PAY HOMAGE TO THE DEVILS

Curious Ceremony in China Which is Looked Upon as Insurance Against Evil Spirits.

Once every year, during the first fifteen days of the seventh Chinese month the curious ceremony of Yu-Nan-Whei is celebrated, being, in fact, the paying of homage to the land and sea devils. Seven priests carry out the ceremony by offering up various forms of prayer and making an unearthly noise by beating gongs. Any one wishing to show his respect to the devils can do so by a payment of 600 cash-about 22 cents-to each of the priests, for which amount they will continue their performance for twelve hours—a truly modest remuneration for gentlemen engaged in the arduous occupation of propitiating evil spirits. For an extra payment of 2,000 cash a number of small red paper boats, about six inches long, with lights inside, will be sent floating down the river with the current. These lights are for the benefit of the see devils in order that they may be able to see their way about on dark nights-a little attention which it is to be hoped these maritime demons appreciate. Having finished this performance, the person on whose behalf It has been carried out goes away happy in the conviction that he will not lose any of his family throughout the year either by sickness or hy drowning, so that the whole ceremony may be looked upon as an insurance policy. At this time of year many thousands of the small lighted boats may be seen floating down the "Yangstzekiang, presenting a most unusual spectacle.-Wide World Mage-

THEIR CONCEPTION OF DUTY

#sookkeepers Rightfully Put Welfare. of Firm Before Their Personal Convenience.

"You wouldn't think that devotion to duty could be carried to a ridiculons extreme in these careless days. would you?" asked a young man who lives in a boarding house. "Well, let me tell you about two old fellows who come under my observation every day. They are brothers, and must be pretty close to 60. Both are employed as bookkeepers by the same firm, a big wholesale house. They are inseparable, except that they positively refuse to take the same train, either going to or coming home from business. They leave the house together, walk to a street car station, and then toss up a coin to see which one takes the first train, and which waits for the next. I had noticed this proceeding several times, and finally I asked one of them about it.

"Well, you see, it's this way,' he said. "My brother and I have kept the books for our house for a great many years and we have an intimate knowledge of the accounts. If anything should happen to us both, a railroad accident, for instance, it would cause the firm a great deal of annoyance. That's why we never take the same train.

"Dickens would have gloried in idealizing those two old chaps." . . .

Hew Filipinos Capture Monkeys. The Filipinos catch monkeys in a very funny way. Monkeys are very fond of the meat of cocoanuts. They are very lazy, though, about gnawing through the outer bark, and will only do so when very hungry. The Filipino takes advantage of this greed and indolence by outting a small opening through the shells, just large enough for Mr. Monkey's long thin hand to penstrate. When he once gets inside he gets his hand full of de-Motous dainty most, and his hand is maturally wider when in this act than when it was thrust through the openfag. Finding his hand will not come out, the monkey chatters, and scolds, and plainly shows his indignation at the way he has been trapped, but mover thinking of loosening his hold on the cocoanut meat and withdrawing his hand as easily as he put it in. There he stands, as angry monkey, until the native who set the cocoanut trap, comes and takes him captive.

Washington and Poacher. As an example of Washington's fearlessness, Sparks, the historian. tells of an occasion when Washington was aroused to quick action upon discovering a poscher on his grounds. Hearing the discharge of a gun he mounted his horse and, riding in the direction of the sound, soon found the Intruder, who quickly jumped into his cance and paddled out into the river. Washington rode instantly into the water in spite of the poscher's threatening him with his fowling piece; and uselsing the boat, he drew it to the shore, disarmed the poscher and gave him a sound thrashing then and there. -From H. A. Ogden's Washington's "Ten Narrow Encapes" in St. Nicholas.

Brought Home to Him. A Cincinnati judge entered the Wolroott yesterday morning and registered. He said he had just come from Boston. Then be put his hand in his hip pocket, looked puzzled, fished about while the clerk expected to hear him say he had lost his pocketbook, and then pulled out a key, from which a tag was dangling.

