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## VACATIONIST'S REMEDIES.

### A Few Helpful Suggestions to Those Who Are Exposed to Snakes, Mosquitoes, Chiggers, and Other Pests.

(By Frederick J. Haskin)

IF YOU should go into the open for a vacation and be bitten by a chigger or a rattlesnake or any of the pests between the two extremes, would you know what to do to allay your discomfort or to save your life?

If not, it might be well for you to know what the nation's specially provided authorities, who devote their lives to the study of these problems, have to say in regard to the subject. It might give you an opportunity to ingratiate yourself with your fellows, or save them from death.

There is the matter of being bitten by snakes, for instance. Such an event breeds terror and seldom meets with competent treatment. The national museum has a staff of reptile specialists who know all the secrets of snakes. They give very specific instructions as to the course of action to pursue when bitten by one.

In the first place, they say, poisonous snakes are so rare, and those that are harmless are so plentiful, that there may be no more danger than if the vacationist were scratched by a briar. There should therefore be little alarm until the venomous nature of the snake is established. Every man should be able to tell a poisonous snake from one that is harmless. Otherwise he may die of unnecessary fright—and the misapplication of whiskey.

All poisonous snakes likely to be encountered by an American vacationist at any time have the distinguishing mark of a deep pit between the nostril and the eye. This pit is deeper and more pronounced than the nostril. There is the single American exception of the harlequin snake of Florida. There is a second test that applies even to the harlequin snake. The under side of a snake is made up of ridge-like scales that reach entirely across the body. This is true of all snakes that reach as far back as the break of their bodies where the tail proper begins. From that point on the under side of a non-poisonous snake there is a double row of scales, while on the poisonous snakes the rows remain single.

Whenever a snake bite is received the first point to establish is its poisonous or non-poisonous nature and these two tests may be relied upon to accomplish that end.

Aside from the harlequin snake of Florida there are but three species of poisonous snakes in the United States. These are the rattlesnake, widely distributed, easily identified and most dangerous of them all; the copperhead of eastern mountains and rocky places; and the moccasin of southern swamps, which extends no further north than southern Ohio and Wilmington, N. C.

When it is established that one of these has inflicted a wound the first action should be to tie a handkerchief or cord or rope about the bitten member between the incision and the heart. This should be knotted tight with the

object of preventing the blood from carrying the poison into the general system. Then, as quickly as possible, the mouth of the bitten person or a companion should be applied to the wound, which should be vigorously sucked that the poison may be drawn out. This sucking must be done by someone whose mouth is in perfect condition, however. An abrasion or crack of the lip, a broken fever blister, will give the poison another access to the blood. The incisions should be cut that they may be made to bleed freely and the sucking continued. This is the most important thing that can be done.

The popular idea that the administration of large quantities of whiskey counteracts the effect of the snake poison is entirely in error. Such treatment, the experts say, makes death much more probable. Small amounts of whiskey to stimulate the heart action are beneficial, but large quantities but throw additional burdens on the heart when life depends upon its efficiency. Whiskey has probably killed more people bitten by snakes than it has ever saved. After the preliminary treatment the important thing is to get the wounded person to a doctor, who counteracts the poison by injecting strychnine, a treatment too delicate to be undertaken by the amateur.

If the vacationist wants to prepare in advance against the possibilities of snake bite there are specially manufactured kits that are efficacious. These include a cupping instrument, effective in drawing out the poison, and manganate of potash, which, if they reach the snake venom, will counteract it. One of these kits is much easier to carry than a flask of whiskey and a hundred times as effective.

One is much more likely to be bitten by a chigger or red bug, however, than by a snake, syringes and antidote to be injected into the wound. There are several antidotes such as peroxide and the sum total of suffering from the former is probably greater than from the latter. Chiggers may be avoided by sifting sulphur into the garments and especially the shoes and the stockings when one is going out blackberrying or upon any expedition where exposure is likely. Vaseline will serve the same purpose if rubbed on in advance but is more uncomfortable.

Returning from an expedition where exposure to chiggers has been probable, a wise precaution is to take a hot bath or a bath in very salty or very soapy water. This is almost certain guarantee against infection. But if the chiggers actually develop to the stage of irritation they may almost certainly be killed by the application of ammonia. A very strong solution of cooking soda is effective. Temporary relief may be gained from application of cold cream, camphor or essence of peppermint.

When the vacationist goes in the open, merely upon a picnic or to establish a permanent camp,

he is pretty sure to find himself ambushed by cohorts of the ant tribe. No sooner has a lunch basket been placed on the ground than it will be entered by an ant scout and reconnoitered. If your provisioning is to his taste he has a way of his own of wigwagging for reinforcements and almost immediately a whole army is busy in your commissariat.

