

TAMING WILD BEASTS

THE QUALITIES THAT ARE ESSENTIAL IN A TRAINER.

Subjugating a Lion is a Task That Calls For Something More Than Mere Courage—The Trainer Uses a Chair, but Not to Sit On.

The wild beast tamer as generally pictured is a mysterious person who stalks about sternly in high boots and possesses a remarkable power of the eye that makes lions and tigers quail at his look and shrink away. He rules by fear, and the crack of his whip is supposed to bring memories of torturing points and red-hot irons.

Such is the story book lion tamer, and I may as well say at once that outside of story books he has small existence. There is scarcely any truth in this theory of hate for hate and conquest by fear. It is no more fear that makes a lion walk on a ball than it is fear that makes a horse pull a wagon. It is habit. The lion is perfectly willing to walk on the ball, and he has reached that mind, not by cruel treatment, but by force of his trainer's patience and kindness and superior intelligence.

Of course, a wild beast tamer should have a quick eye and delicate sense of hearing, so that he may be warned of a sudden spring at him or a rush from behind, and it is important that he be a sober man, for alcohol breaks the nerve or gives a false courage worse than folly, but the quality on which he must chiefly rely and which alone can make him a great tamer—not a second rate bungler—is a genuine fondness for his animals.

This does not mean that the animals will necessarily be fond of the tamer; some will be fond of him, some will be indifferent to him, some will fear and hate him. Nor will the trainer's fondness protect him from fang and claw. We see that there is danger always, accident often, but without the fondness there would be greater danger and more frequent accident. A fondness for lions and tigers gives sympathy for them, and understanding gives mastery of them, or as much mastery as possible. What but this fondness would keep a tamer constantly with his animals, not only in the public show (the easiest part), but in the dens, in the treacherous runways, in the strange night hours, in the early morning romp, when no one is looking, when there is no reason for being with them except the tamer's own joy in it?

I do not purpose to present in detail the methods of taming wild beasts, rather what happens after they are tamed; but I may say that a lion tamer always begins by spending weeks or months in gaining a new animal's confidence.

Day after day he will stand for a long time outside the cage, merely looking at the lion, talking to him, impressing upon the beast a general familiarity with his voice and person. And each time, as he goes away, he is careful to toss a piece of meat as a pleasant memento of his visit.

Later he ventures inside the bars, carrying some simple weapon—a whip, a rod, perhaps a broom, which is more formidable than might be supposed, through the jab of its sharp bristles. One tamer used a common chair with much success against unbroken lions. If the creature came at him, there were the four legs in his face, and soon the chair came to represent boundless power to that ignorant lion. He feared it and hated it, as was seen on one occasion when the tamer left it in the cage and the lion promptly tore it into splinters.

Days may pass before the lion will let his tamer do more than merely stay inside the cage at a distance. Very well; the tamer stays there. He waits hour after hour, week after week, until a time comes when the lion will let him move nearer, will permit the touch of his hand, will come forward for a piece of meat, and at last treat him like a friend, so that finally he may sit there quite at ease and even read his newspaper, as one man did.

Lastly begins the practice of tricks. The lion must spring to a pedestal and be fed, he must jump from one pedestal to another and be fed, must keep a certain pose and be fed. A bit of meat is always the final argument, and the tamer wins (if he wins at all, for he sometimes fails) by patience and kindness.

"There is no use getting angry with a lion," said a well known tamer to me, "and there is no use in carrying a revolver. If you shoot a lion or injure him with any weapon, it is your loss, for you must buy another lion, and the chances are that he will kill you anyway, if he starts to do it. The thing is to keep him from starting."—Cleveland Moffett in St. Nicholas.

Special Business.

When I arrived at Black Rock, I inquired at the village tavern for a man of the name of Wharton, who had some land to sell.

"Do you mean old Bill Wharton?"

"Yes."

"Got land down on Bass river?"