"Well, by hokel" exclaimed the Jurist, "if that isn't the key to my room at the Hotel Tournine! Say, how much is this thing worth, any-

"About fifty cents," he was told "Well, well! And to think that I, have sent men to jail for stealing less sthan that!"-Ntw York Sun.

WALKED OFF WITH EVIDENCE

Commence of the second of the

Counterfeiter - is Acquitted Although Secret Service Had the Goods en Him.

Several lawyers were discussing the United States secret service the other day in the marshal's office in the federal building. Much that they said was directed at a quiet but capable deputy marshal, who took it in silence until he got an opportunity to counter. The most persistent of his tormenters began to tell of a counterfeiting case when the severity of the government put a "good fellow" in jail. "Well, it was different up in my county." exclaimed the deputy marshal, breaking into the confab. "We had the evidence on the fellow all right," he continued. "He had made about a peck of silver dollars. The only difference between his product and that of Uncle Sam's was that the counterfeiter put a couple more grains of silver in his. He get away with it for months, and when we began to collect evidence we had bags full of the phony dollars. When the man was placed on trial the learned members of the bar were permitted to satisfy their curiosity by handling the counterfeits. But the man was acquitted." "How was that?" one of the lawyers wanted to know. "You see the lawyers walked off with the evidence. They didn't leave a single dollar," was the reply.-Philadelphia

COUNTRY OF GIANT MELONS

Succulent Fruit Grows to Enormous Size in Certain Portions of Turkish Empire.

5. Both the water and musk melon of Diarbekir are the largest I have ever seen. Watermelons grow in Diarbekir each as large as a flour barrel, and muskmelons, but little smaller, only the muskmelon is rounder, like a pumpkin.

These melons are raised in the bed of the Tigris, as after the spring rains are over and the snows have melted from the mountains the river shrinks to comparative insignificance, and large tracts of the bottom land are thus exposed.

This land is plowed, and in each hill where the seeds are planted a quantity of pigeon manure is mixed to with the earth. There are people in Diarbekir engaged in breeding pigeons for no other purpose than to sell the

manure to the meion growers. As the meions are growing over the moist soil of what was a river for six months of the year no irrigation is necessary and, though it seldom rains during the summer, the meion vines never dry up. The meat of these water and musk melons is, however very coarse and not nearly as sweet as the melons of smaller varieties in other districts of this country.--Con-

Warning Before Command. In bringing up my children I found that at night when they were tired they were spared many tears by being warned before I gave them a strict command. Instead of saying, "Now it is time to go to bed; put away your blocks at once," I would say, "It is nearly time to go to bed. Finish your house first, and then put away your blocks." In this way the children were fully prepared to go, and there was consequently no begging nor temptation for me to show my lack of firmness by being persuaded to allow them to build "just one more house."

Imagine a mother in the midst of an absorbing chapter being told by one in higher authority to put down her book at once and go to bed. Would it not save a frown of impatience to be told to finish the chapter first?-Harper's Bazar.

Teeth Brushed to Music. An esteemed correspondent writing to the Cleveland Plain Dealer adds ay testimonial to the efficacy of the brush-your-teeth-to-music idea. He says: "We are not Wagnerian at ou home, having more regard for the tempo than for the chromatic blandings. When my two boys and my girl brush their teeth the accompaniment is that jigging air called The Turkey and the Straw.' One of the children whistles the air and the others brush. The child who whistles accompanies himself with two blocks of wood covered with sandpaper, and the wishy-swishy noise produced by this simple instrument sets the brushes going furiously. My only fear is that the kids will wear their teeth down to the nerve, Accept this as a modest boost for the cause of dental sanitation."

Electric Pencils A novelty that will appeal especially to the motorist and the physician is a pencil with an electric light in it. This illuminates a sheet of paper, and one can write with case in the dark-

Illuminated walking sticks are also attracting favor, and a distinguished gentleman, commenting upon the ingenuity of those new inventions, remarked that the man who would jump instantly into fame and the hearts of his fellow-men would be the individual would could invent a book and eye that carried a tiny electric light to guide the stumbling fingers of distressed husbands struggling with the intricacies of a wife's gown.

