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Australia Still is the Home Of World's Largest Nuggets

Other Gold Fields Continue to Be Outdistanced in the Output of Precious Metal Found in Lumps

To the gold seekers of modern days the Yukon and Klondike have furnished the romance of prosperity attained after intense hardship and the African Rand has given the largest production and cold profits gained through business methods, but Australia has led the world in the output of nuggets, those huge yellow harbingers of sudden wealth. The recent discovery of the "Golden Eagle" in the Larkinville alluvial field of Western Australia bears out this reputation of the Island Continent. It weighed 1,136 ounces, and was sold to the State Government for about $30,000. This was the largest nugget yet found in that district of Australia, being more than twice the size of the "Bobby Dazzler" discovered there in 1899.

The nuggets of record size were, however, discovered on the other side of the continent. The "Welcome Stranger," found near Dunolly, New South Wales, weighed about 2,500 ounces and was sold for a little less than $50,000. The "Welcome," discovered near Ballarat, Victoria, weighed 2,195 ounces and was worth more than $45,000. The "Blanche Barkly," which came from near Kingower, was priced at about $34,000. These finds were made in the most thickly populated part of Australia, in the south-east corner, not far from such centres as Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

Straight to the north, nearly 1,000 miles from the Ballarat fields, was found one of the richest and most extraordinary gold mines in the world. A nameless hill in the Queensland bush was, in 1882, owned by a man named Gordon who earned a precarious livelihood by pasturing his cattle on it. The two Morgan brothers, prospecting in that vicinity, found signs of gold on the 640-acre hill, and bought the land from Gordon at about $5 an acre. Mount Morgan turned out to be a veritable hill of gold.

Western Australia, where the latest large nugget was found, is for the most part an absolute desert. Here the total annual rainfall is only about five inches, and water can be obtained only by sinking deep wells. Yet it is one of the richest gold-mining regions in the world. The first discovery was made at Yilgarn, 210 miles east of Perth, the capital of the colony. From there prospectors spread further inland.

Although nuggets are occasionally found in other parts of the world, they do not compare in size with those of Australia. Canada produces the metal in pieces of ore combined with quartz. Yellow grains of gold, it will be recalled, were found at Sutter's Mill, near Sacramento, Cal., to start the westward trek of the Forty-niners. And in the Yukon and Alaska regions the precious stuff has usually been discovered in sand or gravel deposits.

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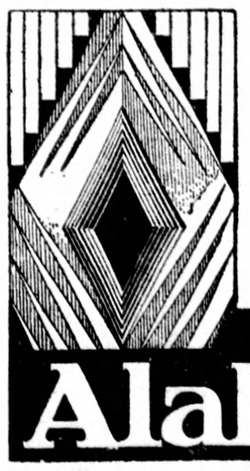
The Success of Sanctuary

Canada is a great believer in the criterion of figures. She even counts the birds in her sanctuaries and as a result the value of these establishments has been proved beyond any shadow of doubt. There are now more than forty such sanctuaries scattered across the country from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and it is safe to assure that no species of bird life now in existence will ever become extinct. As compared with 1925 the bird population of the reserved areas has actually increased by 19 per cent., the ten sea-bird sanctuaries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence being the scene of the hatching of well over 100,000 birds of 16 different species in 1930 alone. Some of the most important of the birds in Canada's reserves with their respective gains during the past five years are: elder duck 27 per cent., puffin 13 per cent., razor-billed auk 37 per cent., common murre 11 per cent., black guillemot, 134 per cent., herring gull 159 per cent. and common tern 57 per cent.



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Old Mother Nature And Her Marvels

By Charles D. Stewart, Condensed from The New York Times Magazine.

Nature is, above all, an inventor. Her specialty is tools and machinery. The naturalist, taking things apart and looking into their construction, finds himself working in the atmosphere of a patent office. Life itself may be a mystery but a mechanical motion may be at once so clever and so simple that the mind seizes upon it with delight. Nature is full of such shrewd devices as are produced by the inventor.

In inventing a bird, for instance, Nature was confronted with a fine little problem. How was she to make a roosting bird that could tuck its head under its wing, settle down for a night's rest and go sound asleep without danger of falling off the perch?

