

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Man is born without knowledge, and when he attains it, very soon becomes old; when his experience is ripe death suddenly catches up with him and we know him no more.

Consider your toothbrush and reflect on the smallness of the world, which makes you a neighbor of the 400 million of China who produce most of the world's supply of bristles.

All toothbrushes are made from pig bristles and the best ones come from Szechuen. White porkers are the preferred color, so our supply of good toothbrushes depends on the continued health and prosperity of the Szechuen pig. Should cholera wipe out the Szechuen herds, the world would have to brush its teeth with black bristles or else not brush 'em at all.

The saving of bristles, cleaning and sorting them for the markets of the world, is confined almost exclusively to Chinese farmers.

Persons living in the British Isles consume 42 lbs. of apples per person annually. That means approximately two apples each week.

If the Chinese consumption of apples is equal to that of the United Kingdom, it would amount to about 115 million apples per day. What a market that would be!

Perhaps no other fruit can be eaten in so many different ways. They can be eaten fresh from the tree or can be cooked in a number of appetizing ways. You can stew 'em, fry 'em, roast 'em or make into elder or salads. Because of these and other reasons, an apple is, among all the fruits, the easiest to market.

Believe it or not, but the flag that first floated over the 13 colonies of America was copied from the flag of the East Indies Company. By adding two additional stripes it was brought up to the number of 13 to correspond with the number of the colonies. In this flag the field was formed by the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George, just as in the Union Jack of today.

But when war flared up between England and the American colonies, the inappropriateness of this flag became apparent and on June 14, 1777, a new flag was adopted and the Union was replaced later by a field of blue. The earlier flag was officially disowned by the adoption of June 14 as Flag Day. The story that Betsy Ross made the first flag from a pencil sketch of Washington's has no factual ground to lean on. — See Eng. Brit. 13 edition, vol. 9, page 438.

Silk weaving is one of the oldest occupations in the world. Silk was being woven and sold a thousand years before the birth of Christ and there has been no break in the business. If in doubt about the quality of silk snip off a piece and burn it in a saucer. If it is pure silk it will burn without leaving a trace of ash. If there is the slightest adulteration, the tell-tale ash will remain behind. Because Chinese silk is the real McCoy, it is sold by the weight instead of by length.

BURGESS BEDTIME

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"You could try. That is the only way of finding out. You have learned something by seeing. You will learn more by doing," said Hooty.

Young Hooty looked doubtful. The catching of the Mouse had been done by his father so easily that he was sure he could catch one just as easily; that there wasn't much to learn. He was eager to go off by himself and try.

"There is one thing you must never forget," said Hooty, snapping his bill.

"What?" asked Young Hooty.

"To make sure before you strike that you really see what you think you see," replied Hooty. Then, as he prepared to take to his wings, he added: "Remember, too, that that which seems easiest to do often proves hardest to do." He spread his wings and flew away.

"Huh! He thinks I can't do it. I'll show him," said Young Hooty, watching Hooty disappear.



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Dispute Long Way From Settlement

great fear of burglars and bandits and know when they walk about at night with a lighted lantern robbers can easily follow their movements. The electric torch proved its worth many times as it can be flashed on as needed.

If the white man has no B. O. he better not tell the Chinese people or their dogs that. Why? Well, Chinese dogs and their owners have resented the scent of white folk ever since they came into contact with them. Any traveler who is familiar with China will, I am sure, attest to the truth of this statement. Some travelers thought it might be their strange clothing that made the dogs go on the war-path. However, the theory about clothing is wrong. And the fact remains that Chinese dogs don't like white people because of their peculiar smell.

The North American Indians held the same opinion of the whites, so it could be — although we do not notice it ourselves — that we actually have a peculiar odor all our own.

Unlike the dogs of China, all human beings look and smell alike to the camel and he hates them all with equal intensity, and if one passes near enough to a camel he will either reach for a pound of your flesh or what is even worse, cough in your face. When that happens the only thing you can do is hurry home, have a bath and change your clothes.

"Researches into the Names and Virtues of Plants" is the title of a medicine or herbal book published in 1848 and consisting of 60 volumes and containing almost 2,000 accurate botanical drawings. Although some new material may be found in this book, a very large part of it was a rehash of ancient works — Chinese works — for more than a thousand years B. C., the medical profession was well established in China and doctors were writing down case histories and arguing with each other about the values of different herbs.

Until 1858 any number of schools and other institutions in Great Britain laid down their own rules and granted licenses to practice medicine without any state supervision. In some countries it is still not necessary to secure a license or diploma in order to hang out your shingle announcing that you are a physician, a privilege which many quacks take advantage of.

And in some countries the sale of proprietary medicines outnumber the sale of other medicine three to one.

Oriental M. D.'s claim that the root called ginseng has rare medicinal value. American and European M. D.'s deny that ginseng has any medical value.

SOUTHERN PORTS

Tampico and Vera Cruz, both on the Gulf coast, are the most important of Mexico's 39 ocean ports.

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Dispute Long Way From Settlement

CAIRO, April 8 — (Reuters)—Ambassador Jefferson Caffery of the United States today expressed cautious optimism on the progress of talks between Britain and Egypt. But there were other indications that the dispute is a long way from settled.

Some Egyptian newspapers suggested a crucial point has been reached, with the talks likely to collapse unless some concessions are made.

Caffery told reporters that his efforts to bring the two sides together met with "success in some points" and predicted other questions will be solved "in the near future."

He had just seen Prime Minister Hily Pasha and discussed the issues which have been debated for the last two weeks by Britain and Egypt in "exploratory talks" here.

At stake is the future of the Canal Zone, to which Britain is clinging despite a months-old order

From Egypt to get out, and the Sudan, over which Egypt is claiming sovereignty.

The Sudan question has been the chief stumbling-block and informed sources here said today it "still remains unsolved."

HOT MUSIC

The pyrophone was a musical instrument in which notes were produced by gas jets under resonant tubes.

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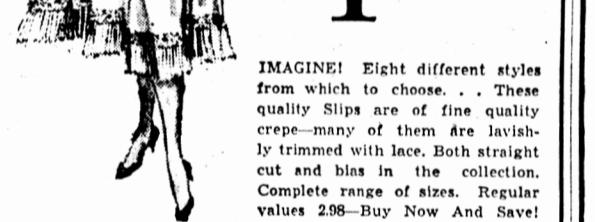
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