Merciful Man. Humane-My husband is so gentle and considerate. "In what way?" "Why, he wouldn't let me get a vacuum cleaner because it employed exhausted air."-Boston Herald.

KIND HEARTED MRS. BILLY

Has Experience in Subway in Which Element of Gratitude Was Lacking.

On one of the intermittent warm days of this winter a certain Mrs. Upper-Westend, who is as kind-hearted as she is handsome and welldressed, took a Subway train downtown to call at her husband's office and go to luncheon with him.

"I've had another experience, Billy." she said to her husband upon reaching her destination. "There was a poorly dressed woman sitting next to me in the train, and when she got up to leave I saw that she had left her fur on the seat and I called to her. Now wouldn't you have thought she would have been grateful to me? Not a bit. That's all you get for telling people they've lost something. She gave me the queerest, most disagreeable look, and at first I thought she wouldn't come back. It made me cross, so I only waved my hand at the fur, and she snatched it up and went off without even saying thank you.

"You needn't look so queer, Billy, I suppose you think I am meddling again, but you wouldn't have let her go off without her fur! It was such a pretty one, too. It is surprising what good things some poor people WEAR."

"You shouldn't leave off your own fur even if it is a warm day," remarked Mr. Billy, dryly, and Mrs. Billy, throwing a hasty glance over her pretty self and her belongings. answered with a little shrick:

"Oh, I only threw it over my arm. You don't suppose that it was my new Christmas fur that that horrid woman went off with, Billy?"

And that was just what had han-

VAST LAKE OF SOLID SODA

Remarkable Discovery at Lake Magadi in East Africa-Mystery is Cleared Up.

Wonderful as have been the reports of the vast soda deposit at Lake Magadi in East Africa, the tendency hitherto has been to deem the stories fantastic. Now, however, the mystery is cleared up by the report of an expedition which penetrated quite to the interior of Britain's remote possession. -as far, indeed, as 15 miles from the frontier of German East Africa. The ascertained facts, according to the Chemical News, are more surprising than the first reports. What, in the case of an ordinary lake, would be water consists at Magadi of a solid deposit of sods, with a hard surface looking like pink marble. During the wet season-which in this region is ery short--with a few inches of water. Immediately after the cessation of the rains the whole of the surface becomes dry with the exception of a margin about 80 yards wide. Even during the wet season the amount of water on the surface in no way renders impracticable the working of the deposit. For many years 'Indians' from Nairobi, who use this sods for washing purposes and as snuff, have been removing it from the lake without regard to the season.-Current Literature.

Unnerved.

Every minute was precious, said the man who wanted his letters written in a hurry, yet he left a building that provided three public stenographers and walked four blocks up the street to another stenographer.

"She is no more efficient than those other girls," he said, "but nobody will get good work out of them today because two workmen were killed this morning in the building next door. All the men working in the new building have gone home for the day; that is a rule of the trades, and it might just about as well be made a rule in the neighboring offices, for the clerks who see and hear about the accident are never fit for much the rest of the day. There is no danger attached to their jobs, but the accident gives every stenographer and typewriter in the building a case of nerves."

Sleeping Potion.

A woman who suffered much from sleeplessness was relieved by the strong odor of mint breathed each night.

The remedy was one of those old wife cures that are often effective, and was brought to the sleepless one's notice by a claver friend, who sent a bottle of strong essence of mint, a small sponge and daintily embroidered lawn bag to hold the saturated sponge.

The bag had a spray of mint leaves done in colors on one side, and on the other "Sweet Sleep." Through a casing at the top were drawn narrow green ribbons that could be hung over the head of the bed at night.

The odor of the mint proved soothing, and gradually the sleeping habit

Market for Condensed Milk. The United States consul feels sure that there's a promising market in Maits for condensed milk. "Fresh cow's milk is scarce in Malta," he writes, "and most Maltese use goat's milk. There are about 10,000 milch goats in the islands. They are driven from house to house and milked in the presence of the buyer. Goats are tied at the doors of Maltese cafes and when milk is wanted for coffee the animal is milked by the owner. As a large proportion of the goats have Mediterranean fever germs, the foreign residents refrain from using their milk and the British garrison is forbidden to consume it."