The ant nuisance is particularly great where a camp is being established. The lines of march of the foragers may be plainly followed and their nests or holes discovered. Scalding water or coal oil may often be applied with good results. A more effective way of actually exterminating all the ants in a nest is to pour bisulphide of carbon into their holes and then stop up the opening by tramping dirt into it. The fumes spread through all the underground passages and kills the entire colony.

It may often happen that the nests may not be discovered or are inaccessible. Under these circumstances the raiders must be met in the open. It may be necessary to place all provisions on a table and set each leg of the table in a tin can in which water is poured. In this way is a moat established about the provision citadel.

If sponges are moistened in sweetened water and left about, they will attract great numbers of ants and may be picked up from time to time and dipped into boiling water, thus aiding in the extermination of the pest. A brand new method of campaign has just been devised by the government bureau of entomology. It consists of cane syrup and water into which has been introduced less than 1 per cent of sodium arsenate. Tiny bits of sponge are saturated with this substance. The ants pick these up, fling them debonairly over their shoulders and carry them proudly to their families and their queens. These eat and die. So may the campaign be carried into the very trenches of the enemy.

The mosquito nuisance is one hard to avoid. The government temporarily gained by applications of spirits of camphor or pennyroyal, but the odor of these experts state that relief may be substances will not last all night. A mixture of oil of citronella, spirits of camphor and oil of cedar is more enduring. Another good mixture is castor oil alcohol and oil of lavender. The best of these applied to a towel will not last the night through and will need replenishing before morning.

The safest protection against mosquitoes is a properly constructed netting frame with the right sort of netting to go over it. This netting should have 20 meshes to the inch, although much that sold is coarser and admits many mosquitoes. Care should be taken to keep the netting mended and to have it long enough to tuck under the mattresses at the sides. To him who travels in a mosquito country it is safer that he should carry his own netting than depend on that locally provided.

But when mosquitoes have been successful in biting their victim and he would have relief from the irritation, the simplest and most strongly recommended treatment that has the sanction of the experts is to dip a piece of any kind of soap into water

and rub it on the bite. Ammonia, alcohol and glycerine are likewise vouched for.

In New England there is a brand new irritant of the vacationist. The gypsy moth, accidentally introduced from abroad, has been of late years creating great havoc among the trees of that section. This moth develops through a caterpillar stage and this caterpillar is covered with tiny spines. In infested regions these spines get upon vacationists and produce a very irritating rash. Dr. Howard, of the bureau of entomology, has attempted to meet this new situation and has developed a remedy. His lotion consists of eight ounces of lime water, ten grains of menthol, two drams of zinc oxide and fifteen drops of carbolic acid.

## Death of Ben Wilson.

(ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF IT)

Our community was shocked on Thursday of last week to hear of the sudden death of Benjamin Wilson, which occurred at the Planter's Hotel in St. Louis, whither he had gone from Baltimore to transact some official business for his company, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. Several officials of the company were with him when the end came and with a trained nurse and physicians tenderly ministered to his sufferings.

Benjamin Wilson was one of nature's noblemen, a magnificent specimen of manhood, generous, true, kind and courageous. He was a member of one of the oldest and most aristocratic families of North Carolina, was a son of the late Dr. Thomas E. Wilson, and was born in Warrenton, N. C., September 7, 1853. He moved to West Tennessee when a young man and for several months resided in Bolivar, engaged in the railroad business, where he met Miss Elizabeth Wood, a daughter of the late Captain Robert H. Wood, who afterwards became his wife, and who with one daughter survives.

Mr. Wilson had been in the railroad business forty-four years. Prior to his connection with the Baltimore and Ohio he had filled official positions in the operating departments of a number of railroads in the South. From 1886 to 1887 he was receiver of the Mobile & Northwestern railroad, later superintendent of the Louisiana, New Orleans & Texas road and general manager of the Tennessee Midland railroad from 1888 to 1903. He was afterwards connected with the Illinois Central elevator service in New Orleans. Leaving the southern lines, Mr. Wilson became traveling freight agent of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad May 1, 1897, and was promoted to general live stick agent on February 1, 1898.

All of the above positions Mr. Wilson filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to his companies.

Of his immediate family, Mr. Wilson is survived by two brothers and two sisters, Hon. Peter Wilson, of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Judge Walter Montgomery, of Raleigh, N. C.; Mrs. Janet Mitchell, of Asheville, N. C.; Mr. Marshall Wilson, of Hagerstown, Md.

The remains arrived in Bolivar Saturday, and after funeral services at the residence of

Mr. T. M. Moore, conducted by Rev. W. S. Cochrane, of the Presbyterian church, were laid to rest in Polk Cemetery, in the presence of many sorrowing friends. The floral tributes from friends at home and abroad were beautiful.

