

SOUND THE OCEAN

Scientific Investigation Is Now Going On.

Strong Probability That the Wonders of the Deep Will Be Revealed Very Shortly.

Difficulties encountered in deep-sea sounding are disclosed by a marine engineer writing in the London (England) Daily Mail.

Deep-sea sounding of late years, he says, has become a very exact science. When a ship is thousands of miles from land the real work begins. To sink a lead to a quite shallow depth is the easiest thing in the world. But when it comes to working in miles, sailors are brought up against a very different problem.

Even today nobody knows exactly where the greatest depth exists, for the simple reason that no instrument at present invented can reach the bottom in the deepest parts. A theory advanced by scientists is that below a certain depth solid matter refuses to sink because the pressure of the water is so great that specific gravity is overcome.

It is widely held that when ships sink in the deepest parts of the ocean they never reach bottom, but float about suspended in the water at a depth below which their weight is not sufficient to take them. The greatest depth which has been sounded up to the present is just over five miles. But it is thought that parts of the ocean are perhaps four times as deep.

In this branch of nautical service wonderful instruments are used. Attached to the leads of the sounders, which weigh seventy pounds and are suspended on piano wire, are specially constructed cups, which close automatically and bring up samples of the ocean's bed. They are provided with a dial, upon which the depth touched by the leads is at once recorded, and are in use in all ocean-going cable ships, which must of necessity determine of what the ocean bed consists.

Time after time ships working in far seas have seen no record of solid matter reached by reading the sounder dial, because the leads are not sufficiently heavy to reach bottom.

All records may very soon be broken by the Shackleton expedition to the Antarctic. The grab-sinker which they will use can be employed at a depth of seven miles. What will be found nobody can say. All existing theories may be exploded, but it is certain that some interesting data will be forthcoming.

Naturally, deep-sea sounding is essential from many points. Fog is the seaman's enemy. Soundings must be taken to avoid disaster. Formerly the leads used were smeared with tallow. Many interesting specimens were brought to the surface, but nothing is known of the flora and fauna that exists at great depths. Hence the constant attempts to discover better sounding apparatus.

New Popularity for Dickens.

Since the war there has been a widespread revival in England and elsewhere of the need for Dickens. Thrilling adventure, wild dangers, hair-breadth escapes, the roar of guns and all the paraphernalia of battle are no longer welcome—people want to read of happiness in their homes of bitter memory. The British papers for a year past have seldom been without a quotation from the master's works—there is always in them a sentence or two that illuminatingly touches the occurrence of the hour. Apt quotations from Dickens are extremely common in the mouths of the high court judges of England, no less than in those of the magistrates of minor courts. There was a smile of delight when a case was called in the court of kings bench not long ago, Dombey & Sons vs. Smith, and Mr. H. F. Lockens, K. C., announced himself as representing Dombey & Sons (London factors). The judge naturally commented: "I congratulate you, Mr. Dickens, that the old firm still flourishes."

Use for Forest Waste.

Many persons at one time or another have been struck with the waste of material that is permitted in American forests as compared with the forest of Europeans, as a rule, to make use of every last twig that falls. Worth noting, therefore, is the news item from the Pacific coast which shows that taken timber in some of the forests out that way is to be used extensively in the manufacture of grape stakes for California vineyards. One of these stakes will require, we are told, 100 freight cars for its transportation, but the best thing about it is that it will reclaim cedar trunks that have been on the ground for years. The difficulty about such reclamation in general is not so much reclaiming "down stuff" that is sound enough to be useful as it is in discovering a use that will make recovery profitable.

"Pardon Me."

Someone is a busy time in the "any work department. A young girl, receiving her package, tried to slip out gracefully but failed. Having bumped into some one she murmured, "Pardon me." No one moved or looked at her and, wondering, she turned to find, much to her companion's amusement, that she was being polite to a dignified figure in an attractive pink apron, marked \$125.—Indianapolis News.

TELEPHONES 'N GREAT W. K.

American Equipment Sold to Have Been Complete Down to the Smallest and Imaginable Detail.

According to the chief signal officer of the A. E. F., two armies, 12 corps, 33 divisions and 45 field signal battalions were completely equipped with telephone supplies. The signal corps constructed 1,990 miles of permanent pole lines with 28,000 miles of wire; put up 8,230 miles of wire on French poles and installed approximately 40,000 miles of combat lines.

