

Automobiles Chosen Nowadays Because of Looks; Grant Quality

That the good old days when automobiles were selected for what they could do on the hills and how long they would last have passed without being noticed, has been discovered by H. I. Phillips, humorist, who has just made his annual trade-in of what he thought was a pretty good car until the neighbors began to look condescendingly at it from the inside of their shiny new sedans.

"A few years ago choosing a new machine was a serious and important undertaking," Phillips writes in *The American Magazine*. Not so many years back a man had to be wary. It was considered proper precaution, after becoming interested in a car, to look up owners of the same make and find out whether it would always run, how dependable it was in cold weather and whether it would go up hill unassisted.

"Performance was the big item. Body lines, trimmings and color were relatively unimportant. What a buyer wanted to know first of all was: 'When I go out in it, what are the chances of getting back?'"

"'Is it any good on the hills' was another leading query and it was the custom of all automobile manufacturers to compete in hill-climbing contests and fill the newspapers and magazines with advertisements of what their rattlers could do when driven to it.

"Today performance is taken for granted. The assumption, generally speaking is that all automobiles will do what is expected of them and that at no time will a man have to get out and walk back a few miles for a farmer and two oxen. In these modern days a buyer doesn't ask how good the car is, but, 'What other color schemes have you?' and, 'Haven't you something more dazzling?'"

Scientific Expedition Is in Solomon Islands

The Crane Pacific Expedition of Field Museum of Natural History aboard Cornelius Crane's yacht, the "Illyria," is now in the Solomon Islands, and rapidly approaching New Guinea, one of the most important regions on its 30,000-mile itinerary for zoological collecting, according to a radiogram received today from Mr. Crane by Stephen C. Sifms, director of the museum.

Museum authorities expect that the expedition will arrive in New Guinea within a few days. There many unusual species of animals will be sought, one of the most curious of which is the echidna, a spiny-coated ant-eater which lays eggs like a reptile but nourishes its young with milk like a mammal.

Karl P. Schmidt of the museum staff is in charge of the scientific work. Other distinguished scientists aboard are Dr. W. L. Moss of Harvard Medical School and Dr. Albert W. Herre of Leland Stanford university. A full staff of technical assistants is included in the expedition personnel.

Hopless Case

War cannot be reformed; it must be abolished.—*The American Magazine*.

Samples of Cow Tree Now in Field Museum

The famous Guatemalan cow-tree, formerly represented at Field Museum of Natural History only by a sample of its wood and a specimen of its milk, is now represented by a complete exhibit showing a large section of the trunk of the tree, with cuts made in its surface from which the milk is seen dripping.

The new exhibit has been installed under the supervision of Prof. Samuel J. Record, who discovered the tree while on a recent expedition, and brought specimens back to this country. Professor Record is research associate in wood technology on the museum staff, and a member of the faculty of Yale university school of forestry.

The milk of the cow-tree, which

closely resembles in appearance, and to some extent even in taste, the milk of cows, is used by natives of the region in which it is found in beverages and foods.

Dreams

It's the wonderfully colored advertisements that make the magazine pages these days so Arabian Nightie.—*The American Magazine*.

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