"Yes."

"Well, he lives about three miles out of town."

"Can I get a horse?"

"Yes, but it won't do you any good."

"Is he ill?"

"Not that I know of, but he wouldn't see the president of the United States before next Wednesday. If you can wait seven or eight days, you can get to talk about that land with him."

"Then he has some special business on hand?"

"Special business? Well, I should say so and no mistake. Today him and old Pete Davis sat down to a game of checkers for the championship of the county."—Philadelphia Times.

STARVATION PROLONGED.

In the Case of Snakes It Is a Process That Requires Much Time.

Few persons have a partiality for snakes, but it does seem a cruel thing to deliberately starve two inoffensive reptiles to death before putting them in a jar of alcohol for preservation as specimens. This was and probably is being done at a room in the Smithsonian Institution by a scientist who calmly conducted his classification unheeding the frightful suffering close beside him. The visitor to the professor's room was engaged in watching an assistant drawing a Cuban boa constrictor, which he did from the life, or rather the death, the defunct reptile being hoisted out of its jar every now and then by means of a huge pair of pliers and accurately scaled with a pair of compasses. All around, upon shelves, tables and floor, were jars, large and small, containing a vast variety of snakes, frogs, lizards, etc., all rendered long since harmless.

A faint rustling sound, however, became at length so distinctly audible that the fear of a specimen having, by some means or other, broken loose became almost inevitable. The assistant, being questioned, merely pointed to a wooden box with a screen top which had hitherto escaped the visitor's notice and which, being more closely examined, was found to contain two adders. They had been caught not far from the District and had occupied their present quarters ever since last summer without food and water. The immense vitality of snakes, which enables them to go without food for several months, is accountable for their holding out so long; but it must also be remembered that the sufferings of starvation are increased in proportion with this same amount of vital force in the victim.

One of the adders was shedding its skin, the dry, flaky, colorless substance, as it peeled off, revealing a beautifully marked undersurface. Somewhat to the astonishment of the spectator the assistant quietly opened the lid of the box and assisted the snake in its shedding process by taking hold of the portion already off and pulling it with as much unconcern as though it were a glove on his hand. The adder did not attempt to bite, nor did it seem at all disposed to resist the attentions of the professor's assistant. Left to itself, it continued to unburden itself of its old clothing, as it were, and to reveal the gorgeous raiment with which nature had provided it. The snake in shedding its old skin is popularly supposed to crawl through a narrow opening or rub itself against some rough surface, as the bark of a tree. That it can, however, dispense with any such assistance with little or no inconvenience was sufficiently demonstrated by the adder in question accomplishing the end very efficiently by muscular action alone. The movement of the ribs, by which the snake progresses, peels the old skin off, the entire process lasting, in the case of a snake three feet long, about three-quarters of an hour.

A few pebbles in the box and a tin water can which was well nigh eaten by rust from disuse were eagerly examined every now and then by the starving creature in search of food, while its companion, a small gray adder, had evidently long since given it up as a bad job and had coiled itself up in a corner, apparently lifeless.

It may be remarked, generally, that the serpent, ever since the garden of Eden episode, has been a much maligned animal. So far from wishing to intrude in human affairs, it has ever sedulously sought to avoid mankind, and it seldom strikes unless first attacked, except for food. It is a fact that among the present large number of snakes in the zoological park only one, a king snake, has been taught to dispense with live food. Yet it is a well known fact that snakes can be educated to feed exclusively upon the meat of animals that have already been killed. The fact that they prefer and apparently require live animals arises from the habit acquired by them in a state of nature, where they, of course, could procure no other kind of food.—Washington Times.

Brazilian Birthday Cards.

