COLORS IN BIRDS' EGGS.

A Secret of Nature Which is a Poser to Men of Science.

"If you are interested in natural problems," said a man who likes to pore over the cases on the Museum of Natural History, "here is a very simple one, but you can find it all the food for speculation and theory you want, as scores of very eminent thinkers have done already.

"What is nature's reason for the color and marking of birds' eggs, and in the process of evolution how has it worked out? There must be a reason for their infinite diversity, and it can hardly be an aethetic one.

"That looks simple dnough, yet the most advanced naturalists haven't been able to puzzle it out. All they can say with any confidence is that the all-pervading instinct of distrust and need for protection is exhibited in eggshells as in more important things, and the main idea in their color scheme has been to secure safety and harmony with their surroundings. But even that has exceptions.

"Take the doves. Their eggs are white and plainly visible in the flimsy nest, though the nest is built in a tree, and the eggs should be of a darker tint to follow the general rule.

"Now, that, I believe, has been reasoned out in this way; The original doves were rock doves and they laid white eggs in conformity with the natural law which ordains that color for most species of birds nesting in the dark, so that the female might readily see them when she comes into the gloom.

"You will find traces of this early instinct in the fact that wherever there is a deserted rabbit warren you will find doves taking advantage of it to build their nests in the abandoned burrows. But whether in holes or trees the nests still contain white eggs, which nature ordained for their rock dwelling ancestors.

"Owls lay pale eggs for the same reason. They breed in the dark.

"On the other hand the ducks, which so far as anybody knows, have always frequented the most open places also lay pale eggs without markings. But with them you will find a greater tendency to revert to olive browns or sandy tints, the very color of the sand and shingles on which the eggs are found.

"The egg shells of the plovers and similar beach breeders are exactly ground color, just as the partridge and pheasant eggs are the color of fallen leaves. And grouse, quail and moor fowl have eggs matching exactly in color with the brown stems of heather and the pine tree scales among which they lie.

"But there are blue and white and spotted eggs you can't explain. At least I can't satisfactorily. Anybody may start his own theories on the subject and find the problem endless. Solve it correctly and I think you will solve at the same time half a dozen other mysteries which have puzzled great scientists on this queer problem filled planet."

NEW WAYS IN CHINA.

Even Dowager Empress Rides About in an Automobile Nowadays.

The Boxers did the metropolis of Chi-li a good turn in 1900, when they besieged the foreign settlement, declared war on all the world, and brought down upon it the armies of eight great powers.

The presence of 100,000 foreign troops, with all their surprising activities and methods, waked up Tientsin and sent it spinning in the path of progress.. Local government by foreigners had free sweep in any municipal reforms or public works, and with the old native city laid flat and its walls destroyed, there was every chance to cut, widen and lay out roads as they were needed, to enlarge the French concession, make a Japanese, a German, and Russian settlement, and extend the model British settlement in the heart of the foreign city. Business houses, dwellings, banks and barracks have been built in every quarter, good roads lead in every direction over the mud plain, and Tientsin as it was before the war bears no resemblance to this busy, hustling, modern city.

The fervor of progress and prosperity is as great within the Chinese city also, and the viceroy, Yuan Shih Kai, has kept the pace set him by the International body that ruled Tienstin in modern western fashion during the foreign occupation. The object lesson was not lost, and the foreign impetus has not yet subsided. The viceroy has built a broad, macadamized boulevard from the native to a railway station of its own that twinkles with electric lights at night; there are iron bridges across the river in place of the old pontoons, and the whole place hums with such progress as was never dreamed of in China.

The city gates of Pekin swing open day and night; further breaches in the walls have been made to permit the railroad tracks to parallel the Tartar city wall, and the station is beside the water gate through which General Gaseal and the British troops passed that August day to relieve the besieged legations. Jinrikishas meet the arriving trains and whirl one past the walled and balustraded canal to Legation street, a hard, macadamized highway closed with gates at either end.

