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THE COMMONWEALTH

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NO 31

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EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS. OBSERVATIONS OF PASSING EVENTS.

At Leith, the port of Edinburgh, Scotland, there have recently developed some cases of bubonic plague. Careful investigations have led to the conclusion that the plague was brought from the far East, where millions have died of the plague during the past few years. It is thought that the plague has been carried to Scotland in rags of which there are large shipments from the far East.

There is considerable discussion in some quarters over the question of general carelessness and its results. Now and then some one tirades against the array of careless handlers of the engines of death, and says that human life is too cheap. It begins, one might say, in the very years of childhood, and instances of the truth of the claim are not wanting.

Rev. B. W. Spillman gives in Charity and Children some interesting observations which he recently made in Ohio. He witnessed the results of the mobbing of a negro on one of the main streets of Columbus. The negro was set upon by a mob and barely escaped with his life and had to be locked up in jail to keep from being killed.

INDIGESTION CURED. HOW CONSUMPTION BEGINS. There is no case of indigestion, dyspepsia or stomach trouble that will not yield to the digestive and strengthening influence of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure.

GREAT WEALTH IN TIMBER.

Forests of Philippines Contain Immense Quantities of Valuable Lumber Material. The greatest wealth of the Philippine islands is in timber, and if the government of the United States had taken them on speculation President McKinley would have been justified in paying several times the amount of the indemnity paid to Spain, writes William E. Curtis in the Record-Herald.

The regions offering special attractions are the island of Mindoro, the east coast of Luzon, the Cebu valley and the island of Negros and Leyte. The greater the distance from Manila, the base of supplies, the less the chance for success. A company entering the Philippine field should be prepared to carry on some agricultural work in addition to logging, so as to give employment to the laborer's family.

The Philippines are centrally located and close to markets with a trade of more than \$100,000,000 a month, a trade that is constantly growing, and that should be of great value to the islands. We have valuable and vast quantities of hard woods, we have hemp, copra, sugar and tobacco that 450,000,000 people want.

Junk Crawled Through. The medium-sized northern Chinese junk make first-class blockade runners. They are built very low in the water, with the decks almost awash when loaded, so that only the bow and stern rise noticeably above the water line.

How Harlemites Fought. Washington was fighting the battle of Harlemites Heights. "Forward!" he cried. "Just imagine those are the janitors you see before you!"

THE RATTLESNAKE'S VENOM

Acts on the Human Veins Exactly as Does Acid on a Metal Pipe. One of the oldest controversies among zoologists is whether the venom of the rattlesnake is fatal. On the one hand are experts, who point to instances where men have survived its bite; on the other are scientists who cite long lists of those paying eloquent tribute to the prowess of the viper.

According to chemical analysis, writes A. W. Rolker, in Pearson's Magazine, the poison of a rattlesnake consists of 95 per cent of blood-destroying element and five per cent of nerve-destroying element—a fact which explains the dreadful suffering of the victims of this reptile. Rattlesnake poison acts on the human veins exactly as does acid when poured into a metal pipe.

To enumerate more than a few instances among the thousands of human victims of the rattlesnake's venom is manifestly impossible. But here are several that illustrate the wonderful activity of the poison and that have come to the personal notice of Mr. Dimmar: While hunting in Georgia, a physician was struck in an artery in the groin by a rattlesnake which he started when sitting down to eat lunch.

Not many years ago Washington university lost one of its professors who was experimenting with a young rattlesnake whose head had just been chopped off. Supposing life extinct the expert stooped to pick up the severed head, when the mouth opened and the fangs fastened themselves in a death grip. In two hours the professor was dead.

KILLED IN RAILROAD WRECKS

More People Lose Their Lives That Way Than Are Slain in Battle. A report recently issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission shows that the total number of casualties to persons on railroads in the United States, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, was 55,130, comprising 2,787 killed and 51,343 injured. This, writes Frederick Upham Adams, in Success Magazine, shows a large increase over any other year.

Cure for Eloquence. Former Attorney General Griggs, of New Jersey, was in attendance at a public meeting where the chief orator of the evening was a long-winded individual who was quite deaf. He wore out the patience of everybody in the hall, and it seemed as if he would really never conclude his remarks.

INGENIOUS FILIPINO YOUTH.

Wanted to Marry and Resorted to Dishonest Means of Obtaining Money.

When a Filipino boy earns the sum of ten dollars gold a month, he is then, according to Filipino customs, rich enough to marry and raise a family, so we were not surprised to have our neighbor, the colonel, drop in one evening to consult us about the selection of a wedding present for his fable boy. Several of us had long known Beppo, and we considered the colonel fortunate to have so faithful and loyal a boy. We advised the colonel to give him money, but no, the colonel wanted to buy something for the boy to keep and the purchase was put off till after the wedding. Then Beppo failed to return to serve the dinner, but then everybody takes a holiday when he takes unto himself a wife, so Beppo was forgiven, writes a Manila correspondent of the New York Post.

Next day, with a view to buying the present, the colonel went to the trunk where he kept his surplus funds, and he was intact, so whoever had taken the money must have a key to the trunk. The police were notified and Beppo was rounded up. On his person was found a key with fitted the trunk and thus was the faithful, much-trusted Beppo proven guilty. He told the judge that he took only what he needed and, in most commendatory tones, asserted that he had left \$40 gold in the trunk for the colonel.

