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## CAT WAS REVERED IN JAPAN

She Lived in Temples and Was Known as the Guardian of the Manuscripts.

According to a Japanese writer, the domestic cat appeared in his country at a relatively recent epoch, having traveled from China with the missionaries of Buddhism. In the middle of the sixth century of the Christian era sacrifices were offered to the cat, which was known by all as "the guardian of the manuscripts."

"The guardian of the manuscripts" kept away the mice, who otherwise would have eaten the precious papyrus. In some instances placards were set in conspicuous places among manuscripts as a warning to the mice: Beware! The cat is here. She drives the mice. Portraits of cats were also placed in places frequented by mice.

The cats were revered. For a long time they were kept in the temples. But their beauty, their general desirability and the charm of their grace, affection for man, and adaptability to human conditions so appealed to the layman that one by one very gradually their kittens were permitted to leave the temples and to become the pets of the nobility. After entering the families of the high officials of the Empire they won their way into humbler households.

## NEW WAY TO CURE BALDNESS

Work in Cold Storage Plant or Go to Arctic Regions and Your Hair Will Grow.

The latest "universal hair grower" discovered is a trip to the Arctic regions, or falling time and inclination for that, employment in a cold storage company. According to Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer, extreme cold is one of the best means of strengthening the hair. In the course of an interview recently, Sir Ernest said:

"All of the men who went with me on the south pole expedition with one or two exceptions possessed stronger crops of hair on their return to civilization.

"Extreme cold undoubtedly strengthens one's hair. As our party approached nearer the south pole our hair grew more slowly, but became thicker and stronger."

An official of a London cold storage company, interviewed on the same subject, stated that there was not a bald-headed man in the employ of the company. He said that the men worked all day in a temperature of 20 degrees of frost and the cold undoubtedly made their hair thicker.

## Covers Much Space.

A New York department store gets out a postcard which contains interesting facts for the curious. Here are some of the store's features which it mentions: Ten freight elevators, 26 passenger elevators, 120 flights of stairs, 1,020 telephone stations, 8,000 automatic sprinklers, 17 miles of pneumatic tubes with 370 stations, 22,000,000 pounds of steel, 221,400 cubic feet of concrete in foundations, a mile and a half of showcases, 25 miles of steam circulation pipe, 2,406 steel columns, 24,040 incandescent lamps, 45 show windows with the largest plate glass in New York, 5,250,000 bricks used in erection, 540,000 feet of copper wiring for lighting, 290 separate departments, 250,000 square feet, or nearly 27 acres of wood flooring, which gives the floor space 300,000 square feet of plaster surface, 100,000 square feet of outside window glass.

## American Robins in England.

An attempt has been made to introduce the American robin into Surrey, with apparent success. Six pairs turned loose last June near Guildford have reared about 40 nestlings. The name of our robin was given by the Pilgrim Fathers to the largest and most numerous of the American thrushes (Turdus migratorius), because of its red breast, and friendly association with man.

The American robin is closely related to our blackbird, and has a sweet, melodious song. Its introduction to Surrey will be regarded by market gardeners with much misgiving, for though his food consists chiefly of worms or insects, he works sad havoc among the cherries.—Westminster Gazette.

## Character in Women's Walk.

An observing man insists that he can tell a woman's character by her manner of walking and the kind of shoes she wears. He says that the listless way of lifting one's feet indicates laziness or ill health. A heavy, flat-footed step means a good housekeeper, but an aggressive nature. A dragging, shuffling step denotes indolence of mind and body. He observes further that the woman who likes mannish shoes is not dainty or feminine, and that the ideal woman wears well-fitting shoes in the street and dainty slippers in the house.

It is suggested they are more excellent mediums for the physical development than bicycles and roller skates. The fact that small children are allowed to have bicycles, and consequently make no use of nature's means of progression, is offered as an objection to them.

The skipping-rope and hoop require them to run and walk. Young children should be encouraged to do this as much as possible, and always with a springy step. They need to use their feet and legs, and exercise that brings these into play is beneficial.

## BIG DEMAND ON EDUCATION

Modern Life Requires That It Shall Furnish Opportunities for the Fullest Individualism.

Opportunities for the fullest individualism is the demand which modern life makes upon education. The school should be an experiment station replete with alluring incentives to intellectual growth. Here, aided by the helpful sympathy of teachers who have discovered the difference between schooling and education, children could try their powers, and moments of enthusiasm be utilized for mental growth in various lines. Mental tendencies, like animal instincts, must be coaxed out by stimulating situations, and the present school environment is too barren to offer the needed excitement. Boys are continually trying to understand themselves, to find the occupation that their nature vaguely craves, but the pedagogical rope always pulls them back to the curriculum. Then their enthusiasm cools, while the teachers go on trying to strike an intellectual spark with the mental temperature at zero. This is not only an extravagant waste of educational forces, but, what is far more serious, it awakens hatred of study in those whose mental organization does not suit the school plan. The restraint of a system suited to the average child inhibits the powers of unusual children and awakens resentment. Uniformity in treatment and instruction suppresses the tendency to vary and creates dullards.—Edgar James Swift, in Harper's Magazine.

