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## SOME ODD ANIMAL CONTESTS.

At Huddersfield, England, is an association for the promotion of back stinging which has achieved a more than local fame. The association has now been in existence for about twenty years, and so many as three hundred and twenty-five birds have been entered for the various competitions at one meet.

As a rule, the birds are kept for a considerable time in the dark, and when the competitor's turn comes he is brought in in his darkened cage before a mirror. Light is thrown on the mirror, and when he sees his own reflection he takes it to be a rival. He is allowed about half a minute in which to "soak" the "enemy," after which his cage is taken in front of a window. At once he bursts into song, spreading his wings, and singing for quite a while. The bird is extremely sensitive to light, and the least light, such as taking out a pocket-handkerchief, or making even a slight noise, may put an abrupt end to his song. Last year three birds each sang for about ten minutes without cessation, thus gaining the championship.

These contests, together with the lark breeding necessary, form an attractive and sometimes highly remunerative hobby to many people in Huddersfield and the surrounding country.

### COCK-CROWING COMPETITION.

A cock-crowing competition open to the world, was held in Paris in 1906. In this competition the birds were brought by their owners in darkened boxes. At each competitor's turn the cock was suddenly taken out into the light of day and placed on a platform. The bird imagined he was there to herald in a supposed dawn, and began to crow vigorously. At the same moment a special timepiece was started. The utterer of the greatest number of cock-crow-does in a quarter of an hour was the one proclaimed champion chanticleer.

In England these cock-crowing competitions have been popular for a number of years. Silvertown, in Devon, is a favorite place for holding them. For some weeks before the competition begins the birds are fed in a special manner. Each owner has his own secret method of feeding, which he closely guards from his competitors. For about three weeks prior to the match the food is carefully looked, and made as stimulating as possible.

The time of each contest is generally limited to fifteen minutes, and a timekeeper armed with a chronometer, stands in front and marks the number of crows and the variations of

notes, which are all considered in selecting the champion.

### PUGILISTS FISHES.

A few years ago a well-known sportsman of New York imported several of the famous fighting fishes of Siam. In order to furnish sport for his friends, the natives of Siam devote great care to the cultivation of these fishes, which are called plaikat. The interest in the fight is so great that the Siamese to exhibit them brings a considerable annual revenue to the King of Siam. The Siamese are inveterate gamblers, and stake large sums on these contests.

For some time before a contest the fishes are fed, among other things, with the larvae of mosquitoes or other aquatic insects, which seem to increase their naturally pugnacious disposition. When ready for a contest two fishes are placed in a large glass bottle. It is curious to note each fish's attitude when it becomes aware of its adversary's presence in the bottle. Swelling with rage and pride, they circle round and round the narrow space, pretending not to notice one another, until suddenly one fish makes a savage dart at the other, biting its fins and body.

The fight is then on, and continues until the referee sees that the issue is no longer in doubt, when the contest is stopped.

### BULL AND TORTOISE RACES.

A form of sport very popular in Burma is bull racing. These contests are largely attended by the natives, who bet considerable sums of money on the result. A native sportsman who owns one of these bulls, values it at twelve thousand dollars, and it is no longer in an annual income of from five thousand to seven thousand dollars.

In Hagenback's famous zoo in Hamburg, Germany, are to be found several specimens of giant tortoises from the Galapagos Islands. These monsters weigh several hundred pounds each, and have become quite tame. Frequently the German youngsters utilize them in races. The riders mount upon the backs of their ungainly steeds, and holding before the end of the tortoise a head of lettuce attached to a rod, urge them on to greater and greater speed until the end of the race is reached.

An odd form of animal contest used to be practised by office clerks in London some years ago. It was known as grub racing, and nearly every younger clerk had his stable of racers. These worms were bred in nut or apple, and when carefully stabled between two walnut shells. They were selected by placing them in the centre

of a piece of paper, and the one that proved most adept in making a speedy bee line to the edge of the paper was matched against the pick of a rival stable.

Some of the fastest could not be induced to travel in a straight line; in racing parlance they bolted, and were bad betting propositions. But when two came together that showed a disposition to race straight and true the betting on the result was lively enough to stir up the anti-gambling enthusiasm.

Porpoises are the race horses of the deep, and seem to take special delight in exhibiting to man their marvelous speed. In Alaska they often race with the steamers or launches, or with one another. It is not at all unusual to see two of them going at top speed, circle a steamer or launch time after time, each apparently trying its utmost to distance the other.

The white and Indian fishermen aboard the cannery steamers become much excited when one of these speed contests is on, and large sums are sometimes bet on the result.

### TURTLE RACING IN FLORIDA.

In Florida the turtle fishermen occasionally have races with turtles as their steeds. A couple of loggerhead turtles weighing each several hundred pounds, are generally selected. Wearing bathing costumes the contestants mount their steeds, grasping the front part of the animal's upper shell with both hands. The contestants then give the signal to go.

