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## SARGASSO IS SEA OF MANY SECRETS

### Expedition Will Explore Mysterious Region.

As if an enormous giant had put his finger into the sea and stirred it round, the entire North Atlantic ocean slowly revolves in the direction of the clock's hands.

In the center is the Sargasso sea, a gigantic collection of floating islands, made of seaweed and inhabited by countless living things.

Nobody knows how Herodotus, in ancient times, came by the alarming stories he told of this mysterious region, for it is only during recent years that it has been properly charted.

When Columbus and his men were drawn into this oval-shaped vortex, his ship remained out of control for 15 days, and the crew thought they were condemned to perish in a watery prison, closely guarded by seaweed barriers for 200,000 square miles. But a strong wind luckily carried the ship to safety.

Supported in the water by small air balloons, the feathery weeds of Sargasso are mostly olive-brown in color, with blotches of white. The chief source of supply has been proved to be the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea.

Sailors do not like this strange tract which floats, almost like land, on the bosom of the Atlantic. It is reputed to be the home of barbarous fish and the hiding place of mysterious monsters. Animals drifting about on the surface of the sea, with only the scattered cover of moving seaweed, are exposed to many dangers, not only from the birds always hovering above, but from hungry fish lurking in the patches of uncovered sea, which is the bluest in the world.

To protect themselves, all the living creatures imitate, in a remarkable way, the color of their floating home. One grotesque little animal is conspicuous owing to the disproportionate size of its head and jaws, and resembles the frog fish, sometimes seen near British coasts.

Making its nest of seaweed bound together by long cords of its own manufacture, this singular creature combines all the characteristics of an animal, a fish, and a bird.

A short-tailed crab of the shell-less type swarms on the Sargasso weed and is blotched with white to match the light patches on its surroundings. These and many more peculiar creatures will be examined by Professor Beebe, of New York, who recently set out to explore this little-known region.

A secret ambition of the expedition is to capture a monster squid, a terrifying fish of the cuttlefish family, with black eyes at least 12 inches in diameter and a body 80 feet in length. The body of these giants, one of which the explorers hope to capture, is wrapped in a loose mantle, from an opening in which emerges the evil-looking head with its sharp, parrot-like beak.

This Sargasso monster is the tiger of the ocean, and, like its striped counterpart on land, is said to kill even when not hungry—for the sheer pleasure of killing.

### Victoria Invested Wisely

Through the good advice of Diarrell, her chief adviser, Queen Victoria of England, invested in Suez canal stock and was thus enabled eventually to leave additional millions to her children. She also was one of the original owners of a share in the New River Water company which provided the water supply for London. The water shares, originally worth a pound (\$5), enhanced in value to where they were worth millions, and even the richest of others like the Rothschilds were forced to be content with a sixteenth or a thirty-second of a share.

### Quake Made Trouble

All was peaceful and quiet Saturday night in the Springfield police station when Patrolman Clark, who was entering something in the police blotter, suddenly shouted: "For the love of Mike, Mitchell, stop shaking the table. How do you suppose I can write?" Patrolman Mitchell indignantly denied that he was shaking the table and accused Clark of being responsible. The argument was waxing warm, with each denying and accusing, when the telephone rang and gave them their first inkling that an earthquake was the cause of the table's strange behavior. —Bostop Globe.

### China's Trade in Bones

For many years, the economical Chinese have put animal bones to good use for various ornamental and practical articles and for fertilizer, but the traffic in this commodity in recent times has greatly increased so that now they are said to be importing large quantities. During the first six months of 1923 Shanghai alone imported nearly 1,500 tons of cow bone valued at more than \$228,000, principally for tile-making. In 1922, China exported more than \$1,000,000 worth of bone. —Popular Mechanics Magazine.

## Farmer Well Called "Indispensable Man"

Now goes the husbandman forth in the chill dawn with renewed vigor in his gait. All winter he has labored, but not hurriedly, fixing his barns, cutting wood, pruning fruit trees and caring for his animals. On bad days he sat by the fire and turned things over in his mind—so many acres of wheat and so many acres of oats, this field for roots and that for corn. And you may be sure that he has also turned over the pages of many a catalogue longingly, wishing he could buy twice as many things as he can afford—the better to do his complicated job of feeding the urban multitudes.