Telephone exchanges on permanent lines in France numbered 273, and those in the advance section 123, besides small temporary field installations.

About 1,600,000 long-distance telephone calls were handled by the signal corps, together with local telephone calls estimated at 47,000,000. The organization of this system required the services of a veritable army of telephone experts, the Bell system alone having contributed 11,299 employees who served overseas. Girl telephone operators of the system to the number of 233 went to France in the uniform of the signal corps.

So completely organized was the system of telephone communications that it has been said that if he had desired to do so, General Pershing could have taken up his telephone at his headquarters in Chaumont and called up any second lieutenant, sitting at the end of a wire in an advance post, anywhere along the entire sector occupied by the American forces.

RATS CAN BE EXTERMINATED

Writer Points to the Wiping Out of the Passenger Pigeon as Proof of Assertion.

In the Book of Books we read, wondrously, of the plagues visited on the Egyptians, says the Philadelphia North American, editorially. In the record of the centuries we find numerous references to plagues of other sort—and all the while we are entertaining—yes, supporting and encouraging—the most destructive of plagues.

In this land and throughout the world we are permitting rats to destroy property and endanger human life. The word "permit" is the only one to use, for rats and mice could be got rid of if a concerted, persistent effort were made.

Let him who doubts this possibility inquire about the passenger pigeon which, within 60 years, inhabited this country in such numbers as to actually darken the face of day in its flights—and of which not one specimen now remains.

It was easier to destroy these birds than it would be to destroy rats and mice, but the possibility of the one achievement justifies belief in that of the other. And there can be no doubting the need for this destruction.

It has been figured by experts that we have at least one rat for each of our inhabitants—that is the ratio generally accepted in such civilized countries as France, England and America. In certain parts of less civilized countries the ratio is higher.

Really Nothing to It.

The Imperial War museum, London, England, is compiling a record of slang, and will be glad to receive any notes on the subject, giving the slang terms used in the army, together with the meaning of the term, and, if possible, the derivation. It is quite understood that many of these terms are not fit for polite conversation, but at the same time it is considered that they will be valuable for record purposes.

In this connection may be told the story of the new recruit who questioned an oldtimer on the subject of the French language. Did he have any difficulty in making himself understood? None whatever, said the veteran, who was a Scotsman. For example, suppose you wanted a couple of eggs you said "two oufs," and the old woman would bring three (trois) whereupon you sent one back again. Quite simple!

Their Frank Opinion.

A few weeks ago my parents and I were walking in a section of a suburb in which quite a lot of building was going on. Our curiosity overcoming us, we went in one house, which was about half completed. We immediately commenced to criticize it, commenting upon its instability, the smallness of the rooms and how we would hate to live in such a house. Finally, our exploration of the first floor completed, we looked up to see if there were rooms upstairs. Imagine our chagrin when we saw a man, who we afterward learned owned the house, sitting on the rafters, painting a window sill and interestedly listening to our conversation. We fled quickly. Chicago Tribune.

Touched Fireman's Heart.

An old mother cat got caught in an apartment house fire with her four kittens in Brooklyn. A fireman named Smith was at work in the thick of the smoke when he felt a soft and persistent rubbing against his foot. The smoke was so thick that he could not see the floor distinctly, but he bent over and found the object was a cat. She wasn't worried so much about herself, but she had her whole family—four kittens—with her in a pasteboard box which she had dragged from the flames. The trouble was that she could not get the box downstairs without stepping its contents. So Smith rescued her and the kittens, and got badly cut by broken glass in doing so.

LIKE OLD SANTA

People of Northern Siberia Emulate Kriss Kringle.

Appropriate Entry into Homes is Through the Roof, Which is Door, Window and Chimney.

Santa Claus is not the only person in the world who enters homes by way of the chimney, for in the little town of Kamenskoye, way up in northeastern Siberia, on the Peninsula gulf, nearly every one does it. The house is shaped like a perpendicular X. Starting with a ground floor that is about 25 feet in diameter, the frame walls, constructed roughly of driftwood, lean inward for about 12 feet, then turn outward for another 10 or 12 feet. They do not touch each other in the center, but leave an opening of from three to five feet wide.

That opening is the door, the window, the chimney, all in one. A pole rests against the outer side of the house high enough to reach the top of the structure. On the upper side of the pole steps are carved in which to insert the toes when climbing. A similar pole, set upright in the center of the house and up through the chimney, is also furnished with steps for ascent and descent.