"A peculiar feature of the Brazilian newspapers is found in the birthday cards printed in their columns," says a correspondent of the Chicago Record. "They are oftentimes extravagant in language, especially when the poetical nature of a swain gets the upper hand. Birthday festivities are always celebrated in Brazil, the public officials receiving a deluge of good wishes on this auspicious day each year. The birthday cards in the newspapers are something like these as a rule:

"Felicitations. Hail the 8th of December, 1900! At the break of day was gathered one more beautiful bouquet of violets from the garden of the precious existence of Senorita Zulmira Rainho. For this glorious date many compliments from one who esteems her."

"Hail 8-12-1900! At the dawn of a beautiful morning, (this seems to have gone wrong some way, for it was raining torrents) the little birds fill the sky with their sweet singing and the angels beck themselves with flowers in their precious couches to felicitate the natal day of the distinguished business man, Antonio F. Villas Boas. I pray God you may have a brilliant future and a life of roses. Always yours." (Signed by his sweetheart.)

"Hail Dec. 8, 1900! It is not possible that we pass a date so glorious as today, in which our hearts transcend the happiness coming with the morning to collect one more love knot of violets in the garden of the precious existence of our good father."

On this date we offer felicitations and wishes to the highest that he may have many years of life. His Sons."

"Hail, 17-12-7000! There is collected today one more radish in the little kitchen garden of the esteemed master painter, John Ferreira da Silva. For this happy day the compliments of his friends, etc. These cards are published by the column in the editions of the various morning papers."

Title of Prince of Wales.

There is no truth in the announcement of an imaginative daily paper that the title of Prince of Wales is to be dropped for an indefinite period. The Duke of Cornwall and York will be created Prince of Wales as soon as certain formalities have been completed. The present king was not gazetted Prince of Wales until a month after his birth, and the Duke of Cornwall and York will require to have new armorial bearings drawn out. This will probably be done by the earl marshal's officials after an order has been received from the home secretary, unless the king grants the new coat of arms to his son by warrant.—London Truth.

SPECIAL DAYS

AT THE

PAN-AMERICAN

THE week beginning Sept. 15 will be Lumbermen's week at the Pan-American Exposition. Thousands of wholesale and retail dealers in lumber from all parts of the United States and Canada will be at the great New World's Fair, and they promise to make the week a memorable one.

One of the organizations which will be well represented is the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo, which has a membership of upward of 8,000.

The annual meeting of the Hoo-Hoo will be held at Norfolk, Va., from Sept. 9 to 13, and the delegates will go direct from the Southern city to the Exposition.

The Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo is essentially a lumbermen's order, being composed of lumbermen, timbermen, saw and planing mill machinery manufacturers, newspaper men and railroad men, being those engaged in the lumber trade and those allied industries which are so closely interwoven with the conduct of the lumber business as to make them practically a part thereof.

Mexico Day, Sept. 16.

Exceptional ceremonies are being planned for Mexico day, Monday, Sept. 16, at the Pan-American Exposition. Dr. Aspiroz, the Mexican ambassador to the United States, will be there and will speak. In addition, it is proposed to have a famous and eloquent statesman and orator from Mexico make the address of the day. An effort is being made to secure the attendance of Chief Justice Justo Sierra of the Supreme Court of Mexico. It is proposed to bring the famous Mexican Artillery Band to the Exposition for the day. The Mexican commissioners to the Exposition are deeply interested and will strive earnestly to make their republic's special day a memorable one.

Illinois Day, Sept. 16.

Among other prominent speakers at the Pan-American Exposition on Illinois day, which will be Sept. 16, will be Secretary Lyman J. Gage, Senators Shelby M. Cullom and W. E. Mason, Comptroller of the Currency Charles G. Dawes, in addition to Governor Richard Yates. The First Regiment of Chicago will be in attendance, and the social features of the occasion will not be slighted. An informal hop at one of the large hotels in Buffalo being included in the plans.

Grand Army Veterans' Day, Sept. 17.

