MANY CURIOUS MEXICAN CUSTOMS

It Is Not Good Form For a Woman To Attend Funerals Th re

BEER SERVED WARM OR COLD

Despite the Close Association Wit United States, Customs Are Ver Different and Visitors Are Most Strikingly Impressed.

Mexico City, Mexico—In addition to always scheduling revolutions and political meetings for Sunday, like railroad time card changes in the United States, Mexico has many other curious customs. Keys turn to the left instead of the right, foreigners lose their minds trying to find two clocks that register the same time, and pedestrians are arrested when they are foolish enough to allow themselves to be run down by automobiles or coaches.

In the hot lands, strangers are asked to believe, bees do not store honey nor sheep grow wool, both being unnecessary where no winters need be provided against. Men, in greeting, embrace and pat each other on the back, and always shake hands when they meet and again when they part, no matter if they encounter each other every day and talk no longer than a few moments. When beer is served the waiter usually asks if you prefer it warm or cold.

Visitors from the United States are most strikingly impressed, however, by the manner in which social customs differ from what is conventional at home. In Mexico:

Women do not attend funerals.

Children kiss the hands of their parents.

The hostess is served first at a Mexican table.

The bridegroom purchases the bride's trousseau.

Female friends kiss on both cheeks when greeting or taking leave.

Mexican gentlemen remove their hats upon entering a business office.

Gentlemen speak first when passing women acquaintances in the street.

The sofa is the seat of honor and no Mexican parlor is properly furnished without it.

The guest waits until he is invited before seating himself upon the seat of honor.

When friends pass each other on the street without stopping they say "Adois" (good-by).

Cards are sent to friends upon the anniversary of their saint's and upon New Year's day.

In passing an aged lady walking with a woman, gentlemen give her the inside of the walk.

Daily inquiry is made for a sick friend and cards are left or the name and address of the caller is written in a book with the porter.

Even the younger children of the family are dressed in mourning upon the death of a relative.

Young women do not receive calls from young men, nor are they escorted to entertainments by them.

When you move into a new locality it is your duty to make the first neighborhood calls.

The pronoun "tu" (thou) is used only when addressing children or menials or only among very intimate friends.

Dinner calls are not customary, but upon arising from the table the guest thanks his host for the entertainment.

After a dance the gentleman returns his partner to her seat beside her parents or chaperone and immediately leaves her side.

Mexicans never allow a caller to carry a package from their house but send it to his home; they do not carry packages of any kind or size if avoidable. The size of the package you carry may determine your social position among new acquaintances.

When you change your residence it is customary to notify your Mexican friends by card so that they will feel at liberty to call upon you at your new place of abode.

The fashionable call of a few minutes is unknown in Mexico. A woman who arrives at 4 o'clock will remain until 7. The calls of intimate friends are half-day visits.

Gentlemen tip their hats to one another or salute otherwise both at meeting and parting, although the interview may have lasted but a few minutes.

Mexican women rarely appear upon the streets unattended by a servant, except in a carriage, although the rigorous observance of this rule has been greatly relaxed in the last few years, owing to the freer ways of foreigners.

Panther Seen Near Windber.

Windber, Pa.—Residents of this section declare there is a huge panther roaming about on Big Savage Mountain. Sheep, calves and hogs have been killed and the wild beast has been seen by several persons.

The animal has been seen by G. W. Richer, Harry Risher, Frank Risher and Roy Heckman. G. W. Risher declared that he has located the lair of the panther. He said he recently saw the beast crawling over a stone pile when 100 feet away. Farmers are planning a hunt for the panther.

PAPER NAUTILUS.

California's Island Beaches Closely Watched by Searchers for the Beautiful and Coveted Treasures

A good-sized shell of the paper nautilus may bring $75, and $500 has been paid for a very large specimen. That being the case it is not surprising that the people living on the islands off the California coast get out in their boats bright and early after heavy gales to search the little beaches for the coveted treasure.