The first effect of this strange arrangement is that visitors are recognized, not by their faces, but by their feet.

The house is so constructed that the fireplace is directly underneath the chimney. Naturally, the smoke goes up to greet the newcomer, and soot covers every side of the chimney, ready to attach itself to him. The pot is always hanging over the fire, full of melting snow or boiling water and fish or reindeer meat. The man up the chimney is dressed in heavy furs, the hairy side turned outward. As he comes in touch with pole and chimney a gentle spray of hairs comes easily drifting down, accompanied by showers of soot. The pot below is usually open. Hence the food is mingled with hairs and soot.

Reason exists for the peculiar shape of the Kamenskoye house or yurt. During the worst of winter no doors or windows at the side of the yurt would avail. The snow piles up on every side as high as the house itself. Then the people can walk straight up to the chimney, and the dogs crowd around the opening in the top for warmth and to enjoy the rising odor of cooking fish and reindeer. Sometimes one dog pushes another down the chimney. If the cover of the pot is off the reception proves rather too warm for the unfortunate victim. But Ivan is there to catch him by the neck and take him to the top of the house, where the snow will soon reduce the heat of his blisters. The episode has not spoiled the dinner.

In spite of the fire within, the house is not comfortably heated because of the opening on top. Snow, too, comes easily drifting in. It is necessary, therefore, to have tents inside the house. They are made of heavy furs, and are placed on the wooden platform that surrounds the fire. In these poles the dwellers find refuge when the smoke becomes too trying or the atmosphere too frigid. Inside the pole stands a wooden bowl of seal's oil with dried moss floating on its surface, to be lighted at the pleasure of the occupant.

Of Course Not.

Illustrative of the time, Amos W. Butler, secretary of the board of state charities, tells the following story of an occurrence in a certain Indiana county not so very long ago.

There was a poor family in a township. The father was a wanderer and of not much account. There were six children and the mother was left most of the time to provide for them. The township trustee had been helping the family out of the township poor fund.

One day a son in the family got into trouble. The sheriff and agent for the county board of guardians drove to the home. The boy was away. The mother seemed anxious to see that the law should have its course with the son, and to avoid an extra trip and expense the sheriff suggested:

"Well, then, I'll not come out after him when he comes back, but you bring him in."

"Why I can't bring him in now," explained the woman, "our machine's broke." Indianapolis News.

Statue of Christ as Peace Symbol.

Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis, in a sermon the other day, said that the Christian people of the world should construct a huge statue of Christ, using material from scrapped battle-ships and cannons and place it upon a mountain top to stand as a symbol of lasting peace. "The nations of Christendom," he said, "should at this time, when the armament conference at Washington is attempting to prevent future wars, express their unanimous longing for peace by planning the erection of the statue to the Prince of Peace."

Brilliant Sign Has Few Lights.

An electric sign, recently tried out with success, replaces the traditional lamps in the sign of the letter with small mirror reflectors. According to Popular Mechanics Magazine, these reflect the light supplied by two 25-watt lamps, placed near the center of the letter and fitted with opaque caps, so as to be invisible from the front. An arrangement of this kind will effect considerable saving in lamp renewals and prevent consumption.

OLDER THAN NEW ORLEANS

Ancient Records Show That Town of Natchitoches Has a Right to Claim Earliest Settlement.

Early in the history of Louisiana there was a spirited rivalry between the French and Spaniards as to which nation should occupy the region between the Red and Sabine rivers. About the close of the Seventeenth century the Spaniards established a post at Atayes (or Adaise) on the east side of the Sabine, and in 1714 Governor Cadillac sent Juchereau de St. Denis to establish a post at some point on the Red river. Martin, the historian, says that the expedition of St. Denis was "for the double purpose of finding a vent for Crozat's goods and checking the advances of the Spaniards, who were preparing to form settlements in the neighborhood of Natchitoches." St. Denis left a few settlers at Natchitoches, but it was not until 1717 that a permanent fort was erected there, which makes Natchitoches a little older than New Orleans. Dumont describes this fort as "a square palisade, where a little garrison was kept as a barrier against the Spaniards." A Catholic mission was established about the same time. The people, few in numbers, were not able to employ a resident priest, and for some years they were attended by Father Murgil and other missionaries. Father Stanislaus came in 1765, and the humble mission developed into the cathedral church of St. Francis, which today is one of the historical Catholic landmarks of the nation. During the French and Spanish domination Natchitoches was an important trading post. The Spaniards from the west of the Sabine would come back with pack mules heavily laden with peltries, dried buffalo tongues, silver from the Mexican mines, etc., to exchange for dry goods and other necessities. In 1824 Isaac Wright began running a steamboat between Natchitoches and the settlements further down the river, and this added to the importance of the town as a commercial center. With the establishment of Shreveport and the advent of the railroads some of the trade was diverted from Natchitoches, but being located in one of the richest sections of the state the town has continued to prosper.

