

NEW THINGS STRANGE & CURIOUS

FEEDING THE GREAT DRAGON.

In China the dragon as chief of the fabulous monsters, is worshipped and feared by many, and is also the emblem of royalty.

The superstition of all classes concerning it is probably a modified relic of the widespread serpent worship of ancient times.

A "feeding" ceremony takes place on the Pacific coast when the dragon is taken out by the Chinese to appear in festival parade. This dragon is 800 feet long, and is operated by 150 men in its sinuous windings through the streets. It glitters with thousands of tiny mirrors, representing scales.

These are set in gold and silver and peacock blue and green embroideries. The barbaric effect of this great monster borne through the streets by the Chinese, costumed in aesthetic robes of pale blue, old rose, yellow and pink crepe, and surrounded with banners and pennants blazing with gold embroidery, is immensely spectacular.

The feeding ceremonies, which take place just before starting, are for propitiation and to bring good luck to the festival. The tray contains eight different kinds of sweetmeats and nuts, and the liquor is Chinese gin.



UNBREAKABLE GLASS.

Old though the maxim is which tells us that "persons who live in glass houses should not throw stones," it is about to be repudiated.

This was always said for the reason that every one knew that when a stone or any other hard substance came in contact with the combination of silica and alkaline earth commonly called glass this as a compact mass would have become a thing of the past. In other words, the glass would break.

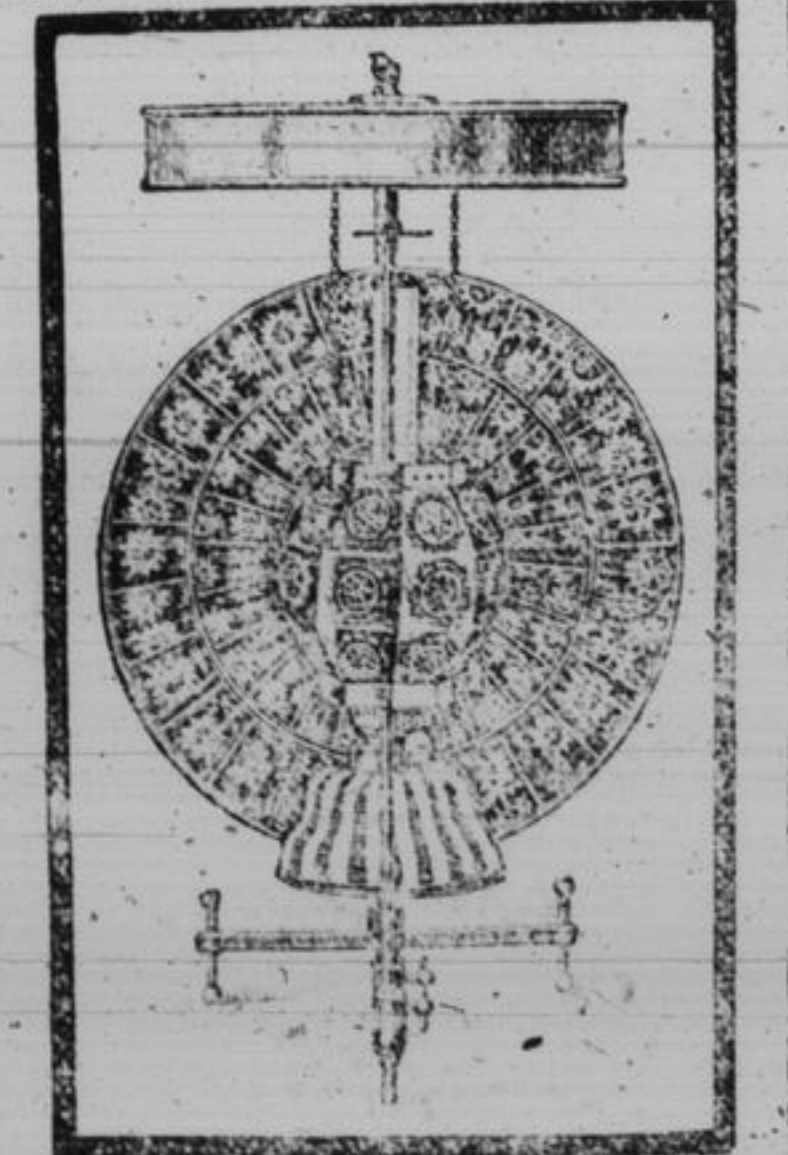
But if the days to come the streets will not longer be paved with cobblestones or macadamized, the houses will not be built of bricks or stone, the walls or ceilings will not be plastered, hall-rooms floors will not be made of waxed wood, rails and pillars will not be made of iron, and the boys may play baseball in the narrow streets without fear of being taken into custody of a guardian of the peace, for breaking windows with their balls will not be known, and people who live in glass houses, as they literally will do, may throw as many stones as they wish without any fear of harm to the houses or glass.

