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IF ALL BORN LIVED.

Rate of Reproduction Would Stagger Imagination.

During the mouse plague in South Australia and Victoria in 1916-17 a farmer one night put down poisoned wheat, and in the morning 23,000 of the little pests lay dead round his house, says Tit-Bits! There was still greater slaughter in a certain wheat yard, where no fewer than 70,000 mice were killed in a single afternoon. In a short time, indeed, the slain were numbered by billions.

Now, if a slight disarrangement of the usual order of things could produce an stupendous an increase in a species, what would happen if for a brief period any organism multiplied absolutely unchecked?

We know as a historical fact that 12,000,000 black cattle on the Argentine pampas at the end of the eighteenth century—to say nothing of countless additional flocks in other parts of South America—were all descendants of a few pairs whivh Columbus left at San Domingo on his second voyage.

But this gives us merely a faint inkling of the potential rate of reproduction of a species.

Suppose that our rat population on January 1 was 40,000,000—a very moderate estimate—that the sexes were equally divided, and that fifty per cent. had no chance of multiplying. This leaves 10,000,000 pairs, and if only five per cent. of these should have had six litters of eight rats in each by the end of December (this is well within the bounds of possibility), we shall then have 41,000,000 pairs, or, in all, 82,000,000 rats.

Suppose, again, that a pair of elephants live for the normal term of their existence—a century—and that they bring forth and rear only six young, their descendants in 750 years might number nearly 19,000,000.

Look now at one of the smallest forms of life—the infusoria. Under the most favorable conditions a single specimen of these—an organism so tiny that it cannot be seen with the naked eye—will at a temperature of fifty degrees become two in twenty-four hours, and if the temperature be increased to eighty degrees the process of multiplication will be repeated five times in twenty-four hours. Now, if the rate continued for seven and a half days there would be a progeny of fifty-eight billions, weighing 230 pounds.

Glance next at the insect world. One fly of a certain species will produce 20,000 larvae, which attain maturity in five days. As each larvae remains in a pupal state for five days, every parent fly increases ten thousand fold in two weeks at the outside. So that during a short summer of three months its family may total one hundred millions of millions.

Fish, shell and others, will furnish a further illustration. A healthy, vigorous specimen of our dear—very dear—old friend, the oyster, will produce sixteen million eggs, and its grown-up family may easily number half a million.

Assuming, however, that a female produced sixteen million eggs which developed into oysters, and that these lived the allotted span (whatever that may be in the case of oysters), and then died, each leaving in turn a family of sixteen millions, how many would there be in the fifth generation That is an easy one. The number would be (taking one-half of each generation as females) exactly 66,000,000,000,000,000,000.

And what about the shells which the departed would leave behind them as their only memorials? Well, according to Prof. Marshall, they would make a pile eight times as large as the earth.

So, again of many common varieties of the finny race—cod, herring, etc. Such denizens of the deep will produce at least one million eggs, and a pair will have a progeny of many millions.

If all of these developed, and each had the average family, the sea would in a very short time become a solid mass of fish, and from it every other form of life would be excluded.

Any organism, indeed, if it increased at this natuarl rate without let or hindrance, would in a short period cover the whole surface of the globe. So that if nature had her fling in a particular direction there would be only one form of life, and that form would be all-powerful.

Miller's Worm Powders will eradicate the worm evil that bears so heavily on children and is believed to cause many fatalities. They are an acceptable medicine to children and can be fully relied upon to clear the foot channels throughly of these destructive parasites and restore the inflamed and painful surfaces to healthfulness. They are an excellent remedy for these evils.

PYTHON AT LARGE.

Lively Time On British Gunboat When It Broke Out.

The crew of a British gunboat in Eastern waters once had a lively time looking after a python on board that had escaped from its cage.

Besides the python there was on board a big Borneo orang-outang. The python, which was nineteen or twenty feet long, having dined heartily on a deer about three weeks before, began to feel its appetite returning and in searching about its box for a place of egress, found one side in bad repair. It did not take long for that python to come through the weak part, and, quite unobtrusively, it began its perambulations around the boat.

