

# Round the World Paragraphs.

## Stamp Collecting.

### Hindu Wisdom.

A number of quaint and clever Hindu aphorisms have been gathered together by Arthur Gaiter in a unique little book. The name of the volume, "Betel Nuts," is derived from the nature of the proverbs which are said to be ever in the mouths of the people of Hindustan, giving spice and colour to their speech even as the betel nut—the chewing gum of the Orient. We quote a few of the proverbs:—

God ripens the mangoes,  
The farmer shakes the tree;  
God cures the patient,  
The doctor takes the fee.

"Who cooked this rice?"  
"Not I—that worthless hound!"  
"Tis very nice."  
"Why—yes—I stirred it round!"

You have no debts?  
Indorse a note.  
You have no cares?  
Then buy a goat.

This under the rose,  
But 'tis true to the letter:  
The man thinks he knows,  
But the woman knows better.

"O Allah, take me!" prayed Ram Chunder.

Above him crashed and rolled the thunder.

"Not now!" he cried, in fright and sorrow;

"Not now, O Lord—I meant to-morrow!"

The donkey to the camel said:  
"How dainty are your feet!"  
The camel to the donkey said:  
"Your voice is very sweet!"

### Alone on a Floating Ice Floe.

Dr. Grenfell, the missionary of Labrador, has just had a thrilling experience. He was blown out to sea on an ice floe.

Seeking a short cut, he took his dog team across an arm of the sea.

The ice which he was crossing snapped, and he was carried out rapidly from land, and which soon vanished from his view.

He killed and skinned four of his dogs, and thus secured covering for himself and food for the other dogs.

He was alone on the floe for 40 hours, and his situation was desperate, when at last he was rescued by a fisherman who had caught sight of him.

### Fight with Gamblers on a Cunarder.

A fierce fight between passengers and alleged dice sharps in the smoking-room of the Mauretania was described in the Jefferson Market Police Court, New York, recently, when three men were charged with swindling.

A dice game for heavy stakes began early in the voyage. Among the players were three men who seemed to know each other, and whose success was remarkable. One of the passengers, an English merchant, lost first £10 in cash and then £100, for which he gave an IOU.

On Sunday night the holder of the IOU demanded payment in a manner which was regarded as insulting, and the Englishman replied that he did not know whether he ought to pay or not, as he suspected that the game had not been fair.

Another passenger accused the man of being a sharper, and a fight began at once. One of the passengers threw a glass at the alleged gambler, cutting his lip, and the man replied with a heavy cuspidor, which just missed the passenger's head and made a deep dent in one of the walnut pillars.

In a few minutes everyone in the smoking-room was taking a hand in the fight, and practically everything movable was used as a missile. The fittings were badly damaged by the time the crew arrived and cleared the fighters out on the deck, where they continued the battle.

Finally, the three alleged sharps were taken to their cabins and placed under guard. One of the passengers sent a wireless telegram to the Cunard line

office in New York, and when the liner docked the three men were arrested.

Several of the passengers asked Captain Pritchard of the Mauretania to charge the men, but he refused, saying he had no knowledge of any cheating, and informing the passengers that what had happened served them right for gambling with strangers. None of the passengers appeared at the police court, and the men were discharged.

### Conductor Fined for Whistling.

Tram car conductors may not whistle. If they do they may be fined 30/ and costs.

This penalty was inflicted at the Old-street Police Court, London, on Edward Richard Skipp, a conductor on a London County Council tram car, who was summoned by a passenger for "wilful misbehaviour during his employment."

"He persisted in whistling on his platform and in his car, after being told that it was an objectionable, wretched noise," the passenger declared. "He kept it up for about two miles, and jeered at me. When I left the car he bowed me away ironically."

"He was whistling 'The Old Wishing Gate,'" said the solicitor who defended. "Was it not interesting?"

"I have heard a woman on the concert platform whistle musically," replied the passenger, "but he did not."

"Such conduct is calculated to lead to an assault on the conductor," he added, "and then the conductor would be backed up by the solicitor to the London County Council."