When the sun passes the meridian the farmer knows that his dawdling days are done; henceforth, for eight months he will be racing with the calendar, with frost, rain, hail, flood and the everlasting weed. Old Sol sends to the husbandman a challenge along with his blessing of fructifying heat. Giddap!

Ye city dwellers, reflect upon the manifold activities of this unknown friend of yours as he proceeds with the preparation of your next winter's dinners. Sap bucket, in hand, he makes the rounds of his maple trees. Bringing the most progressive of his hens into a warm corner, he dusts her with antilouse powder and leaves her to her devotions. Then he sees to it that she has water and food during her setting exercises. Next, he gets the brooder ready for the day-old chicks he has ordered. Presently, in a mad rush to finish a mean job before the ground thaws, he returns to Mother Earth the last of the accumulated fertilizer from the barnyard. Any number of things must be done before plowing, because thereafter every day will demand its meed of seeding, planting, harvesting, and animal tending.

All this labor, all these chances of life and death, intervene between All Fools' day and Harvest Home. The farmer, facing the chill spring wind and the challenge of the climbing sun, is the very embodiment of human persistence—the utterly indispensable man.—Boston Independent.

### Preference in Meats

In an analysis of meat consumption statistics the Department of Agriculture noted that the British eat nearly seven times as much mutton and lamb as do Americans, and declared the reason has "baffled satisfactory explanation."

Mutton and lamb consumed in the United States last year made up only 3.2 per cent of the total meat consumption, while the percentage in Great Britain was 22. There was 10 times more beef and 15 times more pork than mutton and lamb eaten in this country last year.

The department estimated that mutton and lamb consumption was at the rate of 5.2 pounds per person; pork, 88.3 pounds; beef, 62.6 pounds, and veal, 8.3 pounds.

### Their Way

"I reckon I'll hafta quit taking my children to the picture shows," at the crossroads store remarked Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge.

"What's the matter—they ketch the itch, or something that-a-way?" asked an acquaintance.

"Not yet, as far as I know. But what's the matter is that they get so devilish interested in the picture that they furgit whur they're at. They all decide for one feller on the screen and whoop and holler for him till the roof lifts, or else part of 'em are fur him and the rest ag'in him, and while one side cheers the other side snarls till directly they jump up a-cussing and tear into each other like fighting fire." —Kansas City Star.

### Flying Flier Era Tardy

Cheap, light airplanes for popular use and ownership are still a development of the future, says Prof. E. M. Low, in charge of the light airplane competition recently held in England to encourage hope for an era of flying fliers. The public interest still is apathetic, he said, and the manufacturers of light airplanes have not succeeded to any extent in perfecting their machines. The small light planes are very noisy, dirty, dangerous and uncomfortable, according to Professor Low.

### Where Modesty Wins

A modest person seldom fails to gain the good will of those he converses with because nobody envies a man who does not appear to be pleased with himself.

### Has Penetration

The largest X-ray machine ever built, capable of generating 200,000 voltages of rays, will penetrate through one-quarter inch of lead, one foot of aluminum and two feet of brick.

### Women Win Recognition

The press gallery of the British parliament is now open to women, and the first of the sex to take advantage of the privilege was Miss Stella W. May.

## Words Have Changed Somewhat in Meaning

If the words we use could bring up, like a cinematograph film, the pictures which lie behind them, conversation would be more entertaining than it is as a rule. For instance, when we say a thing is dilapidated, we bring up an image of an ancient temple crumbling to ruin, for the root meaning of the word is "crumbling stone." Similarly, the word stunned means thunderstruck, and ardent formerly meant burning.

What a remarkable picture the word scandal calls up. Its original application was to that part of a trap on which the bait was placed and which, when the trap was touched, sprang up and caught the victim. Another odd word is scruple, which originally meant a little stone, in weights means twenty grains, and in modern use means something which hurts or worries the conscience.

Irritate referred originally to the snarling of a dog. Perplexed brings up a picture of being tangled in miles of string, wound completely round and round; whilst the word eliminate denotes what the man did to his barometer when it continued to register "Set Fair" after it had been raining for a week, for it means "to kick out of doors."

