

SOME QUEER OCCUPATIONS.

What Inventive Geniuses Resort to in Order to Make a Living—Follow Strange Vocations, but Make Money While Others Are Looking for a Job.

High among the queerest of all queer occupations undoubtedly comes that of the snake charming instructor.

As would naturally be supposed, it is also an exceedingly rare calling. Practically one man in this country has a monopoly of it, and at last accounts he was neither looking forward in fear and trembling to the appearance of a rival, nor contemplating teaching the peculiar art by mail.

This man is a German, who spent the best years of his life in tropical jungles hunting all manner of snakes for the Hamburg animal houses. When he became too old for this work, which requires great agility and robust health, he came to this country with his private collection of choice reptiles, and for several years traveled over the land with the circus sideshow. One curious phase of this work was that he was continually being importuned by women to teach them something of the art of handling snakes. Hence the school for snake charming which is located in a room in the little man's New York flat.

Hardly a week passes that the old fellow is not engaged in teaching some girl how nonchalantly to let a score or more of pythons, boas and rattlesnakes crawl over her shoulders and arms.

First, he gives instruction in the anatomy of the snake, discusses on the different species, poisonous and non-poisonous, and tells what are the choice food morsels of the different reptiles. Then he begins teaching his pupil how to handle the harmless varieties, and when she has become adept at this part of the work he introduces her to a rattler or a cobra, imparts to her his secret of drugging it, and, lo and behold, she is ready to take away the breath of a country town gathering by coolly reaching into a hamper, extracting a vicious looking butted reptile therefrom and using it as a neck-piece, while a thumb and forefinger are clasped about the creeping thing's throat as an additional safeguard.

The course consists of from seven to 12 lessons, according to the pupil's aptness. But whatever the number of lessons, the charge is the same, \$50, and in addition there is the price of the drugs and the patent foods, and, of course, the collection of reptiles with which to charm. Such an outfit costs all the way from \$100 to \$500, this being dependent on the number of snakes the pupil wishes to handle. The usual number is 12, and the price of an outfit of this size, with the usual accessories, sufficient in quantity to last a season, is \$250.

Last year the German had 45 pupils. He laments that the business is falling off; that the big circuses no longer carry snake charmers, and hence women are not attracted to this field of endeavor as much as formerly. For the smaller shows and the dime museums do not pay the salaries that the big shows paid. But it is still a fairly remunerative field, he declares. A good charmer being able to make \$25 or \$30 weekly, provided he manipulates about two dozen snakes at a time.

THE WILD ANIMAL DOCTOR.

Another exceedingly unusual occupation is that of the wild animal doctor. He, too, is generally a German and a former attaché of some Hamburg animal house.

There are two such doctors in New York, the port made by nearly all the animal ships from the old world centers. Here the majority of America's animal importers have their headquarters, and what with a monkey getting bronchitis, and a giraffe giving its owners the cold shivers because it refuses its hay, and a hippo filling the animal house with the sound of its mighty wheezes, these two doctors to the imported wild animal world have plenty of patients to bring them in steady incomes. Besides, when things go wrong at some of the zoological gardens of the country, and the officials cannot bring the sick animal around, one of these doctors is frequently sent for, especially if the patient represents a snug investment, and its death would entail a hard task on the "zoo" people to replace it.

Doctoring birds is still another rare way of earning a livelihood. So far as known a woman in New York has the monopoly of this field. She not only answers calls of anxious owners of pet canaries and parrots, and other feathered creatures; she also maintains a hospital where ailing or injured birds may be brought for treatment. This hospital is also a great convenience to the summer traveler, solving the problem, "But what shall we do with our canary when we are away?" So extensive is the bird doctor's practice that she has two assistants in immediate charge of the hospital, which takes up an entire floor in a good sized uptown office building, and in which hundreds of birds are continually being treated or cared for while their owners are absent from home.

Another queer one is the man who is responsible for the majority of the professional tattooed men now appearing throughout the country with side shows and in museums.

This man is not one of your common tattooers; he would no more think of faking the shield of the United States of America on the broad chest of a sailor before the mast than you or I would stoop to such work. His specialty, let it be known, is that of bedecking the chests and backs of professionals with the latest Japanese designs in 10 and 12 colors. He turns up his nose at two-

color work, in which anybody almost could tattoo.

For doing a 10-color piece of work, covering a chest, he charges \$100, and it is an order which keeps him occupied two or three hours daily for about two weeks. Not long ago, he tattooed some last it to foot with 15-year-old boy, who is now with one of the big circuses, and for this job, which took him the better part of two months, he received a check of \$100 from the circus people—advanced pay of the lad, who was inveigled in the side show stage by an offer of \$50 a week. As a cigar maker he had been able to earn not more than \$12 a week at most.

