

head on that last play, didn't you, John?" he said.

John Noonan smiled wanly.

"Sort of," he replied.

Big Jim nodded. "It's a good thing you're tough, or they'd have had to do more than take five stitches," he said. Becoming serious he continued, "John, I saw that last strike. I was sitting right behind the plate to-day. You could easily have let the boy go down to first on it, but you didn't.—I saw other plays, too—close ones."

A moment he paused, looking into the square, wondering face of Noonan.

"There's going to be room in the National League for another umpire next season, John," he went on at last. "We won't go into details now, but when you get stronger there's a contract waiting for you."

"Gee, that's swell!" said Terry Noonan. His young, tanned face broke into a smile.

"But you, kid," said Noonan. "Did you—did Decato—?"

Still smiling, Terry shook his head.

"He took Danny Logan," he said.

"He said I needed another year of seasonin'. He talked to me plenty straight, too; told me as soon as I got over playin' to the grandstand all the time I'd be a better ball player.—Oh, he told me right where I got off, all right. But I had it comin' to me. And say, it didn't do me a bit o' harm, neither."

Noonan's voice was husky. "No, that's right, kid," he said. "You did have it comin' to you.—But just the same, I kind of wish you'd gone up."

"I got plenty o' time," said Terry, cheerfully. "I'll make it all right." Almost shyly he put his hand on his father's, only to draw it quickly away again. "But I guess the best play now is for you to go up first an' show me the way!"

John Noonan turned his head quickly away. For years he'd been calling 'em as he saw them, but for some reason at the moment he couldn't see.

THE END

Crazy Courage

WHEN the Foreign Legion of France was fighting Druse tribes in Syria they ran up against a new kind of courage. At Moussifrey three thousand Druse horsemen charged a barbed-wire fortification. Hundreds died. Horses went down. Still they came, till the entanglement was full of dead bodies. Over this bridge of corpses charged the fanatic tribesmen, naked, holding their bullets in rags grasped in their teeth. Machine guns mowed them down as they cleared the barbs.

Twenty charged a tank, grasping the caterpillar tread bare-handed to stop it. Even when ten had been shot and five crushed by the tank, the remaining five kept on. Again twenty charged a machine gun nest . . . One reached the gunner and sliced his hand with a knife before he went down. Three hundred hid till they were in the midst of 12,000 advancing Frenchmen, then staged a wild attack. A cannon was quickly swung about and fired directly at them.

Such willingness to die has been explained by the Druse belief that he will return to earth in a splendid new body after fifteen years in paradise, a sort of harem.

J. W. Holden.



STRANGER than FICTION

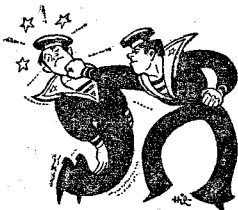


By JOHN S. STUART

STUPEFIED FISH

ON the Canary Islands grows a plant known as *Euphorbia Canariensis*, belonging to the same family as the box-tree used for hedges. The species which grows on the Canary Islands flourishes only where its roots can make contact with the basic lava of the islands. It yields a caustic milk which when used by fishermen stupefies the fish.

WHAT A WALLOP!



RECENTLY on the Boston police records appeared this unusual charge. Deocleceisiro Carneiro, a seaman, charged John Maceria, another seaman, with hitting him on the jaw with such vigor that he broke his right ankle!

DENTISTRY 1,000 YEARS AGO

THE Zapotec Indians, in Mexico, practised dentistry one thousand years ago. All the dental work was done solely for decoration, and the teeth were inlaid with hematite, gold and other precious metals. For an anaesthetic the Indians used a wild mushroom which still grows in Mexico and produces a "jag" which lasts for days.

BABY UNDER THE BED

WHEN a doctor visits the homes of certain Mexican peons he always looks for the baby under the bed. No cribs, trundles or baskets are used for the baby. It is wrapped in a strip of white cloth three or four yards long, arms pinioned to its sides, and carelessly tossed out of the way under the bed!

ANCIENT AID TO BEAUTY

HENNA, the dye that is used for woman's hair to-day, and that was employed to stain her fingernails and toes, in past ages, is an Egyptian plant. It bears small white flowers, and the leaves, when dried and crushed to dust, are made into a paste which is used as a dye.

WOMAN'S WITCHING WAYS

AN act passed by Parliament in the Seventeenth Century, provided that—"any woman, whatever age, rank, profession or degree, whether maids or widows, which from and after such an act, impose upon, seduce, and betray into matrimony any of his Majesty's subjects by use of cosmetics, washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, hoops, bolstered hips, shall incur the penalty of the law in force against witchcraft and like misdemeanors and the marriage upon conviction shall stand null and void."

WHITE DUCK—BLACK EGG

MRS. F. COX of East Hagbourne, Berkshire, England, claims she owns a remarkable duck. The duck is white, and has astonished the neighbors by laying a perfectly black egg.



HOOK-MONEY

IN Ceylon, during the seventeenth century, the currency was something you could hang onto. It was not in the form of coins, as we know them to-day, but was chunks of actual silver, each chunk with a hook. It was known as "hook-money."

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