Held Mandrake Gifted With Peculiar Power

Mandrake, known to present day botanists as an anesthetic and narcotic, since Biblical times has been supposed to have powers of love and fertility, but during the Seventeenth century its activity as a love agent was "exploded by the spirit of investigation," according to a journal of 1636. However, we find that the mystery and superstition of the drug still exist. According to Frederick Starr, an American writer, a wealthy Jew of Chicago who was interested in the return of the Jews to Palestine and who contributed generously to the cause, mourned the fact that he had no child to perpetuate his line. The Jews of Palestine, knowing of his family sorrow and appreciative of sympathy, sent him a mandrake with

their best wishes. Tales concerning the plant are numerous. The root, that looks much like a parsnip, resembles the human form in shape. The fruit varies in size from that of a nutmeg to a small apple. These "apples" were gathered in the gardens of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, according to mythology. The mandrake, according to an old legend, never was found growing except under the site of a gallows, from which it was nourished by the blood of the victim, particularly an innocent victim.

The Syrians would not touch the herh until certain concoctions had been poured upon it, after which the ground was loosened and a dog tied to the root. The dog was then left alone, and in its struggle to escape the plant was torn from the ground, killing the dog by the frightful screams coming from its root. In return for its capture the plant was thought to have power to cure diseases, frighten away demons and act as a love potion.—Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin.

Fire Preserves Fruit

A new process for preserving fruit, vegetables and kindred things makes use of a system similar to that adapted for exhausting wireless valves. According to recent research the main of decay in perishable goods packed in tins is the presence of oxygen, and the object of the new process is to remove the oxygen. The following is a brief resume of the

The fruit is placed in the metal container, over which is placed a metal cover. A piece of wood impregnated with a special solution is next placed over the shield and ignited, and when conflagration is well developed the container is hermetically sealed.

This process results in carbon dioxide (CO2) being left in place of the much greater periods, without admixture of chemical preservatives.

1ST AMERICAN YOUTH ENTRY



Edith May Adams eighteen-year-old Barrington, N. J., girl, presenting her entry blank to Mayor Kendrick in his office at City Hall, Philadelphia. The American Youth and Teacher Award was established as a tribute to American youth and the company of t was established as a tribute to American youth and teachers by the Board of Directors of the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition, thredgh which the people of the United States and the world at large will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence. The exposition will run from June 1 to Decited her for heroism displayed recenthg building helping doctors render first aid to injured firemen. She is a candidate for the Golden Eaglette, the highest gift within the hands of the Girl Scouts. Each state will elect a sirl and boy and one teacher to represent them and the successful candidates will be the guest of the Sesqui officials from June 23 to July 5 at the exposition. This will also include a trip to Washington where they will be received by Reesident Coolidge and presented with medals. y when she remained inside a burn-

Undersea Craft Idea Dates Back Centuries

Few and evil have been the days of the submarine, which it is hoped to banish from the fleets of the world. But experimentally the idea goes back into a very remote past. Aristotle speaks of some kind of submarine vessel used in the siege of Tyre mete

than 2,000 years ago, and there are occasional mentions of the idea through history.

In the Sixteenth century we come to the bishop of Upsala's claim to have invented a boat for scuttling ships from below, and in 1626 Charles I gave a Dutch inventor an order for "boates to go under water," though they do not seem to have been used against the French. There were the rudimentary and unsuccessful "turtles" of Bushnell in the Eighteenth century. But an ill fate pursued the early in-

Fulton's submarine was rejected by France, England and America in turn, and he set himself to the more usual work of designing boat engines. Johnson's submersible, which was to have rescued Napoleon from St. Helena, came to nothing. Bauer, who was taken up by the prince consort, drowned the crew of his submarine, though the admiralty seems to have been largely to blame.-Manchester Guardian.

Dog Trainers Differ

in Methods of Work

Most dog trainers deny the truth of the saying that you can't teach old dogs new tricks. The facts appear to be that a dog more than two years old is more easily taught than the average puppy because he is more capable of understanding what you wish him to do.

Many an intelligent dog is spoiled by too insistent efforts to correct minor faults in the early stages of his training. His spirit is broken before he has an opportunity to learn things worth while. Many dog trainers, in handling hunting-dogs, or even watch-dogs, insist that they should not be taught little tricks, such as sitting up and begging for food, or jumping through one's hands. The objection is that the trick dog comes to look for signals from his master and is less likely to act on his own initiative. On the other hand, many trainers take an opposite view and think that learning tricks is good discipline and helps in a dog's general mental development. -Fred C. Kelly, in Hearst's International-Cosmopolitan.

