

DYNAMITE IN LETTERS

EVERYTHING FOUND IN UNCLE SAM'S MAIL.

Fluids, Pistols, Rattlesnakes, Alligators Among the Articles Forwarded by Dead Letter Museum in Washington.

If people will send explosives through the mails, as, for example, the infernal machine received at the Ganauge, Mich., post-office the other day, the Government knows of no way to prevent it. Of course, if they are shipped in unsealed packages, they can be examined and destroyed. Postmasters not infrequently come across queer-looking parcels. Per- across queer-looking parcels. Per- across queer-looking parcels. Per-

Of articles suspected to be explosive many are fluids. They are promptly disposed of, even innocent liquids being "unmailable" under the law. The postmaster, after destroying the contents of a parcel, forwards the wrapper to Washington, where it is placed on file for record. Thus, if inquired about, the fate of the inclosure can be determined.

However, no amount of suspicion would warrant a postoffice official in breaking the seal of a package on which letter rates are paid. It is absolutely sacred. Accordingly, the proper way to send explosives by mail is at full postage. Uncle Sam cannot prevent that, though every year large quantities of firecrackers and torpedoes shipped as fourth-class matter are seized, as well as numberless boxes of cartridges, percussion caps, etc.

A six-barreled revolver at full cock with every chamber loaded, once came into the Dead-Letter Office. It was addressed to a lady in Springfield, Ill., who could not be found. The dead-letter clerks are not astonished at anything. They have got beyond that.

In the packages they have found such things as rattlesnakes, centipedes, tarantulas, Gila monsters and alligators from Florida, all alive and squirming. They classify with composure such inclosures as petrified frogs, stuffed gophers, Toltec idols, gold nuggets, spirit photographs, skulls, Indian scalp and human ears.

A common occurrence is a bundle of old letters tied with a ribbon, usually containing a finger-ring and a last note saying: "I return herewith your letters; all is over between us." This excites no sentimental feelings on the part of the hardened postal employe. Rather will he pause for a second to tickle the horned toad found in the next parcel.

Once upon a time a girl sent by mail to a friend a peculiar moss-agate ring as a Christmas present. The gift never reached its destination. Three years later, while visiting another city, she stayed at a boarding-house. On the opposite side of the table at dinner she saw a man who wore his necktie through a ring. It was the missing moss-agate.

Among other things listed for the sale were razors, dark lanterns, packs of playing cards, poker dice, cigars, poker chips, stogies, hair-curlers, wire garters, pads, bunion plasters, trusses, dental forceps, electric belts, hypodermic syringes, abdominal supporters, dolls, artificial whiskers, coffin-plates and Hawaiian stamped envelopes. All of the things thus gathered at the Dead-Letter Office are kept for two years before being sold.

CAN MONKEYS TALK?

Garnier Says Apes Have a Language of Their Own.

M. Garnier, the Frenchman who has been investigating the ways of monkeys in their native wilds in Africa, says in an interview: "Can they talk?" is a query frequently submitted to me, and my answer is, "Yes, certainly," but there is an explanation I should make. A great many people fail to grasp the correct idea as to the conversation of these creatures. They do not, of course, utter human speech, nor has it ever been my purpose or expectation to teach them to use such language, but nevertheless they have a language which is just as much their own as our language is our own, and it is equally suited to their conditions of life as our speech is to us, but it does not resemble human speech any more than the animal resembles a human being. Most of the sounds are utterly beyond expression by any known alphabet, yet, if the importance were sufficiently great to justify the labor, I think it would be as easy to devise a set of symbols that would meet the requirements of their speech as it has been to invent an alphabet for the human language.

"Extraordinary as it may appear, many persons, when they hear of the animals talking, think that English is their medium. Among the natives belief that they have a language is universal, and they give marvellous interpretations of what the chimpanzee has said, being aided, perhaps, in their reproduction by some degree of imaginative power. It is rather commonly said, both by learned and unlearned people, that these animals have no power of expressing anything beyond emotion or desire, but closer investigation shows that the corner-stone of all human expression is, practically speaking, emotion and desire. My belief is that the creature is capable of expressing in some form or other all that he is capable of thinking. This is the sum and substance of my doctrine.

"Another point is that these animals are not highly endowed with social qualities, and all their speech so far as I know, is of the utilitarian kind. They have no superfluous sounds, no redundancy of speech—they express themselves in the shortest possible way. So far as I have observed, they never attempt anything like a connected conversation, except perhaps in the case of the brown monkey. I have not changed my opinion as to the chimpanzee being the best subject of all the animals to study; because he is easily domesticated and tractable, and inclined to be sociable, while being more talkative than the gorilla or the orang."

Water as a Remedy.