JOY FOR THE HOUSEKEEPER

Some of the Delights of Life in the Himalayas Described in Graphic ீStyle.

My housekeeping was a never-ending source of amusement to me, wrote Mary Blair Beebe in Harper's Magaziné. Tandook came every morning for the day's orders, saying "Verrywellsir," to all my suggestions, running the words together as though the whole phrase was one, and rolling his r's as sonorously as a Spaniard. Certain, he had no idea of the masculinity implied, for he sometimes varied his response by saying, "Yes, madame." One could write a volume on the eccentricities of a Thibetan's English. W- was always making Tandook say "sixteen meeleek." which is. being interpreted, "six tins of milk."

We were sometimes lucky enough to be able to buy a chicken from some passing Nepalese hillman. I have an aversion to making the personal acquaintance of my animal food before it is ready for the table, but that I could never make Tandook understand. He always sought me triumphantly with a squawking chicken under each arm. I must look at them. and even lift them to see how heavy they were and how good a bargain he had made.

TESTING THE "YOUNG BUD"

Old Bachelor Strays Into Young Folks Party and Turns a Neat Compliment.

An old bachelor had somehow strayed into a young people's party, and realizing that he could not hope, among so many handsome youths, to make the heart of a single maiden throb, he said to the nearest girl whose conversation had shown some what more good sense than he had expected:

"Look about the ballroom. Notice that the girls who have removed their gloves have well shaped arms. Andahem!-some have not removed them-

"But neither generalization fits me." answered the girl, "for, you see, I have one arm bare and one glovedwhat would you say about me?"

Walk out and let me look at them." said the old bachelor, unfeelingly. The girl took a few steps out,

paused, and returned. "Take the other glove off," said the old bachelor.

Brown Bread and Beans. The story of brown bread and baked beens is more interesting and important than local historians appear to think. Perhaps the most incisive record of Boston brown bread is the entry in the selectmen's records. January 7, 1746, or January 18, 1747 (n. s.). It calls brown bread that which has a good proportion of indian meal. June 20, 1764, the selectmen ordered that the proportion of Indian meal in brown bread must not exceed onehalf. The use of Indian meal in bread is mentioned in the selectmen's order of October 29, 1722. Apparently the use of Indian meal as a substitute for wheat flour was due to poverty. Or is there any evidence to show such a use of Indian meal in the seventeenth century? The term "brown bread" is mediaeval, but had nothing to do with Indian meal, it seems, until Major Thwing acted in 1747. He was a famous man.

Time's Changes. A New York dancing master, at a

recent meeting of teachers of the poetry of motion, said that dancing as an amusement had lost much ground in the last few years, and that he saw no prospects of a revival. "True," he said, "there are dancing parties and balls every season, but they are not what they were once upon a time. They begin late and end early, and those who attend for the most part do not go to dance. The parents and the grandparents of our pupils used to go to balls where dancing began at 9 o'clock, and there was dancing until the 'supper march' was played. Supper over, there was dancing again until 'all hours.' The smoking and cardrooms are more popular now than the dance floor.

Differences in Alcohol.

More than two-thirds of the tots production of German alcohol is of tained from potatoes, but only a comparatively small portion is sold in the form of bevedges, for the reason that other kinds of alcohol are better adapted to the manufacture of liquors and brandles.

The alcohols of wine, cherries and cane possess an agreeable aroma, whereas all alcohols produced from beets, grains, melasses and potatoes, must be rectified before they are ready for consumption, in order to free them of their unpleasant natural taste.

As to potatoes, the resultant alcohol possesses an oily flavor which would be particularly unpleasant if not eradicated by rectification.

13. Rest is a Beautifler. Rest is one of the greatest of beautiflers. Rest, however, is not possible unless complete relaxation is its companion. Immediately the nerves and muscles are relieved of their tension the heart beats less nervously and a sense of calmness is experienced. Many women who long for a clear, fresh complexion, fewer wrinkles, bright eyes and an enviable cheerfulness would find these things within their grasp if they added an hour of two to their slumbers. Resting for five minutes or longer in very refreshing during the day.