This it can be used for the foundations and walls of buildings and can be moulded into cornices, plates, wall decorations, statues and almost anything else. By coloring it can be made into mosaics, enamels or the closest imitations of precious stones. The walls can be made of glass, held together by fine irons, and stairs, balustrades, ceilings and wall decorations, mantelpieces and fire-places can be of glass, and the pipes for hot and cold water, hot air, gas and electric wires and drains may all be made of glass.

NEW MAGIC LANTERN.

Much entertainment is furnished by a "wonder lamp" recently invented in Germany. Its distinctive feature consists in the fact that while it is lighting it presents a series of brilliant pictures.

The exact manner in which it works has not been divulged, but those who have seen the pictures produced by it



say that they are more vivid and in other respects more interesting than those shown by a magic lantern.

It is said that an ordinary lamp can be fixed with the necessary apparatus for producing pictures, but that in order to obtain the best results, a regular wonder lamp should be used.

An agreeable man is one who consents to being taught things which he already knows.

It is a peculiar kind of talk that often leads to pulled noses and broken heads.

One can't judge a man by his coat; his necktie is a much better criterion.

MONARCHS' MALADIES.

Mental and physical diseases have in a peculiar manner ravaged royalty, the percentage of afflicted crowned heads being much greater than that of any other group of individuals. Excluding illnesses of the nature of King Edward's and restricting ourselves to chronic and incurable diseases, it is found that almost every crowned ruler is a sufferer from some dangerous malady.

The czar of Russia has been afflicted with melancholia since his earliest days, and his malady has increased in intensity and in the frequency of its manifestations since his accession to the throne of the Romanoffs. Not all the skill of the renowned mental specialists of Germany, Britain and France has succeeded in removing the ever-present blighting malady of the emperor of all the Russias. It will not be forgotten, moreover, that the present ruler of the Muscovite empire owes his accession to the mental incapacity of his brother, the natural heir.

Germany's strenuous kaiser leads an embittered life because of his paralyzed arm and an incurable disease of the ear, which will ultimately reach his brain. It will be remembered that the emperor's father, Frederick, succumbed to cancer.

Alfonso of Spain is admitted to be stricken with scrofula, and it is confidently asserted that the youthful monarch has frequently exhibited signs of insanity.

"Abdul the Damned" has only infantile spells of freedom from melancholia, and harrowing pen-pictures have been drawn of the deplorable condition to which the "lingly malady" reduces Turkey's despotic monarch.

The late King Milan of Serbia was the subject of off-recurring fits of madness, and the King of Wurtemberg does not enjoy entire sanity. Bavaria's last ruler terminated a wretched existence a frenzied suicide, and that country's present monarch suffers from softening of the brain.

Hapsburgs, Romanoffs, Bourbons and Guelfs have been scourged by the dread disease, which have, to a peculiar and striking degree, marked out royalty for their own, and the poisoned blood which has flowed from their veins has cursed a dozen dynasties.

STATUE WEEPS BLOOD?