The way is lined with tall foreign buildings and brick walls, over which show the gabled roofs of other two-storied foreign constructions. As well might be anywhere else but Pekin.

Only a few gateways on this street remain as they were before the siege, and a stretch of the French compound wall bears yet the marks where bullets and shell peppered it through the midsummer months of 1900. The old trees, the coffin shop, the medicine shop with its gilded "beckoning boars"—in fact, all the old Chinese landmarks are gone from Legation street. In place are the long barracks walls of the "Waldersee Kaserne," the lofty English bank with its clock tower, and the labyrinthine cellars and foundations of the large hotel of the Compagnie Wagons-Lits. One rubs his eyes in amaze that three short years could effect so complete a change, and each day convinces him that the Pekinese themselves have changed quite as much as this small quarter of the Tartar city.

With the great and the rude awakening there has come, too, a complete change of face and heart. The typical and most popular officials no longer spit at the sight of a foreigner, his cart or his dwelling, as if ejecting pernicious bacilli, nor do they openly long to have the skin of a foreigner tanned for the cover of a cart. Six princes drive in foreign built broughams, and more than sixty foreign carriages will be in use by official personages this winter.

The Empress Dowager enjoys her automobile in the summer palace gsounds, and Prince Su, who has charge kf municipal affairs, promises that the main streets of the city shall be fit for automobile travel in one year.—Chicago Tribune.

Boiled Tomatoes.

Boiled tomatoes have a much better flavor than the same vegetable fruit stewed. Smooth tomatoes nearly of a size should be chosen. These are dropped in boiling salted water and boiled until they can be easily pierced with a fork. Lift them out then, place on squares of buttered toast, score each on top crosswise, season with a lump of butter, some salt, pepper and a very little sugar, and serve as hot as possible.

Valentine.

Ellis Parker Butler in Leslie's.

In hand I take this pen of mine
To write you, sweet, a valentine;
I'd take your dainty hand instead,
But—you're a drawing—I am wed—
And that is why, you understand,
I only take my pen in hand.

The Parson's Wife.

Bishop Huntington, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, diocese of Central New York, is an old man and a wise one; but even from his lips these words may seem a little strange to many of us: "More than one pastor has been displaced, more than one ministry sacrificed by the 'dressy,' pleasure-seeking, or silly partner of a diligent pastor." More than one? Very like. Not all the ministers' wives can be perfect, but it is hardly fair to dwell on the imperfections of a few. There comes to the mind's eye so many pictures and memories of parsons' wives who raised large families, who patched, washed, darned, scrubbed, mended, cooked, kept the brood in order, educated it; sent boys and girls to college and stinted themselves to do it; kept their husbands well fed, contented; took an active part in all sorts of church, Sunday-school, charitable, educational, social work and play; snatched time to read, too; submitted meekly to be "bossed" by divers "influential" maids and matrons, and miscellaneous bores; and kept sweet, helpful, patient, sunny through life. Their works do follow them! The ministers' wives were, are, and ever shall be all right. — "With the Procession" in Everybody's Magazine for February.

Every house needs a New Century Washer.

It is the best, you cannot afford to deprive your wife of so valuable an aid. It has ball bearings and strong spiral springs—thoroughly cleanses a tub-full of clothes in five minutes.

Have your dealer show it to you or write us for booklet.

THE DOWSWELL MFG. CO., LTD., HAMILTON, ONT.

READY TO GO.

Kindly Office Joe Blackburn's Performed for Negro About to Hang.

When Senator Joe Blackburn was a struggling young lawyer, as all really great statesmen must have been at some stage of their career, he was called upon to defend a negro charged with murder. Mr. Blackburn did the best he could—made an impassioned address to the jury and all that sort of thing—but the defendant was sentenced to pay the extreme penalty.

Mr. Blackburn was then taking his first dip in politics, running for some small local office. He had a hard time getting people to attend the meetings at which he was advertised to speak, and luck generally appeared to be against him. Well, hanging day came and the doomed man was told that he would have fifteen minutes in which to say his last words.