EVIL OF SCANT MEASURES

Lowers Moral Tone of Trade, increases Cost of Living and Adds % to Hardships of Needy.

If "a fries balance is abomination to the Lo.d." as we are told in the Proverbs, scant measures of every sort are equally abominable to mankind, lowering the moral tone of trade. increasing the cost of living and adding to the hardships of the needy. It is rather curious, therefore, that a fact so obvious, having occupied the attention of society for as long a period as the written record runs, should at the present day have no recognition in the laws or the ordinances of the state or city. Pennsylvania is without official standards of weights or measure except of the most casual sort, and Philadelphia has worried along for upward of a quarter of a century trusting solely to the honor of its tradesmen to give pound for pound and quart for quart, not to mention the scores of other measures of weight, volume and bulk by which commodities are exchanged for value in the markets. How public confidence has been misplaced is now shown in dramatic fashion by the bureau of municipal research, after a thorough investigation, by the actual purchase and test of a large variety of articles constituting the necessaries of average daily life.—Philadelphia Ledger.

"FAVORITES" WOULDN'T FIGHT

General Jackson Greatly Disappointed When His Pugnacious Birds Refused to Do Battie.

Cock fighting had been oue of General Jackson's favorite home amuse ments, and he had become possessor of a breed of birds called Hermitage that was invincible in Tennessee. He had some of these pugnacious birds brought to Washington and one spring morning he rode out toward Bladensburg with a select party of friends to see "a main" fought between the Hermitage and the Annapolis cocks. The birds were not only trained to fight. but were equipped for their work. Their heads and necks were plucked, their tail feathers were closely trimmed and their natural spurs were cut off and replaced by "gaffs," or sharp blades of finely tempered steel.

General Jackson was confident that his favorites would again be victorious, but there was no fight, to the great disappointment of all present. The long confinement in coops on the stages appeared to have deprived the Hermitage birds of their wonted pluck and the Annapolis birds crowed in triumph.—Perley's Reminiscences.

Sure of a Raise.

An enterprising woman who rents several apartments in a new building and sublets them, furnished, room by room, has profited at the rate of several hundred dollars a year by woman's propensity for telling everything she knows. To each applicant for a room she named an exorbitant price to start with.

"Now, understand, this is a concession to you alone, and must be regarded as strictly confidential. If you tell a soul in the house that I have made a reduction in your favor I shall have to charge the original price."

Within two weeks rents had gone

"Mrs. Smith tells me" said the setute landlady to each gossiping tenant. "that you told her you pay only \$6 for your room, instead of \$7." And as no one was in a position to plead not guilty the additional rental was exacted.

What He Wanted He was a foreigner and when he came down to breakfast and looked at the menu card and saw printed at the top, "All cereals 25 cents," it looked to him like a safe order. He beckoned to the waiter and pointing to the line said, "Bring me this."

The waiter brought him a proprietary cereal. The next morning the performance was repeated, only the waiter brought a different cereal, and all through the week until the list of cereals in the kitchen was exhausted, and the first cereal was again served the visitor.

"See here!" he exclaimed. "I have been ordering this all the work, and this is the first time since my first breakfast here that it has been served to me."

The Difference.

Why is it that a girl whom a woman would describe either as "rather plain," or "nothing much to look at," may be in a man's eyes "pretty?" Just because a man judges by the general effect, and discounts suchto him-unimportant trifles as perfect regularity of feature and fashionable attire. A sweet expression and a clear skin-both of which are within the reach of 99 girls out of 100-can carry off successfully the snubblest of saub notes; and a low, soft voice is, in man's estimation, one of the most infallible charms a woman can

What He Wanted. "Now this car," said the agent, calling Billupe' attention to a handsome limousine in the corner, "is a dandy. Rides just like a rockingchair.'

"What do you think I am, an escaped inmate of an old lady's home?" demanded Billups. "I want a car that I'll know I'm in when I'm in it, and when I go out looking for a rockingchair I'll go to a furniture store, and not to a garage."-Harper's Weekly.