When in 1884, the general assembly provided for the establishment of a State Normal school, the location of the school was thrown open to general competition, and the most liberal inducements were offered by Natchitoches. The parish and city of Natchitoches purchased and donated to the state 100 acres of land, including a good building which had formerly belonged to the nuns of the Sacred Heart.

Splendid Memorial.

A living memorial, distinctive and majestic, and different from any other that has been dedicated since the World war, was unveiled recently in Yosemite National park, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. It is a tablet of bronze set at the base of one of California's famous big trees. This giant of the forest, towering above the ordinary timber that surrounds it, stands henceforth as "a memorial to the unknown dead" who gave their lives in the great war. A peculiarly fitting ceremony marked the unveiling of this tablet. Water from the crystal-clear stream of the Merced that flows through the park was sprinkled upon the tree and the tablet, to symbolize the purity of the devotion of the men who died in the war and the rock at the foot of the tree on which the tablet was placed was taken as a symbol of the permanence and strength of the principles for which the men fought, and the tree, which it is hoped will live through generations, was cited as a symbol of the living and growing gratitude of the nation for the supreme sacrifice made by its sons in the war.

Admiral of the Navy.

The position of the admiral of the navy has never been held by any one except Admiral Dewey, according to the navy department. At the present time no one holds the permanent rank of admiral. The rank of admiral is held during tenure of their respective positions by Robert E. Koontz, chief of naval operations; Hugh Rodman, in command of the Pacific fleet; Henry B. Wilson, in command of the Atlantic fleet; and James Strauss, in command of the Asiatic fleet. It is a rule of the navy that an officer holding any of these positions must have the rank of admiral during his tenure of office.

Asked For.

During a dinner party the conversation turned to good looking people. One lady said: "I think all the good looking men have stayed from this dinner party."

The gentleman to whom this remark had been made said: "Well, I think all the good looking ladies are with us tonight."

Then the lady thinking a compliment had been paid her added: "Of course, I should have said 'present company' excepted."

Whereupon the gentleman said: "Oh! of course that's what I meant to say."—London Telegraph.

Pecan Crop in Mexico.

The pecan crop of the Nuevo Laredo district of Mexico for the 1921 season is estimated roughly at between 250 and 300 short tons as against 600 short tons in 1920. A marked falling off in value, as well as production, is also expected, due to the large crops in Texas. The Texas crop will be drawn on first, no doubt, before the Mexican production is touched.

Died in Charleston.

Kirkland Harris passed to the Great Beyond on Friday, December 30th, 1921, at Charleston, S. C., in a hospital after an illness of nine months with paralysis. The deceased was brought to Camden for burial. Funeral service was held at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church at three o'clock Wednesday afternoon. The remains were laid away in the Camden cemetery. He leaves to mourn his death an aged mother, a widow, four children, six grand-children, three sisters, three brothers and a host of relatives and friends. Contributed.

Camden, S. C., Jan. 10, 1922.

Thanks Their Friends.

We thank our many friends for their kindness shown us in our bereavement of our deceased husband and father, Kirkland Harris. The Family Camden, S. C., Jan. 10, 1922.

Miss Edith Struders, a California girl, manages a "day old chick" farm where she tags and packs the chicks for market.

More than 600 out of every 1,000 workers engaged in the manufacture of silk and textiles in the United States are women.

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By Making Your Old Clothing Serviceable

We are doing it for thousands of others—why not for you? We believe a trial will convince you.

FOOTER'S DYE WORKS

Cumberland, Md.

Have You Got Money in the Bank?

People do get sick. There is plenty of work for the doctor always. Suppose you get sick and couldn't earn any money, but had to spend more. What would you do? You'd worry yourself more sick. You would fret for those you love

But if you had a nice sum of money in the bank you could rest easy knowing that those dependent upon you were well cared for.

First National Bank of Camden, S. C.

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