## Scotch Sailor Made Immortal by Defoe

Alexander Selkirk was a Scottish sailor whose adventures furnished Defoe the basis for his immortal story of "Robinson Crusoe." Selkirk, having quarreled with his captain on one of his voyages, was left on the island of Juan Fernandez in 1704, with only his gun and ammunition, and a few other necessities of life. There he remained for more than four years, living on game, and clothing himself with the skins of goats. In 1709 he was rescued by Capt. Woodes Rogers, and became his mate. He afterwards attained the rank of Lieutenant in the British navy. Defoe has often been charged with having surreptitiously taken the story of "Robinson Crusoe" from the papers of Alexander Selkirk, but the experiences of the real hero and those of the fictitious one have so little in common that Defoe seems indebted for little more than the suggestion.—Kansas City Times.

### Midget and the Bible

My mother had a beautiful cat named Midget. Midget was not only fastidious when it came to eating, but would sleep nowhere but on the family Bible. My mother left the Bible on the kitchen table one night, and Midget, leaving her place in the parlor, where the Bible was kept, hunted around until she found it, and there she was found in the morning. Just to try out the old "tabby," my mother carried the Bible upstairs to her sleeping room, and the next morning, lo and behold! there lay Midget. A dictionary the same size was placed in the Bible's usual place and the Bible moved to a small clothespress. Next morning Midget was found on the Bible as usual and there she slept until one morning she was found dead.—O. B. Montgomery, in Our Dumb Animals.

### Disasters Flood

The Dayton (Ohio) flood of 1913 was, in the main, caused by a record-breaking rainfall, which was due to the meeting of three opposing air currents, one from the west, another a cold stream from the northeast, the third a warm current from the south. The flood was accentuated by the conditions of the rivers flowing through the city and also by the bursting of reservoirs in central and western Ohio. Four hundred and fifteen lives were lost, and the property losses amounted to \$180,000,000.

### Caring for Books

Books kept in glass-fronted bookcases are subject to attacks from bookworms, moths, etc., in greater degree than if on open shelves. To preserve your books from these pests sprinkle the shelves occasionally, say once every six months, with half an ounce of camphor, half an ounce of powdered bitter apple (well mixed together). Do not keep books in a very warm room. Gas light affects them very much. Russia leather bindings in particular.

### "Messers" and "Moppers"

The world is divided into the people who make the messes and the people who mop them up. Ninety per cent make the messes and 10 per cent are served out with mops. I was reading a novel called "Kaddy" the other day. I told it's the best picture of modern Oxford that has ever been done. And from cover to cover there isn't a single mention of such things as lectures, reading, examinations, tutors, or anything of that sort. It's really marvellous the way everything trivial like that has been eliminated.—From "Blackmarion" by Mrs. Hicks Beach.

## HOW

HUNGER'S EFFECT ON THE BRAIN IS ASCERTAINED.—Feed a rat an imperfect or insufficient diet and you sharpen her wits. Drs. Arthur H. Smith and John F. Anderson, who reported their experiments to the American Psychological association, put a number of female rats into a maze and noted the time they required to effect an exit. Those which had been partially starved were quickest to find their way to freedom and food, and similarly the poorly fed rats won the race to find the way out of a new and different maze. When all the rats were given normal rations again they were equally adept in solving the puzzle. The experiments indicate that habit formation is akin to psychological processes in the body, according to Drs. Smith and Anderson, and the results of these will be presented to the American Psychological society.

"The normal functions of the organs concerned with the process of habit formation are interfered with by the same alterations in nutritive conditions as have been found to bring about the well-known disturbances in 'metabolism, growth and reproduction.'"

## How Sense of Smell Guides the Insects

Small in insects, much more highly developed than in man, seems to play a leading part in the guiding of their destinies. In the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. N. E. McIndoe shows that among bees, while each individual may have its own odor, it is probably a combination of these that gives the hive odor, the recognition of which is a ruling power, and insures that the colony will hold together and be united in protection against interference from without. Associated with this or a part of it is the queen odor, which tells that all is well within the colony, the queen being present. The organs by which these odors are recognized have been traced to small pores. These are scattered or grouped on the body, and each pore, often protected by a hair, represents a nerve ending. In their power of discriminating between foods, greater than in man, bees and other insects are believed to depend upon smell rather than taste.

