

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

The word "khaki" comes from the Persian "khak," meaning earth or dust, and was applied to a colour rather than a fabric. In the early days of the British occupation of India, the soldiers wore regulation red uniforms or white duck, which made them a fine target for Indian snipers. They learned to make themselves less conspicuous by dipping their uniforms in mud. This crude camouflage is said to have been first used by the British in the Sikh wars from 1845 to 1849.

The ancient church at Greenstead, Essex, England, still has its original timber walls, which were erected before A.D. 841.

At the height of the fashion craze for bird of paradise feathers during the 'eighties and 'nineties of the last century, about 50,000 plumes were each year exported from New Guinea. The hunters were so active that it was feared the beautiful birds would become extinct. By the 1920's, the traffic in the feathers was banned, and the species are again becoming plentiful.

Jersey, one of the islands in the English Channel, has been under the British Crown since 1066. The purity of its famous breed of Jersey cattle is carefully preserved.

In the White River region of South Dakota, U.S.A., geologists discovered the home of prehistoric monsters believed to have lived there millions of years ago. Largest creature was the brontotherium, which was similar in appearance to a rhinoceros, and reached the size of a full-grown elephant.

There are probably more species of insects on earth than of all other animals combined. About 800,000 species have been catalogued in museums, including some 250,000 beetles.

The coat worn by the cadets of the U.S. West Point Military Academy bears forty-four buttons, which is claimed to be a button record!

Some superstitious Chinese believe that eating of dogs' flesh gives them courage. They use asbestos, moths, snake-skins, seal kidneys, powdered crabs, four-legged ducks and two-headed turtles in their medicines. To cure malignant fevers, they sometimes swallow powdered rhinoceros horns or pills made with tiger whiskers.

The pitch of the human voice depends on the size of the larynx and the tenseness and vibrations of the vocal cords, and usually a low or deep voice is produced by a large larynx with long cords. Ventriloquists produce their effects from in-drawing the air instead of in the usual manner, by expiration. In animals, the chief organ of voice is the larynx, but birds have a special organ, called the syrinx, which is the source of their song.

There are only nine towns in the whole of Albania with a population of more than 5,000. There are no railways in the country, but 13,000 miles of roads. Only about 9 per cent. of the land there can be cultivated; the rest consists of high mountains and valleys with untillable soil.

For centuries porcelain china was manufactured only in China, because it was believed that that country possessed the only type of clay from which transparent porcelain could be made. Later, it was found that the clay was not unique and was found in various parts of England and in Europe, so porcelain began to be made there, too. However, the word "china" is still generally used, though it has lost its original meaning.

The owl moth of Brazil is the world's largest moth. It measures fully 10 inches from wing to wing.



Two men of to-morrow!
Fitzi Hamilton and Watson
Taylor, of Moonacullah.