G. A. R. day at the Pan-American Exposition, Tuesday, Sept. 17, will be one of the truly great days of the season. It follows closely the national encampment, which is to be held at Cleveland, and many thousands of veterans and their families will embrace the opportunity of viewing the wonderful sights at the great New World's Fair. An elaborate programme appropriate to the occasion will be carried out. Numerous special features will be provided in honor of the visit of the veterans. Among the bands which will be at the Exposition on G. A. R. day are Brooke's Marine Band of Chicago, Nineteenth Regiment Band of St. Catharines, Ladies' Military Band of Boston and the John C. Weber Military Band of Cincinnati. Band concerts will be given forenoon, afternoon and evening. There will be a free organ recital by Seth C. Clarke of Buffalo in the Temple of Music in the afternoon. In the evening there will be one of the most magnificent displays of Pain's fireworks ever seen. The day will be one long to be remembered.

New York State Day, Sept. 18.

New York State day at the Pan-American is Sept. 18, and an effort will be made to eclipse all previous records for attendances on that day. Low railroad rates will be obtained from all parts of the State, and there will be a large gathering of public men, politicians, orators and distinguished citizens, besides members of the National Guard. The principal orator of the day will be the Hon. St. Clair McKelway, editor of the Brooklyn Eagle and one of the most brilliant orators of the State. It is expected that the guests of the day will include Senator Thomas C. Platt, Senator Chauncey M. Depew, Governor B. B. Odell and staff and the Adjutant General of the State, General George F. Roe. There will be a big military display, including probably all the National Guard regiments and companies of Western New York.

Welsh Day and Elsteddod, Sept. 19.

The Elsteddod at the Pan-American Exposition on Sept. 19, which has been designated as Welsh day, will be a very important musical event. The leading Welsh soloists and choirs will compete for prizes aggregating \$1,000. The sons and daughters of Wales in this country are deeply interested in Welsh day and the Elsteddod, and many thousands will visit the Exposition for the festivities. The Elsteddod will be held in the magnificent Temple of Music of the Exposition, which contains the finest pipe organ in America.

The Welsh are pre-eminently musical vocally, and they are second to no other people for choral singing. Within easy radius of Buffalo there are thousands of Welsh singers. Half a dozen fine choirs will be organized to take part in the contests. This will furnish also a rare opportunity and stimulus to the Welsh choral community to show the people of all America what they can perform in the line of choral music. The chief competition will be "God So Loved the World" (Sir J.

Stainer) and "We Never Will Bow Down" (Handel), \$400; also male chorus contest, "Song of the Pilgrim" (Morris), and a female chorus contest "Lullaby" (Brahms) and "Bridal of the Birds" (Brinley Richards). The following will be the adjudicators: William Appadoc, Chicago; Edward Broome, Montreal, Canada; John Lund of Buffalo, N. Y. The presidents of the day will be Rev. D. Rhoslyn Davies of Allegheny, Pa.; Hon. Ellis H. Roberts of Washington, D. C., and General Thomas L. James of New York. The leader of each winning choir will receive a silver loving cup.

St. Catharines Day, Sept. 20.

St. Catharines is an enterprising and progressive city in the province of Ontario, Canada, which has a splendid display of its natural and industrial resources at the Pan-American Exposition. The wide awake citizens have planned a special day for their city at the Exposition, and they promise to make it one of the most entertaining and liveliest of days. Friday, Sept. 20, has been designated as St. Catharines day. An excellent programme is being prepared.

Pennsylvania Day, Sept. 20.

Pennsylvania is represented with a State building and a comprehensive exhibit of the great resources of the State at the Pan-American Exposition, and great numbers of her people have visited the great show. A special day for Pennsylvania has been set aside, Friday, Sept. 20. Arrangements are being made for a grand observance of the day. There will be special excursions, starting from all important points in the State, and the indications are that many thousands will patronize them. A programme of exercises, in which the most distinguished statesmen and business men of the commonwealth will participate, is now being prepared by the State's commissioners to the Exposition.

Trained Nurses' Day, Sept. 21.

Trained nurses from all parts of the United States and Canada will gather at the Pan-American Exposition on Saturday, Sept. 21, which has been designated as Trained Nurses' day. During the week beginning Sept. 16 the International Congress of Nurses will be held in Buffalo.

The American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses will hold its annual meeting Sept. 16 and 17. This society is composed of the superintendents of all the large nurse training schools of the United States and Canada.

The Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States, which has now about 3,000 members, also holds its annual meeting the same days.

The International Council of Nurses, a branch of the International Council of Women, and composed of the leading women of the profession throughout the world, will hold a business session on the 16th. This council has called an International Congress, which will be in session for three days, Sept. 18, 19 and 20. The Order of Spanish-American War Nurses will hold its annual meeting that week, probably on Tuesday. These meetings will all be held in the Women's Union.

On Saturday, the 22d, a mass meeting of all these organizations will be held in the Temple of Music of the Exposition. Many of the old army nurses of the Civil War are expected to be present. The Surgeon General of the United States Army has appointed a delegate to represent the Army Nurse Corps. The Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada will also send representatives and all the nurses' clubs and alumnae societies of this country and Europe.

Oregon Day, Sept. 25.

In Oregon everything that happens is on a big scale. Evidence of this is seen in the exhibition buildings of the Pan-American Exposition. The State's exhibit is one of the most complete and interesting at the New World's Fair. All who view it pronounce it highly creditable to the productive and progressive State. The plans for Oregon day at the Exposition are on a scale characteristic of the State. The chief officers of the State, representatives in the National Legislature and other prominent organizations will participate in the exercises. Sept. 25 is the day set aside for Oregon day.

Cleveland Day, Sept. 26.

The enterprising city of Cleveland will have a holiday on Thursday, Sept. 26, which has been designated as Cleveland day, at the Pan-American Exposition. Arrangements will be made for low rate excursions both by rail and water, and many thousands of the Forest City's citizens are expected to make the trip to the Exposition, where a programme of exercises appropriate to the occasion will be carried out. The Mayor and other city officials will deliver addresses. Distinguished Ohio statesmen will be invited to participate in the exercises. The arrangements for the event are in the hands of committees composed of Cleveland's most prominent and influential men, and success is assured.

Nebraska Day, Oct. 3.

Nebraska has a fine exhibit of its products at the Pan-American Exposition, and the State is to further distinguish itself by the observance of a special day at the Exposition. Oct. 3 will be Nebraska day, and a programme in which the most distinguished men and women of the State will take part is being arranged.

WHAT IT COSTS IN MONEY.

Probable Expenses of a Visit to the Pan-American.

Naturally most people who contemplate visiting the Pan-American Exposition desire to know what it will cost. I am going to assume that every one can learn the cost of a round trip ticket to Buffalo good for 15 to 30 days. I would advise every one to prepare for at least a two weeks' trip. Those who come on short limit tickets generally regret that they cannot stay longer to enjoy more fully this rare opportunity for pleasure and study, for I am safe in saying that never before has there been such an opportunity for the pleasure seeker or such a magnificent school of progress for those who wish to study what the world is doing in all lines of effort. No one who can possibly raise the money to visit the Exposition should for a moment think of denying himself this signal advantage.

The people of Buffalo have made ample preparation for the entertainment of all who come to the Exposition. In addition to the large number of hotels, where the rates are moderate, the private houses have been very generally thrown open for the entertainment of guests. Visitors may find comfortable accommodations as low as 50 cents a night for lodging, while better accommodations close to the Exposition can be secured for 75 cents and \$1 per night. Breakfasts are served by many of the householders at 25 cents to 50 cents, and there is an abundance of good restaurants where meals can be had at very moderate figures. The cost of living in Buffalo should not exceed \$2 or \$2.50 per day for those who want the best. The admission to the Exposition is 50 cents. This includes admission to all the exhibit buildings and to all parts of the grounds, including the Stadium, where the athletic games and races, parades of live stock and vehicles take place. The Midway also is free, except where one chooses to enter the concessions. There are some 50 shows, ranging in price from 10 cents to 50 cents, all of them of unusual merit.

MARK BENNETT.

Brooklyn Day, Oct. 8.

Brooklyn will have a special day at the Pan-American Exposition, and Oct. 8 is the date selected. The committee on plan and scope, appointed by the president of the borough, is composed of prominent and influential officials, business men and manufacturers, and its work is being done with energy and enthusiasm. There will be a big popular excursion to the Exposition, where exercises appropriate to the occasion will be held. Dr. St. Clair McKelway, editor of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and other distinguished men will deliver addresses.

New York Federation of Women's Clubs.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, has been set aside as special day for the New York Federation of Women at the Pan-American Exposition. The annual convention of the Federation will be held in Buffalo Oct. 8, 9 and 10. Usually at the annual meeting several entertainments are given in the evening, but this year the entertainments will be limited to two, an opening reception given by the Women's Union and a closing reception to the Federation given by Mrs. Hamlin, president of the Women's Board of Managers of the Pan-American Exposition. The programme also contains but few subjects this year, the idea being to give more discussion to each subject and leisure to see the Exposition and to render the sessions less fatiguing than they were wont to be with many subjects.

National Grange Day, Oct. 10.

Excursions from all the important agricultural centers are being arranged for National Grange day at the Pan-American Exposition, Thursday, Oct. 10, and great crowds of visitors are assured for the special day. The different State granges will co-operate with the national body to make the day brilliantly successful. A programme of exercises appropriate to the occasion will be prepared. There is a handsome and commodious Grange building at the Exposition, and it will be used as headquarters and information bureau for the visiting Grangers. The agricultural and dairy exhibits at the Exposition are complete and of surpassing interest to agriculturists and dairymen. The United States Government agricultural exhibit is the most comprehensive ever made.

Atlantic City Day, Oct. 11.

Friday, Oct. 11, has been designated as Atlantic City day at the Pan-American Exposition. Prominent citizens of Atlantic City have interested themselves in the matter, and they propose to make their day one of the most important of the Exposition special days. The Associate Committee of Atlantic City Fraternals is doing excellent work in this direction. Owing to the fact that Atlantic City is a very popular resort, attracting many thousands of visitors daily, the committees having in charge the work of booming Atlantic City day at the Exposition will have an unusually good opportunity to advertise the event.

Bottlers' Day, Oct. 18.

Bottling of popular beverages has come to be an extensive and thriving industry. There are numerous large establishments in this country, giving employment to many thousands of persons. Several important associations have been formed among the employers and employees. It has been decided to have this year a gathering of those connected with the industry. This will be at the Pan-American Exposition on Oct. 18. The great attraction of the New World's Fair will serve to make the gathering a large one.

A KNOT AND A STRING.

An Absentminded Man and an Equally Absentminded Woman.

They were seated very near one another on a sofa and had got past the stage of small talk, seeming content to baffle each other, saying no word. The weather was very warm indeed, and the man reached in his pocket for his handkerchief in order to wipe his brow.

As he pulled the handkerchief out the girl noticed that it had a large knot tied in one of its corners.

"You absentminded man!" she said suddenly. "What is the meaning of that knot in your handkerchief?"

He flushed hotly. "I don't think I ought to tell you," said he. "It might be fatal."

"You foolish thing, Charlie! I don't care if you did forget to bring me that picture you promised me last time you were here. Confess, sir. 'Twere better for you."

"No," he replied. "It wasn't for the picture. I forgot to tie the knot in for that. It was something else."

"I insist on knowing," said she. "Was it something about that Miss—oh, what's her name?"

"You know Lucile Edgerton's name very well. It was not with reference to Miss Edgerton nor to Miss Heighley either."

