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THE OCEAN LINER.

Safety Devices That Are Operated From the Bridge.

It is in its safety devices and the provision made to meet every possible accident that the ocean liner is perhaps most remarkable. All the machinery which may be set in motion in case of danger is centered on the bridge, and so perfectly has it been arranged that the entire vessel could be controlled if the necessity should arise by means of a series of levers and push buttons. About the walls of the wheelhouse are arranged curious looking indicators, much the same as one sees behind the desk of a great hotel. About them are hung a surprising variety of barometers, thermometers, thermostats, wind and rain gauges and other less familiar looking instruments. There are rows upon rows of buttons and levers on every hand, all highly polished and in the most perfect working order. The danger of fire at sea, for instance, is anticipated by a thermostat connected with the frame filled with little squares like the hotel indicator. There are thermometers in every part of the ship electrically connected with this box which are constantly on guard. If a fire should start in any part of the great ship the temperature would of course rise, and the fact would instantly be announced in the wheelhouse by the ringing of a bell, while a red light would flash at the same time in one of the squares of the indicator. The man at the wheel could tell at a glance the exact point of danger.—Francis Arnold Collins in St. Nicholas.

POTATOES IN FRANCE.

Parmentier's Wily Plan to Kill the Prejudice Against Them.

The way in which Parmentier created a demand for potatoes in France would have done credit to the wildest of wily tradesmen. Nothing would at first induce the simple minded peasants to cultivate the popular tuber. They would not listen to lectures on its virtues nor accept seed potatoes free of cost for planting.

Parmentier therefore decided to get the better of their prejudice by artifice and with this object leased as much land as he could round Paris and planted it with potatoes. Just before the ripening of the crop he posted watchers round the fields and issued notices that all persons stealing potatoes would be severely punished, the crop being intended for the tables of the king and nobles.

Such delicacies, continued the notice, were too good for ignorant peasants, who would touch them at their peril. Of course watch was only kept during the day, and at night the fields were robbed right and left by the peasants, who were curious to taste the strange vegetable and jealous that it should be reserved for their betters.

As soon as they had tasted the succulent tubers the pilferers were only too anxious to plant as many as they could possibly purchase, the wily Parmentier's scheme thus succeeding beyond the most extravagant anticipations.

The Chinese Lily.

To raise the Chinese sacred lily in water remove the brown dried skin and all the hard callous at the base of the bulbs. Do not separate the bulbs, but take a sharp knife and score the main bulb as though to quarter it, but do not cut more than a quarter of an inch deep. Cut the offshoot also. This wastes the bulb, but develops the foliage growth. Arrange the bulbs in a glass bowl, steadying them with pebbles, bits of marble and shells; also put in broken charcoal to keep the water sweet. The water may be changed once or twice before they bloom. Place in a dark cupboard or closet for ten days until the roots are well started.

A President's Pipe.

General Jackson was a poor eater, and well for him that he was, or he would have often gone hungry on the days when large crowds came to the White House for a free lunch. It is related on one occasion the poor man was moved to thank the Almighty that after the crowd had gone there was a raw piece of steak in the ice chest off which he could make a dinner. There seems to be absolutely no foundation for the stories of Jackson being a hard drinker, for his physical condition forbade all excesses. He liked his toddy in company with his corn-cob pipe, but he was no lover of all kinds of intoxicants.—Home Magazine.

VALUE OF FINGERS.

What the Various Countries of Europe Allow For Their Loss.

The different fingers are far from having the same value in the eyes of the law with reference to their functional utilization. Much the most important is the thumb, for without it prehension would be very imperfect. The hand is no longer pinchers, but merely a claw, when deprived of the thumb. It may be estimated that the thumb represents fully a third of the total value of the hand. The French courts allow 15 to 35 per cent value for the right hand and 10 to 15 for the left. The Austrian schedule gives from 15 per cent for the left to 25 per cent for the right. In Germany 20 and 28 per cent and even as high as 33.3 per cent has been awarded. The percentage is based on 100 as the total industrial value of the hand previous to the accident, a loss of 50 per cent representing half of the value, etc.

The total loss of the index finger causes an incapacity estimated at 10 to 15 per cent in Austria, 16 to 20 per cent in Germany, 15 per cent for the left and 20 per cent for the right by Italian courts. The French allow 15 per cent.

The middle finger is of much more importance than the index, states Dr. Melgoun, whom we are citing and who is no small authority, for a great loss of force is observed in the hand when the finger is amputated. Yet almost all the authorities ascribe less importance to it than the index. The Italian law allows 5 per cent, the Austrian 5 to 10 per cent.

The ring finger is the least important. Its total loss often does not cause incapacity. The Austrian tariff assimilates this finger to the middle one. The Italian law is liberal, with 8 per cent. The French and German tribunals often refuse indemnity, considering the incapacity resulting from the loss as very slight.

The little finger may be compared to the ring, except in the professions in which it serves as a point of support for the hand. It may be remarked here that the artist has not been taken into consideration in these cases.—Philadelphia Record.

INSECT SUPERSTITIONS.

The Koran says all flies shall perish with the exception of one, the bee fly.

It is regarded as a death warning in Germany to hear a cricket's cry in the night.

The Tapuya Indians of South America assert that the devil assumes the shape of a fly.

The grasshoppers are said to forewarn people in Germany of the visits of strange guests.

The Spaniards in the sixteenth century thought that spiders indicated the existence of gold wherever they were in abundance.

Although a sacred insect among the Egyptians, the beetle receives little notice in folklore. It is unlucky in England to kill one.

The ancients believed that there was a close connection between bees and the soul. An old Welsh tradition is that bees came from paradise, leaving the garden when man fell, but with God's blessing, so that the wax is necessary in the celebration of the mass.

Arnold and His Circus.

Matthew Arnold used to travel in company with Mrs. Arnold, his two daughters and the agent, whom he elegantly called his "impresario." They usually had railway passes given to them, and on several occasions, when presenting these to the conductor, he remarked in a condescending tone, "Oh, the Arnold troop, I suppose?" "Just as if we were a traveling circus," said Mr. Arnold, with a hearty laugh.

The Best Return.

After all, it isn't the way we live or the work we do that matters, but the ideal we put into it. Is there any work too sordid, too prosaic, to yield a return of beauty?—Ellen Glasgow.

Nothing to Steal.

Minister's Wife—Wake up! There are burglars in the house, John. Minister—Well, what of it? Let them find out their mistake themselves.—Christian Register.

Don't speak too plainly. If a man were to set out by calling everything by its right name, he would be knocked down before he got to the corner of the street.—Exchange.

"A GOOD LOOKER."

Appearances Have Much to Do With Success In Business.

"Send me a good looker. I don't mean pretty, you know, but one who knows how to dress—the tailor made kind who visits the hairdresser and the manicure. Of course I know it costs, but we are willing to pay for it." This was a telephone message received by a large employment agency from a business man who required the services of a young woman bookkeeper and general office assistant.

A shabby necktie or soiled linen or a cheap, well worn hat may cost you very dear, for it may be a turning point in some one's mind who has been thinking of patronizing you. Business men are keen eyed, very sharp and often influenced by little things. Many a worthy youth has been sent away when applying for a situation because of some telltale in his dress or manner which made a bad impression.

Young men may so far emphasize the matter of dress that their good appearance is about all there is to them. At the same time appearances have much to do with one's advancement, especially in large cities. In New York it is almost impossible for young men to get a start who are obliged to overcome the handicap of an unfavorable impression. It seems as though New Yorkers would forgive anything quicker than a slovenly or a poverty stricken appearance.—Success Magazine.

STREETS IN A BIG STORE.

The Piles of Merchandise Are Numbered Like Houses.

In a large wholesale grocery house in Kansas City the lanes that intersect the great piles of merchandise have been named as streets, and the stacks of boxes, bags and packages have each been marked with a number, as the houses upon city streets are numbered. The other day a member of the firm gave the following order to a trucker:

"Go over to Easy street, get that bunch of swells and take them to parlor S."

A stranger in the big store would not have known what that order meant. The trucker knew.

All canned goods that swell from the formation of gases inside are called "swells" in the grocery trade. In this house all "swells" are kept in a room upstairs called "parlor S." "Easy street" is a lane that leads down to "Fairlyland," the big room where many girls work putting up packages.

