

WHERE THEY KEEP COOL.

THE LIFE OF ASIATIC PRINCES DURING THE HEATED TERM.

Persian Sinking Rooms—Palatial Quarters Built of Glass Which Lie on the Bottom of Lakes—Two Villages, One for Winter, the Other for Summer.

The question of how to keep cool during these hot months has been solved, not in this country, but in far away climes where heat and humidity are constantly battling with each other to see which can inflict the most punishment on a suffering people.

When the fiery rays of a burning sun penetrate the burning atmosphere and make us swelter, the natives of the tropics are enjoying life ensconced in shady retreats cooled by gentle zephyrs and soft lake breezes, far from the heat and worries of midsummer life.

For centuries the denizens of these hot regions have been devising means to evade the intense heat, and have struck upon many ways to make life not only bearable but really a pleasure, on even the hottest days. In some countries in the torrid zone, such as Persia, China and India, great mechanical devices have been invented that afford comfort and infinite enjoyment to their rich and lucky owners. Not merely are they cooling inventions, but they are specimens of great mechanical skill as well, embodying many of the marvellous results achieved by modern science. Particularly is this the case with the "sinking rooms" of Persia, two of which are owned by Oriental millionaires, and float lazily upon the transparent surface of Lake Niriz, a beautiful sheet of water near the city of Klur, in the southwestern part of the Empire. They are sunk by means of heavy weights and are connected by

HUGE AIR PINES

to the shore above. When the weather becomes unbearable on hot days these Persian princes repair to the submarine rooms, and slowly and silently sink to the cool watery retreats at the bottom of the lake.

Equally ingenious is the scheme of the Prince of Agra, in India, which, instead of making a sinking room, is a floating palace of the most stupendous and magnificent proportions. Although of only two stories, its height is immense, the rooms being grand vaulted chambers, furnished in the most gorgeous Oriental manner. All the chairs have golden arms, and precious stones are set in the backs. The wall decorations are beautiful beyond description, while the ceilings are tinted to represent the sky, silver stars appearing here and there on the dark blue background. The palace is made of both wood and stone, but so constructed that it floats with ease. When not in use it is moored to the banks of the River Jumna.

Here the Prince and his royal retinue betake themselves on sultry afternoons, and lazily the palace glides down the river to the soft sweet music of soothing harps. Up and down the tide it majestically floats like a huge white swan, while within the royal guests sip cooling beverages and idly dream away the sultry hours. Certainly existence in such a fairyland of exquisiteness and peace is ideal, far from the reach of cares and with the soft undulating tide rocking it as the cradle of Neptune was rocked on the bosom of sun kissed seas ages before the troubles of man began. While the sun revels in its fiery glory over the parched lands cooling breezes gently penetrate the open sides of

THIS FAIRY CASTLE

and in playful little gusts rustle the delicate silk curtains that screen the openings.

In China a large part of the time is spent out of doors, and the Celestials have planned many houses with special "cooling galleries." Many of the great rich men of the yellow kingdom have their own private parks, in the centre of which are beautiful artificial lakes. Overhanging these are mammoth, gaudily decorated balconies, on the floors of which exquisite silken rugs and tapestries are spread. Lounging settees are scattered around, and here and there is a dainty little table, upon which rests a small pot containing the choicest of tea.

To this charming retreat the Celestial millionaire retires and passes the heated portion of the day, sipping his tea and enjoying the exquisite view that stretches out before his eyes. Richly colored fish disport themselves in the silvery waters beneath, while from the hillside are wafted cooling breezes that gently sweep over these dreamland bowers. Little yachts glide gracefully by, and now and again the notes of a paradise bird float softly upon the air. Numerous servants answer his every call, and in quiet reverie the hours pass by until the evening shadows settle upon the beautiful scene.

In Borneo, where it is intensely hot, the natives have two separate villages, one for winter on the mainland, and the other for summer, built out in the water. Every house stands on high poles and can be reached only by boat. But it is cool here, and whole villages regularly move from land to the water settlements every season.

If we could only follow some of these novel ideas midsummer life would not be so bad after all.

BIBLICAL ADVICE.