Weight of the Air

The poet writes of "trifles light as air" and we often talk of the "airy nothings," but the atmosphere which surrounds our planet and accompanies it on its journeyings through space is not so light as we often imagine. Its average pressure is fifteen pounds to the square inch.

The barometer, as its name implies, is an atmosphere weigher, and on the varying weight, noted over large areas, depend our daily weather forecasts. A change of an inch in the height of the mercury column means a change of atmospheric weight of half a pound per square inch on the earth's surface, so that even a change of one-tenth of 88,000 tons per square mile. A change of an inch over an area the size of the British isles signifies the colossal total of considerably more than 100,-000,000,000 tons of air!-Brief Stories.

What Causes Clumsiness?

Dr. E. C. Clements, who is a British physician and aviator, says that many people are clumsy because they lack the proper balance between the muscular systems of their eyes. The physician made a thorough study of the eye disorders which make some men incapable of becoming good aviators. The clumsy man cannot land the planes successfully, even if he can operate them successfully when in the air. According to Doctor Clements, two factors are essential to proper binocular vision. The brain must inedied by a course of visual training exercises.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Tube Betrays Burglars

A tube so sensitive that it rings s bell when a ring of cigarette smoke floats by, that shricks a warning when the shadow of a burglar crosses its surface, that measures the light of stars millions of miles away, was ex-

Took Man Centuries

to See Value of Fork

In "good old times," when human beings were always within 24 hours of starvation, man ate only with his fingers. He hunted for his food in the woods or by the seashore, and he picked the bones clean.

Two table articles are found among uncivilized peoples—the knife and the

The knife was originally a weapon of attack or defense; it was used for cutting and carving flesh, but its convenience in eating soon became apparent.

The origin of the spoon is uncertain. It must have been invented at a very ancient date, for it is found among people that have never come into contact with civilization.

The necessity of having some implement for dipping water seems to have led first to the invention of the calabash, or the use of the coconut shell, and later on to the spoon.

It was many thousand years later before there were forks. As a French writer on table etiquette has said, "from the creation of the world to the beginning of the Seventeenth century man ate only with his fingers." This is, however, a mistake of 400 years, for we find forks as early as the Thirteenth century, when they are mentioned as being kept for special pur-

British Guiana Jungle

Still Awaits the Explorer

British Guiana bush is a dangerous maze. Savages find their way by means of secret marks, but a tenderfoot enters at great risk. The country is five times the size of England, and there are not more than ten white men who have gone into the wilds of the interior, according to D. Bannerman Clarke, M. A., general manager of the Aranka Gold, Limited, of Georgetown, British Guiana, says the London Mail.

The natives, he says, have the most marvelous sense of direction, and find their way through the jungle with unerring precision. They have a sort of sign language. They make marks on trees which only they understand, and if some one has followed the natives he can always tell how large the party was, whither they went and just when they passed the given spot by these curious marks on the trees made with cutlasses.

They also leave marks for their own guldance when they turn about and start homeward.

Had Wrong Willie

It's something startling to be called to the telephone by an unknown per son. A youth in a downtown office was called to the 'phone recently "Are you William G. Smith?" a voice asked. 'Yes, sir," replied meek Willie, who is just sixteen and is not at all sure of himself. "Well, this is Mr. Buzzwuzz, lawyer. Don't you know that you owe your wife ten months' alimony? When are you going to pay it?" "But I are you going to pay it?" ain't married," pleaded Willie. "What's that-lying out of it? We'll send some one to arrest you right away."
"Mister," Willie almost cried, "honest, I ain't married. I'm only sixteen and sixteen?-I guess I must have the wrong number," the lawyer declared. "There are too many Smiths in the world."-Philadelphia Record.

About the East

The phrase Far East designates China and Japan and that region of Asia that is most eastern, whereas the Near East refers to the Levant, Turkey, and the countries adjacent there-Originally in the political world, Turkish affairs were referred to as the Eastern Question. In those days, the mid-Victorian period, the regions of the Far East were designated by the names of the countries referred to. It was only when the dismemberment of China was determined upon by Russia and Japan that the phrase Far East came into prominent use. The word Orient is derived from the Latin orior, rise, and designates that part of he earth in the East because the sun is said to rise in that region.