"Well, what was it, then, stupid? You probably have forgotten what your memory knot is about. Now, haven't you?"

"No, I haven't."

"Well?"

"Confound it, Gladys, I don't want to tell."

"Charles Henry Gueph, proceed."

"Well, well—Oh, darn it, it was to remind me to propose to you tonight!"

"And you forgot?" she said, with a twinkle in her eyes and a suspicion of a dimple.

"No-o-o," he faltered. "Oh, no." Just then he caught sight of a bit of tiny ribbon on her first finger—delicate blue ribbon. "What is that ribbon on your finger?" said he, with no special sequence.

"Stupid, that was to remind me to accept you, dear."

The only sequel to this is the explanation that the man had not brought home a bundle of important papers from the office and that the girl had forgotten to order the fruit for breakfast; but, still, these were mere details.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

TIPS TO THE COOK.

A cracked egg will boil perfectly well if wrapped in greased paper tied with a string and put into boiling water.

When boiling fish, add an onion to the water and sweet herbs tied in a piece of muslin. This is a French cook's suggestion and very tasty.

A new idea in serving poached eggs is to pour browned butter over the tops, before putting the eggs on it and then sprinkling the whole with finely chopped pickle.

The Italian way of serving salmon is to place the boiled fish on a platter bordered with macaroni. Over this pour tomato sauce, and sprinkle grated cheese over the whole.

The yolk of a hard boiled egg mixed with cheese and beaten to a soft paste makes an appetizing filling for sandwiches to be served at Sunday or mid night suppers.

To make successful gravies only just enough fat to take up a heaping tablespoonful of flour should be reserved. The rest should be poured off. Add the flour to the hot fat without stirring first if cold water. The starch cells burst most speedily in this way.

A nice way to use up remnants of meat is to scramble it. Chop it, and to mix it up with two tablespoonfuls of broth or hot water. Add a piece of butter the size of a small egg and beat in three eggs, stir till cooked, the season with salt and pepper.

Two Japanese Festivals.

In Japan the little girls hold high festival on March 3 every year and the boys on May 5. On the girls' day the old shops of Tokyo, Kyoto and other cities are gayly decked out with what is called "O Hina Sama"—tiny models of people and things, and the whole Japanese court in miniature.

On the boys' day, which is sacred to Hachiman, the god of war, all the boys are decorated with gigantic paper carp floating in the air from poles, after a manner of flags—one carp for every child that has been born to the family during the last twelve months.

This display signifies that as the carp swims up the river against the current so will the sturdy boy overcome all obstacles, rising to fame and fortune.

Settled Her Doubts.

At a certain fete in the north of England there was a captive balloon who on payment of a shilling, you could get and have a view of the surrounding country.

Nervous Lady (about to enter car of balloon, to attendant)—I say, my man, there any danger of this balloon being?

Irish Attendant—Rist aisy, ma Don't you see it's fastened wid a ca and should it burst we could easily be you down.

Nervous lady steps into the car of satisfied.

The Suffering Congregation.

Deacon—Parson, do you think it was for a preacher to steal his sermons?

Parson—Certainly I do.

Deacon—I think you are too particular, parson, too particular.—New York Herald.

Mushrooms are said to contain no nourishment than any other vegetable substance.

The Canadian Seacoast.

The eastern Canadian seacoast, from the bay of Fundy to the strait of Belle Isle, covers a distance of 5,000 miles, British Columbia, with its multitude of bays and mountainous islands, has a coast of 7,180 miles and a salt water shore area, not including minor indentations, of 1,500 square miles.

Not Positive.

"I want a positive answer, Miss Jo. Will you marry me?"

"No!"

"That's hardly fair. I asked for a positive answer, and you have given a negative."—Philadelphia Ledger.

There is one thing about college degrees—no matter how many are bestowed, they are just as many left.—Boston Herald.