The shells are thrown up by the waves, but unless promptly taken away the next rush of water may break them to pieces. The name paper nautilus suggests the extreme fragility of the vaseline shell, deeply fluted and coiled, with a sharp keel and the most graceful ribs, and sometimes more than 10 or 11 inches across.

While the empty shells are scarce they are positively common compared with the rarity of the occupied ones. A writer in Country Life in America says that he has hunted the beaches for years, hoping to find a living nautilus, but without success.

Three were brought to him by more fortunate searchers, and for a while he kept one alive. It took food from his hand and the first photographs ever made of a living paper nautilus were secured. "The shell," he says, "is not essential to the animal; it is only a dainty object having the shape of a shell, formed for the protection of its eggs. It is, then, a nest and in no way connected with the animal, as in the case of the pearly nautilus, where the animal forms partitions as it grows and is connected with them all by a fleshy pedicle or cord. The paper nautilus can dart out of its fairy ship at a second's notice.

"Glancing into the shell we may see a yellow bunch of miniature grapes hanging from the interior wall—the eggs—and perched in front of them is the argonaut, looking very much like an octopus or devilfish. From the number of empty shells found upon Santa Cattalina beaches in winter and summer it might be assumed that the argonaut deserts the shell at times and lives a roving octopus-like life.

"In appearance it is one of the most beautiful of all animals as it rests in its shell, trembling with color, as waves of rose, yellow, green, violet and all tints of brown are continually sweeping over it; now irised in the most delicate shade of blue, now brown, or green, changing to rose, vivid scarlet or molten silver. So sensitive is it that every convulsive movement of the mantle of my paper nautilus, in taking in water to breathe and forcing it out of the siphon, caused a wave of color to pass over the entire body.

"When the water was taken in the color cells contracted, leaving it pale for a fraction of a second; when it was forced out they evidently relaxed and the entire surface was suffused with color, to disappear as quickly, giving a continuous heat lightning effect.

"The body of the little argonaut is a mere sac from three to six inches in length. The head appears to be separated from the body by a neck and in each side are large, black, staring eyes, surrounded by a band of silver tinted with ultra-marine, continually changing.

"The glare of this hypnotic eye is striking, and when the animal sinks into its shell or hides the eye can be plainly seen through it. The eye also has a peculiar sac or cover that slides over it in lieu of a lid, which deaden the sight but does not destroy it.

"Like the octopus, it has eight arms or tentacles, in pairs, which rise from the head and surround the small mouth, in which are seen two black, parrotlike beaks with which the nautilus nips its food. Below the mouth is the so-called siphon—a tube about as large as a man's finger—which seems to possess a sense peculiarly its own, and a double function—it serves to carry off the water taken in at the gills; or it can throw a jet of water and ink, or water alone, a distance of five or six feet into the air, or while in the water can almost instantly permeate it with a cloud of ink. Forcing water through this siphon violently, the argonaut shoots itself along or swims, and by pointing it up or down it can change the direction at will.

"Of the three living specimens that I have kept in confinement one was four or five inches long, another eight or nine. The small one was extremely active, leaving its shell to crawl about its prison and darting back with great agility, directing its funnel backward at the cluster of eggs hanging in the interior of the shell, always paying the most assiduous attention to them to prevent the intrusion of any parasite or enemy.

"It would recline against the weed covered rock, watching me or eyeing my hand as it moved about, blushing, paling displaying remarkable sensitiveness, and when I touched the shell would protest by pumping violently, shooting the shell backward; and if I held on, aiming the siphon at my hand and pumping water at it, on one occasion filling the water with an extraordinary volley or cloud of ink."

In Washington.

"Times have changed among White House visitors."

"How now?"

"I just saw a cow puncher elbowed aside by a man in golf clothes."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

PIG STANDARD FOR CHILD REARING

Kansas Professor, in Bulletin, Scores Guess Work That Spoils Many Babies

A COLLEGE COURSE SUGGESTED

Sociologists Are Aiding Campaign to Construct a Better Citizenship By Educating Parents How to Make Their Child a Useful Citizen.

