan's Pirates Managed to - Swallow and Olgest It to Avoid Starvation.

The infamous Captain Morgan and his piratical crew were sometimes in tight places at Panama, and on one occasion were reduced to eating their leather bags. "Some persons," says one of the company, Exquemelia (whose narrative is reproduced in "The Buccaneers in the West Indies"), "who never were out of their mothers" kitchens may ask how these pirates could eat, swallow and digest these pieces of leather, so hard and dry. Unto whom I only answer: That could they once experiment with hunger, or, rather, famine is, they would certainly find the manner, by their own necessity, as the pirates did. For these first took the leather and sliced it in pieces. Then did they beat it between two stones and rub it, often dipping it in the water of the river, to render it by these means supple and tenders Lastly, they scraped off the hair, and roasted or brolled it upon the fire. And being thus cooked they cut it into small morsels and ate it, belging it down with frequent gulps of water, which by good fortune they had right

Gratefully Received.

A charitable man in Birkenhead once sent a bundle of cast-off clothing to a philanthropic society. He received from one of the recipients of garments given away by the society the following note:

"The community man giv me. amongst other things, what he called a pair of inexpressibles. I found your name and where you lived in one of the pockets. My wife infied so when I showed 'em to her that I thot she would have a fit. She wants to know If there lives and breathes a man who has legs no bigger than that. She sed if there was, he orter be taken. up for vagransy for having no visible means of support. I couldn't get 'em on my eldest boy, so I used 'em for my gun-cases. If you have another pair to spere, my wife would like to get 'em to bang up by the side of the fireplace to keep the tongs in."-London Telegraph.

Retort Courtsous.

At a dinner party the other day a prig inquired of his neighbor, a plain woman who talked a lot, "Tell me why isn't a woman like a looking-glass?"

She gave it up, of course, and then he told her with a smirk—"Because a looking-glass reflects without speaking, but a woman speaks without reflections."

She flushed slightly, but the next moment she had him. "That is quite clever," she said, with a charming smile. "Now perhaps you can tell me, Mr.—, the difference between your sex and a looking-glass."

He confessed his inability.
"Well, you see,," she answered, and
everyone was listening now, "well, you,
see, a mirror is polished. I don't think
some men's manners always are, do
you?"

Easily Learned.

"Did you learn any French while you were in Paris?" asked Bildad, meeting Slithers shortly after his return from Furence.

turn from Europe.
"Oh, a little," said Silthers. "Not so very much, though. I got so I could say cigarette in French."

"Good!" said Blidad. "What is cigarette in French?"
"'Cigarette,'" said Slithers.—Harper's Weekly.

The Orden.
"I have called, sir, to see the photo: of the lady with \$25,000 who wants a heathand."

"Can you keep your face straight?"

"Very well. We'll break you in first with the \$5,000 applicants, and then gradually, as you grow stronger, we will work you up to the big prize. This way, please, and don't get frightened."

HONESTY IS THE NEW WAY

Tricks That Used to Obtain in Repubable Business Firms Now Obsolete.

"The new idea in business is honesty, openness, frankness," said Alton B. Parker at a dinner at Esopus. "We used to conceal our plumbing, and very poor, unsanitary work it was. We expose it now, and it is altogether sound and wholesome and satisfactory. Well, business is like that.

"When I think of some of the tricks that used to obtain in reputable business firms I am reminded of the seasific scuttoners."

side acutioneer.
"This scoundrel once held up a \$10

gold piece and said:

"'Guess the date on this piece of money, friends. Make a guess and a small purchase, and the correct guesser takes the coin.'

"So everybody in the crowd quessed, everybody bought some worthless rubbish, and the dealer netted a huge profit. Then, at the end, he looked at the \$10 gold piece, held it up and said:

"'Now for it! Who guessed 1894?"
"'Me! Me! Me.' cried every man jack in the shop.

"The dealer smiled.
"Then you all guessed wrong,' he said, slipping the coin into his pocket.
The date is 1882."

BUILDING 100 STORIES HIGH

Nothing Improbable in Report of Plans for New Structure for City of New York.

There is nothing intrinsically improbable in the report that a hundred story building has been planned for New York. A 50-story building is already in process of construction there. and presumably there are no serious engineering problems involved in the higher structure that have not been encountered in the lower. The one essential would appear to be that a plot of ground sufficient in area to provide an ample base should be obtained; the relation between base and height in skyscrapers has been at least theoretically determined. Whether a hundred story building is commercially practicable is another question. Would a suite of offices on the ninety-ninth floor, say, rent easily? This is something that perhaps even the real estate experts in Manhattan could not decide offhand. But if the hundred story structure should be built, rising 1,200 feet above the pavement, New York would take a certain pride in having by far the loftiest building in the world, a contrivance of steel and cement greatly overtopping the famous Eiffel tower.—Providence Journal.

French Ambassador's Conscience. exchequer receives anonymous sums from those who at some time have accidentally or by design defrauded the treasury, says the London Globe, Recently the French minister of finance received 2 fr. 10c. This modest return evidently set some one thinking. for a few days later came the restitution of 1,313 pounds. The restitution of about eighteen pence is easier to make than 1,300 pounds; possibly the temptation to withhold the smaller sum might have been in inverse ratio. The Paris contemporary from which we take the foregoing mentions a curious case of fraud in which the ambaseador of a great power was involved. How long it went on is not stated, but in his will be left 60,000 france (2,400 pounds) to reimburse the state for what he had withheld during his lifetime.

Action of Frost on Plants. A Swedish botanist has propounded a new thory to explain the killing action. of frost on plants, as well as the fact that certain plants escape damage when others are destroyed. He observed that such plants as cerastium, and viols, which survive the severe winters of Sweden, have the starch in their leaves replaced during the cold season by sugar. He then found that in plants which do not possess this peculiarity ice is formed in the interstices between the cells, and the water is withdrawn from the cell sap. When the water is extracted the proteins in the cell pass out of solution: with disastrous effects. But if sugar is present the proteins remain in solution until a much lower temperature is reached.

Evolution of a Fair Maid.

At Twelve—I shan't do everything you command; you're only my maid!

At Fifteen—I will show you I have a little independence of my own! Besides, you're only my stepfather!

At Sixteen—A girl of my age should not take such talk from any one, not even from you, mother!
At Eighteen—Harold, you have no

control over my actions; you are only my flance!

At Twenty—You are only—Oh, I

wish I was back with father and mother!—Smart Set.

The Resorts of Millienaires.

They were on the subway. The middle-aged man was sober, but his young companion had confided to him in particular, and the whole car'in general, that the champagne had tasted unusually fine that evening.

"I see by this paper," commented the seber one, "that a lot of millionaires are going to be presented at

"Yesh," agreed the youth; "shum of 'em go to court, an' shum go to jail." —Twice-s-Month Popular.

PEACOCKS MUST GO

People Living Near Margate
Park Unable to Sleep.

Vigorous Protest Made Against Hideous Night Noises of Valinglorious Birds, Which Foil Efforts to Catch Them.

London.—Do you know how to catch peacocks? If you do Margate's park officials will be glad to hear from you. For they, the head gardener, the chief park keeper and the various as-

chief park keeper and the various assistants of Dane park, have been ordered by the town council to catch peacocks.

The situation is a trying one. For

years Dane park has had its peacocks. They have strutted about proudly and spread their tails with glorious vanity, and Margate has been almost as proud of them as they have been of themselves.

But recently a number of people living near the park have taken a dislike to peacocks. The peacocks, they say, have made night hideous and early morning impossible by their cries. The neighboring residents could neither go to sleep nor keep asleep.

So they wrote to the papers and sent a petition to the town council complaining about the peacocks. The matter came before the parks committee and then before the whole council, and the result is that the peacocks have got to go.

That, at any rate, is the decree of the council. But the birds have their views. They strongly object to their proposed ejectment.

Two of them, it is true, did unwarily allow three of the park officials to surprise them and capture them in a lawn tennis net very early the other-morning, but the remaining four peacocks and three peahens have so far successfully evaded all attempts made to take them. Every day three determined men set out to overcome these four wily birds and every evening sees the birds as far off capitulation as ever.

Up to date the honors of the chase are with the chased. Mr. Corpus, the head gardener of the park, discussed, the possibilities of the situation.

"We have orders to catch the birds,"

but that is about as far as we have, got," he said.
"Ever since we caught two of the cocks the others have been shy of us. They will allow any of the public to go near them, and will even feed out.

of strangers' hands, but directly they see any of us officials coming they are off like a shot.

"Three of us go out after them every morning and every evening, but they have as much intuition as a dog, and our only hope is to come upon

what our business with them is."

The reasons why the birds should be caught are, according to Mr. Cor-

They make a noise like cats on the tiles and disturb people.

They walk through the flower beds in the park and destroy the flowers. They have been promised a bird fancter, who wants them as soon as possible.

"But it is my belief we shall not catch them for another fortnight," he added pessimistically.

"They know us all by sight now and

"They know us all by sight now and we don't seem to stand much chance with them until they have forgotten

"Personally I should like to catch them, because they spoil my flowers. Strangely enough, they have ceased to be noisy since we caught and penned up two of the cocks. Generally they are only continually rowdy in the breading season, which is from the middle of June until the middle of July.

"The only method of catching peacocks that I know of is by the hand, and that, considering that we have 28 acres in this park, is almost impossible, as we are finding out."

IS TOO TICKLISH FOR ARMY,

Ohio Farmer Almost Went Into Hysterics When Being Measured—Sent

Columbus, O.—He was "too ticktish" and therefore could not join the army, Such was the plight of Christian Johnson, a young farmer of twenty-two years, who came to Columbus and went to the recruiting station to be enlisted as a soldier. He looked good to the officers and all went well till it came time to measure him. Every time the officer's hand touched the young man he almost went into hypterics, laughing, squirming and giggling ad infinitum.

"What's the matter?" he was asked.
"I'm so ticklish!" was the answer, and it proved so true that it was impossible to complete the measurements and he was sent back to the ancestral farm, three miles north of Columbus, with instructions to calm his nerves ere he tries to break into military service.

Troll for Fish, Hook Qiri.
Winsted, Conn.—While trolling for base in Lake Mahksenso in the Berkshires, the other day, Frank Parsons got a "strike" and when he began to take in his line a society giri, who was in bathing 150 yards away gried out: "I've been hooked."

She had taken a dive off the fleat

after Mr. Parsons' boat had passed by and the trolling hook caught her bathing suit and held fast. The girl swam to the Parsons boat where she was unbooked.

, DIDN'T AGREE WITH HER

Woman Gets Worse as Soon as Husband's Beef Tea Concoction Is Administered.

One day a doctor was summoned to a farmhouse, where he found a woman in a high fever and evidently exceedingly ill. He said to her husband, who was the only other person in the house: "Your wife is very ill and must have nothing to eat except milk and beef-tea, but I want you to give her a cup of one of the other every

two hours."

When he came the next morning and asked about his patient, her husband said: "That beef-tea don't agree with her, doctor. It certainly don't, She began to feel bad as soon as she took it,"

"Than's odd," said the doctor. "You didn't give her any little bits of the meat in it, did you?"
"No, sir. I strained it first on so-

count of the grounds."

"Grounds!" roared the doctor:

"What did you make that beef-tea.

out of?"

"Corn beef and the best tea. I boiled 'em together all yesterday afternoon to get the strength out. But it don't agree with her, doctor. It certainly don't.

CHINESE SAILOR IS BEST

is Adaptable From Fireroom to Gafley, is industrious and Sticks to Ship.

There is a growing disposition of the part of ship owners and officers in various parts of the world to send to China for complete crews. For most ships, particularly when first employing such crews, it is necessary to carry about a third more Chinese for the same service.

On the other hand there are many officers and owners who claim that with such additional allowance of help a vessel is run more easily and efficiently, and that, all things considered, the Chinese sailor is the best all around man aboard ship to be found anywhere.

He is adaptable from fireroom to galley, is industrious, has little or no desire to leave the ship in port and therefore gives little or no trouble from drunkenness and desertion. As soon as they become accustomed to foreign ways Chinese crews are as efficient as and often more efficient than foreign crews man for man, and some companies pay their Chinese crew practically as much man for man as they do white crews and carry the same complement they would of white employees.

Gave Him the Worst of It Simeon Ford is greatly in demand at dinners in New York for his ability as an entertainer. He is in m class with Augustus Thomas and Pat Murphy for readiness of speech, and in a class by himself for an individuality in humor. Mr. Ford conducts a hotel that is not known much the country over-the Grand Central-but because of its location opposite the New York Central station on Fortysecond street it attracts many a modest and unschooled traveler. For a time it became unduly prominent locally because of a string of suicides, and this inspired Mr. Ford into giving a statement of his circumstances. "I am not in the fortunate class of botel keepers" he said "Vistors from abroad go to the Plaza, the St. Regis or the Knickerbocker and pay \$8 a day for a room. They come to my house and spend \$2 a day for a room and turn on \$6 worth of gas to kill

Dead Buildings into Tombstones.
"I was much surprised," said a New
Yorker recently, "to learn that the
granite fronts of old buildings that are
being torn down are used for tombstones. I was watching some workers
at work on an old business building,
and, being curious, asked the foreman
what was to become of the row of big
columns that was holding up the front
of the building."

themselves."

"Well,' said he, 'I can't tell you exactly, but it would not surprise me a bit to see them broken shafts decorating some big man's grave next year." A good deal of the granite that comes out of old buildings,' he continued, 'goes to the tombstone carver.'"

New Section of the Brain.

Henry Miller, the actor-manager, is always in earnest when he is reheared ing a play, and he frequently makes remarks that sink deep into sensitive souls of the people in the cast with

Not long ago he was greatly imcensed by the inability of an actor to read a line according to instructions, and this is what he said to the delinquent:

quent:
"My dear sir, you ought to go down
on your knees and ecrub out the cellar of your intellect."—Twice-a-Month
Pepular.

Dying by Organs. It has been discovered that if a human being dies after an ordinary illness and not a violent death he does not die all over and all at once. He may have a diseased liver, heart od lung, and this may be the cause of death; but it has been found that if the diseased organ could have been replaced by a healthy one life might have been maintained indefinitely. This is no imagination or speculation, It has been confirmed by the most careful experiments by the ablest medical scientists in the country. Leslie's Weekly.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

"Atter pyblomedels + PS_Be