### How Katyids "Talk"

The loud shrill noise of the katydid is made only by the male and is produced by raising and lowering the wings, Pathfinder Magazine reports. The noise-making organs consist of transparent drum-like structures at the base of the wing covers. The sound is produced by friction. The katydid is seldom heard except at night, although occasionally he is heard in the daytime. The noise made in the daytime differs from the night note. He is heard most frequently in the early evening. The notes suggest "ka-ty-did." Hence the name. Following each shrill "ka-ty-did" there is a pause of several moments. The female answers with a chirp. Katyids belong to the grasshopper family.

### How to Preserve Painting

A member of the staff at the Corcoran Art gallery, in Washington, charged with the preservation of the pictures, says that it is a most delicate process to endeavor to reconstruct old paintings which have either, through neglect or through the use of inferior paint or oils, become cracked. The painting should be kept as free as possible from excessive heat, cold or drafts. It may be wiped over with pure olive oil applied with a very soft cloth or chamois.

### How Weather Is Foretold

The appearance of the clouds gives valuable information to weather prophets, and some popular sayings may be said to be founded on scientific truths. For instance, one hears people say, "Look, how high the clouds are. We shall have fine weather today." The fact underlying this saying is that, as they are so high, they do not contain large amounts of moisture, and consequently are not so likely to produce rain to any great extent.

### How Santa Has Changed

The American "Santa Claus" is a corruption of the Dutch San Nicholas. O. H. McHugh says: "Santa Claus the name derived from Saint Nicholas through the familiar use of children to Teutonic countries, crossed to America. The direct route followed by him is somewhat open to question. On the way he traded his gray horse for a reindeer and made changes in his appearance."

## Burdin of Debt Not Always a Handicap

If you were going to employ a salesman and had your choice of a man heavily in debt or one equally capable but not in debt, which would you prefer?

A great corporation recently made a statistical survey of common attributes of several hundred salesmen and discovered the surprising fact that men heavily in debt seem to accomplish more than those without such financial burden. The explanation is believed to be only partly that, when a man owes a large sum of money, he works hard to get this debt removed.

Still more important is the fact that a man heavily in debt is probably a smart fellow or he wouldn't have succeeded in inducing a bank or other institution to permit him to owe so much money. This same investigation showed that, while heavy indebtedness may indicate more than average ability, owing a trifling amount of money is almost certain to indicate just the opposite. In other words, any man who can induce you to lend him \$5,000 must be downright clever, but beware of the fellow who habitually owes somebody a mere \$30 or \$40.—From the Nation's Business.

## Gestures in Pulpit Not Pure Eloquence

A new aid to good preaching has been discovered, a writer in the Continent reports.

During the past summer a suburban church asked a church bureau to send a supply for a certain Sunday. The following Monday the clerk of session called to tell how much the congregation enjoyed the preacher of the day.

"That was a fine man you sent," said he; "the people all sat up and took notice. His gestures were great; he swung his arms and certainly sent it home. Can't you get him again for next Sunday?"

The minister was called on the phone and told that the congregation was so well pleased with him that they would like to have him return the following Sunday.

"Well, I'd like to," said he, "but I think I'll have to refuse. I liked the people and enjoyed the service, but there was one thing that did not appeal to me; there were too many mosquitoes."

### Mystery of Swastika Sign

The swastika symbol which figures so largely in Japanese decorations is so ancient, that its origin is lost in the mists of obscurity. According to a writer who has made a special study of the subject, the device was found on a "spindle whorl from the third city of Troy (about 1800 B. C.), and it is frequent in Greek vases about 600 B. C." The symbol appears again on Hindu relics that date back three centuries before Christ, on Mexican and Peruvian relics, and even on relics found in prehistoric mounds in Great Britain. The latest guess as to the origin of the strange device comes from one Hari Krishna Deb, who says he believes it to be "a modification of the mode of expressing the ancient syllable Om, used in religious rites. This a pothook with square ends—was duplicated, one across the other, to form the Swastika, meaning 'bringer of blessings.'" However that may be Seventh century India marked her cattle with it.