Seeing the orang-outang chained up up a few yards off the big snake invited itself to a dinner very much to its taste. It would have been all over with the orang-outang had not the quartermaster at that moment made the discovery that the two pets were about to be merged into one. He promptly cut the orang-outang loose.

The latter was up the masthead before any mischief could be done and a lieutenant, the owner of the orang-outang, the quartermaster and a member of the crew flung themselves upon the hungry python—one at the head, another at the tail and a third in the middle.

Then the excitement began, for the python wanted to get one of the aggressors nicely in its coils, and the men were determined that it should be kept out in something as nearly approaching a straight line as possible.

Reinforcements, however, arrived in hot haste and about twenty bluejackets, each embracing a foot of python, reduced the reptile to comparative quiet. This procession marched back to the python's box, coiled the creature inside and shut it up. But the orang-outang sat aloft in the masthead a long time before he came to the conclusion hat he was not the menu for the day.

A Remedy for Earache.—To have the earache is to endure torture. The ear is a delicate organ and few care to deal with it, considering it work for a doctor. Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil offers a simple remedy. A few drops upon a piece of lint or medicated cotton and placed in the ear will work wonders in relieving pain.

SHARP-TONGUED JUDGES.

Just a Few Anecdotes of the British Bench.

Innocent but inexperienced litigants who have gone through tortures in the law courts sometimes derive a little consolation for their woes, says Answers. When, for instance, their newspaper chronicles epithets like "bad summing up" and "palpable misdirection," fired out recently by Mr. Justice Darling as he quashed a sentence passed by Judge Rentoul at the Old Bailey, London, England.

"My learned brother" is the term invariably used by high court judges when referring to one another. Legal brethren, like blood brethren, sometimes fall out. Having been trained in a profession which sharpens the tongue, cutting remarks then ensue, much to the enjoyment of the general public.

Lord Justice Bowen, a famous wit of Victorian days, proved a constant source of terror to his colleagues in the court of appeal, where three judges usually sit on the bench together.

After heading a painfully long appeal case, the presiding judge delivered a brief judgment, concluding with the words: "I consider the verdict should be quashed." "I agree," said the next judge. Bowen promptly snapped out: "And I agree too." "But I have not given my reasons!" indignantly exclaimed the judge he had interrupted and thereupon took half an hour to give them. When he had finished, Bowen said: "I still agree." Then he stalked out of the court, leaving his sarcasm to make its impression.

This unhappy judge was chosen to draft an address from himself and his colleagues, congratulating Queen Victoria on her first jubilee. Bowen fastened on the sentence, "conscious as we are of our own unworthiness for the great office to which we have been called." "I think it would be better," he objected, "to say 'conscious as we are of one another's unworthiness.'"

Although Scotland has its own system of laws, differing widely in many cases from the laws of England, the House of Lords serves as the final court of appeal for both countries. This arrangement is deeply resented by certain fervid members of the Scottish bench.

Lord Young, who recently died after nearly thirty years' service as judge as the Edinburgh court of session, used to be fond of expressing his contempt for the House of Lords as a legal tribunal. When told that the Lords had, on appeal, confirmed one of his judgment, his comment was, "It may be right, for all that."

At a dinner given by the Benchers of the Middle Temple, Lord Halsburg tried to make himself agreeable to Lord Young by praising the Advocates' library at Edinburgh. "It is the best law library in the United Kingdom," he said. "Unfortunately we have nothing approaching it at the House of Lords." "That accounts for some of your decisions," was the prompt reply

One of Judge Rentoul's predecessors at the Old Bailey, Judge Arabin, was even more severely slanged than the former judge by his legal brethren. The specimens of his judicial utterances, preserved in our legal records, show that Arabin deserved all he got.

"What can we think of a judge," exclaimed a Lord of Appeal, "who tells an elderly prisoner that it is in his power to sentence him for a period very considerably beyond the term of his natural life, but that he will mercifully impose a sentence of fourteen years instead?"

Another of Arabin's judgments, quoted in the court of appeal, contains a still greater absurdity. He told the prisoner: "There are mitigating circumstances that induce me to give you a chance of redeeming a character that you have irretrievably lost."