The problem was solved by attaching to the cords which operate the toes an extremely long tendon—one which runs nearly the whole length of the leg and broadens into a muscle situated high up on the front of the thigh. This ingenious tendon passes over the knee in front, runs in a spiral direction 'round the bone of the lower leg, and then passes over the heel behind. As a result of this rigging over opposed joints the bending of the leg serves to put the muscle and tendon on the stretch, and the weight of the bird in settling down to sleep causes them to pull the toe tendons together. Thus the bird is clamped automatically to the perch. No brain work, no attention is required. It works while the bird sleeps.

Any bird that is equipped with Nature's Patent Roosting Clamp always brings her toes together every time she raises a foot in walking.

It isn't an easy feat to walk on stilts which have a hinge in the middle, as do those of the stork. And to tuck its head under its wing and take a nap while standing in water is more precarious still. Muscles which work very long are likely to become fatigued; and in such an event the stork would topple into the stream. To obviate anything like this, Nature has made a contrivance for locking the joint. The bone of the lower part of the leg is made to fit into a socket above it. When the two are allowed to come together the leg becomes as one piece of bone; the hinge is thrown out of service and muscular fatigue is prevented. This is Nature's self-acting lock-joint for the use of storks and other altitudinous birds.

The beehive presents to the mind an industrial community so completely given over to factory methods as to make us wonder whether it is not the bee, rather than man, who should be given the credit for the great idea behind the Industrial Age. Every bee carries with her a large assortment of tools, consisting of special adaptations of legs and joints, and of these tools the sting is an especially well-thought-out contrivance. It has the power and mechanism to drive itself into anything as thick and tough as a horse's hide, with a self-acting muscle of its own, which is detachable and even capable of going on working by a sort of pumping motion, and driving itself in after the bee has flown away.

The sting consists of two highly polished javelins, each with barbs like a fish-hook, fitted into a supporting sheath or scabbard, so that they can be alternately thrust forward by the self-acting muscle. The bee needs to insert only the first barb or two of the lance, and the self-acting muscle does the rest. Even if the bee loses her sting, the sting drills into the victim, emptying its bag of poison into the wound through a groove between the two sliding spears.

Here is a mechanism as ingenious as the self-starter or anything to be found on an automobile.

The poison gas of the World War was not new when one considers the insect world. The little Bombardier beetle, when danger threatens, fires off an explosive charge of an acrid and irritating gas. When a number of these beetles are alarmed and all fly at once, their little explosive shots seem like a miniature regiment in battle; each beetle is capable of producing from ten to twelve shots in succession.

And how about the submarine? Is it is this an invention unparalleled outside the patent office? Of course it is one thing for nature to make a fish capable of breathing water instead of air, and of remaining permanently below the surface, and another for man, a land animal, to do down into the water and stay submerged by means of a reserve supply of oxygen. But this is nothing new, either, in Nature's machine exhibit. The whale, a land animal which has been made over to fit conditions at sea, has storage places for carrying extra supplies of oxygen. Essentially the whale is as much a land animal as is a horse or a cow, but the young whale is fed from the breasts by a quick gulp, an act of rapid refueling among the tumultuous waves. The whale is provided with a thick wall of insulating fat against the cold, an essential part of the design to keep the engine of the warm-blooded animal going.

The oxygen reserves of the whale are extensive tracts of arteries and capillaries carrying a supply of oxygenated blood that is not needed when the whale is on the surface and breathing, but which is drawn upon during periods of submersion. The cry "Thar she blows!" which the sailor raises from the masthead, means that the whale is blowing off the carbon dioxide preparatory to filling its tanks and going down again.

Deep down in the fat of the whale are to be found the remnants of legs, which are taken as an evidence of evolution. But the whale has been so deeply made over by means of special devices that if it were deprived of them there would scarcely be any whale left.

It is scarcely known that an egg is a piece of machinery, a real, moving mechanism. It is not simply an organism and a mystery but works according to the principles of the magician's magic bottle and of physical laws. The chalaza, a thick cord of twisted, tough albumen stretching from the yolk on opposite sides to the two ends of the egg serves to hold the yolk in place. When an egg is turned in the fingers or rolled slowly back and forth the yolk does not revolve, but remains with one side always uppermost.

The means by which it does this is the weight on one side, due to the fatty globules on that side being heavier and denser than in the rest of the yolk. Floating in the white like a ship in ballast, it turns on the albumen cord like a ship's compass hanging in the gimbals; it is as true to the Zenith as a compass to the pole. The lighter, or uppermost side of the yolk bears on its surface the germ spot which represents the future chicken. As a result of the way the yolk is built this germ spot, being always uppermost, is near the warm body of the hen in hatching.

The chalaza is slack enough to let the yolk float near the upper surface of the egg—a further fine evidence of the needs of the chick to be close to the source of heat. Nor is that all. A chick or young bird even before its true lungs are formed, needs a small but constant supply of fresh air. There is a special organism by means of which it absorbs air through the shell, and for this reason all eggshells are porous. There is a great unity in the complications of the egg, the yolk as a whole being of less specific gravity than the white as a whole, all assisting in making the machinery act as it does.

The small flat place at the big end of the egg provides an air compartment for the use of the chick just before it is hatched. A chick develops with its head toward the big end; when it is fully formed and its lungs are ready for use, it pricks the slight membrane which forms a wall to this air space and takes its first breath. Inspired by this new access of energy, the chick gives the shell a vigorous peck and makes a hole through which it can continue breathing. The soft bill of the chick is provided with a point of flint-like hardness, which it uses for the purpose of breaking its shell and then discards.

Working models in our museums would be valuable to illustrate these principles of nature.

English School Head Teaches Pupils Juggling

The directress of a large English school has initiated a novelty in education, which, however surprising it appears at first consideration, says "Le Matin," after a little study reveals far more intelligence than is usually found in features of a similar character. She makes all her pupils learn juggling!

Thanks to long continued exercises of this sort with oranges, plates and other objects—a course which she has added to her lessons in gymnastics—the instructress is achieving the happiest results. Her pupils acquire a sense of perfect balance and equilibrium, and become able to co-ordinate every move and gesture in graceful rhythm with these rising and falling articles.

Such practices add to feminine charm and elegance; their bodies become more pliant and more lithesome, and their contours more natural and pleasing. For these advantages, what girl in France does not desire to take up juggling?

To My Son

Little boy, the golden dust
Of half a million years
Glimmers forth among your hair,
But in your eyes gleam tears

Of desires unfulfilled,
Childish things today
Before the wine of life is spilled
And love's song gone gray.

Little boy, the primrose paths
Are waiting to be trod,
Reaching out towards Beauty
Smiling up to God.

Follow them until the end,
Nothing matters after . . .
But while living, I commend
Honesty and laughter!

—E. Leslie Spaulding, in the Chicago Tribune.

"The human hand is the most remarkable of all machinery which has not yet been fully exploited."—Raymond Duncan.

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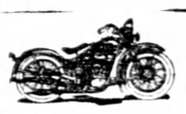
Street at Night

There's something rather lovely
About our street at night:
The dusky gabled houses
With here and there a light,
The pattern of the elm leaves
In lace work on the walk,
The church's bulky tower
Transformed to silver chalk,
The whistling velvet figures
Of homeward-faring men
Whose footfalls tap the silence
Till stillness wakes again,
The sky's brocaded curtain
Tassel tied with stars,
The post-historic monsters
We know as motor cars.
A kitten's furry-scurry
Across the street-lamp's arc—
Our street is rather lovely
To traverse after dark!

—Doris Wilder, in Poetry.



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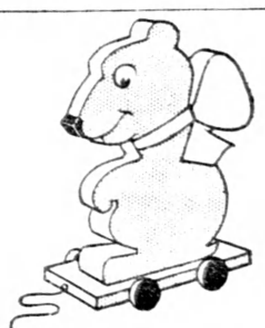

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You'll be through with crude methods once you learn the perfect way. Nothing else has the same quick, gentle effect. Doctors prescribe it for indigestion, nausea, heartburn, gas, sour stomach and headache. It has been standard with them for over 50 years.

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