

DOGS AND EARTHQUAKES

ANIMALS ARE SENSITIVE TO THEM.

Man Becomes Indifferent to Earth Tremors, But Animals and Birds Never Do.

Whenever a terrible earthquake occurs, such, for instance, as that which has recently stricken Sicily, we hear much about the sufferings of the people at the scene of these disasters, but no one mentions the cats, and dogs, and horses, and other animals, which are involved. As a matter of fact, animals are very sensitive to the slightest of earthquake shocks.

TERRIER WHO ALWAYS YELLED.

Among the European residents Nagasaki, the great Japanese seaport, is familiarly known as "Earthquake town." It is nothing at all out of the ordinary for from nine to twelve mild shocks to be felt there during the twenty-four hours. This condition of affairs, with a few infirmities of no great length, prevails throughout the year.

Its initial effect upon Europeans is to produce a feeling of profound nausea. The native population are, one and all, serenely indifferent to it. But the more domesticated animals and birds seem never to become used to what the poet calls "the vexed and uneasy earth."

Moreover, they appear to be gifted (or cursed) with a foreknowledge of the coming "quake," which is most uncanny. I had a little Irish terrier that used to lie on a mat in my office. He would be curled up, fast asleep; then, suddenly, with a sharp yelp, he would spring up, and immediately dive under his mat. A minute later the house shook and I knew that the dog had been a true prophet.

The shock over, "Jim" would emerge, shake himself, and curl up, and go to sleep again! In his waking hours he invariably barked and crawled under a chair or table just before the "quake" came.

I have seen a dog, trotting contentedly along the street, stick his tail between his legs, and race at break-neck speed for the nearest doorway, without the slightest apparent reason. But the animal's instinct was never wrong. Another would lie down flat, put his head between his paws, and howl dismally. The shock always followed within a minute or two.

Dogs seem to be more frightened of earthquakes than any other pets (cats are unaffected), and their fear never wholly wears off. **HORSES' AMUSING ANTICS.**

Horses tremble violently, and become covered instantly in a complete lather, neighing loudly and incessantly before, during, and after a short while after the shock. But, like the humans, they become used to the inevitable in time, although it never ceases to affect their nervous system, and makes them irritable and restless.

The antics of the feathered creation supply an amusing side to the situation. I have seen a most respectable fowl, the member of a large family, suddenly squat down in the dust of the roadway, with her wings spread out to their fullest extent, "squawking" in a most ludicrous manner. The majestic rooster, meanwhile, was running round and round, in aimless circles.

When the tremor had passed, and she was shaking the dust off her feathers, her lord and master seemed to be instantly struck with the loss of dignity which had occurred. Male-like, throwing all the blame on her, he chased her for about sixty yards, pecking at her viciously in unmistakable rage. As the cat is the only domesticated animal which is unaffected by earthquakes, so, on the other hand, the snake seems to be the sole wild thing which views them with alarm. Its terror is exhibited in loud hissing, and an attempt to envelop its head in its own coils. During a seismic convulsion the snake will not bite, and, even if it should, its poison-bag will not discharge its deadly fluid, being temporarily paralyzed.

Rabbits retire precipitately to their burrows just previous to a shock, and do not emerge for some time after it. The wild goats, which are abundant on the hills, look up with a sort of questioning air, but are not otherwise interested in the phenomenon occurring under their feet, and continue browsing with the utmost nonchalance.

THE SWEARING COCKATOO.

Earthquakes have, apparently, a bad effect upon the morals of birds. A friend of mine possessed a fine cockatoo, which had evidently sojourned in the company of sailors. It was supposed to be a good bird, but for a long time after its purchase it preserved an imperceptible silence, greatly to the chagrin of its owner, a lady of rather rigid principles.

INDIAN SNAKE CHARMERS

THE WAY THESE HUMBUGS DUPE THEIR AUDIENCES.

It Must Be Confessed, However, That They Provide a Very Interesting Entertainment.

The main contention of the snake-charmer, whether he be Indian or Kled Indian, is that he is absolutely immune from the bites of the most poisonous snakes, and the manner in which he allows himself to be bitten by a cobra or adder never fails to impress, not only the native, but also the white man unacquainted with the tricks of these humbugs.

