



STRANGER *than* FICTION



By JOHN S. STUART

JUST A MOUTHFUL!

CLAMS are indeed a large family. Members range from three inches in length, which are quite common, to "Gigas," which are forty-three inches long, weighing 600 pounds.

ROADSIDE SHAVERS



IN the Chinese villages, commuters, if there are such people, get a break. Along the highway are to be found itinerant barbers who set up shop beside a tree, and shave any customers who tarry on their journey. In social standing the barber is on a par with the actor.

A NEW USE FOR MILK

DR. SOLÉ, of Vienna, has just finished some remarkable experiments. He has discovered that bleeding will stop in two minutes when human milk is applied on cotton tampons. Previously six to eight minutes was the minimum time when blood would coagulate—table salt is often used.

THE ONCE-OVER

AN X-ray machine has just been developed which makes it possible to study the eye when the eyelids are closed. It is designed for use in finding foreign particles in the eyes, showing cataracts or tumors, and whether the optic nerve is alive. The patient closes his eye, places it against a tube with a diaphragm of lead. When the X-ray is turned on, the eye is projected on the sensitive diaphragm.

This feature appears in ARGOSY every week

\$48,000 FOR A BELL!

A BELL which will weigh about twenty tons and will be nine feet high and ten feet in circumference, is to be placed on top of Chiu Hua Mountain in Anhui Province, China. Buddhist societies in Shanghai plan to spend \$48,000 for this bell. It is expected it will be heard within a radius of about 30 miles.

STRENGTH OF THE RHINO

THE warriors of West Africa (Wajagga tribe) prepare for war by drinking native beer, made "magical" with the shavings of the hide and horn of a powerful rhinoceros. They firmly believe that the strength of the rhinoceros is imparted to them through this drink, when the protective spirits are pleased with their campaign.



NO DEPRESSION FOR OYSTERS!

THE University of Washington has found a booster for depressions. Professor Kincaid has been conducting some tests on oyster culture, and locked up one hundred oysters in a tank of clear water for ten months. The oysters grew fat!

TEN PAIRS OF TWINS

AT the Post Road Public School in White Plains, New York, there are ten pairs of twins in attendance. Their ages range from five to fourteen years. Some look alike, others could not be recognized as brothers or sisters.

The Hounding Minstrel

By CHARLES HAVEN

A tramp's guitar strummed a haunting tune of murder which led to retribution



"Stop that!" shrieked
Huff. "Stop it!"

FOR one month old John King, erstwhile insurance agent, had been a millionaire. The unprecedented land "boom" in Florida made his ten hundred thousand for him. When the bubble burst he found himself in possession of a few hundred dollars, an automobile, and a brand-new town that nobody lived in. Sylvan City, he called the town. It was miles inland from the lower east coast highway, and isolated. Florida was much over-built. Not a house in Sylvan City could be sold for enough to settle its tax levy.

But King would not give up this dream of his, and he lived there alone, a monarch among weeds, the saplings and vines of a new and swiftly growing jungle, ants and mosquitoes, lizards

and gophers, salamanders and snakes. The world-wide depression came on, and the State had its quota of human derelicts. King took in a score of these, and worked out at least a temporary scheme of salvation for them and for himself.

There appeared in Sylvan City late one afternoon two men from Louisiana. The first to arrive was a stockily built brute of a fellow, unshaven and ragged. His name was Joe Huff. In spite of him, his manner was surly.

"I heard about you, Mr. King," he began. "I—I got to eat."

King, tall and gaunt and grizzled, sat in worn whites, barefoot, on a stool in the shaded main entrance of a faded and peeling stucco building that had been meant for the town hall. He was