

Exploding a Crocodile.

"Yes," said Uncle Cap, "I have not only seen hundreds of alligators and crocodiles in the course of my wanderings, but I once had the pleasure of destroying in a novel and most effectual manner a great man-eating cayman, as the crocodile is called in South America."

"Was he like my alligator?" asked Bryce. "Very like him, the only difference being that while your alligator is about sixteen inches long, my cayman was a little over sixteen feet, and as ugly a looking monster as ever swam. I had been detached from the Porpoise, and ordered to procure a portion of Venezuela, in company with a party of American engineers, who were constructing a telegraph line for the government of that country. We were following down a tributary of the great river Orinoco, and rested one Sunday at a little village on the bank of the stream. During the afternoon, as we were all lying asleep in our hammocks, there came a terrible screaming and crying from the village, and we ran to see what was up."

"It seemed that several boys had been bathing in the river just below the village, when all at once, without the slightest warning, one of them had been seized and drawn under the turbid waters by the great 'devil cayman,' as the Indians called one of these creatures which had long been a terror to the community."

"I suggested to the chief of the engineers, a fine young fellow named Roberts, and we set a trap for the man-eater, and after explaining my idea, got him to agree to try it. As we were to be in that vicinity for several days, we waited until we thought it was about time for the cayman to be hungry again. Then we shot a fat monkey, sewed inside of him a stone bottle containing five pounds of powder, inserted in it the ends of two long coils of fine wire, bound these to strong ropes of equal length, and connected the other ends with the little test battery that we carried."

"When all was ready we floated our bait, upheld by two inflated bladders, near where the poor boy had been seized, and crouched in the bushes to await developments. We had waited in perfect silence for more than an hour, and were about ready to give it up, when there came a ripple in the water, and a huge head, with horrid open jaws, was cautiously lifted. Then the jaws closed with a snap upon our bait, the head instantly disappeared, and the ropes began to run swiftly out, showing that the monster was making for deep water. I had charge of the battery, and quickly connected the wires. Like a flash there came a deep muffled explosion, a torrent of blood-stained water was thrown high in the air, and mingled with it were fragments of the scaly hide of the monster, and on one side a hole two feet square had been blown."

"The poor natives were at first terrified, then mystified, and finally overjoyed at the success of our experiment, and ever afterward they treated us like beings possessed of supernatural powers. Notwithstanding this, we noticed that the boys did not seem to care for bathing for some time afterward."

The Opium Habit.

We find an interesting and somewhat startling article in Popular Science Monthly on this subject, by Virgil G. Eaton, who puts the responsibility for the increase upon the physicians who give the prescriptions. They know that in many cases it effects an immediate relief, and he feels that they are the men who need reforming. We quote from the article:

For the past year or more I have studied the growth of the opium habit in Boston. It is increasing rapidly. Not only are there more Chinese 'joints' and respectable resorts kept by Americans than there were a year ago, but the number of individuals who 'hit the pipe' at home and in their offices is growing very fast. A whole opium 'lay out,' including pipe, fork, lamp and spoon, can now be had for less than \$5. This affords a chance for those who have acquired the habit to follow their desires in private, without having to reveal their secret to any one. How largely this is practiced I do not know, but, judging from the tolltale pillar of the fiasco I see, I feel sure the habit is claiming more slaves every day.

In order to approximate to the amount of opium, in its various forms, which is used in Boston, I have made a thorough scrutiny of the physicians' recipes left at the drug-stores to be filled. As is well known, all recipes given by physicians are numbered, dated, and kept on file at the drug-stores, so that they may be referred to at any time. To these I went in search of information:

I was surprised to learn how extensively opium and its alkaloids—particularly sulphate of morphia—are used by physicians. I found them prescribed for every ailment which flesh is heir to. They are used for headache, sore eyes, toothache, sore throat, laryngitis, diphtheria, bronchitis, congestion, pneumonia, consumption, gastritis, liver complaint, stone in the gall-duct, carditis, neuritis, hypertrophy, peritonitis, calculus, kidney trouble, rheumatism, neuralgia, and all general or special maladies of the body. It is the great panacea and cure-all.