Mr. Blackburn accompanied the man to the scaffold, and as his eyes wandered over the several hundred of his fellow citizens who had come to witness the spectacle — more than he could ever hope to attract by his own eloquence — his brain was lit up by a flash of genius. He had a few hurried words with his client in which he painted the waste of words it would be for the unfortunate man to talk at such a time and impressed upon him what a godsend the opportunity to make a speech would be to him, Blackburn. The negro somewhat reluctantly agreed to let him go ahead.

Thereupon, much to the surprise of the auditors, Mr. Blackburn launched into an effort on the issues of the hour. He was proceeding to his own entire satisfaction when he felt a tugging at his coat tails. Glancing around he encountered the pained expression of the negro.

"Say, Massa, Joe," he whispered, "dat speech wot yuh made tuh de jury was bad nuff to hang me, but dis yuh one"—shaking his head sadly—"Mistuh She'iff, please pull dat rope."—Washington Star.

A Hint to the Powers.

Toronto News.

In this weather somebody will get a severe cold if that open door in Manchuria is not closed.

One of the happiest moments of a woman's life is when she is able to say: "I told you so."

The wages of sin may be paid in money or in alimony.

Foul Breath, Catarrh, Headache

Are Banished by Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. It Relieves in 10 Minutes.

F. A. Bottom, druggist, Cookshire, Que., says: "For 20 years I suffered from catarrh. My breath was very offensive even to myself. I tried everything which promised me a cure. In almost all instances I had to proclaim them no good at all. I was induced to try Dr Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. I got relief instantly after first application. It cured me and I am free from all the effects of it."—25.

Dr. Agnew's Ointment relieves eczema in one day. 35c.

Bound to Please.

The London Chronicle tells a story of an incident in a Donegal village showing the friendly Irish habit of giving a pleasing answer in preference to the bald truth. "I want some peppermint lozenges," said the Saxon visitor, coming straight to the point. "Sure ya do," smiled the Irish shopkeeper, keeping off it. "How much are they?" pursued the Saxon, as the man did not move. "And isn't it two ounces the penny they are?" answered the Irishman, still without moving. "Well, have you got any?" persisted his customer, impatiently. "Sure, not any at all," said the Irishman, coming reluctantly to the point with his sweetest smile of all.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury,

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney, & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by Druggists. Price, 75c per bottle.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation

No Dancing for Them.

The Chicago Business Woman's Club has decided against dances in which it is necessary for the gentleman to put his arm around the lady. If that kind of dancing is to be barred the dancing teachers may as well look around for new jobs.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Little Braves.—Old time a quarter-a-box "Purgers" are quitting the field in whole battalions. Dr. Agnew's Little Pills at 10 cents a vial are driving them out at all points. Because they act gently, more effectively, never pain, and are easy to take. Sick headache succumbs to one dose.—69.

The Judge Wilted.

A certain judge, living in the upper part of New York, while trying a case, listened with pain and displeasure to the testimony of a colored woman who was describing how she had whipped one of her offspring. She enlarged on the harrowing details until the judge stopped her.

"Do you mean to tell me that you were cruel enough to punish your son like that?" he demanded.

"Om co'ce I did, yoh honoh," she replied.

"How dare you be so brutal?"

The colored woman looked at him in fine contempt for a moment, then asked slowly:

"Look a-heah, jedge, was yoh ever de father ob a wuthless mulatter boy?"

The judge almost fell from the bench.

"Ef yoh ain't," continued the negress, "then yoh don't know nuffin' about de case!" — Harper's Weekly.

Dear Sirs,—I was for seven years a sufferer from Bronchial trouble, and would be so hoarse at times that I could scarcely speak above a whisper. I got no relief from anything till I tried your MINARD'S HONEY BALSAM. Two bottles gave relief and six bottles made a complete cure. I would heartily recommend it to anyone suffering from throat or lung trouble.

K. F. VANBUSKIRK.

Fredericton.

Inconsistent.

Buffalo News.

She would not, though I coaxed and teased,
And begged of her my bride to be,
She said she'd marry whom she pleased,
Yet—Goodness knows!—she pleases me.

A Cry for Help.—A pain in the back is a cry of the kidneys for help. South American Kidney Cure is the only cure that hasn't a failure written against it in cases of Bright's disease, diabetes, inflammation of the bladder, gravel and other kidney ailments. Don't neglect the apparently insignificant "signs." This powerful liquid specific prevents and cures.—70

He Had a Good Time.

Chicago Chronicle.

The late Admiral Sir Harry Keppel said a short time before his death: "I am well over 90 years of age and I have enjoyed every hour of my life. I am well content to go."

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

Courteous G. T. R. Official.

Toronto News.

The chorus of complaints that comes from the branch lines is pleasantly varied by words of thanks to a courteous official of the Grand Trunk from a company of stormbound passengers at Clinton. Sixty-two people who were stuck in the snow Saturday night, Jan. 23, and afterwards were entertained in the Clinton hotels till the following Wednesday, presented an address to Mr. [illegible] Clinton, expressing in the warmest terms their thanks for the kindness and courtesy shown them by that official during their enforced stay in the town.

A JAPANESE WAR SONG.

It Describes the Prowess of Japanese During the War With China.

When Japan sent a party of naval officers and sailors to the States to take charge of the cruiser Kasagi, built by the Cramps, they taught one of the Japanese war songs to their American acquaintances. Here is how the Japanese version ran in part:

Tenshin joyaku hakai hashi
Toyo heiwa no giwo shiranu,
Momai ganko no chan-chan ga,
Burei kiwamaru furumaiwa,
Setshi yakuwan kogai hifun,
Nippon danshino udemaide,
Yaban no gume o yaburanto.

Translated, the song is as follows: "The Tien Tsin treaty has been broken. The extremely discourteous conduct of the barbarous and stubborn Chinese, failing to recognize the value of peace in the east, causes teeth to be set and arms folded, while public sentiment is sorrowful and angry.

"To break this dream of barbarism by the power of the Japanese soldiery, our reinforcements are continually advancing, with flags floating bravely.

"Both in the desperate battle of the Gulf of Pechili and in an attack on the Province of Segio, we displayed the national prowess by slaughtering the Chinese fighting against our country.

"We are marching through a country in which the scorching heat blisters the flesh. We are passing through fire and water, but we do not care. The enemy's projectiles come like hail. The corpses are piled mountain high at Heijo. Blood discolors the waters of Wei Hai Wei, but our soldiers, never retreating an inch, easily captured the Chinese fort.

"Grasping 400 provinces with one hand and planting the flag of the Rising Sun on the Castle of Pekin, let us return in triumph. For you are to be an example of the military clan, increasing the fame of the nation.

"Human life is only fifty years. If we are reluctant to lose it, we become disloyal to the Emperor for generations.

Two ways lie open before us: the loyal way is to die. Let our motto be to continue fighting until we fall exhausted.

"This is the most satisfactory solution. How desirous. How joyful."

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows.

Destructive Bugs.

A Boston entomologist makes the extraordinary statement that bugs, under which generic name he includes the little creatures from the grasshopper down to the ladybug, are destroying property in this country to the amount of $250,000,000 a year. The grasshopper eats up $90,000,000 worth of vegetation, the Hessian fly $50,000,000, the chinchbug, $10,000,000, and the potato bug $8,000,000. Moths, ladybugs, tobaccco worms, squashbugs, beetles and numerous other entomological entities consume the remainder.—Oswego Times.

When you think you have cured a cough or cold, but find a dry, hacking cough remains, there is danger. Take

Shiloh's Consumption Cure The Lung Tonic

at once. It will strengthen the lungs and stop the cough.

Prices: 25c 50c $1. S. C. WELLS & Co. LeRoy, N.Y., Toronto, Can. 385

They Bound the Wrong Leg.

