A MOST PECULIAR PEOPLE.

Some of the Remarkable Ceremonials of Southern Alaska Indians.

One of the most remarkable of the feasts celebrated by the Alaska Indians is a carnival of plenty which is held each winter. Reasons to be derived from a tradition that tells of a journey made by an adventurous individual to a region beneath the earth inhabited by phantoms. The celebration itself is a pantomic representation of the visit to Sodas aforesaid, and the performer who represents the subterranean traveler wears a necklace and headdress set round with skulls.

This festival requires elaborate preparations. Speaking tubes of dried giant kelp are laid under the floor of the lodge, one set so as to terminate in the fireplace. When the ceremonial is in progress, the performer disappears into a dark previously dug behind the fireplace, and their many voices are heard coming out of the flames—really the voices of persons hidden in adjoining rooms, who speak through the tubes. Later on a large representing a ghost is seen to rise out of the ground, carrying the performer.

Cannibalism is very conspicuous in the myths current among these people, who have themselves been scores of Indian feasts within a recent period. Indeed, though the whites are supposed to have put a stop to such practices, it would seem that secret indulgence in them has not been wholly done away with.

Quite a number of strange demons are worshiped as guardian spirits, among them a cannibal demon that lives on the mountains and always is engaged in the pursuit of human beings for his table. The smoke of his chimney is the color of blood, and he has a female slave who goes foul for him by catching men and collecting corpses. In his house is a dishes him with an immensely long hook, which lives on the brains of persons whose skulls it fractures with its bill. Anybody who is so unfortunate as to encounter the cannibal spirit may be transformed into a grizzly bear. On the other hand, if he can please the demon, he may obtain power to handle fire without being burned.

Another guardian spirit is a fearless warrior, who lives in the far north. He travels constantly and never leaves his canoe. By obtaining his protection a man may become invulnerable, or he may acquire power to catch the invisible disease demon. This demon is of all times flying about in the air in the form of a worm. The fortunate possessor of the warrior spirit catching the worm can throw it into the body of an enemy, who will die at once.

These Indians wear wooden masks in their ceremonials. Some of them are enormous size and astonishingly grotesque. The mask worn by a performer who represents the cannibal spirit, for example, is a huge resembling head. Another, representing the final visit of this spirit, is like the head of a bird, with a bill four feet long. By means of strings pulled by the wearer, the great beak is made to open and shut rapidly, producing a loud clapping.—St. Louis Republic.

EDUCATING MUSCLES.

A New Theory Propounded in Regard to Them.

And now comes a Russian professor with a book of his own making, in which it is shown that muscular exercise does not develop muscular strength where there was none before. In short, Professor Alexis Horvath completely upsets the theory that the absolute strength of muscles may be largely increased by exercise taken for that purpose, says the Washington Post.

He contends that muscles are a gift of nature and that no amount of exercise can convert a congenital weakling into a athlete, and a strong man may preserve considerable strength for many a long year even in the face of absolute physical exertion. The principal difference between a man who exercises his muscles and one who does not lies in the greater endurance of the former. A regular course of gymnastic lore, during the first weeks, increase the muscle power by a little, but the improvement soon ceases, and the use of the muscles changes very little.

The beneficial effect of gymnastics and of work should rather principally in the greater staying power of the muscles. The best means, Horvath thinks, for perfecting the muscles and giving them the power to resist fatigue are of repeated rhythmical contractions. He gives as a corroborative example of this theory the human heart, which, although it goes through these contractions unceasingly during a whole lifetime, never tires or ceases its functions for a minute.

A Trade Secret.

The teacher had been explaining to the boys on two or three occasions during the week the sources of our food supply and various processes connected with the preparation of certain products. At the end of the week he held an elementary examination to see how much of the information his pupils had retained.

"Now, Willie, how is coffee prepared?" Willie hesitated about, but did not answer.

"I am surprised at you," said the astonished the teacher. "I thought you would have remembered that being the son of a grocer! How is it you do not know?"

"Please, sir, I do know," replied the big boy frankly.

"Then why don't you answer?" asked the teacher sharply. "Come, answer at once."

"I wouldn't," said the boy desperately. "It's a secret of the trade, sir, father says, and he will skin me if I tell!"

He was promoted.—Pearson's Weekly.

Rice Long and Its Flyweights.

There used to be a boy in Rice's customs-house who was a prodigy of a Chinaman. He was inquiring of an English gentleman the manner in which flyweights was paid in Boston. "Man who make difficulty he's company tends to comprehend the ground," he explained.

"Is any man well in England that can effect to do it? Just I go to China purpose and to have I manage my profession to be first, to which the rate of my trouble is worth, I receive the money, whatever there, but the amount I am in the using more till I am old again. I tend and life—you this my difference beside short." Boston Times.

Get the Best

GO TO YOUR DOCTOR [illegible]

[illegible]

SUMMONS.

In the District Court of the Third Judicial District of the State of Utah, County of Salt Lake.

Mary Maskin, Plaintiff, vs. Henry A. Maskin, Defendant.

The State of Utah sends greeting to Henry A. Maskin, Defendant:

YOU ARE HEREBY REQUIRED TO APPEAR in an action brought against you by the above named plaintiff in the district court of the third judicial district in the state of Utah, and in the county of Salt Lake, within ten days (exclusive of the day of service) after the service on you of this summons, if served within this county, or within forty days, if served elsewhere, and defend the above entitled action. The said action is brought to have plaintiff's marriage with the defendant dissolved, on the grounds of adultery and cruel treatment.

You are notified that if you fail to appear and answer the said amended complaint as above required, the said plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded therein.

Witness the Honorable Judges and the Seal of the District Court of the Third Judicial District in and for the County of Salt Lake, this 1st day of June, A. D. 1897.

(SEAL.) DAVID C. DUNBAR, Clerk.

By M. M. Lewis, Deputy Clerk.

A RESOLUTION.

Expressing a sentiment formed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, September 16th, 1897, whereby donation and access Pioneer Square to the Salt Lake Pioneers Home for a cemetery for cemetery purposes.

Whereas, on September 16th, 1896, the Council passed a resolution which was approved by the Mayor on the 17th of October, 1896, donating and granting all of Block 49, in Plat A, Salt Lake City survey, known as "Pioneer Square," to the Utah Gold and Silver Mining Company, a corporation in consideration that it would place a monument, curb and sidewalk around said square, and

Whereas, more than one year has elapsed since the date of said resolution, and said Utah Gold and Silver Mining Company has not complied with the said resolution, or complied in the following particulars:

1st. From Mining Utah, in a southwesterly direction toward Los Angeles, Cal.

2nd. From Salem toward Deep Creek, Utah; or

3rd. From Tooele, Utah, into the Deep Creek Mining Country.

And that the office of said land be transferred and in operation for such purposes on the same Utah Gold and Silver Mining Company's property, and

Whereas, said Utah Gold and Silver Mining Company has not complied with the said resolution, such and specific a breach of said resolution in either of the following points:

1st. From Mining Utah, in a southwesterly direction toward Los Angeles, Cal.

2nd. From Salem toward Deep Creek, Utah; or

3rd. From Tooele, Utah, into the Deep Creek Mining Country.

And that the office of said land be transferred and in operation for such purposes on the same Utah Gold and Silver Mining Company's property, and

Whereas, more than one year has elapsed since the date of said resolution, and said Utah Gold and Silver Mining Company has not complied with the said resolution, or complied in the following particulars