He needed the money to get married; \$15 for carriage hire, \$40 for the priest and ceremony, and \$3 pesos for the bride's trousseau. The boy was sent to Bilbid prison and the trousseau, all that was left of the spoils, was sent to the colonel. We hear that his wife and daughters are coming on the next transport to join him and we are looking forward to their making use of that Filipino trousseau, but a point of still greater interest to us is the fact that Beppo's family thinks that even though he must remain at Bilbid for the next six months, his position at the colonel's is still open to him, and in true Filipino style the prisoner's family has arrived at the colonel's—the bride, her mother and two sisters—and they have installed themselves in the servant's quarters. We wonder how the colonel will explain to his wife and family the presence of such a harem.

Poor Beppo, in true Filipino fashion, had been honest through a long period of servitude and like all his "little brown brothers," when he needed money he helped himself, but, bear in mind, he took only what he needed and left some for the colonel.

HOW RATTLESNAKE STRIKES

Wonderfully Swift, But Not Always Accurate, Hence Not Always Fatal.

It may seem absurd to claim that there are cases where the bite of a rattlesnake is not fatal. Yet, such have happened and to understand these it is necessary only to understand the manner in which this reptile strikes, writes A. W. Rolker, in Pearson's Magazine.

The spectacle of a rattlesnake at bay is one a beholder never forgets. The great, long body lies coiled into a tense spiral, the very embodiment of wickedness. Poised in air, the white-bellied forehead is bent into a horizontal S, field as an iron bar. Raised from the middle of the spiral the tail, quivering like a swayed hand string and emitting a rattle like steam escaping from the pet cock of a radiator, or like the sound of a mowing machine in a distant hay field. Awe inspiring, the dread, flat, triangular head, eyes gleaming black and cold as icy steel, is ready to strike. As the gruesome mouth opens wide and pink, the long, thin poison fangs arise from a horizontal position and stand upright, like a pair of slender, curved, needle-pointed shad bones, ready for business. Like a flash, far too quick for the eye to follow, the snake strikes, sending home his fangs an inch or two and in that same fraction of an instant he has squirted a tablespoonful of canary-yellow, viscous fluid into the wound, and lies coiled, ready for a second attack.

Wanted to Marry and Resorted to Dishonest Means of Obtaining Money. When a Filipino boy earns the sum of ten dollars gold a month, he is then, according to Filipino customs, rich enough to marry and raise a family, so we were not surprised to have our neighbor, the colonel, drop in one evening to consult us about the selection of a wedding present for his fable boy.

DOCTOR ADVOCATED OPERATIONS

—PE-RU-NA MADE KNIFE UNNECESSARY.



MRS. EVA BARTHOLOMEW. I suffered for three years with hemorrhoids and ulceration of the rectum. The doctor advocated an operation which I dreaded very much, and stoutly objected to undergo it. Now I am a changed woman. Peruna cured me; it took nine bottles, but I felt so much improved I kept taking it, and I reached an operation so much. I am today in perfect health and have not felt so well for fifteen years.—Mrs. Eva Bartholomew.

Gambling for Apparel. "Dear father," wrote the young lawyer who had just hung out his shingle to a great city, "congratulate me—today I won my first suit."

Apple Water Ice. Rare and cure some fine apples, cut in pieces into a preserving pan with sufficient water for them to float; boil until reduced to a marmalade and strain; to one pint of apple water add one half pint of syrup, juice of a lemon and a little water; when cold, freeze.—People's Home Journal.

Real Cause of War. Gen. Stoessel is reported as saying that the real cause of the war was the ignorance of the Russian people of the fighting qualities of the Japanese. There is an "embarrassment of riches" in the knowledge Russia has since gained on this point.—N. Y. Tribune.

Did His Best. The Woman—George, this is the anniversary of the day on which I promised to be yours—have you forgotten it? The Brute—No, my dear, I couldn't. But I've forgiven it.—Cleveland Leader.

Change of Sentiments. "Don't you think that an abundant display of diamonds is vulgar?" "No," answered Mrs. Cumrox. "I don't think so. But that's what I used to say when I didn't have any."—Washington Star.

Dogs and Inspectors. In the last report concerning the number of animals examined by the official meat inspectors in Germany 762 dogs are included. Whether this means that dogs are eaten in that country is not explained.

Largest Portrait. The largest picture ever painted has been completed by a French artist, after eight years' labor. The subject is the funeral of M. Carnot, and the canvas measures 150 square yards.

Burdens of Life. Money and time are the heaviest burdens of life, and the unhappiest of all mortals are those who have more of either than they know how to use.—Johnson.

The Wise Man. The wise man makes as many friends as he can, and gets along by asking from them as few favors as possible.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Name of "Lager." Lager beer was so-called because, when first made it was stored for months before it was used on a "lager," or frame, in a cool cellar.

No Label. Champagne served at King Edward's table does not bear any label, so that none of the guests can tell what brand he is drinking.

Banks in Japan. Of the 467 savings banks in Japan, only one is foreign. Of the 1,799 ordinary banks only four are foreign.

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR. FOLEY'S SKIDNEY CURE. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. DeWitt's Salve. FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure.