

NEW STUNTS BY STOMACH EXPERTS

Astonishing Feats Performed For Medical Scientists and Others Studying Food Digestion

Government and university scientists engaged in making experiments on the human stomach, in their endeavor to familiarize themselves with the various stages and degrees of food digestion, are now branching out into new fields for more light along this line has been shed by the "poison squads" and the salaried food eaters confined in glass cages.

They are just at present interesting themselves in the manner of human freaks whose exploits are such as to tax their stomachs to an extent that seems phenomenal, if not supernatural.

Many of our readers have witnessed the performances of sword swallowers, glass eaters and their like, and have come away with the belief that these unnatural feats were sleight-of-hand and nothing more, but, unbelievable as it sounds, there is little or no deception about their "stunts," to use a circus term for their acts.

Dr. Leonard K. Hirschberg tells how sword swallowers afforded the opportunity to learn how long a time was required for the digestion of meat. These men have so arranged their internal economy that they can swallow anything which offered Dr. Stevens, a Scotchman, the opportunity to experiment with the digestive process.

He caused the fellow to swallow small metallic tubes pierced with holes. In each tube had been placed a piece of meat. When the tubes were disgorged the various stages and degrees of digestion were recorded. Other things learned from the sword swallowers were how long the throat could be made insensitive to the touch, and that the stomach may be explored by the aid of an electric lamp.

The other day Dr. Grossman, a noted scientist, exhibited a man who was called the "human aquarium."

He had such a large mouth and so dilated an esophagus that he could swallow a small aquarium in which were a dozen gold fish, several tadpoles, and frogs and other small creatures. He would submerge this in his stomach, and then disgorge first, the bowl, then the fluid and the lively wriggly denizens of the deep.

Some of these swallowers have the power to swallow hen's eggs, stones, penknives, broken glass and the like. A patient of Prof. William Halsted of Baltimore, Md., several times swallowed several hundred separate needles, chains, knives, screws, glass tacks, nails, stones, crystals and rings.

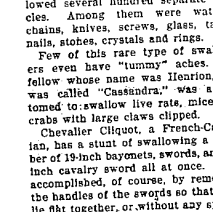
Few of this rare type of swallowers even have "tummy" aches. One fellow whose name was Hector, who was called "Castandra," was accustomed to swallow live rats, mice and crabs with large claws clipped.

Chevalier Cluquet, a French-Canadian, has a stunt of swallowing a number of 19-inch bayonets, swords, and 22-inch cavalry sword all at once. This accomplished, of course, by removing the handles of the weapons so that they lie flat together, or without any spread at the bill.

It has recently been discovered that the leaves of the fern plant which grows almost anywhere, is an excellent preservative for packing articles of food, fruit and even meat.

Time is money, but it requires a great deal of time to convince some folks of that fact.

A DAINTY DANCING FROCK FOR GIRLS



Model by Carere of white printed chiffon with skirt of accordion pleated chiffon.

BELGIANS USE CARRIER PIGEONS WITH SUCCESS IN EUROPEAN WAR



Carrier pigeons are being used with great success by the Belgian signal corps. The photo shows one of these birds before its release with a message in code for headquarters, the message refers to a wood, a bridge and a mine, Bois being the French word for woods; pont, the French for bridge, and cole the French for mine.

ART CRITICISM.

Orchardson's and Murray's Work as Viewed From Different Standpoints.

When Orchardson's picture, "Hard Hit," was exhibited at the academy the artist was strolling through the rooms one day when he saw, to his alarm, an excited little foreigner making toward him with threatening aspect and brandishing a stick as he came. "Ah, sir," he exclaimed, "I came to think that by killing you I could paint a picture like that I would crush your skull this minute."

David Murray, a Royal Academician, was once painting in Piccadilly when his stock of canvas became exhausted. Being desirous of securing an "impression" for use later in a more ambitious attempt, the artist did one bit on a handkerchief tucked on a stretcher. Upon his return to London this piece of work was being inspected, with others, by a wealthy old lady, who desired to purchase it. Murray thought it advisable to tell her that it had been painted on his pocket handkerchief. "On your pocket handkerchief?" exclaimed the old lady. "Then I'm quite sure you've ruined it, Mr. Murray. The paint will never come off."

POLITENESS IN PARIS.

A Boston woman says it can't be surpassed. She was talking of Paris. The question of the relative courtesy of nations came up.

"Well, it would take a pretty good illustration to persuade me that any people beat the French," she remarked. "I'll give you an example. I was walking down the Champs Elysees and wanted to find a particular street and a quaint high pew near the church, called Rue de la Cloche. Not knowing just where to turn off I asked a young Frenchman who passed me if he could direct me. He assured me with a thousand pardons that he did not know. A few minutes later I heard hurrying feet behind me, and there was my Frenchman. 'Madame,' he said, sweeping off his hat and bowing profoundly, 'did you not ask me the way to the Rue de la Cloche? I was sorry I did not know, but I have seen my brother and asked him, and I'm sorry to inform you, madame, that he did not know either.'"

LITTLE CULBONE CHURCH.

Smallest in England, it Serves Thirty-five People.

Culbone church, which among many others claims to be the smallest church in England, is situated on the coast of North Devon, not far from the picturesque little village of Porlock, and the church is so guarded by hills and woods that the sun's rays only reach it four months in the year. The building is but 33 feet long by 12 feet 8 inches wide, and has a porch, nave, carved oak chancel screen and Norman font, an alabaster altar piece and a quaint high pew near the chancel, used by the family of Lord Lovelace, by whom the property is owned. The blunted chancel is lit by a tiny square headed iron barred window, the oldest feature in the church, being pre-Norman and cut out of a single stone. It is amply large for the population, which is about 35 in a parish of only 1,327 acres. In summer the church is crowded, owing to the influx of visitors from many parts of the world.

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CLEVER TRICK WITH A STRING

Parlor Magicians Will Find That Here is a Clever Boy's Trick.

This is a clever boy's trick. Lay a piece of string across the palm of your hands placed side by side, then bring the ends hang down, then bring them together secretly catching hold of the string with your fourth and fifth fingers. Then direct any person to tie your thumbs together as tight as the pieces, and he will not of course be tying them, because you have hold of the string, yet it will appear to him that he is doing so. Ask him to place the hat over your hands; then blow up a balloon over your thumb from under the string. Direct him to remove the hat and show the thumbs free. Request that the hat be again placed over your hands; then blow upon the hat as before and say, "Be tied," slipping your thumbs under the string again, and when your hat is removed your thumbs will appear to be tied as if you have performed the trick you must convey the string tightly into your pocket so that it may not be detected.

KEEP DYNAMITE IN BOTTLES

Air-Tight Tubes Used to Protect It From Cold.

The expediency of keeping dynamite from freezing, especially when it is being taken from the magazine to the place of use in cold weather has resulted in the invention of a non-freezing carrier constructed on the principle of the thermos bottle. When dynamite is placed in the bottles, or tubes, the corks are firmly inserted in the ends, and it will remain unsoftened for at least twelve hours, even when the carrier is exposed to temperature considerably below zero. Before placing dynamite in the tubes they are put in a room having a temperature of 65 degrees, or higher, and the corks are withdrawn for at least five minutes.

Woman Inventor Gets Patent.

Mrs. Clara S. Butler of Cleveland, Ohio, has invented and patented a device which eliminates the harsh, metallic sounds in a phonograph.

USE FOR GREAT SALT LAKE

Experts Discover Water is a Natural Timber Preservative.

Experts of the Government forest service have discovered that the waters of Great Salt Lake, Utah, act as a preservative against decay in timbers. For years they have been conducting experiments to find a treatment that would preserve telegraph poles and railroad ties. As the result of recent investigations it has been found that timbers taken from the Great Salt Lake were perfectly sound, although they had remained in those waters for many years.

Forest experts suggest that ties and poles immersed in these waters once and then removed to dry land will not be bleached out by the action of the elements. This can be guarded against, it is asserted, by painting the butt of pole with creosote, which will keep out the moisture and keep in the salt.

MANY METEORS INFEST SPACE

Scientist Estimates Number at 20,000,000 Per Day.

Multitude of meteors infest space on a clear moonless night one person may count eight or ten shooting stars in an hour. But there are twice as many visible in the early morning hours as in the evenings, and during the last half of the year there are also more than twice as many visible as during the first half.

It is computed, says a noted investigator of meteoric phenomena, Prof. W. F. Denning, in the new Encyclopedia Britannica, that 20,000,000 meteors enter the atmosphere every day and would be visible to unaided vision in the absence of sunlight, moonlight and clouds, while if telescopic observers are included the number will be increased twentyfold.

AEROPLANE BUILT LIKE BIRD

Intended to Go With the Wind, Without Aid of Any Mechanical Power.

Man has never been able to successfully imitate birds in flying, though the "upside down" and "loop the loop" aviators have come close to it. Now, however, an aeroplane without engines has been invented, and the builder, Dr. A. Mooghan, says that the operator of the machine will need only the wind to help him.

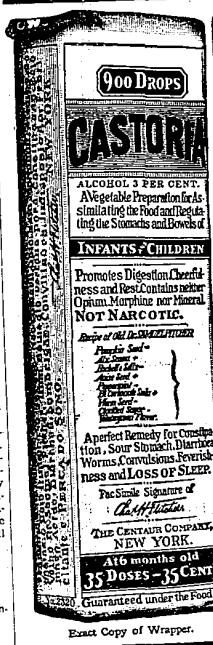
Like large birds, the apparatus is provided with a spreading tail and two tapering wings, the wings being so placed as to enable it to remain motionless. The control of the machine must be acquired by practice, but in the case of a bird, and this is well understoodly present difficulty and danger.

POOR YEAR FOR PHILIPPINES.

Drouth and typhoons hurt the trade of the Philippines in the year that ended June 30. Exports declined to \$51,000,000, a loss of \$2,500,000. The imports were about \$4,000,000 more than the exports.

ARGENTINA AND THE WAR.

The Argentine Republic is excited because its consuls at Antwerp, Belgium, has been shot by the Germans. The reason for the shooting is not known.



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