A man had been up for an examination in scripture, had failed utterly, and the relations between him and the examiner had become somewhat strained. The latter asked him if there were any text in the whole Bible he could quote. He pondered, and then repeated: "And Judas went out and hanged himself." Is there any other verse you know in the Bible the examiner asked. Yes: "Go, thou, and do likewise." There was a solemn pause, and the proceedings terminated.

MEASURING THE EARTH.

A Gigantic Scheme Inaugurated to Accomplish the Object.

Preparations are under way in London for the most gigantic undertaking in the way of a survey ever attempted. It is proposed to measure the earth. Now, it only needs a glance at one of the humble imitations of this terrestrial sphere to see that it is no light task. It involves the expenditure of millions. It means continuous scientific research for a period the length of which no one can tell.

Scientific men are considering the plan with the deepest interest. It is a strange fact that the more the problem of the formation of the earth is studied by savans the more is the belief that the earth is not round credited. This may seem like a ridiculous statement, but such authorities as Professor A. Fowler, one of the leading members of the Royal Astronomical Society, is firmly of this belief, and he represents a host of others of equal prominence.

The longest arc at present known is 89 degrees and 32 minutes. The southern termination of this arc, which means one of those lines you see drawn in a semi-circle on a map, is Staro-Nekrasowka, in latitude 45 degrees 20 minutes 28 seconds. This termination is marked by a pyramid of cast iron, which rests on a cube seven feet wide, bearing an inscription showing what the monument really is. The northernmost limit of this arc is at Hammerfest, in Norway. Another monument is there. The column and pedestal are of granite, and at the top, on a bronze base, is a terrestrial globe of copper, bearing the following inscription:

"The northern termination of the arc of meridian of 25 degrees 20 minutes from the Arctic Ocean to the River Danube, through Norway, Sweden and Russia, which, according to the orders of His Majesty King Oscar I. and the Emperors Alexander I. and Nicholas I. and by uninterrupted labors from 1816 to 1852, was measured by the geometers of the three nations."

When the present arc was completed it was celebrated as the conclusion of the greatest undertaking of the sort ever carried to completion. Therefore how much greater is the present plan, for it contemplates the measurement of an arc of 105 degrees.

The probabilities are that the carrying out of the latest plan will not take nearly a century and a half. The knowledge which is already ours with accelerate action.

THE RICHEST FAMILY.

The Russian Imperial Family Can Claim That Distinction.

A London correspondent in St. Petersburg publishes some curious information as to the property of the Russian Imperial family. It is one of the richest in the world. Apart altogether from the civil list, which usually amounts to £1,500,000 a year, but which may of course be increased by imperial order, the house of Romanoff owns 21,000,000 acres in different parts of Russia, which, under a system laid down in the reign of the Emperor Paul, are managed by a special bureau called that of the Imperial Appanages, which is controlled by a Minister, who reports to the Emperor alone, and takes no orders from the Minister of Finance. The Ministry of Appanages now enjoys a revenue of more than £2,000,000, out of which forty-six grand dukes and duchesses are supported, at an average cost in all of £500,000, or say £11,000 a year per prince or princess. The remaining income is suffered to accumulate in order to meet the constantly increasing number of members of the imperial family, who are by no means always satisfied with their donations. The sums, though large, are not derived from taxation, and are probably less than those enjoyed by the Hapsburgs, who are as a corporation immense land owners, not to mention the great fortunes of two or three branches of the family, or than those of the house of Othman. The revenue of the Hohenzollerns exceeds a million, and that of the house of Savoy is more than £300,000 a year, the British house being, among the greater sovereign houses, by far the poorest.

FROM THE RAM'S HORN.

The God who remembers the sparrow can never forget His child.

A stereotyped prayer never takes the chill out of a cold prayer meeting.

Unfriendly kindred are the greatest strangers and often the worst foes.

Christian benevolence sees the bare feet of a little child across the ocean.

If God answered all prayers, the sky would always be raining fire somewhere.

What an immense amount of laziness there is going on by the name of poor health.

The weary and heavy laden have a standing invitation to go to Christ and find rest.

Pointing to the hypocrites in the church will not make your own singing any safer.

The man who does the shouting is often willing to let somebody else do all the work.

The man who has to look dismal when he feels happy ought to pray a good deal before he starts for church.

There is too much shouting being done in church by people who don't weigh an ounce for the Lord anywhere else.

The world has but little to hope from the man to whom the golden age of the past is more inspiring than the golden opportunity of the now.

HE HAD.

I have designs on you, remarked the tattoo artist, as he finished his work and looked at his subject proudly.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

SUMMER CARE OF THE FLOCK.

Many sheep breeders believe that about all the care sheep need is to be given them in the winter time when shelter as well as feed has to be provided, writes Geo. W. Franklin. The right kinds of hay will be carefully selected, and also the quality of the grain to be fed to them, but so soon as they are one on grass their owner at once forgets that he has sheep, and he gives himself no anxiety about their welfare. Sheep need some care in summer as well as in winter time. All kinds of insects are up and doing at this season of the year. It is quite true that ticks and lice and many of the internal parasites are quite active in the winter time, but the summer season is rife with many kinds of insect enemies not found in winter. Among the great pests in summer is the little oestrus ovis fly which attacks the sheep in the months of July and August. They lay eggs in the nostrils of the sheep and when they hatch out and crawl up the nasal cavity to the upper recesses of the region of the head they give great trouble. These will cause death if they are found in too large numbers in the early spring of the following year. Another fly is always watching to make trouble for the sheep owner, and that is the maggot fly. It lays eggs in the filthy parts of the sheep in the region of the tails or in hurts and wounds and maggots soon hatch which will cause the death of the sheep or lamb if not destroyed. In the latter part of the summer has appeared for the past two seasons a heretofore new trouble, in the West, and that is the twisted stomach worm.

The prevention of the oestrus ovis fly is to provide shade or a dark barn where the sheep can go during the heated portion of the day; the hotter it is the better the fly seems to like it. The maggot fly can be prevented from doing its work by keeping the flock clean. Should they succeed in laying a lot of eggs the maggots can be killed by an application of kerosene or turpentine. The stomach worm is not nearly so easily dislodged from its stronghold in the fourth stomach of the sheep. Worm powders mixed in the salt is the only preventive. This consists of wormseed, some shepherds recommend lime, but I have had no experience with it. I sometimes plant a field near the house or pasture to corn, being careful to see that plenty of pumpkins are growing in it, and then the lambs are turned in the field early. A few pumpkins are cut open to entice them to eating them, and soon the lambs will eat them without being cut. It is the pumpkin seeds that do the work. These are a great vermifuge. Other summer care of the flock consists in the provision of good pasture and plenty of it. They also should have free access to water and salt at all times. If the pasture is sufficient they will do well, otherwise it is well to provide some grain or good clover hay to help out. Sheep require much food, and if they do not get it they will try a good fence, and also try the patience of their owner. I have tried the plan of having two pastures and changing the flock about every two weeks, and I like it first rate. If a rain comes and freshens up the pasture the sheep are sometimes changed after a good rain. If plenty of pasture is at hand it would be better to reserve what is considered too much for them to keep down close for a winter pasture. Bluegrass, if pastured until about the first of June, and the sheep removed and not permitted to run in it any more until after frost or freezing weather, will afford excellent winter food. I have had sheep live all winter in a pasture of this kind except on days when blizzards were raging. Shade, water and salt is the trinity of good things in summer management. The flock should be brought into yards during nights to keep dogs and wolves from chasing them, or they may be permitted to sleep on high ground near the dwelling. They should not be permitted to go to the far-away pasture too early in the morning. It is the early morning hours when wolves are looking for breakfast. I have also noted that a close watch will have to be kept for any sheep that may get cast. Occasionally a sheep will lie down in a low place or with its back down hill and lie so until it dies.

CHEESE CURING.

The normal variations in temperature and moisture exert a much more harmful effort on cheese than butter, chiefly because the time necessary to put the product into a marketable condition is much longer with cheese. Butter is ready for the market in a few days from the time it is made. In order that cheese may be properly cured, the green product must be stored under such conditions as will permit not only the control of temperature and moisture, but the prevention of rapid fluctuations for an extended period. This demands the construction of proper rooms for curing a point of great importance, and one which has not received adequate attention.