A man in North Waldoboro, while cutting wood last week, had the misfortune to cut a deep gash in his leg, which, owing to a very peculiar mistake, came near being much more serious than the circumstances would warrant. His leg was corded and he was taken to Waldoboro village, a distance of six to seven miles, for surgical treatment. Upon the arrival there the injured man was found to be at death's door from the loss of blood, and it was then discovered that the cord had been tied around the wrong leg. He is now recovering.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

For the Children.

The Earl of Meath, a somewhat enthusiastic British humanitarian, has suggested to the London school authorities that children of the elementary grades be taken from the city and brought up in model country villages, the parents to pay only the bare cost of food, the county council footing other expenses. He urges that in this way children of the very poor would have an otherwise unobtainable chance to grow up strong, healthy and good citizens. In addition, many of them would probably stay in the country, thereby helping to repopulate the rural districts.

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, etc.

Brilliant Little Nelly.

Philadelphia Record.

The Squire's Pretty Daughter (examining the village school)—Now, children, can you tell me what a miracle is?

The children looked at one another, but remained silent.

"Can no one answer this question?" the new curate asked, who was standing behind the squire's daughter.

A little girl was suddenly struck with a brilliant idea. She held up her hand excitedly.

"Well, Nellie?" the squire's daughter asked, smiling approval.

"Please miss" the small child replied breathlessly, "mother says 'twill be a miracle if you don't marry the new curate."

Shirt waists and dainty linen are made delightfully clean and fresh with Sunlight Soap. 5B

The Elusive Hare.

To my notion, there is a peculiar charm about trailing a hare. In the first place, there is a superb uncertainty about where you will locate the beast, if it knows where it is itself. You find a fresh track, and if wise, you will follow it in what apparently is the wrong direction, and then—well, you just keep on following. Somewhere, perhaps only a few yards to one side of where you struck the track, is the other end, and, of course, a hare. You acquire wisdom concerning this small tehnicality later—possibly hours later—but that does not of necessity spoil the sport. It may be the track is first found in a briery thicket, which hampers all the rising ground, marking the edge of a great swampy woodland. It is easy—in fact, almost too easy. The hare loves swampy woodland, so, of course, he merely has skipped for a trifling distance along the rim, as it were, of the depression, then gone down and squatted under some handy log, from which shelter you will bounce him within five minutes. Theoretically this is sound; practically, it is a hundred to one shot on an utterly unreliable tip. Impulse prompts you to slant down toward the swamp at once, to jump him from somewhere, promptly knock him over and be done with it. This will save useless pottering over foolish tracks and also save valuable time.—Edwyn Sandys, in February Outing.

INTELLIGENT TREATMENT with Allen's Lung Balsam brings up the phlegm, allays inflammation, stops the cough and pain in the chest, and overcomes those terrible colds which if neglected soon becomes consumption.

Easy to Escape Recognization.

Modern Society.

Young author (who thinks himself famous)—I believe I should enjoy my holiday better if I could go incognito.

Friend—Good idea. Travel under your nom de plume.

Are You Going to New York?

Then use the New York Central, the only trunk line whose trains enter New York City, corner 4th avenue and 42nd street.

The Horse Holds its Place.

The automobile, rapid, shifty, and a bit dangerous withal, came to contend with the horse for mastery in the matter of outdoor exercise and transportation. The motor car has made a sure place for itself, but neither it nor the chest-flatteninty bicycle can claim equality with the horse as a bracer of nerves and preserver of health.

Sleighing Good.

The winter of 1903-4 will live in the memories of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and Mr. C. M. Hays as a season when the sleighing was much better than the railroading.

ISSUE NO. 8 1904.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used for Children Teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for Diarrhœa.

A Money-Maker—We will teach either sex a legitimate and profitable business, an exceptionally good all-the-year-around money-maker, that brings in the dollars. Plan and full particulars for 10 cents in stamps. Don't forget the stamps, and address Standard Supply Co., Hamilton, Ont.

WANTED

A good general servant. Good wages. Apply to

MRS. W. A. HOLTON, Hamilton, Ont.