There was considerable excitement in Naples recently owing to a rumor that tears of blood had fallen from a marble Madonna in that city.

Several persons vowed that they had seen them fall, and others, while not quite so positive as to the quality of the tears, were nevertheless certain that the statue had wept.

The rector of the church in which the statue stands discovered that it was simply a case of auto-suggestion. Those who claimed to have seen the tears were very nervous and excited persons, and the rector did not hesitate to tell them that they were suffering from a delusion.

He then told his congregation that what they supposed to be a miracle was a mere hallucination, whereto they became so increased that they drove him from the pulpit and would have done him serious injury if he had not barricaded himself in the rectory.

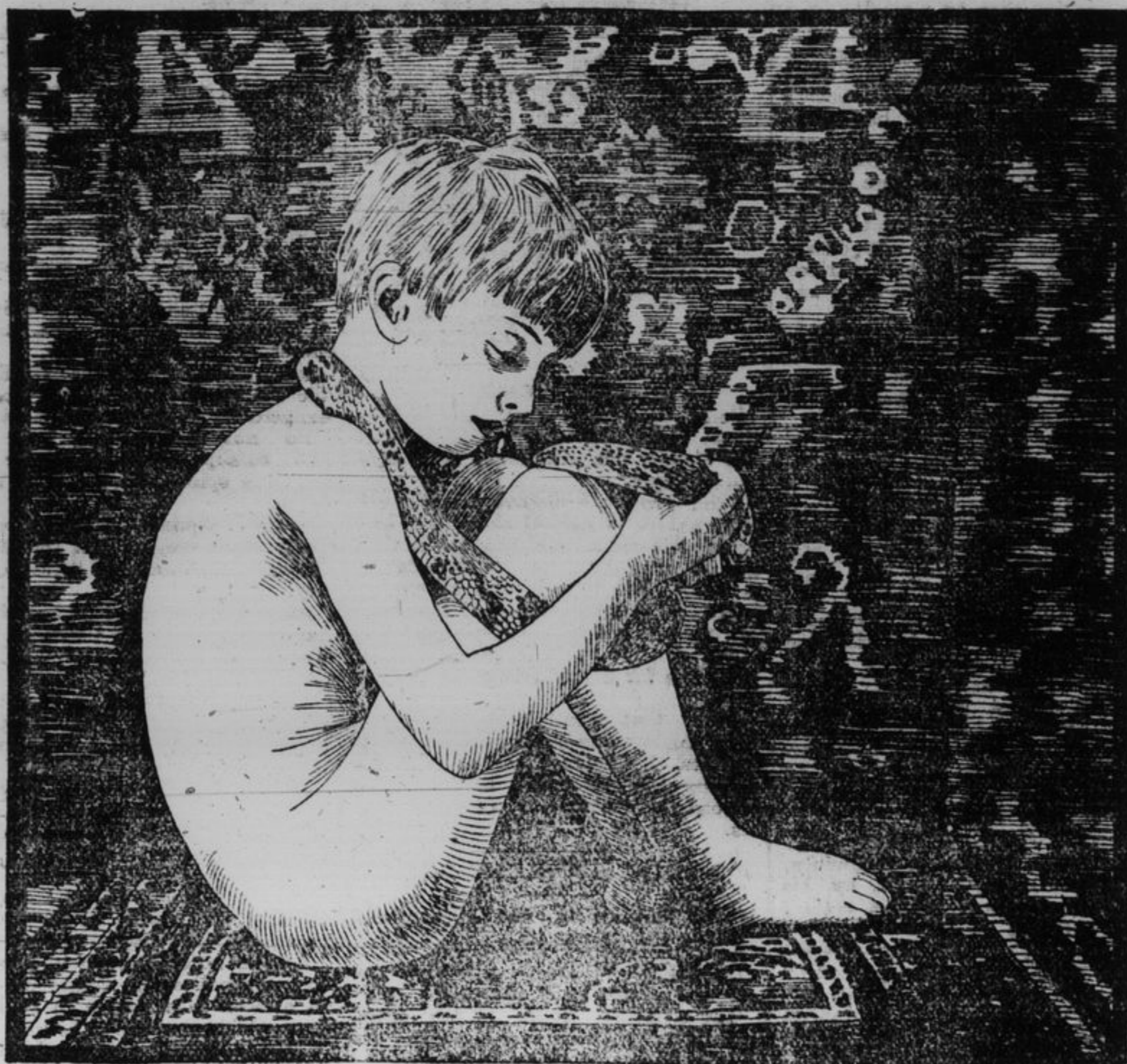
Prompness is often a mistake. If you do not believe it, recall the fate of the early worm. Many men have succeeded because they hesitated at the right time.