"Clabber alley" is the lane which passes through the great stacks of condensed milk. "Corneake lane" goes through the cornmeal packages and barrels.

The system of naming the streets and dividing the different brands of goods into numbers facilitates the business of order filling to the extent that almost twice the work can be done now by the same number of order fillers that could be done a few years ago.—Kansas City Star.

The Free Lance's Paradise.

The literary free lance is bred naturally in New York and thrives in its atmosphere because the market for his wares is stable and infinitely varied. The very life of metropolitan publishing lies in the search for new men and variety. Publishers spend great sums upon the winnowing machinery that thrashes over what comes to their editors' desks, and no editor in the metropolis grudges the time necessary to talk with those who call in person and have ideas good enough to carry them past his assistants. Publicly the editorial tribe may lament the many hours spent yearly in this winnowing process. Yet every experienced editor in New York has his own story of the stranger, uncouth, unpromising, unready of speech, who stole in late one afternoon and seemed to have almost nothing in him, yet who afterward became the prolific scribbler or the great D'Auber.—J. H. Collins in Atlantic.

What a Jubilee Is.

Some years ago, before Queen Victoria's death and about the time that the queen's jubilee was to be celebrated, the following conversation between two old Scotchwomen was overheard one day on a street corner in London: "Can ye tell me, wumman, what is it they call a jubilee?" "Well, it's this," said her neighbor. "When folk has been married twenty-five years, that's a silver wuddin', and when they have been married fifty years that's a golden wuddin', but if the mon's dead then it's a jubilee."—Herald's Weekly.

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Saddles, Harness, Collars, Whips, Pads, Etc.
Cowboy Boots a Speciality.

We use the Best California leather in all our Saddles and Harness. All our Best Grade Saddles are Made on the Celebrated Menia Seal Fork Tree.

Special Announcement.

I have moved into my new quarters where I have more room and am better equipped than ever before to give my customers good service in the way of Saddles, Harness and Cowboy Boots. Try me when you want something nice and up-to-date. A. G. HALL & SON, Big Springs.

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Everything new and first-class, Everything new and first-class

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HOW LINCOLN WON.

A Bad Looking Legal Case That Was Saved by Frankness.

The lawyer whose honesty is proved has the confidence of the judge and jury. A story of Abraham Lincoln is an illustration. He was appointed to defend one charged with murder. The crime was a brutal one, the evidence entirely circumstantial, the accused a stranger. Feeling was high and against the friendless defendant. On the trial Lincoln drew from the witnesses full statements of what they saw and knew. There was no effort to confuse, no attempt to place before the jury the facts other than they were. In the argument, after calling attention to the fact that there was no direct testimony, Lincoln reviewed the circumstances and, after conceding that this and that seemed to point to defendant's guilt, closed by saying that he had reflected much on the case, and, while it seemed probable that defendant was guilty, he was not sure and, looking the jury straight in the face, said, "Are you?" The defendant was acquitted, and afterward the real criminal was detected and punished. How different would have been the conduct of many lawyers! Some would have striven to lead the judge into technical errors with a view to an appeal to a higher court. Others would have become hoarse in denunciation of witnesses, deprecating the lack of positive testimony and the marvelous virtue of a reasonable doubt. The simple, straightforward way of Lincoln, backed by the confidence of the jury, won. —D. J. Brewer in Atlantic.

A MONKEY'S ROLES.

Defined by Customs Men as a Bird, a Package and a Dog.

On the travels of a monkey from Genoa to Heidelberg an amusing farce might be written. A German gentleman brought from southwest Africa a tiny monkey weighing barely a couple of pounds. From Tangar to Genoa all went well with the ill-fated animal. It was a favorite with every one and traveled free until Genoa was reached, when its troubles began.

Brought under the notice of the Genoese custom house authorities, it was promptly deprived of its identity. It was no longer an animal; it became a bird, and as a bird, on which 28 cents was charged, it was conveyed to the Swiss frontier, where at a stroke of the custom house officer's wand it was transformed into a cat at the increased assessment of \$1.56 and borne by train to Zurich.

On its arrival there it ceased as a cat to exist and became a mere package, an item of luggage that was conveyed to Constance for the nominal sum of 16 cents.