WANTED FARM HAND—Single man. Must be thoroughly acquainted with general farm work and the care of stock and be well recommended. Apply P. O drawer 27, Hamilton, Ont.

B&C

LONG HIP

A POPULAR CORSET FOR 1904

STYLE

253

NO BRASS EYELETS

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY

BRUSH & Co.,

TORONTO, - ONT.

A Tame Answer.

I found the motorman an intelligent and courteous fellow.

"Would you like to drive a car at the rate of 100 miles an hour?" I asked.

"Not unless I were passing people who were signalling me to stop," he replied.—Detroit Free Press.

Wash greasy dishes, pots or pans with Lever's Dry Soap a powder. It will remove the grease with the greatest ease. 36

Afraid of Morgan.

Toronto Star.

J. Pierpont Morgan has gone to Montreal for a rest. His action seems natural enough here, but Montreal, which isn't really aware of its resposeful reputation abroad, is nervously nailing down the mountain.

In Going to New York

Be sure that your tickets read via Grand Trunk and Lehigh Valley route of the "Black Diamond Express." This is the direct and best route from all Canadian points. By this route baggage is now checked in bond and from Canadian points. The Lehigh Valley has three stations in New York, up town near all first-class hotels, and down town near all European steamship docks, saving passengers for Europe a long and expensive transfer. Secure your tickets of Grand Trunk agents. Robert S. Lewis, Canadian Passenger Agent, Yonge street, Toronto, Ont.

"This is a dilution and a snare," remarked the man with the impressionistic nose as he realized that his whiskey had been watered.

The Canadian Order of Chosen Friends Still Forging Ahead.

The Order has just closed another prosperous year, in fact the best in its history.

Total increase approved applications.....3,368
Total Increase in Surplus Funds.....$100,000.00
Total Membership.....26,080
Total Surplus Funds.....$420,000.00

PURELY CANADIAN. REGULARLY INCORPORATED. HEALTHY and RELIABLE

Organizers wanted. Write—

W. F. MONTAGUE, Grand Recorder, Hamilton, Ontario.
W. F. CAMPBELL, Grand Organizer, Hamilton, Ontario.

Her Conclusion.

"Do you think your father has any idea that I have serious intentions concerning you?"

"I heard him telling mother the other day that he didn't think it would cost any more to have you at the table regularly than it does for me to feed you from the pantry shelves every night."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Why They Parted.

He—Their engagement is broken off.

She—For what reason?

"Why, he told her one night that when he was at his work her face was ever before him."

"Well?"

"Why, he's a cartoonist." —Yonkers Statesman.

Use **EDDY'S** FIBRE WARE

Can be had in TUBS, PAILS, WASH BASINS, MILK PANS, STABLE PAILS, ETC.

From any first-class dealer.

Age of Mother Earth.

Lord Kelvin's estimate of the age of the world is: "Not so great as 40,000,000 years; possibly as little as 20,000,000 years; probably 30,000,000 years." As not even the greatest scientists have been able to find out within 10,000,000 or 15,000,000 years how old Mother Earth is, it must be confessed that she keeps the secret of her age quite as well as do her charming daughters. The scientists may at last come to the conclusion that, like the others, she is "only as old as she looks."

Even More Apropos.

A good story is going the rounds in the Oranges of a prominent Presbyterian clergyman who was presented with twins the day before Christmas, says the New York World. He had prepared a sermon for Christmas morning upon the subject, "Unto Us a Child is Born." When the twins arrived he thought the text might prove too apropos. He thereupon excavated another sermon from the barrel, and preached upon "Art Thou He Who Should Come, or Look We for Another?" Even with this thoughtful substitution, the congregation had to smile just a little.

PAGE FENCES Wear Best

It is the fence that has stood the test of time—stands the heaviest strain—never sags—the standard the world over. Order through our local agent or direct from us. 201

THE PAGE WIRE FENCE CO. LIMITED. Walkerville, Ont. Montreal, Que. St. John, N.B. Winnipeg, Man.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO