

BRIDES OF ALL NATIONS.

June the Favorite Month for Weddings—Some Savage Customs. The "June" bride is not exclusively the product of our social status and civilization. In Burmah, in the wilds of South Africa, in tropic Egypt, in remote Turkestan and in chilly Russia the month of June is looked upon as the marriage month par excellence.

SOCIAL LIFE IN THE ARMY.

Mrs. Custer Tells of Its Informal Good Fellowship. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Custer, in speaking about the peculiar conditions which govern the social life of women in the army, said: "It is really hard to find any points of likeness between social intercourse at a military post and that of civil life. You may judge how great the difference is when I say that upon my first appearance socially in 'the states' after my years of soldiering I scarcely knew how to act or how to accustom myself to the greater formality all around me. For that is the keynote of the matter. Army life is informal to the last degree."

APACHES AND THEIR HAIR.

Indians Don't Like the Shears Applied to Their Locks. As with Samson of old, the Indians' wildness lay in their long hair, which the returned educated Indians wore because, as they boasted, "it made them wild." All energies were bent to compel the adult males to cut their hair and adopt civilized attire in vain. Even the police would not wear their uniforms. A proposition to cut their hair, from a former agent, resulted in a mutiny. The duties of the police are to arrest offenders and to herd the beef cattle purchased for their own consumption. Rations were considerably increased to the police to make it worth their while to think twice before leaving the force, and they were informed that when there were no police to herd the beeves the tribe would go without. That was a different proposition. Two members who had been to school were discharged for wearing long hair. One old fellow, as a special favor, cut his hair, but it cost me five dollars. His wife made his life a burden, and he in turn appealed to me to hasten with the rest.

SWEET PEAS IN A BOX.

There They Stayed While a Society Beau Wondered. Some time this spring Mr. Blank, of Jacksonville, Ill., came over to St. Louis on one of his short visits, and while here was invited to dine with a Washington avenue family, who had visiting them two very interesting young women from Tennessee. Of course, our friend accepted, and duly made his appearance at the proper hour. It proved a delightful dinner. The Tennesseans were all and much more than he had anticipated. One of them especially.

THROUGH THE NILE RAPIDS.

A Lively Description of the Dangerous Descent. Voyages down the Nile through the rapids are undertaken only by the special boats which are made for the purpose in the Soudan. About ten per cent. are smashed on the voyage, and that the percentage of deaths is not equally high is simply due to the matchless swimming powers of the Nubian boatmen. Even when they are dashed by the waves against a rock, they do not always drown. A. E. Brehm, in "From North Pole to Equator," describes one of these descents.

THE SHAH'S DAY'S WORK.

Persia's Ruler is a Busy Man—Slowly Personal Habits. A vivid account of the daily life of the shah of Persia is contributed to the Illustrated Magazine by J. F. Fraser, who has just visited Teheran in the course of his world's tour on a bicycle. "How does the shah spend an ordinary day? Well, he is a busy man. He rises early, performs his devotions, has a piece of thin, sweet Persian bread and a glass of sweetened tea. Then, at eight o'clock, he receives his ministers. He is slowly in habit and walks up and down the room with his slippers flapping, indeed, the story goes that the reason he parted with his first wife was because she constantly complained that he did not wash himself."

BRUNETTE TYPES.

Are the Predominating Style in Southern Europe. In a rough way, the extremes in the distribution of the blonde and brunette varieties within the population of Europe are as follows. At the northern limit we find that about one-third of the people are pure blondes, characterized by light hair and blue eyes; about one-tenth are pure brunettes; the remainder, over one-half, being mixed, with a tendency to blondeness. On the other hand, in the south of Italy the pure blondes have almost entirely disappeared. About one-half of the population are pure brunettes, with deep brown or black hair, and eyes of a corresponding shade; and the other half is mixed, with a tendency to brunetness. The half-and-half line seems to lie about where it ought, not far from the Alps. Yet it does not follow the parallels of latitude. A circle, described with Copenhagen as a center, sweeping around near Vienna, across the middle of Switzerland, thence up the British Isles, might serve roughly to indicate such a boundary. North of it blondness prevails, although always with an appreciable percentage of pure brunettes. South of it brunetness finally dominates quite exclusively. It should not fail of note that toward the east there is a slight though constant increase of brunetness along the same degrees of latitude and that the western portion of the British Isles is a northern outpost of the brunette type. Thus we see at a glance that there is a gradual though constant increase in the proportion of dark eyes and hair from north to south.—Prof. William Z. Ripley, in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly.

