

SOUTH AFRICAN MARVELS

AN INTELLIGENT BOA CONSTRICTOR AND ITS PREY.

Robbed of a Half-swallowed Buck It Culped Down a Native and Cut Off His Escape by swallowing Its Tail.

The latest snake story comes from South Africa. It is recorded in the Transvaal, published in Cape Town, as cold fact, that in Sekukiniland, a native ran across a boa constrictor, measuring about forty-seven feet, which had just swallowed a young Koodoo buck, all except the horns. The horns stuck out on each side of the reptile's mouth. The native recognized the horns as those of a buck he owned, and he ran and got sticks and pinned the serpent, which was dormant, to the ground. Then he got hold of the horns and pulled and twisted. He got the buck out inch by inch, until half its body showed, and then it came with a jerk, and the boy fell over on his back.

Before he had time to think twice the snake, relieved of its load of mutton, was upon him, and it seized his head in its mouth and in three minutes the native had taken the place of the buck, only he was all inside; there was nothing left out to pull on, even if a rescuer had come along. Having swallowed the boy the boa deliberately allowed the boy the boa deliberately swung its head around and grabbing its tail swallowed eight feet of it, then closing the mouth and throat, down which the native had disappeared, and making escape.

ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE.

The Transvaal vouches for the truth of the story.

Besides snakes of this ferocious and ingenious character, they have lions aplenty in South Africa, as the following from the Cape Times of Cape Town shows:

"The following is an extract from the letter of a young Colonist now in Mashonaland, sent to the Queen's Town Free Press. The letter is written from Belengwa, a place 110 miles southeast of Bulawayo:

"Writing to B— last week, I gave an account of a rather exciting experience I had with lions, but since then I have been within two yards of them, hearing the brutes roar, and seeing them devouring cows. I went down to Fynn's, a son of Mr. Fynn of Krefli fame; he is a Native Commissioner of the district and a very smart fellow indeed, to dinner. I was walking, as it is only three miles from here. I forgot to take my rifle with me. I stayed at Fynn's until 9 o'clock, and then walked over to the local store to post my letters, leaving there shortly after 10 to return to my camp. We had been spinning yarns of different lion experiences all the evening. Consequently when I left I was full of lions and their daring habits. However, I would not show the store people I did not quite like the walk home alone without a gun, and so started, with my rifle as a companion. Being in good fettle I did the three and a half miles in forty minutes, and got home safely. Very early next morning I got a note from Fynn, saying that within half an hour of my leaving the store the lions had come down and taken four donkeys belonging to a prospector, and three calves out of the store kraal, all within fifteen yards of the store. A hunt was organized and we scoured the neighborhood without result, returning at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when we found out that the brutes had also taken and partly eaten

TWO COWS AND A CALF

belonging to Fynn. Fynn, myself, and Orpen, nephew of the Treasurer, decided to build a scherm, a small hut made of poles and tied with green hide, and sit up all night and see if they returned. Well, as all luck would have it, the night turned up bitterly cold, with a drizzling rain, and as dark as pitch. We decided to do relief for two hours, and keep watch. The cows' carcasses were only within two yards of the scherm.

"During my watch, from 2 to 3 o'clock, the lions turned up, and announced their presence with a roar. I do not think I shall forget it. They appeared to be very hungry, as they promptly started to eat the dead cows. Fynn got first shot, and hit his lion badly; in fact, we thought it was going to attack the scherm. However, it thought better of it and cleared off. By this time it was so dark that we could not see the lions, and could only shoot by guess work. I got a shot at the next one and missed; in fact, it simply went on eating. I fired again and hit. By Jove! He roared and growled, gnashed his teeth, and tried to make for the scherm. Fynn fired and hit him again, and we felt sure of having secured one at last.

"Presently another came up, and Fynn fired again, but missed. This one cleared. Another came up. Fynn fired, and this one cleared also. At this time we could hear the lion moaning and growling, and felt sure we could find him there in the morning, but to our disappointment, when we got out the brute had gone. Although great pools of blood could be traced where he had rested, we could not follow his spoor for more than a mile, the rain having washed out all trace of him. We spent two days in trying to find the bodies without success. I am sorry, as I made so sure of having hit and killed my one. I daresay someone would be fortunate enough to find his skin before destroyed by birds. The whole experience was novel and exciting. Orpen did not get a shot as the lions came up from the lee side and we dare not move.

TWO WERE KILLED

some time ago with spring guns. This district is fairly teeming with them, and it is dangerous to move about at

night, whether you have a rifle or not." Still another abundant product of South Africa is the locust. Just look at these telegrams from a South African paper:

Queen's Town, Jan. 2.—Mr. Colin White, of Richmond, sent in some locusts to-day that he met near there, travelling east. They are a new kind, and have large bodies and long prickles, on their legs. They eat leaves, peach, quince, apple, fig, and willow.

Port Elizabeth, Jan. 4.—The up-country train this morning passed through swarms of locusts of greater or less density for 150 miles. It has also been ascertained that similar swarms are on farms in the Uitenhage district. They are reported to be a new species.

Durban, Dec. 31.—The locust pest is now appearing, the swarms of hoppers having hatched in Durban and Victoria counties, where the screen system will be brought into operation.

Last but not least they have in South Africa the world famous three-card monte game. But the Judge, who has there don't seem to be very familiar with it yet, or can't see that there is any cheating in it, as their story shows.

Recently at Port Elizabeth Joseph Stewart was charged before the Magistrate with fraud by means of a certain three-card game. John Hendrik van Heerden, and we travelled second class. Prisoner and another man, whose name I do not know, joined the train at Middelburg Road on Sunday morning. After the train left Middelburg the prisoner said he should like a talk with us and he introduced a subject in connection with a game of cards in which

ONLY THREE CARDS

were required. He said he had been playing a game of cards with a man. Prisoner's friend said: "Show us how to play that game." He agreed to do so, and took three cards out of an ordinary visiting card case. He showed the other man how to play with three cards. The prisoner and his companion, after the latter had the game explained to him, started to play for money. The companion—or confederate—first won, then lost. Both of them then asked me to play. I should not play cards on Sunday. They then asked Mr. Van Heerden to play. At first he would not, but being pressed very much he agreed to stake half a sovereign, and Van Heerden won. Prisoner suggested that the stakes be for £5. He drew out a £5 note, and seeing that, prisoner said, "Oh, make it £10." Van Heerden did so; he put down another £5 note. He lost that £10. Prisoner asked him to continue playing, so he put down another £5. Well, I thought I would try and get my friend's money back for him, so I put in £10, making our joint pot in £15. We lost it all. Prisoner's friend urged me to play again. He said, "Try and regain your money." I did so after much persuasion, and the result was I lost £10 more. I would not play any more, although they begged me to continue. I spoke to the guard about my loss, and asked him his opinion.

"The farmers lost between them £35, and then told the guard. Stewart offered to compromise the affair by giving them £22 10s. to tell the guard that the affair was settled. The guard gave Stewart in charge for gambling on the line, but found little money upon him. The confederate had disappeared by that time.

"The Magistrate held that no fraud had been proved and prisoner was discharged."

South Africa, it will be seen, is a great place.

REGULATED BY A STAR.

A Simple Way of Telling When a Time Piece Runs Accurately.

Some very old paintings that was brought to light the other day contains curious suggestions for making certain calculations that will interest many people.

An easy method of correctly regulating a timepiece by the stars is as follows:

As the motion of the earth with regard to the fixed stars (those that twinkle) is uniform, timepieces can in a most simple manner be correctly regulated by the stars with greater facility than by the sun. Choose a south window, from which any fixed point, such as a chimney side of a building, etc., may be seen. To the side of the window attach a piece of cardboard having a small hole in it in such a manner that by looking through the hole toward the edge of the elevated object, some fixed star may be seen. The progress of the star must be watched, and the instant it vanishes behind the fixed point the observer must note the exact time it disappears. The following night the same star will vanish behind the same object three minutes and fifty-six seconds sooner.

If a timepiece mark 9 o'clock when the star vanished one night the following night it will indicate three minutes and fifty-six seconds less than 9.

If the timepiece be faster or slower than the indication of the star, then it has gained or lost the indicated difference. If several cloudy nights follow it is only necessary to multiply three minutes fifty-six seconds by the number of days that have elapsed since the observation, and the product deducted from the hour of the clock indicates the first night clear enough for the second observation and gives the time the clock or watch ought to show. The same star can only be observed during a few weeks, for as it gains nearly an hour in a fortnight, it will in a short time come to the meridian in broad daylight and become invisible.

In marking the observation care must be taken that a planet is not chosen instead of a star. Additional to the fact that the light of fixed stars twinkles, while that of planets is steady because reflected, a sure means of distinguishing between them is to first watch a certain star attentively for a few nights. If it changes its place with regard to the other stars, it is a planet, since the fixed stars appear to maintain the same relative positions with regard to each other.

WALKING ON BROKEN LEGS

ASTONISHING RESULTS OF A NEW PROCESS IN SURGERY.

By It Patients Are Able to Be Up and About Within Twenty-Four Hours After Sustaining a Fractured Limb—A Practical Test of the Ambulatory Bandage.

That a man is unlucky enough to fall and break a leg doesn't any longer have to spend weeks imprisoned in bed waiting for the fractured limb to mend but may be up and about sometimes within twenty-four hours after the accident, was made plain to the doctors assembled the other night in the surgical section of the New York Academy of Medicine. A workman who had fallen off a scaffold a fortnight before walked about the room without the aid of crutches and with only the slightest perceptible limp, although his left leg, which had been broken, was still done up in plaster Paris.

He was one of two patients introduced to the surgeons as visible proof of setting broken legs, which system was presented as a vast advance on the old method of treating such fractures by keeping the unfortunate victim in bed until the fractured bones reunited. The subject of the up-to-date treatment was presented in a paper by Dr. James Porter Fiske of the staff of attending physicians of Roosevelt Hospital. He gave the result of 250 operations in which

THE AMBULATORY SPLINT

had been used successfully in the hospitals. The problem that confronted the surgeon in such cases, he said, was to get injured patients up and about their business just as soon as possible, and by the new method flattering results had been attained, particularly in the case of disabled professional men. Its efficacy in the case of laboring men was a little less apparent. In the nature of their occupation the full use of fractured limbs was not so readily attained. If the injury was treated promptly the recovery was very rapid, excepting in the case of alcoholic patients, in which the danger of delirium tremens setting in after the fracture was the obstacle. In healthy persons, male or female, the method had secured admirable results.

The ambulatory system has been in use in Berlin for some time. It is quite simple. In the case of the fracture of either of the bones of the lower leg the patient is placed in a recumbent position and the injured bones are set in place and bound securely with an ordinary muslin roller bandage. No cotton is used in the binding. Outside of this roller a plaster of Paris gauze bandage is wound. This hardens and leaves the limb incased in a plaster cast which generally extends from the toe tip to the knee joint. It holds the broken parts of the limb immovable, and hardens rapidly. The best quality of cast and bandage is always employed, and the patient is encouraged to walk without crutches after

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

Care is taken, of course, to avoid all possibility of inflammation setting in. The reason the patient can walk so soon is that the weight of the body is supported upon the upper part of the ambulatory cast, which acts as a crutch.

Dr. Fisk cited a case where a patient 72 years old had been able to walk within eight days after the application of the ambulatory splint. The healing of the bones goes on while the patient is walking about just as if he were lying down as the fractured limb is in no way disturbed by the exercise. In fact, the reuniting of the fractured parts is hastened, and the stiffness of joints resulting from the old method of keeping a patient in bed and quiet is greatly reduced. Within six weeks, often sooner, the bones will have united, and then the limb is subjected to hot and cold douche baths and to brisk massage to restore it to its normal condition. The average time the ambulatory splint was worn in the 250 cases quoted was from twenty-eight to thirty-five days, and many of the patients were able to go about much the same as usual during this period.