Among those who attended the funeral from a distance was a delegation of railroad officials from Baltimore, and his sister, Mrs. Janet Mitchell, and brother, Mr. Marshall Wilson.

The Bulletin desires to extend it profoundest sympathy to the grief-stricken family. — From Bolivar (Tenn.) Bulletin, June 25, 1915.

## The Girl Who Works

Deserving of all praise is the girl who works. The complexities of the modern times has put out into the field of endeavor many women whose choice would be the quietude of the home and not the rush of the marts of trade. There are many wives and many daughters who must have that home comforts, though they be of the slightest, may be had, because the man of the home is no more, or worse than that, has become a burden by his own misconduct upon the woman he should protect and nourish. It is to these women, to these girls who work, that the world owes homage.

The girl who labors at some daily toil that she may care for others is a queen among young women. She is way and above her sister who by reason of the labor of others sits in idleness and makes no effort to be a factor in world service. Just the other day we came across a tribute to the girl who works, and it so impressed us that we pass it on. We do not know where it came from; it is one of those gems from the workshop of the newspaper room which in time loses mark of authorship, but there is a sentiment in it which grips. Its caption is "All Glory to the Girl Who Works", and here it is:

God bless the girl who works? She is not too proud to earn her own living, not ashamed to be caught at her daily tasks. She smiles at you from behind the desk, counter or printer's case. There is a sweet memory of her in everything she touches. She is like a brave mountaineer, already far up the precipice climbing, struggling, rejoicing. The sight is an inspiration. It is an honor to know this girl and be worthy of her esteem. Lift your hat to her, young man, as she passes by. She is a queen in the realm of womanhood. She is a princess among the tailors. Her hands may be stained by dish washing, sweeping, printer's ink, or factory grease, but they are honest hands. They stay misfortune from the home, they are moving, patient shields that protect many a family from the poor house. God bless and protect the girl who works.

—The News and Observer.

## A SPARE.

The motorcyclist sped along; He didn't seem to care— He missed a lone pedestrian, And left him standing there. "My average has improved," he said; "I made another spare."

## ODD BITS OF NEWS.

Barrow, Eng.—The 600 women hands employed here in the manufacturing of war munitions have given such satisfaction that an additional 1000 women will be employed immediately.

Long Beach, Cal.—A petrified knee-joint of a mammoth, estimated by scientists to be 250,000 to 275,000 years old, was unearthed here by Anton Cheroske twenty eight feet below the surface. It is well preserved and measures 15 inches in diameter.

Petrograd, Russia.—A deserted Turkish baby was found by a Russian regiment in a farm house and adopted as the daughter of the regiment. The foundling was christened in the Greek church of the village of Bardus, the commander of the regiment acting as god-father and Princess Gelovanna, a Red Cross nurse as god-mother. The child was named Alexander Donskaia, after the regiment, and the officers and men subscribed monthly amounts to rear and educate her.

Thibodaux, La.—Mrs. Paul Breaux of Lafourche Parish, claims to be the oldest mother in the South. She is 110 years old and has great-grandchildren among her 1000 descendants. Her youngest child is in the seventies. Another, still living is over ninety.

New York, N. Y.—George de Coligny, who started thirty-five months ago from Bangor, Me., to sing his way around the world for a prize of \$2,500, is on the last lap of his journey. He has travelled more than 30,000 miles. Another contestant is now a prisoner of war in France. The other two have vanished.

Atlanta, Ga.—C. S. Stafford, taken ill five years ago, was placed in the City Detention Hospital. He threatened to commit suicide if he was removed, so the health authorities have put him on the payroll for \$10 weekly to prevent his carrying out his threat.

Des Moines, Ia.—Helen Bradford, 10 years old, has graduated from the high school and has made arrangements to enter the Iowa University in September. She will be the youngest student at Iowa for more than ten years.

## SELF PRAISE, NO PRAISE.

Irving Cobb, the famous war correspondent, story writer and lecturer, was approached by a stranger who asked him what sort of a fellow Cobb was. Cobb replied: "Cobb is related to my wife by marriage, and if you do not object to a brief sketch, with all the technicalities eliminated, I should say that in appearance he is rather bulky, standing six feet high, not especially beautiful, a light roan in color with a black mane. His figure is undecided, but might be called bunched in places. He belongs to several clubs, including the Yonkers Pressing Club and the Park Hill Democratic Marching Club, and has always, like his father, who was a Confederate soldier, voted the Democratic ticket. He has had one wife and one child and still has them. In religion he is an Innocent Bystander."

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