The man who first said that figures never fit is evidently never saw a burlesque show.

Some people have an idea that to be brilliant they must cast reflections on others.

Every good girl has her good points, and that's why a fellow gets stuck on her.

CHILD CHARMED FIVE-FOOT SNAKE ON SIGHT.



The little girl in this picture is playing with a live snake, five feet in length, which was playing alone in the pine woods of Ocean county, N.J., four days before the picture was taken.

The child is eight years of age, lacking a month, and her name is Fannie Miller. Her father, C. P. Miller, is a newsdealer in Main street, East Orange, near the Newark line, and he is not only an enthusiastic naturalist, but an amateur photographer.

In photographing living objects Mr. Miller shows more patience than Job or Dr. R. V. Shufeldt, and he has had much success with snakes, toads, tree frogs, turtles, newts, lizards and other specimens of the class reptilia, at close range. It requires extraordinary patience and an utter disregard of the cost of plates to be successful with these erratic creatures as subjects, especially when the pictures are taken indoors, as almost all of Mr. Miller's are.

This one of the little girl was taken in a room with a southern exposure, in slightly more than one second, with

only the light from two windows and a background of many colored rugs.

The reptile, which seems so contented with its head upon her knee and its tail around her neck, is common in South Jersey, where it is known as the pine or bull snake. Its classical name is "pitvphis melanoleucus." Its general color is white, with chestnut-brown irregular markings, edged with black. It is one of the most docile of reptiles, and never essays to bite. If it tried it could do no damage, because its teeth are as fine as those cut upon an ordinary manicure file and they cannot penetrate the most delicate skin.

The specimen shown was taken from Forked River to Newark by Thomas B. Booth, of that city, two weeks ago and was presented to "Harmonia," who took it to Mr. Miller and asked him to try his skill in getting a picture of it. Mr. Miller's seventeen-month-old baby boy, Arthur, familiarly known as "Bubs," squealed when he saw the big reptile, but it was not a note of fear. He wanted that snake and wanted it right away.

and was not satisfied until he had it in his hands. Then he toddled downstairs and went down Main street with the snake tightly gripped by both chubby hands to show it to the neighbors. Those who happened to be on the street fled precipitately.

Mr. Miller ran out and captured "Bubs" and the snake.

Several attempts were made to photograph "Bubs" with the snake, but both were too busy to remain quiet for the tenth of a second. The baby was too young to understand the requirements, and spent most of the time trying to pry the serpent's mouth open and make it stick out its black, forked tongue.

In despair Mr. Miller took "Fannie" for a subject, and after a few trials, he succeeded in making what are good judges of photography regard as one of the most extraordinary pictures of the twentieth century.

"Fiv," as the snake is called, is still alive, and is apparently fond of the two children and completely resigned to captivity.

EARTHQUAKE'S STRANGE FREAK.



During an earthquake, which recently wrought havoc in the Eastern Caucasus, causing a commotion that was felt from Tiflis to the Caspian Sea and from the Caucasus to the north of Persia, the town of Schomacha was practically ruined, every prominent building being either wholly or partly

destroyed, including the Russian church, the roof and cupola of which were turned topsy turvy in a singular manner.

Photographs were taken of the various ruined buildings, among which were seven mosques, soon after the disaster, and the accompanying picture was found to be the most curious and most interesting of all.