As a matter of fact, snake-charmers, almost without exception, play either with snakes whose fangs and poisonous glands have been removed or use non-venomous reptiles which they pass off as dangerous varieties. And when they have attempted to charm snakes without removing the poison their exhibition has invariably come to a tragic end, in spite of their skill and dexterity in handling and the supposed magical antidotes which they carry with them.

THE SNAKE STONE.

Often this is simply a piece of tree root, for which great medicinal qualities are claimed when applied to the wound. Some astonishing and inexplicable cures, however, have really been brought about by what is known as the snake stone.

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.

How Japanese Control Their Facial Expression.

No one questions the benefit of a cheerful countenance. Its worth is far above the price of medicine. The only difficulty in the way of its general adoption is that each person desires the rest of the world to assume it, and does not pay due regard to his own expression. This is not true, however, of the Japanese. They are trained to conceal unhappy feelings, and only to publish to the world the record of things bright and cheerful.

The spectacle is at once pretty and funny; pretty as exemplifying that grace with which the Japanese woman does everything, in the daintiest and most unselfish way possible. It is all because of that trained sense of duty to show only the happiest face to the world.

LIFE'S BATTLESONG.

Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight! As you toss in the stream of life; Prince or slave, good man or knave, Must join in the world-old strife.

It's a fight for breath in the dawn-lit room When a soul comes down from God; So the battle goes until the close, And we rest beneath the sod.

A fight for life, and a fight for bread, Through hours, and days, and years; Through joy and pain, and sun and rain, Through laughter, smiles and tears.

Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight! See that you falter not! War like a man; win if you can, It is the common lot!

WAXY POTATOES BEST.

"Housewives should always buy the yellow-colored waxy potatoes instead of the white, mealy variety. The former are far more nutritious and better in every way," said a London medical man. "The popular notion that potatoes must be served up white and floury is a great mistake," he continued. "A floury potato is tasteless and most objectionable. When buying potatoes those with a tinge of yellow or blue should always be purchased. They are not 'bad,' as some people think, but contain a higher percentage of valuable salts than the white variety."

THE WANDERING TRIBE

NEWS NOTES OF A NATION WITHOUT A COUNTRY.

The Jews Have Made Themselves a Power in the World of Business and Finance.

The estimated Jewish population of New South Wales is 6,700. London Jewry is worrying over the decline in Jewish marriages in that city.

The Onasidim of St. Petersburg have received permission to build a separate synagogue in the capital. The governor of Aret has prohibited the Jewish pupils of a local private technical school from living in the city.

Sixty trades are represented in the United Hebrew Trades of New York, with a membership of 10,000. A New York branch of the National Jewish hospital for consumptives of Denver has been formed.

At the examinations at the university in Sydney, Australia, Miss kaanie Cohen took every prize she competed for.

The Jewish community in Cairo is one of the largest and richest in the east, and will soon be endowed with a Jewish hospital.

Josef Israels, the famous Dutch artist, has presented to the Bezalel School in Palestine his picture painted by himself, on the occasion of his eighty-fifth birthday.

According to a report to the New York State Insurance Department there exists a deficiency in the accounts of the Orger B'rich Abraham amounting to \$39,326.

Professor Richard Gottheil will go to Palestine for a year and a half in charge of the American Archeological School. Mrs. Gottheil and Miss Leon, her sister, will accompany him.

A teacher in the Hebrew school of the synagogue in Perth, West Australia, collected in pennies during the year 1915, which was sent to Chief Rabbi Aller, of London, to purchase dinners for poor people.

M. See, captain of the 46th Regiment of Infantry in the French army, has been promoted to the rank of chevalier in the Legion of Honor. He has participated in seven battles and rendered very valuable service to the commission sent out to fix the boundaries between France and Siam.

The American sculptor, Mr. Moses Ezekiel, who for many years has resided in Rome, has again been honored by the King, who has appointed him officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy. The occasion for this distinction was the completion of Mr. Ezekiel's statue of Napoleon.

For the third time in six years a Jewish lad has become Dux of the great Roman Catholic School, the Christian Brothers' College, Perth, Australia. Master George Steinberg being the head this year, thereby following in the footsteps of the brothers Morris and Stanley Cantor.

Dr. Albert Mayer, who died lately at Ulm, was the second Jewish member of the Wurtemberg Diet. The first Jew who sat in this legislative body also represented Ulm. During his candidature Dr. Mayer publicly proclaimed himself a Jew.

The Frankfurt Zeitung styled him one of the ablest and best democrats that Germany has ever possessed. There lately arrived in Jaffa, Palestine, about 150 Yeminitic Jews. They came from the Arabian desert, where they were oppressed by the Arabs. Among them are smiths, farmers, and other manual workers. They are a healthy lot, and seek work in the Jewish colonies. Some of them have more than one wife, a few as many as four.

The large Jewish immigration to Palestine has included within recent years many writers, scholars and other professional men. This coterie has placed itself at the head of the movement for furthering popular education. Various courses of scientific lectures are arranged in the larger cities on general educational topics and on special subjects, as, for example, the hygienic and economic conditions of the country, for the special benefit of immigrants.

THE SLOUCHING HABIT.

Depresses People Mentally as Well as Physically. We all know there is much, very much, in our mental attitude towards things. Make up your mind that you will be physically and mentally, and bend every energy toward this end.

On the other hand, did you ever think of the serious effect the slouching habit will have upon your character? A girl cannot carry herself badly—allowing her shoulders to droop, her muscles to become flabby, her gait to grow awkward—without more than her body suffering. She will not only be depressed mentally and physically, but she will gradually "look in" instead of "outward" and "upward," which means that unhealthy introspection will in time have its effect upon her character.

Old-age pensions were first suggested by Francis Maseres, Baron of the Exchequer, in 1772.

IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE.

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

St. Paul's school celebrates its four hundredth anniversary next month. Thousands of tons of sand have been deposited by the sea at Southchurch, Essex.

Since August, 1905, the West Ham Distress Committee has expended \$331,145. Valuable machinery was destroyed by fire at the Coates Park Colliery, Alfreton.

On the South Beach at Yarmouth a scenic railway is to be built this summer at a cost of \$75,000. At the Elliott Collieries of the Powell Duffryn Company, Rhynny Valley, two men were killed by the fall of a roof.

The Testament which has been used at the Essex Quarter Sessions since 1750 has been replaced by a new one. A ninety-one-year-old woman named Pratt was burned to death while sitting before the fire at West Deane, Chichester.

A waterman, aged 75, who was accused at Yarmouth of stealing a pennyworth of coal, was dealt with as a first offender. The Queen has presented Mrs. Close, chief stewardess of the Dover-Calais steamers, with a gold brooch set with brilliants.

Dead twin babies (still born) were discovered in a large bag a woman had been seen to leave in the New Cross station, London.

Dr. Simeon Snell, president of the British Medical Association and one of the leading ophthalmic surgeons, died recently at Sheffield. Alderman John Banks, who died at Folkestone recently, was a member of the Town Council for fifty-two years, and was mayor six times.

Among the articles stolen by burglars from the house of the Rev. A. Swann, vicar of Christ church, Fulham, was a burglary insurance policy.

Of which \$2,348,790 went to the Victoria and Albert Museum, was spent on the national museums of the United Kingdom. For driving sheep in Islington parish on Sunday, in contravention of the Islington Parish Act, John Fuller was, at the London Police Court, fined sixpence.

The London County Council will make a profit of \$7,430 this year by letting sites for roundabouts, swings, and cocoanut shies in the parks for bank holidays. Weighing 186½ grains, a Greek coin (stater) of B. C. 488 to 240, which is considered by many the finest example in existence, was sold in London for \$1,075.

George Mason, a glass worker, and his son John, aged eight years, were found dead in their house at St. Helens. They had evidently been suffocated by gas.

Ravenhill, an island in the Thames at Surbiton, for over 50 years the headquarters of Kingston Rowing Club, was sold by auction recently at the Mart for \$20,000. It has cost the ratepayers \$3,500 to maintain the children of William Terry, who was remanded at the Lambeth Police Court recently on a charge of deserting them.