It is the money that's in it which causes a sufficient number of men to undergo the tattooing operation to keep the places filled which have been made vacant by death or retirement. It is a peculiar circumstance that tattooed men scarcely ever live to a green old age, and the circus people say that five years is about the limit of a professional's usefulness, since fresh designs are continually being invented which will appeal more widely to the morbid public.

THE ANCHOR DREDGER.

The anchor dredger is another man who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow in an altogether out-of-the-ordinary fashion.

He is to be found about the big harbors, and his specialty is dragging the bed of a harbor for lost anchors, or those which had to be shipped in a hurry for some marine reason. He works in a small boat equipped with a roller at the stern, over which is paid into the water a grapple on the end of a gigantic pair of ice tongs. As the boat sails along the grapple scrapes over the harbor's bottom, and when it comes in contact with an object, the rope to which it is fastened gives warning, and the dredger hauls away. Long before the object has been brought to the surface he can generally tell accurately what the grapple has secured, so experienced is he in the ways which different things pull through the water on their trip to the surface.

Whenever a ship captain loses an anchor in water where it is possible for an anchor dredger to work the latter is notified that his services are needed. Nine times out of ten he recovers the anchor, and in addition, returns with a boat laden with water-soaked valves, coal from Davy Jones' locker, seamen's chests and sometimes the body of some poor unfortunate.

THIS IS AN ODD ONE.

A far more remunerative odd business is that of manufacturing the glass claws, eyes and noses with which the heads and feet of animals on women's fur coats and muffs are made to seem more or less life like. This industry is carried on, it is believed, in only one place in the United States, a dingy cellar in New York's East side sweat-shop district. It is a true monopoly. A half dozen glass blowers are kept busy throughout most of the year manufacturing these seemingly insignificant accessories for the adornment of womanhood, and the man who owns the business is making a fair income by means of it.

The breeding of fancy pigeons on the tenement house roofs of the metropolis can surely be counted among the unusual industries. Many newcomers to America have made considerable fortunes owning fancy pigeons, this being their

one extravagance, which is catered to by a goodly band of their countrymen, whose sole work is that of raising tumbler, carrier, fantail, pouter and the other favored breeds on the only house available at their command.

The occupation of ambulance chasing has come much into vogue within the last few years. An ambulance chaser, or "snitch," as he is called in Kansas City, is one who hangs around a hospital till the ambulance starts out to answer a call, follows it to the scene of the accident, then back to the hospital or injured person's home, learns his name, and straightway rushes off to a lawyer who makes a practice of inducing persons to bring suit against street railways or other corporations for injuries sustained while in the care of these corporations. The ambulance chaser is rewarded according to the number of cases he is instrumental in securing for his lawyer.

The merry-makers who go to the seashore this summer will behold a queer method of making a living. The seashore sculptor models in a pile of sand heroic figures. A representative effort is that of a man lying face downward, with this legend close by: "All those who have seen the sand sculpture of our famous men, living and dead, are also made, and serve to cause a shower of small coin from the onlookers, on whose largest the sand sculptor depends for his beer and pretzels at a nearby booth.

All of which is but proof that the old statement that there are more ways of making a living than the most of us ever dream of, and, in addition, that many of them are monopolies, pure and simple.

A COSTLY VASE.

At Christie's auction rooms, London, the other day, a single Sevres vase, after a two-minute contest, was knocked down for \$4,000 guineas, or about \$20,000. The vase, sixteen and three-fourth inches high, was painted by the faithful Doulin in 1763, nine years after he entered the Sevres factory, in which he was to toil for forty more years. The chief panel of the four which he painted on the vase is a pastoral in the manner of Lancret, and the greater portion of the body, base, and cover is in the color of rich rose-bloom. The value put upon this single specimen gives an idea of the superb sets of Sevres vases in the Wallace collection, many of which were bought for small sums by the Marquis de Herford. After the sales in the streets of Versailles there was a lot of Sevres, and it is well known that in many houses little care was taken of the beautiful ware. The five examples of Windsor and Buckingham Palace were purchased chiefly by George IV. With regard, again, to the value of a set forming a perfect garniture, it may be stated that the Coventry vases, which fetched 10,000 guineas in 1874 (and temporarily declined to 8,000 guineas in the Goode sale, 1895) passed a few years ago into a well-known collection at double this amount. —New York Times.