The magistrate said it was preposterous to imagine that a member of the public would prosecute in such a matter without good cause, and he believed the conductor intended to insult and annoy.

### Boots Made Out of Seaweed.

The soles of policemen's boots made of goat's-hair, seaweed, dust, and gum! This is not a recipe from "Alice in Wonderland," but the composition of a substitute for leather, invented by Mr. John Campbell, a chemist, long employed in the rubber trade, who resides at Woodlane, Shepherd's Bush, London.

Fourteen years ago Mr. Campbell began experiments with old rubber, but these he discarded some time ago, and now he has perfected and patented a substance which, in a fluid, pliable, or hard state, can be used for a very large variety of purposes.

From seaweed, carpet dust, goat's-hair, Irish moss, gums, and a chemical process which is his secret, Mr. Campbell has already made the following astonishing list of commodities:—

Policemen's boots (outer soles and heels), picture frames, Ornamental mouldings (for railway carriages), Partitions (to resemble wood), belting (for machinery), upholstery, bobbins (for cotton spinning), electric switchboards, flooring, golf balls, fountain pens, "marble" in all colours, chess-boards, book-bindings, "ivory" combs.

An "Express" representative visited the laboratory, which will shortly give place to a factory, and examined many of the samples. Mr. Campbell makes no startling claims for his invention, and admits that his composite is not equal to materials of the highest quality, but he says that in the case of leather, for instance, it produces an excellent which could not bear the price of the best hides.

"The product has been tested by policemen and postmen, and the soles and heels are in good condition after nine months' wear," he said.

"Two thousand feet of it are now in use as belting in machine shops, and the substance has been proved to be impervious to oils, acids, or atmospheric conditions.

"It is absolutely non-inflammable. As it is made of waste products, the price is low, and being very light in weight it is especially suitable for railway purposes.

"I hope it will be adopted for electrical apparatus. In its hard state it

is a good substitute for vulcanite, and is less than a quarter of the price.

"I obtain my seaweed from Devonshire, and the more expensive variety for the manufacture of marbles from Japan. Imitation marbles and woods, which can be turned out in any colour or design, are made of seaweed, moss, carpet dust, gums, and chemicals, hydraulically pressed.

"A beautiful marble floor can be obtained by pouring the composite in a fluid state over a floor and allowing it to set. The seaweed, which can be coloured or made to form any design, not only gives the effect of the veining shown in real marble, but the colour and veins go right through the material.

"Any kind of wood can be imitated, and in its pliable state the substance can be used in the same manner as linoleum."

### Dead Man Sails Back to Port.

A weird sea story, strongly reminiscent of one of Edgar Allan Poe's tales of mystery, is reported from Plymouth. The little fishing boat Fear Not went out one day last month to the Eddy-stone whiting grounds. In her were William Rowe, her owner, aged about sixty, and his son, a lad of about seventeen.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the boat returned to Sutton Harbour, in the Cattewater. Rowe sat upright upon a thwart, with his arms folded, gazing out beyond the bows. His son leaned upon the tiller steering the boat. The wind was light, and she came along slowly.

The fishermen upon the pierhead hailed the two men to know what sort of a catch they had aboard, but received no answer. Neither of the figures stirred in the least.

This attracted some curiosity, and a boat went alongside the little smack. Then a startling discovery was made.

Lowe was dead, and his son appeared quite unconscious of his surroundings, like a man in a trance.

Later on he was able to explain the mystery to some extent. He said that his father hove up to the anchor, and then dropped back into the sitting posture in which he was found, and never spoke nor stirred again. Failure of the heart's action, brought about by heavy exertion in the excessive heat, was the cause of death.

When the son realised that his father had expired, he said he felt like one in a dream, and he can only remember blankly steering the boat for Plymouth.