## THOUGHT IT SACRED RITES

Morning Gymnastics of a Traveler Caused Kurds in Armenia to Leave the General Room.

Everything is liable to be misunderstood, even gymnastic exercises. This truth was brought home to George H. Hepworth, and he tells his experience in "Through Armenia on Horesback." The author was stopping in a Kurdish village, and the inn possessed but one general living room.

In the morning I began my regular gymnastics, stooping until my fingers touched the floor, throwing my arms about like the spokes of a wheel, striking out from the shoulder, and going through all the exercises, none of which I ever omitted. I would gladly have taken a sponge bath, but it would have been impossible to get enough water; a pint is enough to suffice a Turk.

Well, I got under way with my exercises, when I saw that my audience was excited; conversation dropped in to a whisper, then ceased; word passed from one to another, and one by one the occupants of the room quietly left. I feared that they were offended, and wanted to call them back and apologize. Just then then my dragoman entered, laughing.

"What has happened?" I asked. He laughed the harder as he replied:

"The Kurds think you are practicing devotional religious exercises, and they retired under the impression that you would regard their presence as an intrusion."—Youth's Companion.

## A Scolding Dress.

"Before I take off this dress," said the woman to the home dressmaker, who was fitting a party gown, "I want to go into the kitchen and read the riot act to Maria."

"Oh, not with this dress on," the dressmaker protested. "She is cooking and the grease might pop."

"Can't help it," the woman interrupted. "Maria needs a lecture. She has been needing it for some time, but I didn't dare deliver it because I hadn't good enough clothes to make it effective. Maria is black and fatly from the south. She judges people by the clothes they wear. If I had scolded in shirt waist and skirt or even in my old blue afternoon dress Maria would have scorned me, but with all this finery on I can speak my piece and Maria will be properly impressed and maybe she will reform."

## The Moon on Fish.

A recent report of the Scotch fishery board mentioned a curious habit which, according to fishermen, is associated with fish; the phases of the moon, it was asserted, have a very direct connection with the willingness of fish to be netted.

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To test this theory statistics were obtained of the catch of herrings from 1860 to 1900, with the result that the biggest catches were found to have coincided with the new moon and the smallest with full moon. The report suggested that a full moon enabled the nets to be seen much more easily than at times of new moon or the crescent phase or that the tides, which vary with the lunar phases, were possible factors in the matter.—Westminster Gazette.

## Fastidious Tastes of the Porker.

An apology is due to the farm yard pig, who has been grossly maligned in regard to his food. Instead of being ready to eat anything, he has just proved himself the most fastidious of animals. Experiments recently carried on in France and Sweden show this to be the case. In Sweden the record tells that out of 575 plants the goat eats 449 and refuses 126; the sheep, out of 494 plants, eats 387 and refuses 141; out of 528 plants the cow eats 276 and refuses 218; out of 474 plants the horse eats 262 and refuses 212, and the pig, out of 243 plants, eats only 72 and refuses the other 171.

## OTHER JOB IS JUST AS BAD

School Teacher and Housewife Find by Comparison That Neither One Should Envy the Other.

There had been a severe storm, lasting several days, and the little school teacher was getting very tired of it. She found it hard to go back and forth to her work, and when she reached her boarding place Friday night she was in a complaining mood. As she passed through the flat on her way to her room she said to the friend with whom she boarded, a young married woman: "You ought to be thankful you do not have to go out in these storms. It is horrible."

The other young woman looked up with a queer expression in her eyes. "I was just envying you," she said, "to think you were free to go. For three days I have been house-bound and I'm just ready to cry for a good walk in the open air. These two babies can't be taken out in such weather, and I have no one to leave them with, so that keeps me shut in. You ought to be glad you can so out."

"Queer, isn't it?" mused the small pedagogue, "how the other fellow's work often looks the more desirable. Perhaps each one of us will feel more resigned now, when we realize that every position has its disadvantages and that, after all, nobody can fill another's."

## CAPTURED THE LADY'S WATCH

Auburn-Haired Young Man Didn't Mean to Do It, but It Caught on a Button.

He was such a slight, manly fellow—with a military bearing and a soldierly tread. He had auburn hair, and he blushed easily, and, above all, he was keenly alive to the rights of his fellow-beings and anxious to do the right thing by them. But he and his friend were hurrying from the local to catch the subway express, and they would have caught it, but—"He's got my watch!" a woman screamed.

The manly fellow strode on, conscious of virtue.

"Hold on, hold on!" said the auburn-haired man's friend, clutching his arm, "you're carrying off a lady's watch," and he unfastened the watch and chain, which had wound itself around his coat button.

The woman was still angry when she overtook them, and scarcely convinced that the blushing man was not old at the game, but she got away in time to board the express.

The auburn-haired man and his friend missed it.

## The Short-Lived Pin.

By a series of experiments conducted on his estate a French investigator has discovered that pins go the way of all flesh and are resolved into dust. Hairpins, which the experimenter watched for 154 days disappear at the end of that time, having been resolved into a ferrous oxide, a brownish rust, which was blown away by the wind. Bright pins took nearly 18 months to disappear; polished steel needles nearly two years and a half; brass pins had but little endurance; steel pens at the end of 15 months had nearly gone, while their wooden holders were still intact. Pencils, with which he also experimented,

as expected, the lead was unharmed, and the cedar almost as good as new.—Human Life.

## War, Wives and Whales.

Workmen excavating for a cellar in Sag Harbor, L. I., have laid bare the foundations of the home of Capt. David Hand, a hero of the Revolutionary war. Many relics were found, flint-lock rifles and coins. The house of Captain Hand was the first house built in Sag Harbor. Besides being a famous soldier, Captain Hand, who was mentioned in several of J. Fenimore Cooper's books, was a well known master whaler. The old warrior lies buried in Oakland cemetery, Sag Harbor, besides the graves of his five wives. The epitaph on his tombstone reads as follows:

"Behold, stranger, as you pass by, how thick the partners of one husband lie."

## Swift's Face.

There is nothing new to learn, it seems, about Swift's relations with Stella and Vanessa. There is, however, it is pointed out, a hint in a hitherto unpublished letter of Chatwin to Swift written in October, 1714, which may be worth noting: "The ladies of your acquaintance are, I confess, a little hard upon you in regard to faces to tie you down to ugliness and age. But you know best if it be not just, since the world says you may command a very agreeable one and yet defer it." The last sentence is erased in the draft as if on second thoughts the writer feared to arouse Swift's indignation by alluding to so private a matter as Stella's regard for him.

## Four Generations in Hunting Field.

It was interesting to see four generations of one family in the saddle at a meet of the York and Albany. Sir Edward Green, who is now in his eightieth year, was there wearing scarlet, finding just the same pleasure as he took in the sport 50 years ago. His sons, Lyceet Green (many years master of the pack) and Frank Green, were present, also the latter's son, Edward Green, and finally E. Green's son, Master Edward Green, who looks like being as keen on fox hunting as his forbears are.—Fall Mail Gazette.

## HE TOOK MEAN ADVANTAGE

Broker Banked "Friend's" Check After the Borrower Thought He Had Protected His Money.

"See that heavily built guy who just came in?" said the broker to his friend in the cafe. "You may have noticed that he caught my eye, but passed on without a sign of recognition. Well, he's a promoter. He and I used to be great friends—ostensibly. He rushed into my office one afternoon in a state of great excitement, saying that a little deal he was putting through made \$50 necessary at once, and would I save him a little trouble by cashing a check for the sum. He always seemed to have plenty of money, so I gave him the cash and took his check. I did not see him again soon, and on my depositing the check it came back marked 'No funds.' I looked up his bank, and found he did have a deposit there at one time. I deposited the check again and again it was returned. A week later I tried again, with the same result. More for amusement than anything else, I sent the check to the bank for the fourth time, and this time it went through! "Soon after that our friend calls me up on the telephone, and in the most outraged tone of voice asks what I mean by taking advantage of him that way. He could not have been more indignant had I double-crossed him in a straight deal. And that explains why he no longer speaks to me."

## CAUSE OF NERVOUS HEADACHE

Overwork, Worry, Eye-Strain and Other Things That Bring on This Very Distressing Ailment.

Nervous headaches occur in hysterical or neuroathetic individuals and those suffering from overwork or worry. In this class might also be mentioned headaches due to eye strain.

The error of vision may be so slight that the patient is not conscious of any impairment of her sight, but the constant effort to counteract it is sapping her nervous energy. When frequent headaches occur it is important to have the vision carefully tested by a competent eye specialist. No further search for a cause may be necessary.

Disease of the ear, a deviated septum in the nose, adenoids, enlarged tonsils or other abnormalities of the nose and throat are often responsible for persistent headaches that resist treatment. In all cases these possible conditions must be considered and one by one eliminated. Persistent headaches require careful study by a careful, competent physician and painstaking observance of the advice and directions he gives.—Woman's Home Companion.