Still as luggage, though metamorphosed from a package into a hand bag, it went on its way to Stuttgart, where a great honor awaited it. It was on payment of \$2.04 exalted into a dog, and it was as a dog that it ended its journey at the university town of Heidelberg.—Stray Stories.

Caution.

"Sister Henderson," said Deacon Hypers, "you should avoid even the appearance of evil."

"Why, deacon, what do you mean?" asked Sister Henderson.

"I observe that on your sideboard you have several cut glass decanters and that each of them is half filled with what appears to be ardent spirits."

"Well, now, deacon, it isn't anything of the kind. The bottles look so pretty on the sideboard that I just filled them halfway with some floor stain and furniture polish just for appearances."

"That's why I'm cautioning you, sister," replied the deacon. "Feeling a trifle weak and faint, I helped myself to a dose from the big bottle in the middle."—Life.

Wedding Gifts of Long Ago.

In the list of presents received at the wedding of the daughter of Mr. Moor of Losely, in 1567, from M. Balam, Esq., out of Marshland, in Norfolk, appear the following: "Cranes 9, Heronshaws 5, Curlews 1, Ducks Mallards 44, Teales 26, Plovers 9 dozen, swannes 9, larks 38 dozen, Bytters 16, Knotts 4 dozen and 4, Styntes 7 dozen, Godwyts 22." It is a formidable list, including some 850 birds, of which 450 are larks, and must, one would imagine, have been something of an embarrassment to Mr. Moor's daughter.—Country Life.

A Hearty Laugh.

Never lose an opportunity for relaxation from the stress and strain of your business or profession. Every draft of laughter, like an air cushion, cases you over the jolts and the hard places on life's highway. Laughter is always healthy. It tends to bring every abnormal condition back to the normal. It is a panacea for heartaches, for life's bruises. It is a life prolonger. People who laugh heartily keep themselves in physical and mental harmony and are likely to live longer than those who take life too seriously.

EARTHQUAKES.

Their Causes, Their Frequency and Their Two Great Belts.

There is never a day on which some part of the earth is not shaken, and it is probable that not even an hour ever passes without some kind of an earthquake in some part of the earth. The truth of this statement may be inferred from the fact that in Japan alone 8,331 earthquakes were recorded between the years 1885 and 1892. The great majority of these shocks are tremors detected only by instruments or, if noticed by man, of such slight intensity as to cause no alarm. Many, however, are sufficiently strong to endanger life and property, and there is every gradation between the tremors which only delicate instruments detect and the earthquake which devastates a great city.

Causes for jars in the earth are many and of different kinds. The falling in of the roofs of caverns has been known to cause earthquakes, and landslides have caused others. These, however, are minor causes, and the resulting shocks are of slight importance. A far more potent cause for earthquakes is volcanic action.

There are two great belts on the earth in which either volcanoes are active or mountains are growing or in which the two phenomena are associated. These two belts follow great circles. One of these passes through the West Indies, the Mediterranean sea, the Caucasus and Himalaya mountains and is called by De Montessus the Mediterranean or Alpine-Caucasus-Himalayan belt. In this belt 53 per cent of all recorded earthquakes have occurred. The second belt nearly encircles the Pacific, following the Andes, the mountains of western North America, the Aleutian islands, Japan and the Philippines. This De Montessus calls the circum-Pacific or Andes-Japanese-Malayan belt. In this belt have occurred 41 per cent of all recorded earthquakes. In all the rest of the world the recorded earthquakes equal only 6 per cent of the total number.

Those whose homes are outside the two belts of frequent earthquakes are not absolutely immune from disturbance, as is proved by the earthquake at Charleston in 1886 and at New Madrid in 1812. But in those parts of the globe earthquakes are not common. They occur in widely scattered localities at rare intervals and are not commonly of great destructiveness. In the belts of frequent earthquakes, on the other hand, shocks may occur in many places at frequent intervals and occasionally with great violence. San Francisco and Santiago, for example, are situated on danger lines in the earth's crust, as are many other places in the two great earthquake belts.—Professor Ralph S. Tarr in Leslie's Weekly.

The Successful Ad. Writer.