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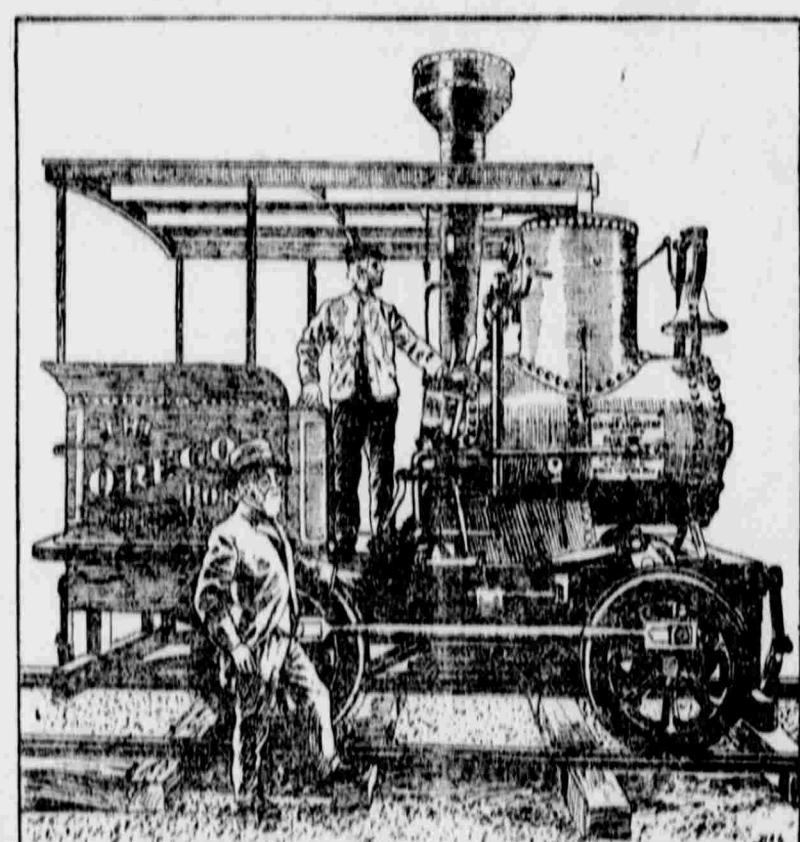
You should have Japanese for your spring house cleaning. See Bennett Glass Co.'s ad.

NOVEL MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION IN UGANDA.



The cut represents some features of a strange series of medical experiments now being carried on by the physicians of Uganda, Africa. For many months an unknown wasting, accompanied by a profound lassitude and inclination to sleep. For this reason the scourge has been termed the sleeping sickness. In their efforts to locate the germ of the disorder the medical authorities at Entebbe have under observation a number of monkeys that have been inoculated with the disease, and it is expected that in this way its nature will be discovered.

THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE USED IN OREGON.



The cut is from a photograph of the Oregon Pony, the first locomotive ever used in the Pacific northwest. This little engine will be exhibited at the coming centennial exposition at Portland, Ore., side by side with a ninety-ton monster of the latest pattern, and it is expected that it will attract much attention. The Pony is only thirteen feet in length, its four wheels the size of barrel hoops and its boiler about as big as an apple barrel. It was built in 1861 and was used by a transportation line on the Columbia river to cover a distance of seven miles made impassable for boats by shoals. The track upon which it ran was made of oak covered with thin strips of strap iron.

The Mattress Store

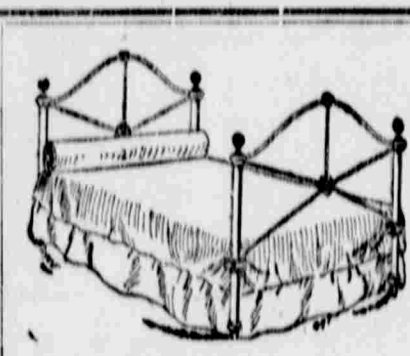


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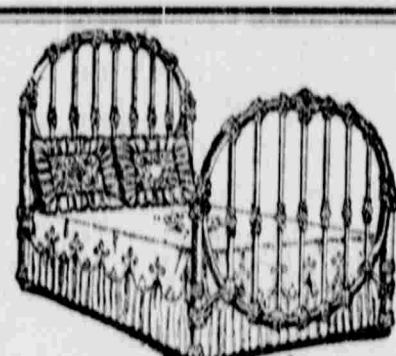
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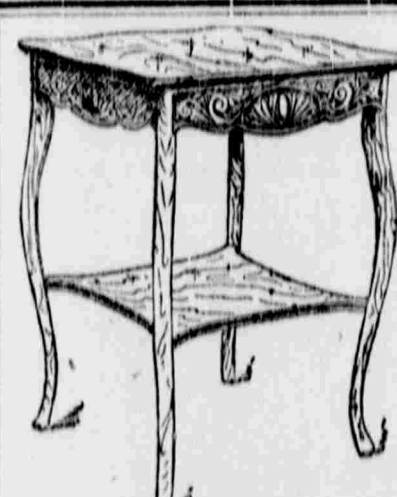
Medicine cabinet, 11 in. wide, 15 in. high, 7 in. wide, a very useful article in every house.

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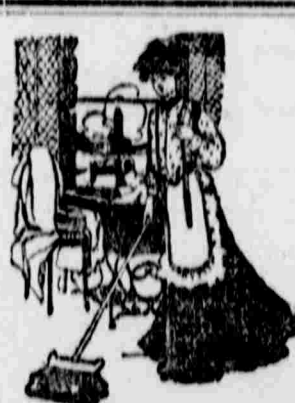
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