Topeka, Kan.—"Fathers and mothers go right on rearing children in the good, old-fashioned way, guessing at what should be done to make better men and women, while the old man is out in the barnyard studying carefully how to grow better wheat and corn and how to raise more meaty steers and fatter pigs," says W. A. McKeever, professor of philosophy of the Kansas Agricultural College.

"Crop production, stock raising and breeding are sciences taught by schools, but child-rearing is a guess, combined with heresy and superstition," continues McKeever. "In our eagerness to herald to the world the magnitude of our corn and wheat crops, the superiority of our beef cattle and thoroughbred swine, and the tremendous productiveness of our good, old faithful hen, we often lose sight of the real issue, the splendid crop of strong sons and fair daughters the country is producing.

"Droughts and deluges may destroy our grain crops, disease and degeneration may play havoc with our cattle on a thousand hills, and our treasured porkers in the fields of alfalfa; yea, our boasted helpful hen may occasionally cease her productive labors. All these calamities may come upon us, each in its turn and yet our glory may not be dimmed, provided only that our growing boys and girls be so safe-guarded in the home, so educated and disciplined in the school, the church and other institutions that they will develop into well-rounded, magnificent specimens of manhood and womanhood.

"Go where you will, throughout the length and breadth of this fair land, and I challenge you to find a more pleasing aspect than that of a rosy-cheeked 12-year-old girl, garbed in a loose-fitting house dress and a dainty white apron, while with a snowy tea towel in her hands she is engaged in drying the dinner dishes.

"It is much to be regretted that we do not give its just measure of honor and praise to this exalted home life. There is certainly need of a great poet or painter who will, by means of high art, divert the attention of many young girls from the siren phantoms which they are now pursuing and help them to fix their affections upon the things that make for more substantial character.

"In the colleges there are special courses in pig raising, poultry, horse breeding, production of special types in cattle for beef and milk, crop rotation and seed selection but the fathers and mothers go on making experiments in rearing children. Children may be well-born but their prospects for a useful career are often blighted through ignorance on the part of the parents.

"I want to see established college courses in child rearing, so that parents can know how to train and care for their first born without hurting the moral and physical fiber of the child through a long series of experiments and trials which teach little to the parents and does much less to make the child a useful citizen when he grows up."

COURT FIXES HEN'S WAGES.

Hatched Goose Eggs for Neighbors and Suit Followed.

Omaha, Neb.—A unique lawsuit has just been settled in Omaha in which the court officially placed the wages of a hen for hatching out a setting of goose eggs at 97 cents and gave her owner judgment for that sum against the owner of the eggs.

Soren Lund and Louis Naugle were neighbors. Lund had seventeen goose eggs. Naugle had a hen that wanted to "set." The two men arranged that Lund's eggs should be set under Naugle's hen and the goslins should be divided equally between the two. Four of the eggs were not good and thirteen hatched out. Two days later a thief got into the chicken-house and stole the goslings.

Naugle thereupon filed suit against Lund for the time his hen consumed in hatching out the eggs. Two lawyers represented each party and the case occupied the attention of Justice C. W. Britt's court for nearly three days. Naugle triumphed however, and the court allowed him 97 cents as the wages of his hen during the time she was setting. Lund threatens to appeal the case to the higher courts.

Rum Braces Sick Elephant.

Winsted, Conn.—An elephant weighing about three tons and appearing at the Winsted Opera House was seized with colic soon after his arrival here and fears were entertained that the show would have to be presented in abridged form. But a quart of Winstead whisky taken internally by the patient put it on it feet.

COUNTERPART OF LOT'S WIFE

Canon Newbolt Sees Modern Type Duplicate of Biblical Character.

London—That Lot's wife has her counterpart among the society women of the present day was the statement made recently at St. Paul's Cathedral by Canon Newbolt.

"Lot's wife," he said, "is very human and very modern, and there are hundreds of her type in London today; and she is interesting as an example of one who fell a victim to environment.

"The fetid atmosphere of her environment entered into her very soul. And there must today be many a pure, God-fearing woman who shrinks from herself in certain conditions of society from which she hardly believes it possible to absent herself, even while she repudiates and dislikes them.

"What of her daughters? Was she one of those who give good advice and care little about a good example? Was she one of those who could spare no time from her pleasures to look after her own home—one of those mothers who hate children, and if she is cursed with them leaves them to others' care or their own devices, or even trades on their matrimonial prospects?"

FOOD FOR CASTAWAYS

Caches Have Been Established by Governments.

Caches or depots for food and clothing have recently been established by the various governments on most of the dangerous islands under their dominion. And on many of the others there are signposts and instructions as to how to get to the nearest island where there is such a depot. They are kept in huts built expressly for the purpose or in natural caves in the cliffs, where all the provisions will remain dry and keep for a long time.

As an example, down in the Indian ocean the islands of Amsterdam, St. Paul and Kerguelen, all dangerous spots for vessels in a storm. On each of these the French warship Eure has established depots containing necessaries of all kinds for castaways, no matter what their nationality may be.

At Amsterdam Island, in a large cavern on all hillside, there are supplies of beef, biscuits, underclothes, blankets and some matches inclosed in a hermetically sealed metal box. There are also in the same cave several cots, a cooking pot and dry wood, left by fishermen who occasionally visit there. Cabbage and celery, fish and lobsters abound on the island and in the waters about it and the castaways could live there indefinitely. The depot is clearly marked out by a board bearing the legend, "France, Vivres, Vetements pour naufrages, Eure."

AGRICULTEUR DEFINED.

Knotty Question Solved for Frenchmen.

Paris, France—The minister of war has defined the meaning of the term "agriculteur" as used in the three years law. This law states that the "agriculteur" can obtain leave during harvest and other times when work on the farms is especially necessary.

This classification is obviously a matter of some difficulty, and according to the definition of this minister, those whose livelihood is obtained from keeping cattle or cultivating the land come under the title of "agriculteurs," that is, the proprietor of a farm and all those actually working on it, such as shepherd, sow man, vine grower, carter, etc. But the middleman who buys the produce and resells it, does not come under this head, neither are those engaged in forestry classed as "agriculteurs."

OLD CONVICT PARDONED.

Ohioan Who Once Refused Release Is Aged 66.

Columbus, O.—After spending practically all his life since he attained manhood inside penitentiary walls, John Taborn, oldest convict in Ohio, has been pardoned by Gov. Cox.

Taborn has been a prisoner 43 years. He was convicted of murder in Delaware County in 1870 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He is aged 66. Gov. Andrew L. Harris offered a pardon to Taborn upon the condition that he become an inmate of the State soldier's home in Sandusky. He refused the pardon at that time, declaring that he "would as soon be in one prison as another."

The Borstal system derives its name from the village of Borstal, near Chatham, where a wing of a convict prison was allotted for the reformative treatment of children.

Giant Carbuncle After Auto Chill.

Freemansburg, Pa.—Doctor in attendance on School Director August Krueger here stated that although he was in a critical condition from the largest carbuncle they ever saw, he had a fighting chance to live. Sudden chills, due to auto riding, are given as the origin of the carbuncle.

Minor Cuts From Fall of 60 Feet.

Altoona, Pa.—Hurled to the floor of a Pennsylvania Railroad shop, 60 feet below, where he was working, Patrick McCall, aged 35 years, an electrician, escaped with a few minor cuts and bruises.

He touched a live wire at work and the fall resulted.

CORNER IN 3 CENT PIECES.

The Involuntary Work of a Dime Slot Machine Company.

The disappearance of the three-cent piece has for many years been a matter of mild speculation. Few persons are aware that a large proportion of the coins of this denomination which remained in circulation when the Government stopped issuing them are peacefully slumbering in sundry large fat canvas bags in the vaults of a certain electrical manufacturing company of Chicago. They are not for sale just yet.

Each of the coins is an evidence of petty larceny.