Advertising requires versatility of a high order. To win success in this field a man must not only be able to combine human interest with the strictest accuracy of fact, but unless he is a specialist in a certain line, taking up advertising commissions at intervals, he must be ready to cope with subjects of the most diverse character. Today he studies the methods of making cigars and the many different kinds of tobacco that enter therein; tomorrow he writes a monograph on enameled tin cans, investigating the processes of making them in the factory, and the day after that his topic may be breakfast foods, taking him into investigations of starch, gluten, digestive functions, diet and health and setting him upon a weary hunt for synonyms to describe the "rich nutty flavor" that all breakfast foods are said to have. All the illustrative work of an advertising artist must be so true to detail that it will pass the eyes of men who spend their lives making the things he pictures. It was the manufacturer of a widely advertised specialty who, difficult to please in circulars, looked over the manuscript submitted by an advertising free lance with more approval than was his custom. "This is not bad," he commented; "not bad at all—and yet—I have seen all these words used before."—J. H. Collins in Atlantic.

How Icebergs Are Born.

The birth of a huge iceberg, a phenomenon that has been seen only once or twice by a European and to a certain extent has remained a matter of theory, was observed by the Danish explorers on the east coast of Greenland some time since. The bergs are formed by breaking off from the end of glaciers extending from the perpetual ice of the unexplored interior to the coast and into the sea. The water buoys up the sea end of the glacier until it breaks by its own weight with a terrific crash. The commotion of the water as the iceberg turns over and over in the effort to attain its balance is felt to a great distance along the coast. The natives regard it as the work of evil spirits and believe that to look upon the glacier in its throes is death.

FALSE MIRRORS.

Many Varieties Are Made For Special Business Purposes.

"It is not enough to make true mirrors," the dealer said. "If that were all, ours would be indeed a simple business."

"Dressmakers and milliners require mirrors of all sorts. They need, for example, a mirror that makes one look taller and thinner. When they dress a fat, short patron in one of their new hats or suits they lead her to this mirror, and she is so surprised and pleased with the change for the better in her looks that straight off she buys."

"For maissours I make a mirror that, like a retouched photograph, hides blemishes, wrinkles, scars. The masseur takes the wrinkled face of some rich old woman, steams it, thumps it, pinches it and smacks it for an hour and then holds up to it the mirror that gives a bluish, bluish hiding reflection. The woman thinks her wrinkles are gone and she buys till she gets home to her own true mirror."

"All accountants make some twenty varieties of false mirrors. Salesmen and saleswomen in millinery and dressmaking establishments can double and quadruple their business if they are quick and deft in their selection of the mirror that attracts each patron best."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Housekeeping in Japan.

I never could regard housecleaning seriously in Japan, where the walls can be put aside by one hand, where there is no particular furniture to worry one and where even the matting can be laid and lifted without tacks or nails. But the Japanese housekeepers of my acquaintance rather resented my light attitude, assuring me, quite after the manner of housekeepers all over the world, that it is all very hard and requires much work—oh, very much work indeed. In order to justify myself to one housekeeper I drew a comparison of her own difficulties and those of an American woman, but the American picture seemed to her so terrible and she became so deeply sympathetic that I had to stop short to save her feelings.—Housekeeper.

First Man Dressmaker.

One day in 1730 a beautiful carriage appeared on the boulevard of Paris with an escutcheon in the shape of a pair of corsets and an open pair of scissors painted on the panel of each door. This was the coat of arms of Rhomburg, the first man who made a name as a woman's dressmaker. Rhomburg, who was the son of a Bavarian peasant from the neighborhood of Munich, owed his rapid success to his genius for concealing and remedying defects of figure. He left an annual income of 50,000 francs to his heirs.

A King's Logic.

George IV. of England prided himself on lifting his hat to every one who saluted him in public, but once it was observed that he bowed to every one on the street till he came to a man who swept a crossing, whom he passed without notice. He explained the matter afterward, when points of etiquette were under discussion, by saying, "To salute a beggar without giving him something would be a mockery, and to stop for the purpose of bestowing sixpence would wear the semblance of ostentation in a prince."

The View of Experience.

"What I want," said the constituent, "is a nice, easy position."

"My friend," answered Senator Sorghum, "give up that idea. When an easy position is discovered so many people are after it that a man has to fight ten hours a day to hold on to it."—Washington Star.

First Thing in Order.

