

INDIA'S SECRETS

WHERE FORGOTTEN TREASURE LIES

Gold and Jewels in the Keeping
of Jackals and Snakes

THE ENCHANTED CAVE

Dr. Vogel, a former superintendent of the Archaeological Survey in India, has been telling us that the preservation of public monuments in India is largely dependent on public opinion.

It is due to the reverence and the religious spirit of the people that so much has escaped destruction, he says. But this spirit of reverence is responsible for more than the preservation of monuments: it is responsible for losses. Great treasures have vanished through fidelity and other qualities maintaining the secret of their hiding-place.

It is the habit today of natives of India to bury gold. Only the year before the war it was authoritatively stated that nearly all the gold dug from the earth in South Africa is, by a fresh digging occupation, deposited again beneath the soil of India. That is what we may call a piecemeal operation; but imagine the operation conducted upon a wholesale scale!

Riches in the Earth

Such things happened during the troublous days of war and conflict and raid which preceded British rule. A wealthy prince or merchant, fearing armed robbery, would deposit all his gold and jewels, not in his house or in a bank, for houses and banks could be pillaged like a bazaar; no, he concealed his riches in the earth, in caverns in the hills, among the haunts of tigers and poisonous snakes.

The practice was to entrust the secret of the deposit only to the poorest and lowliest, and that for various reasons. In the first place, there was the belief in native fidelity; then there was the expectation that people so poor would not covet rich treasure, and would be suspected if they did try to dispose of it; and, finally, there was the knowledge that people of such humble caste would not be allowed to converse with people of higher caste to whom the hoarded wealth would be of worth.

Tell-Tale Bark

In this way the very outcasts of the people became guardians of wealth untold, hidden by their flying lords who, often enough, did not survive the broils and battles to return and reclaim their buried property.

The late Sir Maurice Gerard, who spent many years in India and investigated the subject, declared that enormous treasures are buried in some of the old Indian hill forts. The guardians are dead and the secret is dead with them.

Sir Maurice himself knew of places to which treasure traditions cling. One fastness in the Goona district was that in which, during the Mahratta warfare days, the entire population of three villages, hiding with their possessions in a hill cave, were betrayed to enemies by the barking of dogs.

Terrier's Strange Adventure

Refusing to surrender, the refugees were smoked to death by fires lighted at the entrance to their retreat. No native dare enter now for fear of the demons which are believed to haunt the place.

Several English dogs were once sent in to hunt through the enchanted cave. All disappeared. Several days later the smallest of the lot, a terrier, came out starving. The others had perished, but it is supposed that this one, falling down a fissure, had found its way to a jackal's home and scratched its way out to liberty.

It is strange that the Pyramid, the greatest building on earth, has been pillaged to nakedness, yet in India fidelity and fear have so long kept treasure safe that today cobra and jackal and tiger have succeeded to the guardianship once committed to lowly retainers.

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING IN DANGER

Will St. George's Chapel
at Windsor Collapse?

CURIOUS ECHO OF THE BLACK DEATH

St. George's Chapel, Windsor, the chapel of the Knights of the Garter since the reign of Edward III and one of the most splendid buildings in England, is in danger of falling down suddenly.

People who understand the structure of buildings best say that if it is not at once restored it may not be trusted to stand even one more year. Beautiful inside, it is weak as a whole, and is crumbling under the wear and tear of time.

The reason for this decay is curious and instructive. The experts say that when the chapel was built the lack of sufficient labour, owing to the terrible ravages of the Black Death pestilence, led to the building being made less substantial than it would have been made in happier days, and so, though the present chapel has stood 430 years, its hidden frailty is disclosed at last.

The discovery of weakness so long after its foundation was laid makes us wonder whether the world's terrible losses in many ways through the Great War may not reveal themselves in unexpected forms, in the health and prosperity of nations in far off, future times.

St. George's Chapel is being repaired largely by the generosity of members of the Order of the Garter and by firms holding the royal warrant for the King's trade, their subscriptions being a tribute to the King and Royal Family "for their great services performed for the nation during the war."

LAND OF ALPHABETS

Difficult Problem in the East

Recently we published a suggestion, by a retired missionary who has worked in India, that learning to read might be much easier in India if the languages were built up on an alphabetic instead of a syllabic basis. He went so far as to say that India has no alphabet.

Several correspondents have written denying this statement, and punishing the maker of it severely in words.

It certainly is not correct to say India has no alphabet. It uses a number of alphabets. The writer of the suggestion for a common alphabet himself mentions several.

What he wishes is that Indian languages should be so written as not to be grouped in syllables, each written in a different form or printed in a different type. To remember the many syllabic type-formations is a hard task.

The Indian alphabets, he considers, do not serve the purposes of an alphabet as simply as European alphabets.

But the subject, though important, is too technical for discussion in the C.N.

AN AFTER-WAR CENSUS

The Population of Buda-Pesth

The publication of census returns for all parts of the world affected by the war will have a special interest, as it will reveal the combined effects of war losses and of removals caused by changes in industry.

Our Hungarian correspondent sends us the results of the census of Buda-Pesth taken on New Year's night.

The number recorded was 925,724, and the women outnumbered the men by 69,718.

The increase in population between 1900 and 1910 was 209,248; but the increase between 1910 and 1920 was only 45,353.

The number of Roman Catholics was 552,785; and the Jews totalled 212,078.

In this connection it is interesting and tragic to know that the population of Petrograd has declined by 1,700,000, and that of Moscow by 800,000.

YOUR NERVES

KEEP THEM HEALTHY

Doctor's Good Advice to All
Who Would Be Well

A SOUND MIND IN A SOUND BODY

A famous expert in mental diseases, Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, has just told us that a third of the men discharged from the army for sickness of one kind and another were ill as the result of defective nerves; and he urges upon us all the tremendous importance of keeping our nerves healthy.

The influence of the mind on the body, he says, is enormous, and if we wish to be fit—and who does not?—then we must see to it that we have a sound mind in a sound body.

Worry, anxiety, and disappointment, he says, all tend to cause indigestion, and indigestion is the great foe of healthy nerves. The weariness that results from indigestion means loss of nerve, and that leads to functional disease; in other words, the various organs of our bodies are unable to carry out their proper functions or duties. This in turn may lead to organic disease.

The Need for Plenty of Sleep

Sufficient sleep is one of the great necessities for every healthy person, and the distinguished doctor states that the popular proverb "Eight hours' sleep for a man, nine for a woman, and ten for a fool" is all wrong. The reverse is nearer the truth; a wise man will see to it that he gets ten hours' sleep, while only a fool will think eight sufficient.

It is evident, therefore, that if boys and girls want to grow up into healthy men and women with strong nerves and happy minds they must assist their parents and guardians by being willing to go to bed in good time at night.

Exercise of some kind is also an absolute necessity, according to Sir Robert. Swimming, he thinks, is the very best of all forms of exercise, because it tends to the use of all the trunk muscles as well as those of the limbs, and helps to keep the head well up and expand the chest.

Value of a Good Walk

Next in efficiency is walking, which is particularly good because it is the least disturbing of all forms of exercise; but for young people the doctor does not think it is exciting enough to be interesting, and interest is an essential part of keeping the nerves healthy.

Exercise is important because it braces the nerves and increases the influence of the will over the muscles, thereby tending to presence of mind.

Another powerful factor in keeping the nervous system healthy is a good digestion, and to this end it is important that the food should be varied and well cooked.

Fats and sugary or starchy foods are essential, and the value of fresh, unboiled milk, Sir Robert declares, cannot be over-estimated. Fruit, too, is of the greatest value, and nitrogenous and albuminous foods in the form of meat, cheese, and eggs.

Bite Your Food Properly

But the most important thing in connection with food is that we bite it properly so that the digestive juices can act upon it and waste be avoided.

Absolute cleanliness, with an unsparring use of soap and cold water, is another essential. The mind, also, must be attended to, and Sir Robert emphasises the importance of taking a keen interest in all we do, whether it be work or play.

Finally, the distinguished doctor says that all wise people know, that "if the nerve is to be maintained in full integrity alcohol should be avoided."

Every sensible boy and girl will follow the doctor's advice, and will grow up with strong nerves, a clean mind, and a healthy body.

TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION

The Bright Spot on the
Bookstalls

A MIRROR OF THE WONDERFUL WORLD

Truth is stranger than fiction!

Wise people who think have discovered on the bookstalls a magazine dealing with the wonderful facts of life, science, travel, natural history, and so on—whose contents are far more entertaining than the finest fiction.

This is the Mother of the C.N., My Magazine, and a glance at the contents of the April number will show the variety of the subjects dealt with.

KING OF ALL RED INDIANS

Sequoyah the Great, and the Amazing Work He Did

TRouble IN THE PLANT KINGDOM
Disease and Plague that Run Through Field and Garden

ISLANDS IN A MIGHTY OCEAN

A Chain of Mountain Peaks Rising Out of the Pacific

A LITTLE GARDEN OF VERSES

WHAT IS NATURE UP TO?

Ask the Boy Who Walked with Darwin and Found Kipling

WILL THERE BE TIME?

Or Will Man Stop the Animals Before They Reach Their Destiny?

ANIMALS PASSING FROM THE WORLD

Eight pages of Pictures beautifully reproduced in Photogravure

WHAT THE CENTURIES HAVE GIVEN

Twenty Great Steps Forward Since Christ was Born in Bethlehem

THE WIRELESS MEN

And the World They Will be Making in a Hundred Years

Besides these things My Magazine for April contains some excellent stories, perplexing puzzles, charming verses, and pages finely printed in colours.

As there is sure to be a rush for the Mother of the C.N. on Tuesday, next make sure of your copy by ordering now. It is a true mirror of this wonderful world in which you live. Ask for My Magazine.

THE YOUNGEST VOTER

Child Goes to the Ballot Box

The right to vote has been sought earnestly by millions for generations, and now most grown-up people can vote in elections; but still the right people are often left off the list, and the wrong people are put on.

It is a carelessness that is never explained, though it constantly happens.

The mayor of a south country town proposed, several years ago, a most laudatory vote of thanks to the preparer of the voting register. Then, when an election came and he and his wife went to vote, they found both had been left off the list!

At a recent Welsh election Nancy Roberts, the five-year-old daughter of Professor Stanley Roberts, of Aberystwyth, was taken by her parents to vote because her name was on the voting list. The year before her father's name had been left off, so, to call attention to the odd way in which names were left off or put on, he took little Nancy with him to put her vote into the ballot-box.

And quite right, too. No means of exposing those who deprive people of their citizenship, or make citizens of those who for any reason ought not to be citizens, should be left unused.

DAY AND NIGHT IN MARCH

FEB.					
MARCH					
APRIL					

This diagram shows the average daily light and darkness in February, March, and April