Why the upper part of the church was less able to bear the shock of the earthquake than the lower part is a problem which has not yet been solved.

CLOCKLESS BARBER SHOP.

I know of a shrewd barber. For some time several of his customers wanted to know why he did not have a clock in his shop, but he always diplomatically evaded a direct answer. At last, however, he confided his secret to me.

"Promise not to tell anyone, and I'll give you my reasons for not keeping a clock," he said.

"If there is one thing that continually bothers a man when he is being shaved or having his hair cut it is the time it takes to do it. He may not be in a hurry or have any engagement on hand, but somehow he gets restless and nervous, and wants to get through with it as soon as possible."

"When I had a clock in my store the customers, before I commenced cutting their hair, would say, 'It's now so many minutes to so and so.' The sign and finish me up in fifteen minutes. Then the man would keep his eye on the clock, and if I was not finished with him in fifteen minutes he would swear to himself and get the opinion that I was a poor barber."

"Now, any barber knows you cannot do first-class work in fifteen minutes, and so the idea struck me to remove the clock. It has worked splendidly. They don't know how long I take now to shave them or cut their hair, and they are just as well satisfied, if not better. Now and then a customer says he is in a hurry, and wants to know what time it is. I answer that he has plenty of time and that I will hurry him along.

"That's the way I jolly them along, and everything runs smoothly. But when I had the clock I had to hustle every minute. I tell you, and then with bald results."

The barber cried "Next!" and I got up from my seat feeling as if there was a great deal of truth in what he said. Then a thought struck me.

"Suppose the man consults his watch?" said I.

"I don't give him a chance," replied the barber. "I put the towels and everything else around him as soon as he gets into the chair, and he is usually too bundled up to get at his watch."

It isn't necessary to weigh some people in the balance to find them wanting.

Many a fellow who can read a menu in French hasn't the price of the dinner.

NO CHINESE WASTEPAPER.

Chinese regard as sacred paper that is either printed or written upon in their own language.

A conscientious Chinaman would fear for the peril of his immortal soul were he to destroy even the smallest scrap. Printed labels, such as those found on ginger jars, are not even exempt.

In the Chinese quarter of New York a furnace with its own priests and attendants, is lighted twice a week to consume the accumulation of waste paper, which is collected from the streets and houses by men specially selected for the purpose.

After the papers are burned the ashes are taken from the furnace, put in a ship belonging to a Chinese company, and as soon as the vessel is loaded it goes out to sea, when the ashes are scattered over the waters.

The man who steals a million dollars, and utters a church with \$50,000 of it, utters the devil great amusement.

The nearer in dress, manner and speech woman gets to man, the farther man gets from woman.

Women have twice as many troubles as men, for they have twice as many clothes.

ARTISTIC TIN VASES.

Several women in Germany are now making beautiful and artistic ornaments and household utensils out of tin. Apparently the first to utilize her talents in this direction was Frau Clara Hopperath, of Berlin. She fashioned artistic tin vases, and since then she has made a beautiful imitation of a cluster of silver thistles which has been bought by the King of Roumania.

Tin is an easy material to manipulate, and any woman who is a good

artist will have little difficulty in shaping it as she desires. The designs must first be carefully drawn on the tin, or rather punched in it, and then as carefully cut out. Only a few tools are needed for the work, and the necessary skill in their use can soon be acquired.

As decorations for articles of majolica and wood delicate tin ornaments are now becoming popular in Germany, and almost all of them are made by women.



TOWN'S BOOM TAX.

The value of "letting people know about it" is being recognized in curious quarters nowadays, when anything is to be bought or sold. In the Valley of the Sacramento, in California, there is levied a tax of two cents on the \$100 for the purpose of creating a fund with which to advertise the valley in the newspapers of the east and elsewhere. This is an unusual recognition of the value of press advertising.

