

CUBA AT SHORT RANGE.

History and Physical Features of the Island.

FIREFLIES THAT LIGHT A ROOM.

The Fauna, Flora and Climatic Conditions—Not Unhealthy if Due Regard Were Paid to Sanitary Laws—Filthy Habits Cause Disease.

Cuba was discovered by Columbus Oct. 28, 1492. He named it Juana, and it was also called Fernandina, and still later Santiago and Ave Maria...



THE CUBAN IGUANA—NOT AT ALL PRETTY, BUT VERY PALATABLE.

ing. Soon after they landed on the island the Spaniards began the inhuman tactics that have largely characterized their policy ever since.

During the latter part of the sixteenth century and during most of the seventeenth Cuba suffered greatly from the attacks of the buccaners.

Cuba, the Pearl of the Antilles, is the largest, the most important and the wealthiest island of the West Indian archipelago.

The island is intersected by a range of mountains, more or less broken, which extends through it from east to west and from which the rivers descend to the sea on each side.

The climate of Cuba, considering it is in the tropics, is very tolerable, and from November till May is quite enjoyable, as the heat during that period is never excessive.

There are many islands lying off the coast of Cuba, the largest and most important being the Isle of Pines, a famous health resort.

Almost every part of Cuba is supplied with fresh and generally pure water. There are many rivers, but none of them is of great length, except the Lanto, which, rising in the Sierra Maestra, empties into Manzanillo bay after running a course of 130 miles.

navigable for small craft. The only other rivers deserving of mention are the Sagua Grande and the Sagua Chica, neither of which is navigable even for small boats but for a few weeks after the rainy season has ended.

In the mountains there are many beautiful waterfalls, among which the cascades of Rosario are the most celebrated. A number of medium sized lakes, fringed with trees or verdant grassy slopes, add variety and beauty to the scenery in the interior of the island.

Profuse as is the bounty of nature displayed in the vegetable world, there are no large animals of any kind indigenous to the island. When Columbus landed, he only found two quadrupeds, and those of a small size—one, a sort of barkless dog, probably a raccoon, and a long bodied squirrel.

In periods, doubtless long antedating the advent of man upon the island mastodons, elephants, hippopotamuses and other large animals roamed through the Cuban forests or wallowed in its lagoons.

A small red asp, said to have been imported from Santo Domingo, infests many of the sugar plantations, and its bite is exceedingly dangerous. The scorpions in Cuba are very undesirable neighbors, and though their bites have not been known to result fatally they are attended by rather serious consequences.

No account of Cuban reptiles would be complete without some mention of the iguana. This is a large green lizard, arboreal in its habits, which lives on fruits. It is extensively used as an article of food and has been declared palatable and nutritious.

If there are but few obnoxious reptiles in Cuba, the lack of these is amply compensated for by a surprising number of disagreeable insects of various kinds. The mosquitoes are large and specially venomous and obtrusive, and there are also irritating "jiggers," ants, wasps, midges and spiders as large as the crown of a man's hat.

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A CUBAN MOUNTAIN STREAM.

joyable, as the heat during that period is never excessive. Unless in the upland regions the summer season is extremely enervating owing to the intense heat and the unhealthy steaming miasma caused by the incessant rains.

But notwithstanding these disagreeable features it would be quite possible to enjoy good health in Cuba. Much of the disease which prevails there is preventable and would disappear or at least be greatly mitigated were the inhabitants to pay proper regard to the laws of health.

Make use of time while it is present with you. It depends upon your will and not upon the number of days to have a sufficient length of life.—Montaigne.

A Brazilian Indian Story.

Here is a Brazilian Indian story, says the New York Times. The jaguar and the monkey met. The jaguar had a luscious bunch of plantains which the monkey craved.

Then one day the jaguar met the monkey and insisted on taking his pay out of the monkey's hide. The business, becoming serious, was left to the peccari to decide.

A Burglar's Mistake.

"When I looked into the dining room of a house that I was in one night," said the retired burglar, "I saw a man sitting in a chair perched upon the dining room table. That seemed a singular place for a man to get to sit, drunk or sober, but I thought I'd have to give him a chance to get tired of sitting there and go to bed before I began, for if I didn't he might wake up any minute and interrupt things.

Clothespins.

Clothespins are an American commodity. Some clothespins are made in Sweden and in Scotland, but they are big and clumsy, twice the size of the American pins and whittled out by hand.

There are two grades of clothespins, firsts and seconds. First grade pins can be bought for 35 cents a box. The production of clothespins is enormous, millions of boxes annually.

What Bothered Him.