THEY SMELL A TRIEF.

The Detection of Crimes by Abyssinian Authorities. Abyssinia, the oldest monarchy in the world, had much the same government, laws and customs 3,000 years ago that it has now. One of the most curious of these, is that of "thief smelling." When a robbery has been committed and is reported to the lebash, who answers to the chief of detectives in New York, he compels one of his subordinates to drink a decoction made from a plant which throws him into a state something like that produced by hashish or opium-smoking before the stupor. While thus intoxicated the detective is supposed to have a supernatural power of smelling thieves. The method of utilizing this power, described by the Abyssinian traveler, Dr. Krapp, consists of tying a stout rope around the detective's waist and allowing him to crawl up and down the village street, the free end of the rope being held in the hand of the lebash. Whenever the thief-smeller enters a house its master is at once convicted of the theft without further evidence. The person who has been robbed is sent for and made to swear to the value of the stolen property, and this value must be paid at once by the owner of the house to which the scent has led the able detective.

THEY SMELL A TRIEF.

British Possessions in America. The following, according to London Tit-Bits, is a list of the British possessions in America, with their respective areas: Newfoundland and Labrador, 190,200 square miles; Canada, 3,456,333; The Bermudas, 190; The West Indies, 12,718; British Honduras, 7,569; British Guiana, 109,000; The Falkland Islands, 7,500. Against this the United States possesses a total area of 3,501,000 square miles, being 250,000 less than belongs to the British crown.

THEY SMELL A TRIEF.

Various Wood Fibers. The relative hardness of woods is calculated by the hickory, which is the toughest. Estimating that at 100, pignut hickory stands at 96, white oak 84, white ash 77, dogwood 75, scrub oak 73, white hazel 72, apple tree 70, red oak 69, white beech 65, black walnut 65, black birch 62, yellow and black oak 60, hard maple 56, white elm 58, red cedar 56, cherry 55, yellow pine 54, chestnut 52, yellow poplar 51, butternut and white birch, 43, and white pine 35.

THEY SMELL A TRIEF.

Fate of a Greyish Shark. Special attention has been given to the shark, and the many strange things which he does and strange stories told in the magazines from house building over to the time when one of his teeth is found in a man's pocket. He is so common that he won't allow his name to be used in connection with his particular story. "It was off our keys," said he, "I had been shark fishing and was talking of sharks to an old-time sponge fisher, when he told me that he had found a shark's tooth and the keys, the largest shark it had ever been his fortune to see floating belly upward, starved to death. 'Why, the shark was as thin as a poker,' said the sponge fisher, 'and I determined to find out what ailed him. I pulled him aboard and cut him open. There on his stomach, even and round, lay the head, was half of a barrel, which contained mess pork. The barrel had evidently been thrown overboard from some vessel, and the shark had gobbled it up as it bit the water without looking to see what it was. It was too bad that he swallowed it butt end first, for whatever he ate after that went into the barrel and did the shark no good. So he just starved!'"—N. O. Times-Democrat.

THEY SMELL A TRIEF.

A Student's Crime. A curious combination of logic with lack of principle has sent a French medical student of good family to jail for ten years. He had failed in his examination and thereby lost his exemption from military service. If obliged to serve two years he saw no way of making up his deficiencies in scholarship, but he knew that a widow's son would be exempt from the conscription. He proceeded, therefore, to make his mother a widow by shooting his father, with whom he was on perfectly good terms, twice in the head. The father recovered and succeeded in getting his son's sentence reduced. It has been ascertained by experiments that a number of persons who use the telephone habitually hear better with the left ear than with the right. The common practice of the telephone companies is to place the receiver so that it will be applied to the left ear. In order to educate the right ear to the same point of efficiency it is recommended that the receiver be held in the right hand half the time.