

## THREE INTERESTING NATURE STORIES

### Science in Russia.

Uniform testimony as to the status of men of science in Russia presents a dismal and depressing picture.

A professor of philosophy deposed:

"In my room the water is freezing and I am eating oats instead of bread and meat."

"These years have been one continuous horror," wrote another. "We were declared by the Bolsheviks to be parasites and drones, and we were deprived even of that miserable food allowance which the workers and the soldiers have been receiving."

One of the 42 Russian scientists who have starved to death in the last three years was Prof. E. S. Fedoroff, the crystallographer. A colleague who came to him in the last hours gave him a piece of bread. He took a bite and then refused to take more, saying: "You are trying. You had better eat."

An entomologist yearned for firewood to keep his specimens from destruction, but as for himself: "I tucked myself in bed fully dressed, with my overcoat on, trying to warm up and to forget and to suppress the feelings of tantalizing hunger."

Another man of learning whose aged wife was begging in the streets demanded the fact that his ten years of research on the leprosy bacillus had gone for naught. A Moscow savant mused: "I am an old, feeble man, hardly able to move, with feet swollen and with sores; from the cold and hungry winter. Yet they are keeping me in solitary confinement."

"There are many parlor Bolsheviks. We have them in our midst—those who smile indulgently when the talk is Bolshevism, and say: 'This is only the price that is paid for progress. There is an exact parallel with the French revolution.'

But there are few laboratory Bolsheviks. Science cannot surrender to the communists. Truth cannot change because of a Soviet decree. The Russian professors cannot stifle themselves and suppress their convictions at the behest of Communism, or because of the whim of an illiterate soldier of the Red Guard with a bayonet.

The only way by which the communists can be made to submit is simple force.

The chains are placed around their bodies by a slow process of vapor given off from the burning bamboo box, where it contains some snow-like crystals.

The box is partially im-

mersed in a tub of steaming water, so that every twenty-four hours it is hot and the crystals from the sides and bottom box.

It has been found

that the heat of white

surfaces causes the reflection to

the heat of authority

which is maintained

by the small size

of the small size

elements." These

other surfaces so

protect the eye

from the reflection to

the absorption by

other substance.

Sank Dux Castle

Set Free.

Those who expected, the policy in the war

in its broader as-

pects, in session

were bitterly dis-

appointed with the case

of Neumann, charged

with the British

ship submarine he

says a despatch dated

in Berlin.

He was acquitted after

this case before the court,

the manner in which the

out of the British body

at his orders, i

is the same kind of fizz for both

soda water and the Seidlitz powder.

China's Naval Bases.

Practically all of warfare in these

on land or sea, is applied science

in one shape or another.

But recognition of the necessity of

a strategic base for the conduct of

military or naval, is nothing new. It is and always has been

a fundamental of warfare:

We are accustomed to think of

as a country devoid of effective

military and naval defenses. The fact

that it possesses seven first-class

naval arsenals—at Tientsin, Shang-

hai, Nanking, Hankow, Foochow,

and Canton. The arsenal at

Nanking has an equipment equal to

that of any similar establishment in

Europe. It manufactures fortress

guns, ships of all sizes and smokeless

powder.

China has some formidable coast de-

fense fortresses, garrisoned by an

artillery force described as a fine body

of expertly trained men who know

how to handle their guns:

At Foochow is an up-to-date naval

arsenal developed under the direction

of French engineers.

Call Me Lizzie.

Mistress—"It is customary to ad-

dress all my daughters and all ladies

in the house as madam."

New Servant—"Lawks! I shall be

quite satisfied if you call me Lizzie."

Not Any Best.

You can't get the best of some men

they haven't any.

The largest book in the world, over

in height, is in University

of Rostock, Germany. This remark-

able volume is over 400 years old and

contains maps of Holland.

## JUNE, THE BEST MONTH OF THE YEAR

### SUPERSTITIONS HOARY WITH AGE

#### Curious, Quaint and Beautiful Customs of Various Lands Are Here Described.

Why are May weddings regarded as unlucky? Why are June weddings especially propitious? And why, oh, why should old shoes be hung after and indeed, at the bride? What say the poets?

Marry in May, And rueful day.

But, on the other hand:

Marry in June, All life be in tune.

All three of these superstitions are hoary with age. They were already anticipated when the legend about St. Swithin's Day was invented. It might be much to say that they are as old as marriage itself. But they certainly antedate the classic age. Thus Ovid, in his "Fasti," refers to what he describes as "the familiar belief that May is a bad month in which to marry, and the same poet, after careful investigation of the various months of the year, selected June for the time of his own daughter's wedding, because, as he said, it was "good to the man and happy to the maid."

That June should be a favorite month for weddings is explicable from its character as the month of roses and other flowers; although the beginning of May was the time of the Florida festival of the old Romans. Still the partially for June has never been, as marked or general as the avoidance of May. While the Romans preferred June, the Greeks greatly inclined to January. The Russians have long had a belief, said to have come down from the early Eastern Church, that weddings at Easter bring wealth, at Ascension Day health, at Whitsunday domestic felicity and at Trinity Sunday many offspring.

Shoes Take Prominent Part.

The custom of throwing old shoes, the bride is of comparable antiquity, though it has assumed many different forms. Among the Jews, probably before the day after the wedding, Early in the morning, often before the newly married couple had arisen, the neighbors flocked to the door, and summoned the bridegroom himself removed it and placed it upon the left hand, to serve as the partiality for the bridegroom, on becoming his wife.

In brief, an engagement ring, as we now know it, that ring was never removed, under pain of breaking the engagement, until the wedding, when the bridegroom himself removed it and placed it upon the left hand, to serve as the partiality for the bridegroom, on becoming his wife.

It is an old Scottish custom, now practically if not entirely extinct, that of "creeling" the bridegroom. It was practiced on the day after the wedding, probably before the day after the wedding, Early in the morning, often before the newly married couple had arisen, the neighbors flocked to the door, and summoned the bridegroom himself removed it and placed it upon the left hand, to serve as the partiality for the bridegroom, on becoming his wife.

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