"When I was a young man," says a well known civil engineer. "I was surveying the route of a proposed railway. An old farmer with whom I stopped for a time admitted one day, when he saw me figuring in the field, that mathematics always seemed a wonderful thing to him.

"You can imagine how he set me back when he replied to this brilliant array of facts by saying: 'Yes, yes, them things does seem kinder cur'us, but what ails bothered me was to understand why you have to carry one fur ev'ry ten, but if you don't the durned thing won't come out right.'"

"Billington's Sea."

There is tangible evidence that the pious passengers of the Mayflower were not entirely without a sense of humor. Back of Plymouth over the hill upon which they planted their cannon is a large fresh water pond, perhaps a mile in diameter, which, it appears from the records, was discovered by John Billington while he was prowling around one night, probably on a scouting expedition looking for Indians.

Beyond Medical Skill.

Master—Late again, Sandy! Can't you manage to get here in time? Sandy (with a doleful headache)—I canna sleep o' nights, sor, and so I'm loath to get up in the mornin'.

The Morning Meal.

"Now, children," said the teacher, "what do you call the meal that you eat in the morning?" "Oatmeal," promptly responded a number of the class.—What to Eat.

Hard on the Gentler Sex.

There is much of the slave and the tyrant hidden in the nature of woman. This woman is not yet capable of friendship, but only of love.

In the love of woman is injustice and blindness to all that she does not love. There are two things a true man likes—danger and play. He likes woman because she is the most dangerous of playthings.

A woman's principle of honor is to love more than she is loved, so as not to be second.

All women behind their personal vanity cherish an impersonal contempt for woman.

The chief danger that besets artists of genius lies in woman. The worshiping woman is their ruin. Hardly one has character enough to resist his ruin when he finds himself treated like a god.

Women indulge in literature as they commit a little sin, glancing round to see if any one is looking—i. e., to attract attention.—Henry Nietzsche in Academy.

The Minnow Trap.

The minnow trap used for catching minnows for bait is of glass, shaped like a jar or a bottle without a neck and of a capacity of six or eight quarts. The bottom of the trap rises in a cone, like the bottom of a champagne bottle, but instead of being solid the top of the cone is cut off, making an opening in the trap.

The minnow trap is slung horizontally in a wire holder, which has a handle on top, to which a rope is made fast. Suitable bait to attract minnows is placed in the trap, which is then lowered into the water. The cone with the opening at the inner end in the bottom is in effect like the opening into an eel or fish trap.

Vegetarian Crocodiles.

A report by George Hoare, one of the officials of the British Central Africa protectorate, summarized in the local gazette, contains some curious details of the crocodiles of Lake Chiuta. They would seem to be strict vegetarians, for not only have they never been known to attack the men fishing in the lake, but their tracks were shown by the natives to the writer at a distance of several miles from its shores, whence they are said to travel overland in search of roots.

Strange Tastes.

One day while at Versailles during the French war Lord Odo Russell went to call on Bismarck, but found him closeted with Count Harry Arnim, who was known as the "Ape," from his fantastical ways. Before long Arnim came out, fanning himself with his handkerchief and looking as if about to choke.

When Russell entered the room, he found the chancellor fanning himself beside an open case. "What strange tastes some people have!" he exclaimed. "Arnim has just been with me, and he was so overpoweringly perfumed that I had to open the window."

Don't Worry About the Editor.

The editor has a charter from the state to act as doorman for the community. He will get the paper out somehow and stand up for the town and whop it up for you when you run for office and lie about your big footed son when he gets a \$4 a week job and weep over your shriveled son when it is released from its grasping body and smile at your wife's second marriage.

Victims of Gambling.

The list of persons who have killed themselves because they have been ruined by the Vienna Municipal Lottery is a long one. The other day a woman who had spent all her money in buying tickets and had never won a prize hanged herself. Nevertheless the citizens of Vienna look with favor on the lottery, as it keeps down taxes.

A Spoiled Child.

"What are you crying about now, dearie?" asked the fond mother. "Is there something mamma's sweetest wants?" "Yes."

War in Sewing Machines.

War in sewing machines, but the "White" victorious.

Report of County Supervisor

Table with multiple columns listing various items, amounts, and categories such as 'ROADS AND BRIDGES', 'COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS', 'SHERIFF'S ACCOUNT', etc.

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Advertisement for J. A. Renno, Insurance Agent, with text: 'HAVING BEEN APPOINTED GENERAL AGENT for the Alpine Fire and Burglar Proof Safe Company. I am prepared to offer liberal terms to those who are in need of a good safe.'