The neatest thrust ever delivered at the bench came from a barrister, the victim being Sir Arthur Kekewich, who was notorious for having his judgments reversed in the court of appeal. To show that he was compelled to decide against a trustee in a case before him, the judge said: "I am myself a trustee. If ever I committed such acts I should be compelled, if they were brought to my notice in court, to give judgment against myself." remarked counsel for the trustee.

A Safe Pill for Sufferers—There are pills that violently purge and fill the stamach and intestines with pain Parmelee's Vegetable Pills are mild and effective. They are purely vegetable,, no mineral purgative entering into their composition and their effect is soothing and beneficial. Try them and be convinced. Thousands can attest their great curative qualities because thousands owe their health and strength to timely use of this most excellent medicine.

Some Snakes are Useful

"Some snakes may be very useful about a farm, and western farmers are beginning to evince interest in the propagation of a large plains reptile—the bull snake."

Authority for this statement, contained in a bulletin of the National Geographic society, is Raymond L. Ditmars, who recently returned with his family from a curious vacation he spent in the Georgia swamps, where his daughter captured the most deadly reptile known to that region.

Mr. Ditmars became curator of reptiles of New York zoo because his hobby was collecting snakes instead of postage stamps or heathen idols. His collection grew too large and perhaps too dangerous, for his uptown apartment and offered them to the zoo. But the director would not even let them into the zoo until Mr. Ditmars consented to be their caretaker.

Not that Mr. Ditmars has any illusions about the dangers of snakes. He says, in a communication to the society:

"A great proportion of snakes has become highly specialized. It is among these creatures that we find the most extraordinary and deadly weapons for the purpose of killing the prey that are possessed by any of the vertebrates.

"Popular interest is always strong regarding serpents of great size. All of the very large serpents are members of a single family, the Bodiae. None is poisonous, and the members of this family kill by constriction—squeezing it to death.

"The largest known serpent occurs in the Malay peninsulua, Java, Borneo and Sumatra. This is the regal or reticuled python. It attains a length of 30 feet. Second in size is the Indian python, inhabitating the Indian peninsula, Indo-China, the Malay peninsula and Java. This constrictor grows to be 25 feet long and is very abundant.

HAVE ECONOMIC VALUE.

"Throughout the temperate and tropical regions of the globe are species of serpents of high economic value. These are mostly the members of the largest family of snakes, the Colubridae. The greater number of the non-venomous serpents belong to this family. Our familiar black snake and king snake are members of this family. In some parts of the world the rodent-eating species are protected by law. Distributed throughout India is a large and active species known as the rat snake. Its useful habits are recognized in many areas. This is likewise the case with a closely related species found throughout tropical America. The creole French call the latter cribo, and in the costal regions, where the bubonic plague has appeared, there is a fine imposed for the killing of rat-eating snakes.

"Queerly enough we find some of the deadliest known serpents belonging to the same family as the non-venomous species. The Indian Ocean and the waters of the tropical Pacific are inhabited by a great number of wholly aquatic, veritable sea serpents that possess deadly fangs and sometimes swim in schools of countless thousands. These snakes have a paddle-like tail to assist them in swimming.

"Another offshoot is the subfamily containing the formidable cobras and their allies. The members of this important subfamily are treacherously deceptive in appearance. Here we have an admirable illustration of how incorrect it is to believe a poisonous snake may be told by the possession of a heart-shaped head. A number of the most deadly known snakes belonging to this subfamily.

"Most spectacular of the elapine serpents are the cobras, or 'hooded' snakes. The genus Naja, of India, Malaysia and Africa, contains 10 of these reptiles, of which the most conspicuous is the Indian or spectacled cobra. Members of several allied genera rear the body from the ground and spread the peck in similar fashion.

SPIT POISON AT INTRUDERS.

"Some of the African cobras display a dangerous habit of spitting poison at the intruder. The ringals, genus Sepedon, of Southern Africa, is a pitchy black, exceedingly vicious cobra that receives its name from one or two broad white bands that show on the neck when the snake is reared in fighting pose. As the snake arches its neck to glare at he intruder, it is liable to eject fine jets of poison for a distance of six to eight feet. These deadly streams are dangerously well aimed.

"The Indian cobras seldom eject their venom in this way. They are the most spectacular in their group, owing to the vivid markings on the 'hood.' With some specimens these appear like grinning deaths-head. Thes are much sought by the Hindu for his snake-'charming' exhibition.

'In strong contrast to the graceful elapine poisonous snakes, the members of the viper family are thick-bodied and forbidding in appearance. Africa is the home of the typical vipers, and a number of these snakes inhabitating that continent are the most hideously ugly reptiles in existence.

"The gaboon viper ranges over the whole of tropical Africa. The body is exceedingly thick, stub-tailed, with a huge spade-shaped head. Instead of progressing in ordinary fashion, this reptile throws forward lateral loops of the body and moves along in an oblique direction to that in which the head is pointing. A captive specimen displayed the trait of striking backwards."

A Kidney Remedy

Kidney troubles are frequently caused by badly digested food which overtakes these organs to eliminate the irritant acids formed. Help your stomach to properly digest the food by taking 15 to 30 drops of Extract of Roots, sold as Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and your kidney disorder will promptly disappear. Get the genuine. 7

Exhausted from Asthma. Many who read these words know the terrible drain upon health and strength, which comes in the train of asthmatic troubles. Many do not realize, however, that there is one true remedy which will surely stop this drain. Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy is a wonderful check to this enervating ailment. It has a countless record of relief to its credit. It is said almost everywhere.

NEW STANDARDS.

Suitor—Please, I'd like to marry your daughter.

Father—But can you support her in the manner in which her favorite screen heroine is accustomed to live?

WOMEN OF MIDDLE AGE

Need Help to Pass the Crisis Safely—Proof that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Can be Relied Upon.

Urbana, Ill.—"During Change of Life, in addition to its annoying symptoms, I had an attack of grippe which lasted all winter and left me in a weakened condition. I felt at times that I would never be well again. I read of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and what it did for women passing through the Change of Life, so I told my doctor I would try it. I soon began to gain in strength and the annoying symptoms disappeared and your Vegetable Compound has made me a well, strong woman so I do all my own housework. I cannot recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound too highly to women passing through the Change of Life."—Mrs. Frank Henson, 1316 S. Orchade St., Urbana, Ill.

Women who suffer from nervousness, "heat flashes," backache, headaches and "the blues" should try this famous root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

BIRD HATES THE DARK

For many years the annual migration of the birds, although a perfectly familiar fact, was shrouded in mystery. Except in the case of a few birds like the robin, which winters not far south of its summer home, no one knew where the song birds or the shore birds went in the fall, or when they began their northward flight in the spring.

But the subject has been carefully and patiently studied by so many observers and naturalists that it is no longer impossible to answer these questions. The cliff swallows and blackpoll warblers spend their winters in tropical South America; the golden plover, which nests on the Arctic Sea, winter 8,000 miles away in the Argentine; the scarlet tanager is to be found in December and January in Ecuador and Peru, and the bobolink in southern Brazil.

For a long time it was thought that the golden plover bore off the palm for length of flight between summer and winter homes, but now that distinction is awarded to the Arctic tern. The bird breeds as far north as it can find anything stable on which to construct its nest; it has been found within seven and a half degrees of the pole. And that nest was found surrounded by a wall of newly fallen snow which the mother bird had carefully scooped out from round her chick.

The tern arrives in the Far North about June 15, and leaves again for the south toward the end of August, when the young are able to fly strongly. Two or three months later the birds are found skirting the edge of the Antarctic continent, 11,000 miles away. What their track is over that vast space no one yet knows.

A few individuals are occasionally seen along the New England coast or Long Island coast in the fall, but the flocks of thousands and thousands of these gregarious birds which alternate from pole to pole have never been met by any trained observer competent to learn their preferred path and their time schedule. They must travel at least 150 miles a day—apart from their flights in search or pursuit of food—to carry them within ten or twelve weeks from one end of the world to the other.