Water is too little valued by the generality of people as a remedy, yet it is one of the most valuable. It is not only a food—three-quarters of the body, by weight, is composed of it—but a medicine which is not properly replaced by the use of tea, coffee, or milk. If more water were consumed and less beverages there would be fewer dyspeptics, rheumatics and bilious sufferers. With a little lemon-juice added and taken freely it is useful in rheumatism. As a means of applying heat and cold it is invaluable. In the first stages of a sprain if hot water is applied, hot as can be borne, and the application be renewed constantly, the following day will see the part comparatively free from soreness and capable of being used. If it is an ankle the foot may be placed in a foot tub of warm water the heat being raised by addition of hot water and the temperature being kept up to the limit of endurance an hour or so. Similarly in rheumatism, hot baths and applications are useful. With children the warm bath is a sleep-producer in nervous irritability, allaying convulsions, and a rapidly-acting stimulant in cases of emergency. Its efficacy may be increased by the addition in some cases of a tablespoonful of mustard flour to the gallon of water. The child should be stripped and placed in the bath, and held there not over five minutes or till the mother's arms tingle. In cases of cold, or congestion of some internal organ, as the lungs in pneumonia, it is again the remedy par excellence, acting by bringing the blood to the surface.—[Worthington's Magazine.

Mysteries of Diamond Mines.

The following paragraph appears in a South African paper: "At the 'Primer' Mine a bag was put in about thirteen feet from the surface, and in the yellow ground some three feet below the limestone formation, which, upon being exploded, brought down among the displaced diamondiferous soil, a perfect and full-sized ostrich egg. This wonderful discovery is apparently petrifid and evidently hollow, and must have been imbedded in the ground for countless years; and, without exception, is the most extraordinary find yet made in the history of diamond mining."

This is certainly a very curious discovery, but it does not stand alone, for ostrich eggs more or less perfect have been found both at De Beers and Colesberg Kopje in a fossilized condition. Large pieces of charred fossil wood have also been found from time to time, one of which is described as a portion of a fossil tree, four feet in length, and nearly five feet in circumference. This was found in Dutoitspan Mine, at a depth of eight feet. At Kimberley there was dug up part of a stem of a tree with a branch attached, at a depth of 850 feet from the surface; and a still more singular find was an ant's nest, quite perfect and undisturbed.

Another very remarkable fact is that more than once a broken diamond has been found, and at some distance from it the other portion, the two parts uniting perfectly. This was the case with the wonderful black diamond which forms a portion of the collection of Mr. Streeter, the well-known Bond street jeweler. The diamond referred to, which is said to be the largest black diamond known, was found in South Africa three or four years ago. It was in the form of half a pebble, and has been reduced by cutting from 169 3/4 carats to 66 carats weight; and Mr. Streeter has now secured the other half, which was found quite recently.—[Chambers' Journal.

A Means Out of the Difficulty.

Any strain or bending of the back for any length of time leaves it in a weakened condition. A means out of the difficulty is always handy and cheap. Do as was done by Mr. Herman Schwaygel, Aberdeen, S. D., who says that for several years he suffered with a chronic stitch in the back, and was given up by doctors. Two bottles of St. Jacobs Oil completely cured him. Also Mr. John Lucas, Elmore, Ind., says that for several years he suffered with pains in the back, and one bottle of St. Jacobs Oil cured him. There are manifold instances of how to do the right thing in the right way and not break your back.

A Cross Made of Coal.

Up in St. Mary's General Hospital, on Dean street and Rockaway avenue, is a large cross carved out of a solid piece of coal taken from one of the Wilkesbarre coal mines. The cross was presented to the Sisters of the hospital by City Clerk M. J. Cummings, who, through his friend, John J. Hines, brother of Congressman William Hines, of Luzerne County, had a good solid chunk of coal dug from the mines, and then engaged a sculptor of Wilkesbarre to fashion it into a cross. The sculptor had as a model a small cedar wood cross, which was made out of cigar boxes by the Sisters of the Wilkesbarre Convent.

The form of the cross now in the possession of the Sisters is not unlike that of a Greek cross, but it really corresponds to the forms of the cross from the seventh to the twelfth century designs in Irish sculpture.—[Brooklyn Citizen.

WELCOME WORDS TO WOMEN.

Many times women call on their family physicians, suffering, as they imagine, one from dyspepsia, another from heart disease, another from liver or kidney disease, another with pain here or there, and in this way they all present to their easy-going doctor, separate diseases, for which he prescribes, assuming them to be such when, in reality, they are all only symptoms caused by some womb disorder. The suffering patient, by reason of the delay, wrong treatment and consequent complications. A proper medicine, like Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, would have promptly cured the disease.

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