Dr. J. M. Woodbury of Roosevelt Hospital said that in none of the cases cited by Dr. Fiske had any patient returned to the hospital for treatment for malformation of the limb. Even in the case of serious double oblique fracture, where the weight of the body is liable to dislocate the set limb and drive the bone through the flesh, the process had worked successfully. This was important from a medico-legal standpoint, for it protected the surgeon from the risk of damage suits for faulty surgery

GREAT ICE AVALANCHE.

A mass of ice comprising 4,000,000 cubic feet broke away on the 11th of September, 1896, from the lower part of the Altels Glacier on the Gemmi Pass, in Switzerland. With the velocity acquired in its descent this river of ice rushed across the pasturage and up the western slope of the valley to a height of 1,900 feet along the rocky wall of the Weissflugrat. Not being able to completely surmount this barrier, the main mass came surging back like a vast sea wave recoiling from the cliffs—with such force that some of it returned to a height of 100 feet up the eastern side. Isolated blocks of ice were hurled clear over the ridge into the adjoining valley. The avalanche was preceded by a terrific blast of wind, which swept away chalets, trees, men and cattle, as though they had been feathers. These sudden avalanches of ice or snow form one of the special dangers of Alpine climbing.

SERVES THE PURPOSE.

Does your wife ever tie a string around your finger to make you remember things?

Yes, often. How does it work? Well, when I get into the city it reminds me to telegraph to her and ask her what it was she wanted me to remember.

HOW TO SLEEP WELL.

Sleeplessness is a most distressing complaint, and one which ages a woman quickly; therefore "insomnia," as it is called, should be attended to at once. When night after night, a person lies awake for hours together, serious results are sure to follow. It may arise from various causes.

Disordered liver will often cause sleeplessness. When this is the case, the patient feels heavy and drowsy after meals, and may fall asleep at once on going to bed, only to awaken soon after and lie awake for hours, perhaps just dropping off for a few minutes before morning, and waking again, feeling tired and irritable. In such a case, treat yourself much as you would for a bilious attack. Take some aperient medicine; be very careful in your diet, take gentle exercise in the open air, and avoid all worry and excitement.

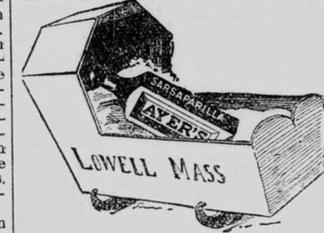
Irregularity in the hour of retiring will cause restlessness, and should be avoided if possible. Regular hours are much the best. An afternoon nap is not always a desirable thing to indulge in, but if late hours have been kept the night before, and the requisite number of hours of sleep been curtailed, it is well to take a short rest during the day. The corsets and shoes should be taken off before lying down.

WAS HE A RENEGADE?

Two Irishmen, differing in political opinions, were discussing in an impassioned way their respective creeds. At last, after overcoming good nature, one accused the other of being a renegade to party and family tradition.

This accusation the second man stoutly denied, averring that his political views were based upon his own convictions rather than on an accident of birth. Still his accuser insisted that he was a turncoat.

You call yourself Daly! he cried, scornfully. You call yourself Daly, and everybody knows that when you first struck this country you had an O on your name big enough for a life-server!



Fifty Years Ago.

This is the cradle in which there grew That thought of a philanthropic brain; A remedy that would make life new For the multitudes that were racked with pain. 'Twas sarsaparilla, as made, you know By Ayer, some 60 years ago.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

was in its infancy half a century ago. To-day it doth "bestride the narrow world like a colossus." What is the secret of its power? Its cures! The number of them! The wonder of them! Imitators have followed it from the beginning of its success. They are still behind it. Wearing the only medal granted to sarsaparilla in the World's Fair of 1893, it points proudly to its record. Others imitate the remedy; they can't imitate the record:

50 Years of Cures.

CONCLUSIVE PROOF.

