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VARIOUS SUBJECTS CLEVERLY TREATED

**Autumn.**

Birds are flocking close together in this balmy autumn weather, Getting for the flight From rude boreas dressed in white.

Tell me, who controls the host, Guiding to the distant coast, How they float o'er broad lagoon, Entertain each afternoon.

No frosty breath from icy lip, Chilling, glancing, shining tip, Gathered under sunny dome, Chanting winter's welcome home.

**Uncle George's Philosophy.**

No, Cordelia, the companionway of a steamer isn't necessarily a lover's walk.

When a girl begins to encourage a young man to save money she means business.

Rather than perjure themselves, some men refuse to swear off drinking.

It sometimes happens that a handsome woman hasn't brains enough to be pretty.

When a couple love at first sight they imagine the rest of the world is near-sighted.

**Bees' Love of Color.**

The inquisitive modern investigator has been prying into the secrets of the little bee. His curiosity has been rewarded by the discovery that it is the bright color of the flower and not the presence of the nectar that attracts the honey-gatherer. In fact, it is quite possible to coax the bee away from dull-colored flowers of nature by artificial flowers of brilliant hues.

As far as nature's flowers are concerned those of the brighter hues always receive more attention than those of subdued shades. Moreover, the belief that the perfume of flowers attracts bees has also been exploded. It is believed that the attraction exercised by the form and color of flowers is approximately four times as great as that exercised by perfume, pollen and nectar taken together.

**Captive Giraffes.**

I never see a captive giraffe munching his bunch of hay, the mainstay of his life wherever he is a prisoner, without wondering how he can eat such strange food.

No one in Africa ever saw a giraffe eat grass, either dried or in its green condition. They do not bend their necks to the earth to get food as they are often compelled to do in captivity.

The food of the giraffe in his native home consists almost entirely of the leaves and tender twigs of various kinds of acacia. There are some 400 varieties of this plant. Many of them exude gums, resembling caoutchouc, and no animal could eat their foliage, but the leaves and twigs of other kinds make good provender for several species of animals.

The giraffe is among them; and though I have seen him eat the leaves of other shrubs and trees, he seems to prefer these kinds of acacia. The natives say that he will wander out into the parched wilderness and remain there for more than a week without a drop of water, the juices of the acacia being a very good substitute.

So the softest and most pulpy and juicy vegetation, without any of the fibrous quality found in most grasses, is what the giraffe craves for and needs. I don't think that his anatomical conditions adapt him for the fodder he is compelled to eat in captivity.

I have said this to the managers of menageries and zoological parks and have told them also, as other men have done, that their giraffes are not

thriving, and the principal reason is that their food is not suitable.

They are poor in flesh, and the vertebrae in their necks are actually revealed through the hides of some specimens in this country. The giraffe in captivity lacks the plumpness, the sleek, fine coat, and the general air of well-being that makes him in Africa the most beautiful creature among all the mammalia.

**Rain Sticks and Umbrellas.**

From the heavy, cumbrous rain sticks of 1700 to the dainty umbrella of 1906 is a long jump. Each succeeding year finds changes in umbrella styles, usually confined to the handles and upper adornments of the rod. This year's styles have many beautiful fancies, worked out in gold, silver, pearl and ivory. The finest silk spreads over the ribs of these rain shields, and they are stout enough for the use they receive, but would probably give very short service to the New Yorker who rides in the subway twice a day in crowd time.

It is curious to observe what a difference exists between these wire steel and pearl creations of to-day and the first umbrella ever made, that erected, in the literal significance of the word, by Jonas Hanway, of London, in the year 1756.

Mr. Hanway detested the cold dripping of London rain, so he set about the making of a rain stick, which, when completed, weighed a good twelve pounds and on its first appearance over the head of the redoubtable Hanway, caused a commotion among the beholders. Over Hanway's head his tentlike arrangement, the cloth of heavy cotton, extended like a gelter roof, sufficiently spacious to shelter seven people. Its ribs were of heavy whalebone half an inch thick, and braced with bars of wood. It required a man of muscle to accomplish a five mile stroll with that first umbrella.

In a month after its appearance a few others had bravely come forth to defy public opinion and the rain, but it was not until thirty-seven years later that the umbrella was seen on the streets of old New York.

In a modest shop in Philadelphia, the first umbrellas of an American make were turned out in 1793, and New York fashionables of the period might have been seen the same year walking in the rain, delighted with the unwieldy arrangement, which they called a rain stick. Its real recognition as a human necessity was synchronous with the invention of the steel rib in 1810.

From that time forward the umbrella improved in shape and usefulness, though no very radical changes have been made. Its principle is just the

same now as it was a hundred years ago, and occasionally, when a hurrying New Yorker struggles with his rain stick in a pouring rain, he feels a doubt about the superiority of the modern article.—Exchange.

**Germany's Dog Policemen.**

For some time they have been using dogs to act as policemen in many of the larger cities of Germany. Of course, the dogs were not supposed to act alone, but were introduced in order to help the human policemen; but they have done so well that many of them are practically allowed to patrol on their own hook now.

One of the best of these dogs is a shepherd-dog named Harras. Recently a well-known woman disappeared from her house, and Harras was taken to the room in which she had been seen last, and left there until he scratched at the door.

As soon as he was released he hurried to the back door with his nose close to the ground, and so on through the town until he reached a tree by the river. He leaped up at this, trying to climb it and when the police examined the tree they found a piece of the old lady's skirt hanging to a lower limb.

When they brought this down and showed it to Harras, he was satisfied, and immediately continued on to the river. There he waded into the water and howled, and soon the woman's body was found there.

It was plain that she had held to a lower limb of the tree in order to save herself from falling, but that her hold had weakened, and she had tumbled in and then drowned.

Another dog, named Caesar, is used to police the parks, and he has been taught to catch people who break the shrubbery or commit other disorderly acts. He does not bite his prisoners, but seizes them firmly by the arm or leg, and holds on till the human policeman comes to make the arrest. In one week Caesar thus caught seventeen persons.

The police dog Peter found a drunken man who was lying asleep on the rails of the railroad, and pulled him off just in time to escape a train. The same night he found a burglar breaking into a store and leaped on him, barking till help came.

**Secrets of Old Roman Bath.**

Women used to lose their hairpins a thousand years ago much in the same way as they do to-day. That, at least, is the impression one gets from the antiquities found during the last year at the Silchester excavations.

The most interesting discovery was the building which formed apparently the principal baths of the Roman town. The exploration of the baths yielded a number of architectural fragments, including a small altar, portions of capitals and bases, part of a large basin of Purbeck marble, and some singular pieces of metal.

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