As soon as released the turtle makes for the water. Ordinarily the animal would at once go to the bottom; but the rider prevents this by throwing his weight on the back part of the shell and at the same time pulling the forward part up with his hands, which keeps the animal's head above the surface. It is easy to guide the animal as it can be forced, either to the right or left simply by pulling at the shell on each side of the head.

In some of these contests the turtles cover several miles and do it in remarkably fast time. These races are generally guided parallel to the beach, which allows spectators to follow the race to the finish.

In the eighteenth century an odd sight occasionally seen on Newmarket Heath, the scene of many of the great English stake races of the present day, were the goose races between birds of that day. Great care was observed in the training of these birds, and a champion frequently sold for a large sum.

Around the southern extremity of South America is to be found a very large duck which bears the common name of "steamer duck" or "race horse," owing to a peculiar habit it has of racing the surface of the water at great speed. This is said to be due to the remarkable fact that the duck is able to power of flight when it reaches maturity. These ducks are very common, and sailors derive much pleasure from witnessing what look like races between some of these ducks, and large sums are sometimes wagered on the races.

### HARE AND HOUNDS.

One of the most ancient of field sports was coursing, or the pursuit of a hare by greyhounds, which followed it by sight and not by scent. There are two kinds of coursing—"open," or haphazard pursuit of any hare that can be discovered and "close" coursing, in which the course is determined case, the hare previously secured and released, and after sufficient time or distance has been allowed them, the dogs are allowed the pursuit of the hare. The judges follow the dogs throughout the course and their decisions are based on the time taken, as well as on various actions of the competitors in the contest.

In England these contests are quite popular, the All-England Course, near Liverpool, being wide enough for sixty-four dogs to compete at once. In the United States the sport has been in existence since the middle of the nineteenth century, but open meetings, in which competitors from regular organizations take part, are of comparatively recent date. The principal ones are held in the two Dakotas, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and near San Francisco.

### SAVED BABY'S LIFE.

Mrs. T. Osborn, Norton Mills, Vt., says: "I have no hesitation in saying that Baby's Own Tablets saved my baby's life and I cannot say enough in praise of this medicine. He was so weak and sickly that he took no notice of anything, and cried so much that I was worn out caring for him. After giving him the Tablets there was a great change, and he is now a bright-eyed, laughing baby, the pride of our home." Baby's Own Tablets cure all stomach and bowel troubles, break up colds, destroy worms, and keep little ones healthy and happy. Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

### LAST EVENING A GALA ONE FOR KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

All previous festivities conducted by the Knights of Pythias were eclipsed last evening at the celebration of the 4th anniversary of the order in the 4th rooms, Germania street. Over 300 members were in attendance and the evening was one of much enjoyment. An excellent rendered programme and some masterly addresses assisted in making the evening a success. LeBaron Wilson, supreme representative, presided and made a brief address, welcoming all in attendance. During the evening the inspection and installation of the officers of the union rank took place. Colonel Dodge, assisted by Adjutant Everett, P. S. Rep. F. A. Gosses and P. S. Prelate James Houlton, conducted the installation. There were three lodges represented at last evening's gathering, including New Brunswick Lodge, No. 1; Union Lodge, No. 2, and St. John Lodge, No. 3. The chancellor and commanders of these lodges occupied seats on the



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In popular shades and Black. Very dressy costumes in New Empire effect—Coat opened at back and on sides, trimmed Silk Braid and Satin covered buttons

military collar and large revers. Skirt, silk braid and satin buttons—\$25.00

Strictly tailored suit with new shaped back coat 36 inches long, open a sides and back, prettily trimmed with stitched straps and large buttons—\$25.00

New Empire fitted coat in two toned striped variation, new broad shoulder effect, trimmed satin folds in Empire Style and soutache braid—\$25.00

### VERY POPULAR COSTUMES AT \$17.00 AND \$16.50

Stylish tailored suits with 30 inch coat cut in new shaped back effect open at sides and back, trimmed with satin and satin buttons—\$17.50

Very pretty costumes in new taupe shades with hair lined stripe, semi-fitting, 30 inch coat, 9 gore skirt with bias folds trimmed, large buttons—\$17.50

### SPECIAL PANAMA COSTUMES AT \$14.50

Wonderful values in spring costumes, made of good Panama cloth in navy and olive shades 30 inch coat trimmed Taffeta silk, Skirt new plain gore with folds set on in overskirt effect—\$14.50

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ably delivered. It dealt with the Knights of Pythias order and the progress made during the years since its organization. The address abounded in interesting information. The Cygnets company officers installed last evening were: P. L. Potts, captain; Arthur Golding, 1st lieutenant; Chas. Kane, 2nd lieutenant; S. Dinmore, recorder; M. Wilson, treasurer; William Runciman, guard; William Patterson, sentinel. The officers of the Victoria company, No. 1, installed, were: H. Kinnear, captain; B. L. Sheppard, 1st lieutenant; William Smith, 2nd lieutenant; J. Fred Brown, recorder; James Stevenson, treasurer; Charles Ellis, guard; D. G. Spencer, sentinel. Refreshments and cigars were served throughout the evening by an efficient committee of gentlemen. The gathering broke up shortly after midnight.

### BULGARIA WANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED

PARIS, Feb. 19.—Bulgaria has notified France and the other powers of Europe that she is now convinced that the moment has arrived for a formal recognition of her independence. She calls attention to the fact that she has patiently followed the advice of the powers and maintained an attitude of dignity and she expresses the fear that the internal troubles in Turkey will retard greatly the settlement of her pending questions with that country. Further delay would be dangerous to all interests, it is pointed out, and likely to bring about a breach of the peace in the Balkans.

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## AYLESWORTH IS TO HANDLE THE CANADIAN CASE

Terms of Anglo-American Treaty

### ANNOUNCEMENT MADE

Sir Charles Fitzpatrick to Represent Canada on Arbitration Board

OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—Announcement was made here tonight of the terms of the Anglo-American treaty for the reference to the Hague court of arbitration of outstanding disputes between Canada, Newfoundland and the United States relative to the rights of American fishermen in the coastal waters of British North America under the terms of the treaty of 1818. Through the instrumentality of this reference it is expected that an authoritative settlement will be obtained of disputes which have been outstanding for close on a century.

The court of arbitration will have a membership of five. Dr. Lamarche of Vienna, a well known authority on international law, has been agreed on as umpire. Canada has nominated Chief Justice Sir Charles Fitzpatrick as its representative. The United States will probably be represented by one of its supreme court judges, whose name is not yet announced.

### TWO OTHER MEMBERS.

In addition to the foregoing there will be two other members of the court to be chosen from among the European countries.

Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, minister of justice, is to have charge of the Canadian case. Owing, however, to the time which is allowed in the treaty for the preparation of the American and Canadian cases, and the filing of pleadings, counter-claims, etc., the matter will not really come to a hearing at the Hague until after April 1st of next year.

The negotiations between Mr. Bryce and Mr. Root which led up to the conclusion of this treaty the latter was desirous of applying the term "rights" to the privileges which American fishermen enjoy, Canada, however, succeeded in having this word "rights" altered to "liberties" and in other respects as well the views of the Canadian authorities after much discussion and delay have at last prevailed.

It is contended on the part of Great Britain that the liberty which American fishermen received under the treaty of 1818 in common with British fishermen to take fish were subject without the consent of the United States to reasonable regulation by Great Britain, Canada or Newfoundland. On the other hand it is contended by the United States that the exercise of such liberty is not subject to limitations or restrictions by British, Canada or Newfoundland.

It is stipulated that in the case of any future differences regarding the exercise of the rights accorded to American fishermen by the court they shall be referred informally to the permanent court at the Hague for decision by the usual summary procedure.

One of the most important issues to be decided is as to the definition of the three-mile limit in question along the treaty coast. The American contention has been that this should closely follow the bays and indentations of the shore, while Canada has held that in the case of bays whose entrance is less than six miles wide that the three-mile limit shall be the distance from the line drawn from cape to cape. An important supplementary agreement reached by the negotiators to the treaty is with regard to the fishing privileges of Americans in the Bay of Fundy and in the Gulf of Canada. In 1848 Lord Elgin, on behalf of the British government, conceded to the United States without prejudice the privilege of the sea waters outside of the three mile limit. Canada maintains that as a matter of right the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Canada waters are exclusively Canadian and that American vessels could be altogether excluded therefrom. It is agreed, however, in a formal exchange of notes between Ambassador Bryce and Secretary Root that the convention existing since 1848, which obviates any friction in this regard, shall be continued, the question of legal right to be unaffected by the present treaty.

## HIGH HONOR FOR PROF. WOODMAN

HALIFAX, Feb. 19.—Dalhousie is furnishing another man to a big university. Dr. J. E. Woodman, professor of theology, has been appointed professor of theology and orator of the geological museum at the New York University, beginning his duties with the next academic year. At this distance this university is known best perhaps for its splendid library, the gift of Miss Helen Gould, and for the famous structural geologist the Hall of Fame. It is, however, in point of size one of the major universities, having a membership of some what more than four thousand and a scholarship fund of over \$1,000,000. Dr. Woodman has been a specialist in geology and paleontology for many years, and has served upon seven of the leading geological and professional schools.

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