Years ago the company equipped many telephone pay stations with dime slot machines. It was supposed that they could be worked only with dimes. The three cent pieces were becoming rare and no thought was taken of them.

Hardly six months passed before one of the telephone companies discovered that the collectors were yielding a harvest of three cent pieces. Then from all over the country came similar complaints.

Each company forwarded the pieces to the manufacturing company and more or less politely asked that a corresponding number of dimes or a check for an equivalent amount be sent back in exchange.

A council was held at the office of the manufacturing company. The cost of correcting the boxes was compared with fairly trustworthy information of the number of three cent pieces in circulation. It was found that a balance was in favor of the three cents and it was decided to accept the pieces as dimes.

Gradually the import of three cent pieces narrowed down to an intermittent current. The company seemed to have about all the pieces.

It is said that if ever the premium on three cent pieces goes high enough the coins will be offered to collectors at prices based upon the original cost to the company, plus 6 per cent a year, plus cost of storage, plus cost of guarding, plus cost of carrying the fund upon the books. Long ago the slot machines that collected them were relegated to the scrap heap.

RADIUM AND GEOLOGY.

The properties of radium have consequences of enormous importance to the geologist as well as to the physicist or chemist. In fact, the discovery of these properties has entirely altered the aspect of one of the most interesting geological problems, that of the age of the earth. Before the discovery of radium it was supposed that the supplies of heat furnished by chemical changes going on in the earth are quite insignificant, and that there was nothing to replace the heat which flows from the hot interior of the earth to the colder crust. Now when the earth first solidified it only possessed a certain amount of capital in the form of heat, and if it is continually spending this capital and not gaining any fresh heat it is evident that the process cannot have been going on for more than a certain number of years, otherwise the earth would be colder than it is. Lord Kelvin in this way estimated the age of the earth to be less than 100,000,000 years. Though the quantity of radium in the earth is an exceedingly small fraction of the mass of the earth, assuming according to the determination of Profs. Strutt and Joly, to only about five grams in a cube whose side is 100 miles, yet the amount of heat given out by this small quantity of radium is so great that it is more than enough to replace the heat which flows from the inside to the outside of the earth."—Prof. J. J. Thompson, quoted by Science.

GLAZING, LIQUID GLASS.

In the glazing of pottery many different mixtures are used. Nearly all of them are composed of one or more of the following articles: Lithargе, flint, feldspar, paris white and white clay.

Water glass or liquid glass, as it is sometimes called, is a potassium silicate, prepared by fusing together three parts of silica (sand) and two parts of potassium carbonate with a small quantity of charcoal in an ordinary reverberatory furnace. The product is soluble in four or five parts of boiling water. As it is not affected by ordinary atmospheric changes it is frequently used as a preservation of eggs. As a cement it is known as mineral lime. Other uses are in fireproof and waterproof paint; as an ingredient of soaps and in the manufacturing of earthenware.—Boston Globe.

Milk producers who know it best concede that alfalfa is an invaluable feed in the dairy, closely akin to wheat bran in results, and usually much less expensive, according to Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa." In the average small town or city there is about one cow for every 10 or 15 people. Therefore, in a town of 1,000 population there will probably be 75 or 100 cows. If alfalfa will increase the quantity of their milk and butter fat, giving a product at a lower cost than the concentrated foods, it should be more used. But as yet it is not generally used, because it is not understood and appreciated.

A woman gets as excited over a wedding in the neighborhood as a man does over a baseball game.

It takes a contrary woman to like a man because she doesn't.

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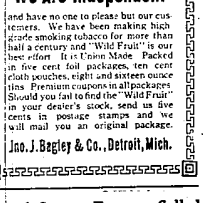

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United States Troops Called to Subdue Indians.

EL PASO, TEX.—Two troops of cavalry were ordered from El Paso to Gallup, N. W., to assist United States Marshal Hudspeth in arresting Navajo Indians who were threatening trouble at Shiprock, N. M. The troops were ordered out by General Bliss at San Antonio.

Army officers do not expect a serious time in taking the fugitives. Indianapolis News.