WHEN TO PROPOSE MARRIAGE

English Lady Would Have Men Propose in Daylight, Preferably Before Breakfast.

The London papers, wearying of politics, have fallen into a controversy as to the time at which a man should propose mariage. The briefest answer so far given to the question is: "At the earliest opportunity." But there has come forward a certain Lady Troubridge with a suggestion more amplified as well as more original than that. She would have men propose by daylight only, and at that preferably before breakfast, at the bour when the human being is supposed to be at the worst.

in making this suggestion Lady Troubridge does not feel that she is advocating anything which will work against the ancient custom of marrying and giving in marriage. She does not feel that the adoption of her idea. would deplete the strength of the empire. She feels, rather, that it would strengthen the social fabric.

Lady Troubridge holds that among the causes of unhappy marriages there is none more general than the proposal by moonlight, or in the soft evening glow that illuminates the conservatory, that haven in which the loved and lover escape the crowded ball room. In the unromantic daylight, she believes, thousands of men who should not propose would hold! their tongues, for by daylight they look on life as it is, and the fear of consequences enters their hearts.

WHERE IS CIRCUIT RIDER?

Old-Fashloned Itinerant Preacher Seems to Have Vanished From Present-Day Warid.

What has become of the old circuit rider? He seems to have gone, to have vanished entirely from the present-day world, although to the older generations he figured in the lives of the people to whom he ministered.

In their day the circuit riders know little of home or rest. for each had from seven to fifteen parishes, miles apart from each other. When night overtook the circuit rider and his horse-this was the minister's usual mode of travel-he stopped with some member of one of his parishes. And be it said it was great honor, indeed, to have the great fortune to entertain the minister at a meal or over night.

Probably the much overworked man would get to spend one night in a week at home, perhaps not that. His life was uncertain and wandering, but his faith was that which "passeth understanding." But his days were numbered and are gone, probably never to be revived. He was a figure, however. that is typical of the pioneers of America-he knew his duty and was faithful in the performance of it.

A Vital Duty.

Before a girl of the more fortunate. classes goes out into society, she must be protected in some way or another. If she be for instance, convent bred. or if she come from an ideal home, it may very well be and often is that she needs no instruction whatever, because she is, in fact, already made unapproachable by the tempter. Fortunate, indeed, is such a girl. Out the forming this well-guarded class are anardians may often be deceived and assume more than they are entitled to. At any rate. for the vast majority of girls some positive instruction is necessary. It is the mother who must undertake this responsible and difficult task before she admits the girl to the perils of the world. Further, by some means or other, instruction must be afforded forthe ever-increasing army of girls who go out to business. It is to me a never ceasing marvel that loving parents, devoted to their daughters' welfare, shoul fail in this cardinal and critical point of duty, so constantly as they do.-Dr. C. W. Saleeby, in the Forum.

Where the Billionaire Failed. The billionaire sighed as he looked 🗡 at the clouds obscuring the links, and yet no such sigh ever was born of

missing a game. His trouble was deep-

Despite all he could do the billionaire knew that his stock of gold was: increasing at a rate little short of scandalous. He had given it away in bales and chunks, sometimes for a good purpose, and occasionally for a purpose beyond being concerned. He had erected to, himself a string of expensive monuments, each one costing. him a pretty penny. Nevertheless. money poured in upon him as fast asan army of men could earn it, untilhe could have wept at impending dis-, grace, for his ambition was to die poor.-Life.

Medical Genius

An old dector, seeing a young one, who was going along the street with half a dozen shabby-looking men and women, called him saids and saked: "Who are all those people, and where are you going with them?" "I will " tell you in confidence," was the reply, "that I've hired them to come and in sit in my reception room. I expecta rich patient this morning, and I want to make an impression on him." -Judge.

Asking Too Much.

"My dear," said Mr. Clarkson, "I don't want you to think I have any desire to criticise you for the way you manage, but, really, we must try to live within our income." 'Within our income? Goodness! And be regarded by everybody in our set as eccentric!"-Judge.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS