

slave. The "ad." is written on papyrus, and is 3,000 years old. It was exhumed from the ruins of Thebes.

The Democratic national convention of 1852 was in session for six days and forty-nine ballots were taken on the nomination of a candidate for president. Franklin Pierce did not receive a vote until the fortieth ballot, when twenty-nine were cast for him. On the forty-ninth ballot he was unanimously nominated.

The use of coffee beans was first known to the Abyssinians, but the employment of coffee as a beverage was first recorded in the fifteenth century. Two varieties of "gahous" were known. One was a preparation from the shells of the seeds, which was known as "qicharyat," and one from the seeds proper, which was known as "bonnyat."

Music's first step was the drum. As you wander through the displays made of the primitive musical instruments of savage races, those that have only one have the drum. Music began with thumps, on a calabash likely enough, and, later on, the skin of a wild animal was drawn over the mouth of the calabash. The bass drum of the Sousa band is not so far removed from the calabash drum that its cousinship can't be recognized.

In 1811 Java passed into the hands of the English without fighting, and was held by them for five years. It was restored in 1816. The old economic system had been overthrown in the meanwhile, and the Dutch found themselves confronted with altogether new difficulties and embarrassing conditions, the difficulties of which have hardly been overcome since.

After conquering Burmah the British undertook to carry the great Rangoon bell, the third largest in the world, to Calcutta as a trophy, but dropped it overboard in the Rangoon river, where it defied all the efforts of the engineers to raise it. Some years later the Burmese, who had not ceased to mourn its loss, begged to be allowed to recover it. Their petition was granted, and by attaching to it an incredible number of bamboo floats the unwieldy mass of metal was finally lifted from its muddy

Weak Kidneys.

It is of but little use to try to doctor the kidneys themselves. Such treatment is wrong. For the kidneys are not usually to blame for their weaknesses or irregularities. They have no power—no self-control. They are operated and actuated by a tiny shred of a nerve which is largely responsible for their condition. If the kidney nerve is strong and healthy, the kidneys are strong and healthy. If the kidney nerve goes wrong you know it by the inevitable result—kidney trouble.

This tender nerve is only one of a great system of nerves. This system controls not only the kidneys, but the heart, and the liver, and the stomach. For simplicity's sake Dr. Shoop has called this great nerve system the "Inside Nerves." They are not the nerves of feeling—not the nerves that enable you to walk, to talk, to act, to think. They are the master nerves and every vital organ is their slave. The common name for these nerves is the "sympathetic nerves"—because each set is in such close sympathy with the others, that weakness anywhere usually results in weakness everywhere.

The one remedy which aims to treat, not the kidneys themselves, but the nerves which are to blame, is known to physicians and druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Restorative (Tablets or Liquid). This remedy is not a symptom remedy—it is strictly a cause remedy. While it usually brings speedy relief, its effects are also lasting. If you would like to read an interesting book on inside nerve disease, write Dr. Shoop. With the book he will also send the "Health Token"—an intended passport to good health. Both the book and the "Health Token" are free.

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The idea of a prepaid envelope originated in France, early in the reign of Louis XIV., with M. De Valfyer, who, in 1853, established, under royal consent, a private penny post, placing boxes at the corners of the streets for the reception of letters wrapped in envelopes bought at offices established for that purpose. M. De Valfyer also had printed certain forms of "billets" or notes, applicable to the ordinary business among the inhabitants of great towns, with blanks which were to be filled out with such special matter as might be desired.

Notes About Nature.

In the Andes there is said to be a wax tree, the produce of which is very similar to beeswax.

An orange tree in full bearing has been known to produce fifteen thousand oranges; a lemon tree six thousand and fruit.

Rain has never been known to fall in Iquiqui, Peru. The place contains fourteen thousand inhabitants.

Spinach contains more iron than yolk of eggs, which again has more than beef. Apples, lentils, strawberries, white beans, peas, potatoes, wheat, come next, and milk is at the bottom of the scale.

In central Asia, near the Caspian sea, is a lake of beautiful rose color, while the banks are covered with salt crystals as white as snow. From the waters of this lake there arises a flower-like odor. The color and the odor are supposed to be caused by vegetable matter in the depths.

Prof. Assmann, one of the German government meteorological experts, says that lightning seldom strikes in a forest where the trees are dense and of about the same height. Danger exists only where isolated trees rise high above their surroundings.

In the island of Jamaica grows a tree, with the botanic name Daphne Lagetto, from the branches of which native workmen make peculiarly strong and excellent whips, which have the handle and lash all of a piece. The handle consists of a part of the stem retaining the bark. For the lash the stem is deprived of bark and then split into strips, which are woven together in a flexible cord six or seven feet in length. The proper taper is afforded by detaching more and more of the strips as the end of the lash is approached.

Peculiar Customs.

Hats worn by Korean state functionaries have brims of enormous dimensions, three feet across sometimes, and are required to be made of clay. The reason for this is that some years ago the then ruler of Korea was annoyed at the habit of whispering that prevailed at court and so decided upon compelling his courtiers to wear hats that would make it difficult for them to put their heads close together and exchange confidences. Every Korean official also wears a band of woven horsehair, which fits tightly around his head. A recent writer says: "The origin of this curious adornment is attributed to a desire on his imperial majesty's part to restrain the intellectual powers of his servants. According to his notion, brains might expand if not thus held in." However, the emperor does not deem this adornment necessary in his own case.

In certain localities in Europe and Asia the people still adhere to the exceedingly curious custom of salting re-born babies, notwithstanding its cruelty and danger. The method varies with the different nationalities of the people using it.

The Armenians of Russia cover the entire skin of the infant with a very fine salt, taking great care that the salt reaches all the spaces between the fingers and toes, and the depressions in the body, such as the armpits and the hollows under the knees; for not a spot of the surface of the child must remain untouched by the salt. The salt is left on the body for three hours or more, and then washed off with warm water.



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