The Queen has sent a cheque for \$125 to assist in the restoration of St. Peter's church, Walpole, near King's Lynn, which is said to be the finest village church in the county. Placed in a wickerwork coffin, the body of Mrs. Sheppard, wife of Col. Sheppard, D.S.O., was at Osington, Dorset, conveyed to the grave on a farm cart covered with flowers.

According to the Iron and Coal Trades Review the production of pig-iron in the United Kingdom last year amounted to 9,289,840 tons, as compared with 9,923,853 tons in 1907 and 10,149,388 tons in 1906.

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By Sight of Dromedary in a Circus Parade. A valuable horse was frightened to death at Elizabeth, New Jersey, the other day, by the sight of a big dromedary in a passing circus parade. The parade was going through First street, and the horse, which was standing at Court and First streets. The driver, Joseph Styles, had stopped there to let the parade go by.

When the dromedary came along the horse gave every evidence of intense fright. Rearing and plunging in the shafts, it gave a neigh and a snort, and then collapsed, falling to the pavement. After giving a few convulsive kicks the animal stiffened and was dead.

The dromedary seemed to be about as badly frightened as the horse, and the men attending it had a hard time to control the animal. For a time the big camel made such a commotion that the crowd which lined the street was panic-stricken, but the attendants finally got the animal quieted and the parade moved on.

TRIBUTE OF A NATION

MONUMENT TO THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA.

An Intricate Performance of Beauty and Restful Charm—Great Monument.

Mr. Lewis Harcourt, First Commissioner of Works, announces that a large portion of the sculpture for the Queen Victoria memorial, in St. James' Park, London, England, is completed, and that arrangements have been made to begin fixing it as soon as possible.

DREADNOUGHT OF STATUES. The great Queen's monument, as Mr. Brock is executing it in the great circular space created and beautified by the art of Sir Aston Webb, will prove one great homogeneous work of art; but, in another sense, it is many works of art—a vast artistic framework to include so many works of art that their conception and execution alone might have filled, creditably, half a busy man's working lifetime.

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High above the Queen statue towers one of Victory, eighty feet above, and looking down upon the roadway of the Mall. With "Victory" are the attendant and contributing figures of "COURAGE" AND "CONFIDENCE."

The base of these figures serves as the immediate background to the Queen's statue, also to the groups, Motherhood, Justice and Truth. The marble statue of the Queen is 18½ feet high. It faces the Palace in London, the Queen's official home, and is well within sound of the murmur of the town which was her country's heart.

The monument is surrounded by a broad, circular walk, a granite platform, free to access, and affording, from one or other point of it, what will be the nearest and possibly the best view, not perhaps of the monument as a whole, but of its principal constituents—the Queen's great statue and the groups that symbolize her character and attributes.

Not Equal to Demand in England—French and German Stables. The adequate supply of horses for the army, it would scarcely be denied, is as essential to its efficiency as men and guns. Yet in this vital particular the British Government, as in so many other questions relative to the defence of the country, have utterly failed to realize their responsibilities, says the Pall Mall Gazette.

Sir Gilbert Parker is raising the point in one of its important aspects next week in the House of Commons. He has given notice to call the attention of the Secretary of State for War to the fact that German agents are extensively buying three-year-old horses suitable for army purposes in England, Ireland and Wales.

"There is no use disguising the fact," said an expert on English horse breeding, "that the country is rapidly being denuded of its best horses, and the position is becoming acute. It is a regulation of the War Office that horses shall not be bought under four years old. This is the foreigner's chance. Not only the German but practically every Continental country, has agents bent on securing the very pick of the available three-year-olds. They purchase especially young mares, which of course do not return to this country. They are, therefore, reducing both in quality and number the supply of four-year-olds obtainable by the home authorities.

The German and French Governments realize the value of a plentiful supply. They have their own Government breeding establishments and encourage horse breeding by subsidy. I believe France pays something like 300,000 francs a year in this respect. Then they take great care that only good stallions are employed.

The principal causes of the alarming scarcity—for I am convinced if war broke to-morrow we have not a sufficient supply for the army—are the unprecedented buying of young horses by foreign agents, the fact that farmers are more and more giving up the breeding of horses, the increase in mechanical traction, and the heavy demand for horses during the late South African war."

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