Teacher—Johnny, if I gave you 5 cents and your brother 10 cents, what would that make? Johnny—Trouble.—Denver News.

None can injure him who does not injure himself.—St. Chrysostom.

Question and Answer.

When Nathan M. Morse was trying the Tuckerman will case before Judge McKim, Dr. Jelley, the well known expert on insanity, was one of the witnesses. One of the hypothetical questions asked of the witness by Mr. Morse contained no less than 20,000 words. The lawyer started this pithy question at the opening of court and closed only a few minutes prior to the noon adjournment. The point that Mr. Morse was endeavoring to bring out related to the mental condition of the testator when he made his will.

This is said to have been the longest single interrogation ever made in a court of law, and the answer comprised just three words, "I do not."—Boston Herald.

Getting a Fit.

"What's the matter across the way?" asked the tailor of a bystander as the ambulance backed up to the door of his rival.

"A customer fell in a fit, and they are taking him to the hospital," was the reply.

"That's strange," said the tailor. "I never knew a customer to get a fit in that establishment before."

Man.

These are the real facts about the standing of the noblest work of God—man. He is first known as the son of his mother, then the husband of his wife and ends by being known as the father of his children.—Athenian Globe.

Perfumed Foods.

The food of the gods in the Greek Olympus is described as sweeter than honey and of a most luscious fragrance; also it was a restorative. Apollo, in the "Iliad," saves the body of Sarpedon from putrefaction by the application of ambrosia. In the "Eneid" Venus heals the wounds of her son by this perfumed food, and it is said that Egle, wife of Ptolemy Soter, tasted of it and was saved from death. The goddesses used it for the toilet when they wished to appear specially captivating—Juno when she adorned herself to meet Jupiter, Venus when she presented herself to Aeneas and Psyche when her heart palpitated at the coming of Cupid. The Epicureans thought that perfume mixed with their wine enabled them to drink more plentifully without leaving ill effects. Not the Epicureans only, but the Bacchantes, mingled honey and a fragrant infusion of flowers in their wine cups. In the east perfumed sherbets are much appreciated, as well as highly scented cakes and lozenges.—London Society.

Checking a Cough.

It is not usually supposed that any exercise of the will power can be made efficient in checking a cough or a sneeze, but a celebrated doctor says sneezing can be stopped by pressing on the nerve of the lips in the neighborhood of the nose. Coughing may be stopped by slight pressure in front of the ear. This will also stop hiccupping. Pressing very hard on the top of the mouth is also a means of stopping coughing, and many say the will alone has immense power. There are various other affections associated with breathing, which can be stopped by the same mechanism that stops the heart's action. In spasm of the glottis, which is a terrible thing in children, and also in whooping cough, it is possible to afford relief by throwing cold water on the feet or by tickling the soles of the feet, which produces laughter and at the same time arrests the spasm almost at once.

Picture and Frame.

"The function that the framing of a picture should subserve and the character which it consequently should have are so obvious that seemingly they ought not to be so easily and so often lost to view, as in reality they are," says Frederick W. Coburn in the International Studio. "A pictorial composition should, of course, be enclosed by a frame of such a sort that its attractiveness will be enhanced and that an agreeable transition will be established between it and its surroundings. Although the frame may in and for itself be beautiful, its beauty must be kept distinctly subservient to the aesthetic value of the picture. In no event may it be positively ugly. If machine construction is necessarily involved, this must at least be made as unobjectionable as possible. However, the frame should be produced in strict accordance with handicraft methods."

New Goods and Low Prices. . . .

We have just received our Fall Goods and offer to the Public the best stock of General Merchandise ever shown in this county.

A FEW OF OUR SPECIALS:

Comforts, Blankets \$1.50 to \$4.00.
and Lap Robes at
Solid Leather and Composition \$4.00 to \$6.00.
Suir Cases, at
Riding and Driving Gloves, 75 cents to \$2.50.
Full Line Stetson Hats, C. H. Hyer Shop Made Boots, Saddles
Blankets, Spurs and Spur Straps and Leather Goods of
Every Description.

Everything in Groceries, Hardware & Notions

Come and look! We know you will be welcome and are sure you will be pleased.

Brownfield Mercantile Company,
Brownfield, Texas.