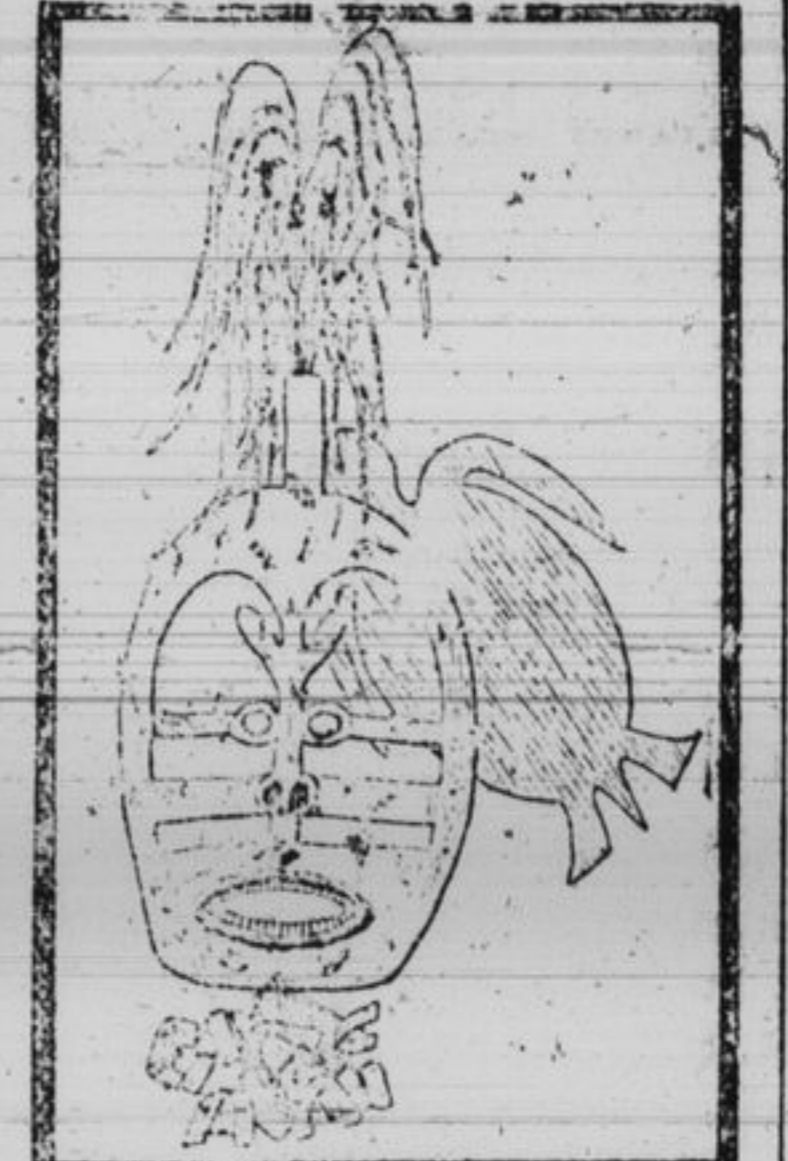
Another instance is that of the railroads in Nebraska buying space in the papers of the state wherein to exploit their reasons against the proposed increase of railway taxes. The people of the state are strongly in favor of a higher rate, in view of the published accounts of the excessive dividends declared by those railroads last year.

In the meantime there is a merry war between the advertising and editorial columns of some of these Nebraska papers. The one gives numerous good reasons why the rate should remain as it is, while perhaps the opposite page will contain lengthy editorials showing good cause why the rate should be increased.

NEW GUINEA MASKS.

Among the odd customs in New Guinea is that of holding a solemn ceremony on stated occasions for the purpose of initiating the young men who have attained manhood into a secret society. At these times masks are worn by most of those present.

Many of the masks are fashioned of tortoise shell and all are grotesque. They are the work of skilled artists, for they have a symbolic and religious



significance, and, consequently, if in any way defective, are wholly useless.

The young men while being initiated wear masks of this kind, and are quite as proud of them as young Americans and Europeans are of their college gowns and caps. Prof. Alfred C. Haddon recently witnessed one of these ceremonies and availed himself of the opportunity to learn all that he could about these curious masks.

NO ANIMAL LIKE IT.

In the Berlin Zoological Garden there is now an animal which is wholly unlike any in the world. It is the offspring of a female puma from the Argentine Republic, and of a male leopard from India.

The owner of a menagerie in Germany obtained these two animals some time ago and, as he had only the cage unoccupied, he put the two into it. At first he was afraid that they would quarrel, but they became good friends at once, and so he allowed them to remain in the cage.

One morning a little cub was born, and at first it was supposed to be an ordinary puma. In a few weeks, however, it resembled a leopard as much as a puma, and then the truth became known. Scientists are studying this strange animal with much interest, which is not surprising, since no one ever imagined that a puma and a leopard would pair.

The animal itself is strong, healthy and of a beautiful color. In some respects it is wonderfully like a leopard and in others like a puma.

This great bulk of chalk is composed of eight different species of tiny shells, but nearly 300 kinds have been found in chalk.

A true marriage is perfect happiness—and there is no such thing as perfect happiness in this world.

Novel was an experiment once tried by Rudyard Kipling for the purpose of checking household expenses, and it had a somewhat different result than was anticipated.

He opened a small account book at a local bank in order to pay every bill with a check. Many of the checks were for very small amounts, and the shrewd shop-keepers soon discovered that they could get more for the checks from autograph collectors than from the bank.

The consequence was that at the end of the month Mr. Kipling's bank account showed a bigger balance than the counterfoils of his check book. This puzzled him very much until he happened one day to call at an office where the head was an enthusiastic autograph collector, and found one of his checks framed and hanging on the wall.

"LEND YOUR MEDICINE."

One doctor, whose ministrations are at present confined exclusively to patients in a poor New York section, has come forward with a word of advice to his fellow-practitioners.

"If any man in my profession needs to be taught a lesson in regard to the strength of the medicine he prescribes he ought to practice among my people for a while," he said recently. "When I began my duties in this neighborhood I wrote out several prescriptions calling for some pretty powerful drugs."

"The consequence of my drastic treatment was that I soon had double the original cases on my hands, several of which came well nigh being fatal. I was at a loss to account for the peculiar epidemic at first, but upon persistent inquiry I found that the neighborly kindness that prompted my subjects to loan and borrow everything else they owned was extended to the medicine bottle, and that when one had been treated with a certain appropriate dose, the neighbor across the hall, should he show similar symptoms, was allowed to partake of it also.

"The generosity displayed in thus seeking to alleviate another's suffering was beautiful, but the results were deplorable. I had hard work to convince my patients that such kindness was not always commendable from a physical standpoint, however praiseworthy it might be spiritually. In their opinion a cough was a cough and a headache a headache, and, no matter how radically different might be the causes of the two attacks, the same remedy ought to be equally effective in both cases. Hence the spirit of helpfulness and the numerous deranged systems resulting therefrom.

"I have found, upon investigation, that in most of the highly populous sections of the city, where familiarity is a plant that flourishes most luxuriously, the medicine bottle is passed round from door to door as freely as the tea-pot or the beer pail. In view of the fact that it is impossible wholly to cure this class of their propensity for lightening each others physical ills, I strongly recommend the prescribing of very harmless medicine, so that a minimum of deaths may follow."

You can best judge of a man's friends by the umbrella he carries.

WHEN YOUR COSTLY WATCH

is out of order you have it regulated, you don't at once throw it aside. Why, then, when your bowels are out of order, do you treat them as useless?

That is precisely what it means to take violent cathartics. They do not regulate the bowels, but take their work away from them, debilitate them, and make you more constipated than ever.

You had far better throw away your good watch than treat your bowels roughly. You can get another watch, but you cannot renew your intestines.

The only cure for Constipation is a gentle laxative with tonic action.

IRON-OX TABLETS

Are the Perfect Tonic Laxative