### Over-Long Sentence

Edgar A. Bancroft, the famous Chicago lawyer who has been appointed ambassador to Japan, said at a Blackstone luncheon:

"A good diplomat can couch the truth, even the most unpleasant truth, in diplomatic language. He is like the young beauty."

"I told Gobsa Golde," said the young beauty, "that, despite his great wealth, he was too old for me, and so I wouldn't marry him."

"What?" said her mother. "You told him to his face he was too old? My, but he must have been mad."

"Oh, no," said the young beauty, "he wasn't mad. You see, I used diplomatic language. He said he'd love and cherish me till death, and I told him he was too young."

### Orchards Need Repairs

In every fruit region there are orchards that need to be rejuvenated, made over, or repaired. These are not always old orchards. Some have never reached their prime, and some have never borne a barrel of fruit. Many such orchards have not had a chance through neglect, and others have suffered at the hands of ignorant owners.

### Sweet Clover Helps

Sweet clover prepares land for alfalfa. This is especially true on any of the poorer types of soil where it is desired to grow alfalfa. The large roots of the sweet clover plants open up the subsoil and the plants inoculate soil with the proper bacteria for alfalfa. Follow the sweet clover with a cultivated crop.

## Important Japanese Feast

The "Feast of the Banners" as celebrated in Japan is a holiday in honor of male children, celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month, which is now May 5. On every house that can boast of a male child is affixed a pole of bamboo, and floating therefrom are one or more gaudy fish made of paper. The exact number is determined by the number of boys in the household. The wind, blowing into the mouths of the fish, inflates them and makes them writhe and wriggle with a curiously lifelike motion. The fish are supposed to be carp, which in Japan are recognized symbols of health and long life. Other staffs support pennants of every color while banners blazoned with heraldic devices float in the wind. Boys of all ages appear in the street in gala attire, some having little sabers in their belts, some bearing on their shoulders huge swords of wood, gayly painted and decorated, and others carrying miniature banners.

### Tribute to a Painter

Millais (the painter) told me of a real and graceful compliment paid him by an American who bred horses. When Millais had finished the American's portrait, he was allowed to see it for the first time. There was a long silence while he gazed at the picture—so long, indeed, that the painter got anxious. At last the man said, "I breed horses, and it is my habit every morning after breakfast to stand at a certain window in my house, and the filly come galloping up at the sight of me and feed from my hand. When I get that picture home, I shall stand it at that window, and I am very sure the filly will come galloping up."—Sir Johnson Forbes Robertson in the Sunday Times, London.

### Hopi and Apache Dolls

The bureau of American ethnology says that the dolls of the Hopi Indians are never made of clay, but are manufactured from the subterranean branch of the cottonwood tree. They are not necessarily rain gods, although the need of rain is so omnipresent and these images are copies of certain idols which appear on rain altars, that they are sometimes called rain gods. They are, however, not gods, but dolls, and are made by the parents and given to the children as playthings. The dolls of the Apache, as well as certain other tribes, are often made of adobe, and are probably used in much the same way as the Hopi dolls.

### "All Fools' Day" Legend

There is a tradition among Jews that the custom of making fools on the first of April arose from the fact that Noah sent out the dove on the first day of the month corresponding to our April, before the water had abated. To perpetuate the memory of the deliverance of Noah and his family, it was customary on this anniversary to punish persons who had forgotten the remarkable circumstances connected with the date, by sending them on some foolish errand, similar to that on which the patriarch sent the luckless bird from the windows of the ark.

### Turning State's Evidence

State's evidence is testimony given by a person implicated in a crime. Such evidence is presumed to incriminate others. A person who gives such testimony is said to "turn state's evidence." Usually in such cases there is a direct or implied promise from the authorities not to prosecute the person who testifies for the state. Naturally such immunity from prosecution is not promised by the prosecuting officers unless there is lack of sufficient evidence to convict those against whom the evidence is directed.—Pathfinder Magazine.

### Fire-Fighting Aid

During many great fires, fire-fighting equipment from neighboring cities has proved useless because the threads in the hose couplings did not fit the local hydrants. In order to remedy this, the United States bureau of standards has perfected a set of tools enabling new threads to be cut on the spot. Fire departments in many large cities now are being equipped with these.—Popular Science Monthly.