In fact, the inferior quality of much of the cheese that is made is traceable directly to improper curing methods. Cheap factories where the temperature of the so called curing room often approximates blood heat are the curse of the cheese business as they either force the marketing of the product before it is ripened or cause a great deterioration in quality. Such products are necessarily sold on the home markets and have materially prejudiced consumers against cheese products in general. A properly ripened cheese will not only command a price sufficient to compensate the maker for time and trouble involved, but will also tend to develop a taste for such products that will materially increase the consumption of this article. A control of this temperature relation is more economically ac-

complished in cooler climates and is one of the reasons why northern localities are better adapted by nature to the cheese industry. Thus, for example, the limestone caverns of Rochefort in France have been used for centuries as curing rooms for this famous brand of cheese, the good qualities of which are largely dependent upon equable conditions of temperature and moisture. The hygienic conditions of a region suffers from cracking. Such cheese dries out but do not cure. In a more humid region less difficulty of this sort is experienced.

KILL THE GERMS.

From time immemorial farmers have lost money from the fact that their milk would not keep sweet. Pasteurization or the heating process is used in other countries, even where milk is simply sold for drinking purposes. In Germany a large portion of the milk sold for retail consumption is pasteurized before being delivered, and there are several establishments, that are manufacturing machinery especially adapted for that purpose.

"Our people here," says a lecturer on this subject, "have not seen the necessity of pasteurizing, as milk is so cheap and easily obtained, but in the economies that have been practiced for the three last years and that will continue to be practiced, it will be sweet for a longer period than the ordinary, will become necessary, so that along that line we expect to see pasteurization become universal."

BLOWN UP.

A Painter's Experience With a Chimney on Fire.

A Scotch journal says that a certain well-known painter went to a seaside village to paint a picture, and put up at a small public house.

One day, while in his room, he heard a commotion, and on running downstairs found that the chimney was on fire. Two or three men were trying to put out the flames by sweeping the soot down with brooms, but the blaze was too high to be reached in this manner.

Seeing their want of success, the painter caught up a thick mat, ran with it to the roof, and climbing up the stack of chimneys, placed it on the top of the one that was on fire. His idea was, of course, to obstruct the draft.

It happened that a stiff breeze was blowing, and as the mat was in danger of being blown off, the artist sat on it to hold it down. He was just comfortably seated when he found himself lifted bodily and landed upon the tiles of the roof.

What had happened? That was more than he could imagine till he went down-stairs. No one knew he had gone aloft, and when the landlord saw that sweeping down the soot was ineffectual he tried the old-fashioned remedy of lighting a charge of gunpowder. This it was that removed not only the soot, but the mat and the painter. Fortunately, the painter was not badly hurt.

WEIRD FUNERAL.

Ceremonies Attending the Burial of a Burman Priest.

Nothing could be weirder than the curious ceremonies attending the burial of a Burman priest, or, as he is called in his own dreamy country, "phoongye."

The funeral does not take place until three months after death, the corpse having been meanwhile preserved in honey, and placed in a box-like coffin of many colors and extraordinary ornaments. Toward noon the pulsing pause of the droning day is broken by a hum of far-away incantations which rise and fall drowsily, and one knows that the burial service is going forward.

The coffin has been raised to the top of a huge gilded bamboo erection, and is being swung monotonously to and fro on the bare shoulders of 40 or 50 Burmans. The chanting never ceases, nor the queer gliding backward and forward.

Until sunset the incantations beat away on the stilly air without a pause. Then the coffin is shot off the bamboo erection onto the funeral pyre, and as the red sun sinks the whole thing is set alight.

THE POWER OF CANNON.

La Nature contains a short note in which the horse power of a cannon is calculated. An Italian cannon of 100 tons, with a charge of 550 pounds of powder and a shot weighing about 2,000 pounds, will give an initial velocity of 523 meters per second; the length of time during which the power acts is less than 100th of a second, from which it follows that the horse power developed is about 17,000,000. The writer adds that after about 100 shots the cannon is put out of service, and its total active life is therefore only one second. In large modern cannon the horse-power runs as high as 24,000,000. If the writer had carried out these calculations still farther, he would have found that, after all, this 24,000,000 horse-power does not represent a large amount of energy, as it would be just sufficient to run thirty-one incandescent lamps for only one day.

CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIONS.

Six months, said the judge. Yerroner, said the gentleman in the frazzled coat; I object to that there sentence on constitutional grounds.

What is the matter with it, Jim? asked the judge.

It comes under the cruel and unusual limit, see.

No, I don't see. Well, maybe it ain't particularly cruel, but it is unusual. You allays gimme 90 days before.

