

## Animals That Calculate

That most animals have the ability to calculate and that many have quite a clear idea of number is the contention of M. H. Coupin in *La Revue*, who cites many instances to prove his statement. A bird notices whether an egg has been taken from its nest of four or five, and a bee or a wasp always makes cells with six sides. A squirrel, jumping from branch to branch, calculates his spring according to the distance to be traveled; and a dog, playfully jumping in front of his master's carriage, appreciates its speed with surprising accuracy so as not to be run over. The *Literary Digest* adds other more remarkable examples of animal calculation.

In the mines of Hainault horses that travel back and forth over a certain road exactly thirty times each day go to the stables of their own accord after their last trip, and refuse to take another step. In Montaigne's *Essays* we read that the oxen employed in the royal gardens of Susa for turning the wheels to which the water pails were attached, refused to make more than the hundred rounds that constituted their daily task.

Romanes assures us that he taught a chimpanzee of the London Zoological Gardens to have exact notions concerning the numbers one to five. He ordered him to take up one, two, three four or five straws, and did not accept them unless the number was correct. Within a short time the ape understood, and rarely made a mistake.

## Pat Scores Again

British papers are fond of printing jokes in which representatives of all the divisions of the United Kingdom—and sometimes a man from Wales—bear a part. Needless to say, the Irishman rarely comes off second best, whenever quickness of wit is required.

Pat was serving in the army, and his two companions happened to be an Englishman and a Scotsman. These two gave their Irish friend a lively time with their jokes and teasing.

One day Pat was called away, and left his coat hanging on a nail. The Englishman and the Scotsman, seeing some white paint near, seized the opportunity of painting a donkey's head on the back of Pat's coat.

The Irishman soon returned, and, looking first at his coat and then fixing his eye on his friends, said slowly, "Begorra, and which one of you two has been wiping your face on my coat?"

## The Ways of the Eskimo

The Arctic explorer, Dr. Donald B. MacMillan, who returned last year after four years spent in the Arctic regions, has many interesting things to say about the domestic and social customs of the Eskimo.

All property is owned in common, he tells us. When you enter a village you are not invited to come in. It is your right to enter and, if you are hungry, to help yourself to something to eat. If you happen to visit a house where a poor hunter lives, he says, "Nurket-turange (nothing to eat)." He does not

go hungry, however, because his neighbors have some, and he lives on his neighbors. Everything is divided up in that way. If all the villagers are good hunters, their supplies last a long time, but if some are poor hunters, the clever fellows must share with them.

An Eskimo does not eat his three meals a day and sleep at regular intervals. He eats when he is hungry and sleeps when he is sleepy, and he puts it off as long as he can, so that he will enjoy it all the more. He will go round for six hours talking about how hungry he is, and then he will set to work and eat all he can. It is the same way with sleeping. He will go without sleep for forty-eight hours, and when he cannot keep his eyes open any longer he turns in for a twenty-four hour snooze.

## Iron Turned to Copper

Not so very long ago a curious find was made in one of the copper mines at El Cobre, Cuba. These mines, once among the richest in the world, were abandoned for a long time on account of the insurrections in Cuba against the Spanish rule. In 1868 the coal supply was cut off by the insurgents, and consequently pumping the mines became impossible and they were soon filled with water.

After the Spanish war an American company bought the mines and proceeded to pump out the water. In one of the shafts thus made accessible was found what once represented an iron pickaxe, as well as some crowbars. The metal in these implements had, it is said, turned to copper. Extraordinary as this may appear, it can be scientifically explained.

The water, filtering through the rock and the copper ore veins, dissolved some of the copper, the solution containing sulphate of copper. As soon as the sulphuric acid in this solution touched the iron it dissolved that metal and deposited copper in its place, for sulphuric acid has a greater affinity for iron than for copper. In the process certain impurities which had existed in the iron were left behind undisturbed.

The wooden handle of the pick was in good condition. The metal was porous and irregular in shape, but the general outline preserved the form of the pick somewhat enlarged in size.

## A Natural Question

Our small daughter is very fond of her bath, writes a contributor to "Harper's Magazine," but she objects vigorously to the drying process.

One day, while we were remonstrating with her, she said, "Why, what would happen, mamma, if you didn't wipe me dry? Would I get rusty?"

## His Customary Way

"Where is your brother-in-law thinking of moving to?"

"Well, he is threatening both Grudge and Torpidville pretty loudly," replied the gaunt Missourian, "but prob'ly it will turn out that he is only bluffing, as usual."

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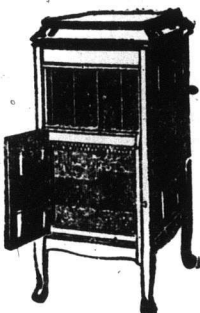
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