### Inkwell Covers Itself

The annoyance of removing the cover of an inkwell every time a pen is to be used has been obviated by an ingenious cover that is closed by a small glass ball rolling on a runway, says Popular Science Monthly. When a pen is inserted the ball is pushed back easily. As the pen is removed the ball rolls forward, closing the well from dust and air.

### Can Move Tall Trees

Tall trees are now successfully transplanted by means of a newly invented machine.

### Traffic in Human Hair

Ninety-nine tons of human hair was exported from Hongkong in 1922.

## WHY Jealous Person Seldom Attains Popularity

Probably the commonest human failing is jealousy. Everyone has some of it, and everyone hates it in himself and other people. The rarest person in the world and the one whom everyone likes is the person who is most free from it. There are plenty of people to whom we can tell our troubles. But if you will stop to think, there are very few (except our mothers) to whom we can without self-consciousness tell our achievements and our good fortunes, says the Designer.

You are wise if you brag only to the people who are not your competitors in your own line, if you want genuine congratulations. Not everyone is so transparent as the great tenor who had a tremendous popularity with the basses, contraltos and sopranos who sang with him. He was unflatteringly kind to them all. Other tenors, however, told a different story. Most of us have the same emotions as he carefully as we have learned to cover them up.

It is not so strange that children show a perfectly frank and unshamed jealousy, and that as they grow older and cleverer you can still see the green-eyed motive for many of their otherwise inexplicable naughtinesses. Jealousy, after all, is an offshoot, a by-product of that inevitable and useful instinct to keep the personality strong and alive and dominant. Every child of spirit will give you a merry chase to train his jealousy into a trait possible to live with.

They say that the things you mind the most in yourself are the things you most viciously attack in your children. If that is true, all parents have a difficult task to turn this particular vice into a virtue. I suppose you could analyze all ambitions into various forms of jealousy. It is a difficult problem, but once recognized, like all others, it is less hard to meet. One curious thing is that when questioning you have helped the child to find the underlying meanness, he is relieved and acts almost gratefully to you.

## Why Onions Cause Tears Explained by Scientist

Tears are a salty fluid secreted in the eyes to moisten them, facilitate their motion and keep the eyeball clean. Under normal conditions the tear glands do not secrete more fluid than can be taken off by the duct which passes into the nose. But sometimes, when a person is stricken with grief or when particles of foreign matter get in the eyes, the ducts are unable to carry away the tears as fast as they are secreted. The person then sheds tears—his eyes "water." When we cut an onion a very volatile chemical is released. Small particles, invisible to the eye, get on the eyeballs and cause irritation. Immediately the tear glands flood the eyes with tears to wash away this objectionable chemical. In some sections of the country there is a belief that if a pin is held between the teeth while peeling onions, the eyes will not be affected.—Pathfinder Magazine.

### Why Orange Tree Died

There is one remarkable case on record of a tree that determinedly killed another tree. A clergyman had a pine tree and an orange tree in his garden. One spring he noticed that the orange tree was drooping, and on digging down he saw that the roots of the pine, which stood at some distance, had twisted round the roots of the orange tree and were strangling it to death. The offending roots were untwisted and cut away, and the drooping plant revived. But eventually the orange tree died. Then on digging down at a greater depth it was found that the pine had attacked the orange root lower down and accomplished its murderous purpose.

### Aluminum Rivals Steel

Aluminum was merely a laboratory curiosity a generation ago, but today it is a real rival to copper and steel and the center of one of the largest individual industries. Besides being used in hundreds of household articles it is finely ground for making paints, is necessary in airplane and dirigible construction and is used as cables for high tension transmission. The output of the industry in 20 years has grown from nothing to hundreds of millions a year.

### Restoring a Lost Art

The radio and the movies have been of tremendous benefit in acquainting a hysterical world with the benefits of the process known as "slowing down." They have taught people to sit quietly for hours at a time, relaxed and silent. Listening was a lost art in this country until the radio came along.—New York Telegraph.

### China's Great Population

China's population is about four times that of the United States, according to latest estimates.