Built House in Treetop

In a treetop near Masquan, N. J., an enterprising man built himself a house five years ago. There he has dwelt, rent free-now he must abandon his primitive abode. The tree stands in a lonely spot near the beach. The city is planning to extend an avenue and the tree, in the way, must come down. The tenant must for another tree or hie himself to a boarding house or apartment. The tree man is employed by the street department. Five years ago he became enthusiastic over outdoor life. He built a frame structure in the tree, 5 feet wide, 7 feet long and 5 feet high. It is 12 feet above the ground and supported by sturdy branches. On both sides are openings just large enough for a man to crawl through. He reaches his nest by means of a

HOW____

Service Committee (Committee Committee Committ

MONTHS OF THE CALENDAR GOT UNEQUAL DIVISION. Perhaps not every one is famil-iar with the reason why all months of the year have not the same number of days. Month really means "Moon," and origstood for the time from inally one full moon to the next. As man progressed a little, he began to take account of the year and to divide this second stand-ard of reckoning into so many months. Since, however, the moon goes round the earth in 29 days, so many hours, minutes and seconds, while the true year consists of about 365 days and a bit, the sum wouldn't exactly divide properly, and the calen dar got into hopeless confusion. To put this right, Julius Caesar consulted with the most learned men of his day, and devised a new calendar giving the 12 months alternatively and 30 days apiece with a special arrangement for February in Leap year. This plan, however, was upset by the vanity of Augustus, the next emperor, who thought that the month called after him should have 31 instead of 30 days, and to get at this result rearranged the program in our present system of uneven months. Even so, the division of sun years by moon months wasn't exact, and so about a century and a half ago we had again to recast our calendar to meet the problem of what is really an attempt to divide a sum which won't divide exactly.

How Scientists Learned

Secrets of the Plants To discover how flowers feedstarve them; if you would learn why most plants grow upwards-pin them

along the ground. These are among the experiments conducted by students in the recently opened Sargant Laboratory for Plant Physiology. They study plants as living organisms, and become acquainted with the problems and dangers that beset the life of the commonest dan-

How plants breathe, how their food is obtained, and how they respond to imposed conditions are questions that can be answered only by experiments. The effect of supplying and withholding various "foods" is investigated; the rates at which the various plant organisms grow are measured under different conditions; so, too, is the rate of breathing.

Certain plants that require light for normal growth are placed in complete darkness, while others are bathed in light from colored arcs. Water supplies are varied and temperatures regulated. A geranium that has a curved stem is subjected to electrical treat ment and made to incline a different way. In its struggles to resume its normal growth it reveals its various organs and their functions.

The Sargant laboratory is set in a plants are reared for experiments under almost perfect conditions .- London Mail.

How Long Fishes Live .How long does a fish live? Not out out of water. Any boy can tell that from observation. But with proper food—everything it needs?

According to Popular Science Monthly, Major F. S. Fowler of England, who has been conducting a special study to find out, reports that a catfish, with which he is acquainted, is now fifty years old and is still lively. An electric eel in the London zoo, he found, lived 12 years. Other fish age figures, as given by Major Fowler, are as follows: Carp, thirteen years; goldfish, twelve years; herring, four years; salmon, three years; brown trout, six years. A bullfrog's recorded age was fifteen years; toad, eleven years, and the giant salamander, fiftytwo years.

Woman Veterinarian

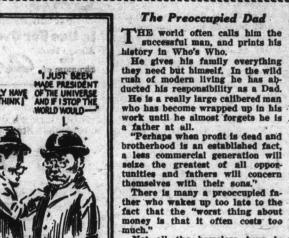
It is strange to hear of a profession that is not overcrowded; it is stranger still to be told that there is only one woman veterinary surgeon in the United Kingdom. This is Miss Aileen Cust, daughter of the late Sir Leopold Cust, who began practicing in Ireland and soon had such a big practice that she required four horses to cover her country. She has now settled on the borders of the New forest.

How Dew Is Formed

Dew is moisture condensed from the atmosphere, including the air contained in soil, and gathered in small drops on the surface of plants and other bodies, which radiate heat well but conduct it badly. Frost is formed on nights when the dew point is below freezing point.

HOME, DAD AND THE BOY

By FRANK H. CHELEY



THE world often calls him the successful man, and prints his history in Who's Who.

He gives his family everything they need but himself. In the wild rush of modern living he has abducted his responsibility as a Dad.

He is a really large calibered man who has become wrapped up in his work until he almost forgets he is a father at all.

Much."

Not all the homeless boys in America live in the slums.

It is a great service to such men to help them discover that it is their privilege to be more than a Santa Claus to their own boys. To whom does your boy go for

advice?
"Yes, my Dad was a fine man, but I never knew him," said a certain boy in trouble. (@ F. H. Cheley, Denter, Colo.)

Insects and Scientists Scientists are making a special study of animal and insect life as a means of determining changes which have taken place in the earth. The relations insects of one region bear to those of another indicate that certain islands were once connected. In Jamaica, recently, they explored a very ancient section of that country that has been above the sea for a long-er time than its neighboring land and which shelters insect tribes of great age. This discovery leads authorities to believe that animal life of that isle is more closely associated with those of Halti or Cuba, and that it originally found its way from the mainland over a land bridge long since engulfed by the ocean.—Family Herald.

Gas From Flower Gardens The great development of natural gas in the industries around Pittsburgh, Pa., is in a considerable measure due to George Westinghouse of

airbrake fame. He finally induced his wife to let him sink a shaft in her flower garden, his labor being rewarded by a geyser when he had gone about 1,600 feet. From this came the development of the Pittsburgh supply. Westinghouse himself worked out the system of piping that enabled it to be distributed without leakage, at the same time reducing the pressure by the use of gradually larger pipes, until it could be safely handled by the time it reached a customer.

Earliest Known Letters

It was formerly believed that the earliest extant collection of formal letters was the series of about 150 Greek epistles professing to have been written by the tyrant Phalaris of the Sixth century B. C. A controversy protein content but they are low in arose, however, and Richard Bentley, vitamines B and C, and if you would written by the tyrant Phalaris of the in his famous "Dissertation on the Letters of Phalaris," in 1699, demonstrated, as is now universally admitted, that they are of comparatively late origin, about the Second century A. D. Among the early genuine letters of the Greek period are those of Isocrates (died 838 B. C.), may in number.

How to Pack China

Line your packing case with a good layer of straw, sprinkle it well with water before putting in each article filled and wrapped in soft paper and wound round with straw, and put a good layer of well-sprinkled straw between each layer of glass or china.

The water makes the straw expand so that each article is firmly wedged

For special treasures small carboard or wooden boxes may be provided, into which they are tightly packed before being embedded in water-sprinkled straw.

How to Soften Fur Rug If a fur rug has stiffened after being washed, it can be softened by applying the following mixture to the wrong side of the rug: Three tableand one of turpentine. This must remain on for a week, when the rug, still on the wrong side, should be well rubbed with a smooth stone or block of wood.

How Clothes Got Name In studying the history of wearing apparel it has been ascertained that the word cap came from a hooded cape; coat from the Latin "cottis," meaning tunic; jacket from "jacquet" or coat of mall and skirt from "skyrta," meaning short. The word costume itself comes from the word custom, and pajamas from the Hindot word "pasjams" meaning leg cloth.

Modern Heroine Barbara was selfish, thirsty for easures of the most vulgar amused herself by collecting adorers and treating them badly, was stupid and a liar-in other words, was one of the normal types of healthy young womanhood. I should have been less disturbed by these discoveries if only her face had been different. But with that dazzling and mysteriously lovely face she was a perpetual source of sur prise and pain. In Barbara's company I was learning that it is possible to be profoundly and slavishly in love with some one for whom one has no esteem, whom one regards as a bad character, and who, finally, not only makes one unhappy, but bores one.-From "Those Barren Leaves," by Aldens Huxley.

Made Name Glorious

world-famous battle was fought at Thermopylae in northern Greece on August 7, 8 and 9, 480 B. C., between three hundred Spartans and seven hundred Thespians, comm by Leonidas and the entire Persian host. For four days Leonidas and his band held the pass of Thermopylae against the invaders, at the end of which time Ephialtes, a Trachinian, by a secret path to the rear of the Greeks, who were thus placed between two hostile armies and were finally. cut to pieces. One Greek only escaped, and he is said to have been loaded with reproaches for having fied.

—Kansas City Star.

Balance Your Diet

The balanced diet is the healthy one and contains all three of the imper-tant vitamines. The principal food ing plenty of each essential, use the citrus fruits often. The juice of the

His Befuddlement "Hello, Uncle Rile!" saluted Con

stable Sam T. Slackputter of Petunia, upon meeting the veteran. "What's pestering you?"

"It don't matter the least to me or anybody else in the world," replied old Riler Rezzidew, "and so I'm trying to remember and can't get it out of my mind, whether the great blizzard of 1886 occurred in 1884 or 1887?"

If you date back to where you can remember when they called derbies "helmet hats" you are in the sere and yellow, all right.—Kansas City Star.

Ancient Birch Bark Canoe Thomas F. Allen, of Bangor, Maine, has a birch bark canoe which is more than 100 years old. It is in perfect condition and is further remarkable from the fact that it is made from a single piece of birch bark. He bought the cance from an Indian woman some 15 years ago and it was then more than a century old. It had been made by the woman's grandfather and when she sold it she was an old woman.

How Steering Wheel Works The most recent improvement over the time-honored steering wheel for ships, says Popular Science Monthly, is an electric controller that closely resembles those used on street cars. A slight turn of the control handle by the helmsman causes the rudder to me helmsman causes the rudder to respond instantly.

'LIGHTNING'

HE lightning may strike where it will but there is always a definite reason for its willing to strike where it does.

Every year, during the sum ason, persons are struck and killed by lightning. It would be more cor rect to say that persons are struck and stunned by lightning and later die from neglect. Most persons stunned by lightning could be res tated if speedy and proper treatment could be given.

The intense straight flashes are the most dangerous. The zig-zag flashes are seldom dangerous and the sheet lightning never dangerous, Just as the person instantly killed by a bullet never hears the report of the gun so the person struck by lightning does not hear the thunder. By the time we hear the thunder the danger from that stroke has passed.

When a thunder storm approaches do not seek shelter under a tree with thick foliage. This is especially dan-gerous if you have already gotten wet. Your body is a better co tor than the trunk of the tree and by standing under such a tree your body forms a line of discharge to the ground. Probably more people are killed by lightning in this way than all other ways. When in a group of persons one is struck and the others not it is because the body of that person is a better conductor than the others. The person lying flat on the ground is always safe,

Do not stand in the doorway of either barn or house nor at the window near a chimney. Lightning, to some extent, follows the currents of air through doors and up the chimney, especially warm air

Her Memory Revered

Lady Arabella was the daughter of Thomas, earl of Lincoln. She married Isaac Johnson, who left his native land for New England from religious motives. Lady Arabella cheerfully accompanied him, and they arrived at Salem, Mass., in April, 1630. Her explication of the same alted character and gentleness gained her universal esteem, but she died in the September following her arrival. Mr. Johnson survived her little more than a month. He is regarded as the founder of Boston, and though his time was brief, yet the good work he accomplished will never be forgotten by the people of New England. But dearest still is the memory of Lady Arabella.-Denver News.

Sea Oil Wells

Sea-going vessels frequently report having passed through parts of the ocean where the surface of the water was covered with oil for a distar perhaps many miles. The source of this oil is frequently a mystery. In some cases it is, known to have been due to oil-carrying vessels which have sunk, but in others it is believed to be due to oil wells on the bottom from which the oil rises. In some cases it has been observed bubbling out of the water, as if a steady stream of it were rising. These apparent submarine oil wells are most common in the Guif of Mexico and off the western count of South America."

The Actor

Consider the life of a photoplay actor—now he is hero and now male-There are millions to gasp at the

twitch of his eyebrow—there's Na-than to call him a pit-throwing high-He salls for France amid kisses in

geysers—he rides the shoulders of princes and viziers.
From Renaults on Fifth he disdain-fully scans us—his autograped pho-tographs clutter up Kansas. Newspaper writers deny that he neans well—they certainly have to

means well—they certainly have to admit that he screens well. The road to success has its twist-ings and strictures—but it's certainly grand to be famed for your pictures.

-The New, Yorker. Not a Tutor

Billy, age five, lives at Muncle with

his Aunt Dean. Billy has a habit of playing in wa ter, and recently she was admon-ishing him for the misdemeaner. Billy kept on permitting the key freshets from the spout to trickle over his hands.

"Gee, this is cold as devil," Billy said nonchalantly as his aunt at-tempted to pull him away. "What's that you say?" Inquired

"Learn it for yourself," Billy ex-plained as he backed away from his coggy haunts.—Indianapolis News.