From a Well Known Citizen.

"My daughter Polly, has for more than a year been troubled with severe symptoms of kidney disease. She had constant and acute pains in her back. The pain in her head was fearful and almost unendurable. It frequently prevented her from attending school, and she found study at home practically impossible. She had no appetite, and did not sleep well. The pain was very severe around her heart, and she was much troubled with fluttering and palpitation. She was completely worn out in body and was tired and drowsy all the time. Her mother and myself became seriously alarmed as she was constantly getting worse.

"Last July my daughter Sarah, a teacher in the Public School at Kingsville, Ont., came home to spend her vacation, and finding her sister in such a distressing and dangerous condition, said, I am taking Doan's Kidney Pills and they are doing me much good, I have a box with me and will divide with Polly, which she did. By the time Polly had finished the box her improvement in health was so marked, that I procured more from Mr. Fraleigh's drugstore.

Her full restoration to health and spirits was rapid and continuous. She has now none of her former dangerous, painful and distressing kidney troubles. She eats and sleeps well and for more than a month has enjoyed the most vigorous health. She has not lost a day at school since she commenced taking the pills, and has so much faith in them since they restored her to full health that she wants me to keep six boxes in the house all the time, in case there should be needed and not available. Her cure has been so wonderful she thinks they will cure any complaint. If the pills had cost \$1000 a box, I would not have begrudged the money. The declaration of my daughter to full health and strong girlhood, from her former serious sickness, etc., has made her mother, myself and daughter a happy family.

"I make this sworn statement with the full approval of my wife and daughter, voluntarily and without any urging or inducement whatever, to show the gratitude my daughter, wife and myself feel for the wonderful cure wrought by the Doan Kidney Pills. We have not the least doubt that her trying the pills just at the time she did saved us a large doctor's bill, as she was all but sickened at this time. I am sixty-two years of age, a carpenter by trade, have been a resident of St. Mary's for forty years, and county constable for thirty years and am well known, and I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true, and knowing the same to have the same effect as an oath, and according to the Act respecting extra Judicial Oaths 1892.

WILLIAM BROWN.

Taken and declared before me at the Town of St. Mary's, in the County of Perth, this 8th day of March, A. D., 1896. WM. N. FORD, A Commissioner in High Court of Justice Ontario.

Farmers Won't

Do without Implements, because they can't sow or reap profitably without them. But when they buy, they naturally want to do so as cheaply as possible. This is why so many deal with us, for we buy for cash and sell at a modest profit. We keep in stock in our Big Warerooms in Upper Town, all kinds of Farm Implements, including the makes of

FROST & WOOD, WILKINSON, MAXWELL,

and other well-known manufacturers.

ALSO

Buggies, Road Carts,

Waggons, Stoves, and

Musical Instruments

All kinds of Repairs kept on hand

BE SURE AND CALL.

Charles McKinnon,

IMPLEMENT AGENT,

UPPER TOWN,

DURHAM

Advertisement for 'The D.E. EMULSION' featuring a fisherman logo and text describing its benefits for lung troubles and consumption.

What The People Want

When they go to buy an article is to find the price in accordance with the time. Our prices are always low All we ask is an honest profit Has your clock gone astray or is your watch not keeping time? Bring them to us and we will set them right.

A. GORDON, Watchmaker and Jeweler

EDGE PROPERTY FOR SALE

County of Grey, including a valuable W. Power, Brick dwelling, and many eligible building lots, will be sold in one or more lots Also lot No. 60, Con. 2, W. G. E., Township of Bentinck, 100 acres, adjoining Town plot Durham. Mortgages taken for part purchase money Apply to JAMES EDGE, Edge Hill, P.O. Oct. 2nd.

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