The Arctic tern enjoy more hours of sunlight than any other creature on the globe. The sun never sets during its stay at the northern nesting grounds, and during the stay in the south it has two months of continuous sunlight and practical daylight for between six and eight months of the year.

Sweet and palatable, Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator is acceptable to children, and it does its work surely and promptly.

THE REASON.

Customer—I should like to know Why the potatoes at the bottom of the sack you sold me last week are so much smaller than those at the top.

Greengrocer—Well, mum, potatoes is growin' that fast now that by the time a sackful is dug the last ones is about twice the size of the first!—London Tit-Bits.

A MARATHON SOLO.

Miss Squallings—"Going so soon, Mr. Hardnut? I've been asked to sing "Till We Meet Again.'"

Mr. Hardnut—"If you do you'll be a long time at it."

There may be other corn cures, but Holloway's Corn Cure stands at the head of the list so far as results are concerned.

Wood's Phosphodine.
The Great English Remedy. Tones and invigorates the whole nervous system, makes new Blood in old Veins. *Cures Nervous Debility, Mental and Brain Worry, Despondency, Loss of Energy, Palpitation of the Heart, Failing Memory.* Price $1 per box, six for $5. Sold by all druggists or mailed in plain pkg. on receipt of price. *New pamphlet mailed free.* THE WOOD MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Windsor.)

Consumption of Teas Increases

Vancouver, Jan. 8.—In discussing the tea outlook for 1920, a prominent Vancouver tea importer brought out information that cannot fail to be useful to the trade in understanding the "why" of tea prices. "For one thing," he said, "we are not alone on this continent, or Europe, with our labor troubles. The various primary tea markets are in a state of labor unrest, which makes the growing and picking of tea uncertain. Labor is higher now than formerly.

INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA TEA DRINKING.

"Another thing that will have a great effect is the fact that India, with its millions, is beginning to drink tea. If this great mass of humanity ever gets the tea-drinking habit, there will be an added strain on the world's tea production. Then again, South Africa is consuming increasing quantities of tea. Tea is growing in popularity with the higher prices of everything else. It continues to be an economical beverage, when one pound will produce seven-and-a-half gallons of liquor.

CONSUMPTION IS INCREASING.

"The per capita consumption of tea in Canada and the States is increasing. Prohibition has not had anything to do with it. A man that wants whiskey will not take tea instead. The increased per capita consumption, especially in the States, is due to the number of United States soldiers who learned to drink tea when overseas.

"You would also be surprised to know that the States bordering the Persian Gulf are using increasing quantities of tea, and bid fair to become a large market for teas in the very near future. The presence of large numbers of British troops has undoubtedly given a great stimulus to the use of tea by these peoples. This will serve to give you an idea of what the future holds in the way of demands for tea.

CURTAILED SUPPLIES.

"When we turn to consider the supply, we find, generally speaking, that the tea gardens of the world have suffered during the war. With prices low, it was a very long-sighted and wealthy grower who could continue paying out wages for the constant attention that the tea shrub requires, when the return would not let him even break even. A few did it, but the majority had to do as the majority in any branch of merchandising would have to do, lay off help, and permit a portion of their gardens to go uncared for, or the whole to be half-looked- after. It is well known, that in the case of a tea shrub, neglect is suicidal. If the leaves are not plucked when they should be, the plant runs to wood very quickly, and the quality of the leaf drops below market standards. This neglect was general, to a serious degree, during the war; and, as it takes new shrubs six years to mature in the valleys and twelve on the highlands, it will be seen that, during the next year and more, some—either old or new tea drinkers—are going to be short—and it looks as if the rest of us cannot expect cheap tea."

You can get it anywhere

IMPERIAL Royalite Coal Oil is on sale by dealers throughout all Canada. No matter where you live, you can get Imperial Royalite quickly and easily. And you will buy it again and again when you get acquainted with its great merits. It is highest grade, thoroughly refined coal oil, and nothing but that.

Imperial Royalite meets every test that can be applied for power, heat and light. It is absolutely uniform and dependable. Equally efficient for oil heaters, oil cook stoves or lamps.

Imperial Royalite Coal Oil costs less than other oils and does give better service.

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