NEGRO SONGS.

Their Popularity Has Killed the Demand For Other Music.

The popularity of negro songs during the past two winters has practically ruined the demand for popular efforts of any other kind, and the sentimental ballad, whether it involves the overworked "mother" interest or is concerned with some less filial motive, is just at present a drug on the market. It is evidently the negro song that the public desires now, and there is seemingly no indication that this demand has been satisfied. The popularity of these negro ballads was established anew two years ago by a couple of very successful efforts of the kind, and the supply that followed has been kept up to a remarkable degree of excellence. One woman who makes a specialty of these songs said last summer, after having exhausted the popularity of several, that she was afraid others so good would never be found. But they were forthcoming at the opening of the season, and proved as successful as their predecessor. All the song writers with any talent in this direction have been turning their attention to negro songs, and one reason why their grade of comparatively high excellence has been preserved is to be found possibly in the fact that many old-time negro melodies have been worked over to meet the present taste. Very few of the songs that have reached the dignity of publication are the work of negro composers, although negro performers claim the authorship of some of the songs they sing. Nevertheless, one of the most popular songs of the year was written by a negro performer, who has already received upward of \$5,000 in royalties from the work. It rarely happens that a first song, however popular it may become, yields very much to the composer. The unknown genius is likely to reap the reward on his second effort, even if the quality be of a kind less likely to gain success. One curious feature of the situation at present is the glut of marches in the market. These have been popular as two steps for several seasons, and the result is now that the supply of these pieces is so far ahead of the demand that it is next to impossible to get one published.

FELT HAT OR STRAW?

Which Is the Better Head Covering on an Excessively Hot Day.

The majority have expressed, in practice, a preference for the straw hat, but on the plains of the far western states, where the mercury sometimes rises to 114 degrees in the shade and remains there all the afternoon, the sombrero is a decided favorite. Wearing these, the cowboys move about under a ferocious sun as usual. Instead of trying to keep the head cool by wearing a thin, porous straw hat, and allowing imaginary cool breezes to sweep it over the scalp, the cowboy recognizes the facts of the situation and does not prepare for cool breezes where none exist. On the contrary, he protects himself from the direct rays of the sun and keeps within his felt hat a small modicum of moist air which is cool by comparison with that outside. The principle, a Montanza resident says, "is exactly that recognized by the Arabs of the desert and the Hindus of India, who pile up fold after fold of linen turbans over their heads and between their skulls and the tropical sun. Of course, some of these cowboys may pull a wet handkerchief inside their hats, but I believe they would hardly dare mount a pony on a very hot day if they had only the thin straw hats generally considered so very necessary for warm weather."

BICYCLES IN BRITAIN.

England is Spending More Money on Wheels Than on Bread.

There are in this country 180,000 families dependent on the bicycle trade; and the trade is sure to increase, as people will come to look upon a bicycle as they now do a suit of clothes, not as if it were a obelisk designed to last forever. When this time comes, says a writer in the Newcastle, Eng., Chronicle, a man will buy a new bicycle every two or three years and be happy. This year persons in the British Empire will spend about 23,400,000 pounds on bicycles, and if the steel required to make these hundreds of thousands of wheels were converted into war vessels, the result would be a fleet of ships sufficient in numbers and power to make any of the smaller continental powers feel distinctly uncomfortable. One cannot eat bicycles. But bread is the staple food of many people, and this year we shall spend more money for bicycles than for bread, and nearly as much as we shall spend for meat.

THE KING ON THE CARD.

The picture of the king in a pack of playing cards was originally intended to be a portrait of Timur, the great mogul of Tartary, who is better known in history by the name of Tamerlane. Timur was a mighty conqueror. He surpassed Alexander the Great in the extent and success of his warfare and in the number of nations he subdued. At the height of his power he was the sovereign of almost the entire known world. His dominions extended from Hindoostan to the Bosphorus, and from the Indian Ocean to the Arctic Sea. He ruled all Asia except the Chinese empire, and died while on an expedition to subdue China in 1405. His splendid tomb is near the track of the Trans-Caspian Railway in Turkestan, and can be seen from the cars.

HIS TROUBLE.

Polly—What's Freddy crying for?
Dolly—Because he dug a big hole in the garden and mother won't let him bring it into the house.