Dame Experience

His convinced many that to use any of the substitutes offered for the only sure and painless corn curer attended with danger. Got always and use none other than Putnam's painless Corn Extractor, as druggists.

Look for certain forms of the bot or breeza flies this month; if the adults of some species are now ready to deposit eggs.

Livery Stable Proprietor to Young Man—"What made the horse run away?" Young Man—"A cow jumped out of the bushes by the road and frightened him." Livery Stable Proprietor—"He's a small horse. Couldn't you hold him?" Young Man—"Yes, but I couldn't hold him and the girl, too."

Mr. Robert J. Burdette, the genial humorist, has been licensed to preach by the Baptist Church, to which he belongs. He has hitherto frequently preached and undergone all the experiences of a preacher from pastoral visits to a donation party. He didn't want the latter, but they forced it upon him in lieu of a salary which he positively refused to accept. All he took away from the donation party was one silver dollar, which he preserves as a memento.

HELP YOUR WIFE.

A Man's Part in Good Housekeeping.
A man should first of all help his wife in planning her work. Let every husband give his wife the benefit of his practical business experience, and advise with her how she may best arrange and time her several duties that they may least conflict.

In the second place, the husband should give the wife the full amount of money necessary properly to care for the home.

Third, he should see that she has the best tools that can be had to lighten her labor.

Fourth, he should by every possible means shorten her hours of labor. If he finds that she is obliged to work earlier and later than he, then he should at once give, or procure for her, such assistance as will make their working hours equal.

Fifth, realizing that for her labor she receives no direct compensation, he should, at the least, be careful to give continually with reward of cordial praise which costs him nothing and so much pleases her.

Finally, the man must recognize that many of the domestic duties are essentially proper to him, and not to the woman; such are all that require great physical exertion. Therefore, not only should proper implements be generously furnished for the woman's use, but all the material she must use should be provided and made easily accessible.

Plenty of coal, wood and kindlings should be kept near the place where they are to be burned, water should be supplied so as to be handy and abundant, plenty of hooks, shelves, closets, etc., should be arranged to the best advantage.

At house cleaning time the man should either move, or get moved, the heavier articles of furniture; he should attend to the cleaning and putting down of carpets, the setting up of stoves and the like; in other words, he should assume the responsibility for all the heavier and more disagreeable duties connected with good housekeeping, and be willing on occasion to take a hand in those which are lighter.

But if he won't do these things that he ought to do, let him, at least, have grace enough to keep out of the woman's way while she is doing them for him, and refrain when they are done from rewarding his overworked helpmate with cross and complaining speech.

Incentives for Children.

It is not sufficient to instruct a child to follow certain lines of conduct and to avoid others. We must supply him with incentives; and upon the nature of these will his future character largely depend. Instead of assuring children that if they are good they will be happy, and clinching the assurance by artificial rewards or bribes, we should lead them gently to choose and to prefer the good, without reference to self at all. They can be accustomed to plan for and to aim at giving pleasure, not getting it, and, although in doing so they will experience a rich enjoyment themselves, it will be incidental, never one for which they have striven. Artificial rewards and penalties will thus be rarely needed, and they will grow up with generous and unselfish instincts instead of mean and calculating ones.

There ain't any blemishes about this animal," asked the would-be purchaser of a cow. "No, she is all right; but I must tell you candidly that sometimes she kicks when she is being milked," replied the owner of the cow. "That's of no consequence. My wife does the milkin'."

My love was like a lily fair,
Low drooping in the sultry air,
My heart was rent with grief and care,
I loved her well.

But lo! The wonder grows and grows;
My love's now like a blooming rose,
How bright her face with beauty glows,
I dare not tell.

The wandering bee would stop to sip,
The nectar of her perfect lip,
Twas Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription
That wrought the spell.

"Some fellows," says Carl Pretzel, "will spit out shavily and then get their next-door neighbor to practice dot."

"His most lives who thinks the most,
Acts the noblest, feels the best,
And he whose heart beats quickest
Lives the longest, lives in one hour
More than in years do some whose
Fat blood sleeps as it slips along their veins."

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Some painters work in oil, some in water colors and very many in liquor.

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