### Treed by Lions.

The advent of the dry season in Rhodesia made the lions very daring, and they came in closer to the town of Livingstone than ever since it has been a township. One resident, Mr. G. Thomassine, a boat builder, had a remarkable adventure. He was out after wild duck on the Zambesi within a mile of the Victoria Falls, when three lions espied him and gave chase. He took refuge in a tree, and was compelled to remain there all night, the lions remaining on the watch. It was not till well into the next day that he was discovered by a search party, which quickly routed the lions and released the prisoner.

Another exciting adventure befell a transport rider who outspanned for the night on the Zambesi near Kazengula, in north-west Rhodesia. About midnight a troop of eight lions attacked the camp, and, after killing two oxen and a horse, besides wounding five other oxen, stampeded the remainder. The lions were only beaten off by fire, and this with considerably difficulty, while it took several hours to round up the frightened oxen.

Mother (in a very low voice): "Tommy, your grandfather is very sick. Can't you say something nice to cheer him up a bit?"

Tommy (in an earnest voice): "Grandfather, wouldn't you like to have soldiers at your funeral?"

The Transvaal Government has decided that, on the 31st December, 1908, the use of postage and revenue stamps and stamped postal material of the late South African Republic, overprinted V.R.I. and E.R.I., shall be discontinued, and the said stamps and stamped material withdrawn from circulation.

Several of the types of stamps of Uruguay produced by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, have reappeared in new colours, replacing the unsuccessful lithographs of local manufacture. They are described as follow:—7 c., chestnut; 10 c., blue-green; 20 c., black and blue; 50 c., black and olive; 2 p., black and sepia; and 3 p., black and pale blue.

Only 6000 of the new 1/- stamp of Cayman Islands were printed, so there should be a good chance of these increasing in value as the years roll by, for that number will not nearly go round the stamp collectors of the world.

The new issue of the stamps of Grenada are described as follow:—3d., lilac on yellow; 6d., lilac; 1/-, black on green; 2/-, violet and blue; 5/-, red and green on yellow; and 10/-, carmine and green on green.

The "Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung" states that the following quantities of remainders of the stamps of Salvador (Mocallion issue), have been sent to Paris for sale:—1 centavo, dark green, 29,919; 2 c., scarlet, 11,499; 3 c., yellow, 124,043; 5 c., blue, 230,362; 6 c., carmine, 272,000; 10 c., violet, 20,000; 12 c., lilac, 29,000; 13 c., black-brown, 85,000; 24 c., carmine, 23,009; 26 c., brown, 3600; 50 c., yellow, 2608; 100 c., blue, 5260; total, 856,701.

Monsieur J. D. Moens, the founder and head of the great stamp business at Brussels, died in that city on the 29th of April, within a month of the completion of his seventy-fifth year, having been born at Tournai on the 27th May, 1833.

The following high values of Natal are reported:—5/-, carmine and lilac; 10/-, brown and lilac; £1, blue and lilac; £1 10/-, orange and lilac; £5, black and green; £10, brown and green. All these are stated to be on chalk-surfaced paper, with multiple watermark.

The reason assigned for the variegated disfigurements recently applied to the stamps of Salvador Republic, is that the sale of the postage stamps and stamped paper, etc., has been handed over by the Government to the Education Board, and these "countermarks" are the signs used by each province to distinguish its stamps, viz., to show that all made use of are legitimately issued by their respective provinces.

It has been notified for general information that the Government, of the Transvaal have reason to believe that a considerable quantity of counterfeit stamps and stamped material purporting to be genuine issues of the late South African Republic and to be genuinely overprinted V.R.I. and E.R.I. is in circulation.

Even editors of Philatelic publications can get at cross purposes occasionally. The Australian Philatelist, commenting on suggestions that appeared in "Gibbons' Monthly Journal," as to the design for the general Commonwealth stamps has the following:—"The editor of 'Gibbons' Monthly' will have his joke, but it was nasty of him to suggest that the lyre-bird is a more suitable representative for Australians than a portrait of King Edward VII. Eddy is a very decent fellow, and we have a great admiration for his Majesty, but we fail to see why Australians should fall down on their knees and worship him as some military men take a delight in doing, but then it is part of their business to do so, so we must excuse them for occasional outbursts of Quixotic loyalty."