

Finally he ate three or four inches of his mortal foe, but carefully avoided eating the fangs and poison glands, which I picked up by a stick and found them broken, but with the venom sacks attached. Contrary to popular belief, I am of opinion the mongoose is not immune from the snake poison, else why should he so particularly avoid being bitten? It is only by his marvellous activity that he escapes the spring and darting strike of his deadly enemy, the cobra di capella.

HINDOO HUMOR

A traveller who has spent many years abroad tells of several menus with which he was confronted when in Ceylon. The menu, he says, is an indispensable adjunct to a respectable luncheon or dinner table in Ceylon. As a rule, the head servant writes it out, and from his elementary knowledge of English, as 'she is wrote,' springs a host of quaint blunders. At the same time, his fertile Oriental brain is ever apt to add foot-notes, which are, perhaps, his happiest achievement.

At one lunch there figured among the dishes, 'roast beef,' but it caused the hostess some consternation when she discovered the additional legend in very small letters, 'roast beef, smelling a little,' the parenthetical note being meant to intimate that the dish was accompanied by a sauce of savory odors.

On another occasion there appeared this following acknowledgment of deficiency: 'steak and kidney pie, no kidney.'

It was altogether delightful, continues the writer, to find at one dinner our old friend, welsh rabbit, appearing as 'welsh rubbish.' The same genius translated haricot mutton into 'hurrygod mutton.' Our own boy, he adds, on the occasion of a hastily improvised dinner, was unable to accomplish a dessert. Consequently, he put the word 'plates' at the end of the menu.

KNOW THIS SORT OF PERSON ?

Shortly after 2 o'clock one bitter winter morning a physician drove four miles in answer to a telephone call. On his arrival the man who had summoned him said:

'Doctor, I ain't in any particular pain, but somehow or other I've a feeling that death is nigh.'

The doctor felt the man's pulse and listened to his heart.

'Have you made your will?' he asked finally.

The man turned pale.

'Why no, doctor. At my age—oh, doc., it ain't true, is it? It can't be true—'

'Who's your lawyer?'

'Higginbotham, but—'

'Then you had better send for him at once.'

The patient, white and trembling, went to the 'phone.

'Who's your pastor?' continued the doctor.

'The Rev. Kellogg M. Brown,' mumbled the patient.

'But, doctor, do you think—'

'Send for him immediately. Your father, too, should be summoned; also your—'

'Say, doctor, do you really think I'm going to die?' The man began to blubber softly.

The doctor looked at him hard.

'No, I don't,' he replied grimly. 'There's nothing at all the matter with you. But I'd hate to be the only man you've made a fool of on a night like this.'

FAMILY FUN

Here is a nice little trick performed with ordinary matches. Arrange ten matches in a row, about an inch apart; the trick is to form them into five pairs, jumping two matches at a time. Of course any pair formed counts two. The little puzzle will afford a good deal of amusement, and for the benefit of the reader I give the solution. Let us suppose the matches to be arranged and numbered as under:

I I I I I I I I I I
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Then the five moves are—

Place 6 on 9
Place 4 on 1
Place 8 on 3
Place 2 on 5
Place 10 on 7

You want to see whether your friend is wide awake. Ask him to answer the following in quick time:—A and B have equal claims to a flock of 100 sheep. A takes 60, B 40, and A pays B £40; what is the value of the sheep? It is ten chances to one he will give you £2 as the answer, instead of £4, the correct one. Again, there are 20 beds available in a hotel, and 33 men to be lodged. How many beds are occupied by two men. Simply take 20 from 33 for the answer. Similarly, 80 sheep are the dams of 100 lambs. How many sheep produced couples—100 minus 80—20.

All Sorts

The tropical seas contain a larger percentage of salt than those of the more northern latitudes.

The average duration of life in India is twenty-four years. In England it is forty-four years.

The smallest bird is an East India humming bird, which is hardly larger than an ordinary horse-fly.

Sea water contains silver in considerable quantities. It is often found deposited on the copper sheathing of ships.

Some boas and pythons have horny hooks on the sides of the body, which seem to be the rudiments of a pair of hind legs.

The emigration records show that last year 316,337 emigrants left the German ports, an increase of 146,661 over 1908.

'How old is your child?' asked a conductor. 'Seven,' replied the mother. As the conductor passed up the crowded car the little boy called after him, 'And mother's 38!'

Extract from Mr. Roosevelt's letter to the Bureau of Fisheries:—

'The water is fairly temperate. It is slightly alkaline, but it is habitually drunk.'

Gladys: 'Why are you going to all that trouble to open that letter so carefully, Maud?' Maud: 'Oh, I had a quarrel with George, and intend to send back his letter unopened; but I just thought I would see what he said before I returned it.'

Father: 'And how are you getting on at school, Johnny?' Boy: 'Oh, I have learned to say "Thank you" "If you please" in French.' Father: 'That is more than you ever learned in English.'

In the consumption of coffee and cocoa the United States leads the world, while it holds third rank among the nations in its imports of tea. Its imports amount to more than one-third of the coffee, nearly one-fourth of the cocoa, and about one-seventh of the tea entering the world's markets.

A cantankerous judge, after hearing a flowery discourse from a pretentious young barrister, advised him to pluck out some of the feathers from the wings of his imagination and put them into the tail of his judgment.

A clever but very eccentric man, who sings comic songs with a great deal of action, was singing one day at a concert given at a lunatic asylum. When he had finished, an old woman exclaimed with a sigh, 'And to think I'm in and he's out!'

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes once made an address in his native town to a medical association. The president of the association was the son of a man who had been the druggist of the village when Dr. Holmes had studied medicine there. 'It is good to look at this young man,' said the genial autocrat, 'and trace his father's liniments in his face.'

'Why did you never marry, Tom?' inquired the young Benedict of the old bachelor. 'Well, you see,' replied the single one, 'when I was quite young I resolved that I wouldn't marry until I found an ideal woman. I was difficult to please, but after many years I found her.' 'Lucky beggar! And then—' 'She was looking for an ideal man,' replied the bachelor sadly.

One real friend, a friend that sticketh closer than a brother, hath the rhinoceros, or 'chukuru,' as the natives in some parts of Africa call him. This is none other than a pretty grey bird, about as large as a thrush, which never leaves its big, ugly patron—in the bird's eyes, though, Rhino may seem a model of beauty—by night or day, save to build her nest and rear her young. It spends its time on the back of both rhinoceros and hippopotamus, ridding them of their insect pests. What is more, it warns chukuru of coming danger. Should he be asleep, and a hunter draw near, the bird screams in his ear. The huge creature knows well what that cry means, and starts to his feet and bolts as fast as he can, the bird, perhaps several of them—perched on his back. Whenever a bullet hits its hide, up flies the bird some six feet into the air, with a scream, but only to settle in a minute or two on its wonted place. One wouldn't think there was so much romance about a rhinoceros.

The Baker was 'crusty'; his words were 'tart.'

He was not in the mood for a jest; He felt like an oaf and wanted to 'loaf,'

For he had a bad cold on the chest.

What! 'ales' thee, friend, you've been in the 'draught,'

Remarked his old neighbor, the brewer;

'Tis the wind from the 'yeast,' don't worry the least;

Take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.