

DISCOVERED BY ACCIDENT.

Important Results From What Appeared to be Trifling Incidents.

A Nuremberg glass-cutter happened to et some aqua fortis fall upon his spectacles, and noticed the glass was corroded and softened where the aqua fortis had touched it. Taking the hint, he made a liquid accordingly, drew some figures upon a piece of glass, covered them with varnish, and applied his corroding fluid, cut away the glass around his drawing, so that, when he removed the varnish, the figures appeared raised upon a dark ground; and etching upon glass was added to the ornamental arts.

Many attributes the discovery of glass to some merchants travelling with nitre, who, stopping on the banks of a river to take a meal, were at a loss for stones to rest their kettles upon. Putting them upon pieces of nitre, they kindled their fires; the nitre, dissolved by the heat, mixed with the sand, and merchants were astonished to see a transparent matter flowing over the ground, which was nothing else but glass.

Chloroform, was discovered by chance. Dr. Simpson set himself to find some anesthetic to take the place of ether—which had gained a bad name owing to the fact that several deaths had occurred through the careless use of it. Other scientists joined him in his researches, and carefully analyzed every substance which they thought was in the least likely to give the desired result.

One night the party were busily engaged in their self imposed task. They had tested every substance which had been selected for experiment without anything approaching to a favorable issue, and were beginning to feel disheartened by their lack of success. As one of them was poking about the laboratory to see if he could find anything else which might be put into the little testing glass with which each was provided, he happened upon a small bottle of some dark substance, which was looked upon more as a curiosity than as possessing any useful properties. With scarcely a thought of success, he poured a little of it into each of the tubes, and the party began to inhale it. For a few moments they seemed seized with an unusual gladness, but soon they, one after another, fell to the ground, overcome by the powerful fumes. As they gradually came to again, they recognised that their search was over, and from that occasion dates the use of chloroform as an anesthetic.

By a chance circumstance was Galileo's attention directed to the equal duration of the oscillation of the pendulum. Being one day in the cathedral at Pisa, he watched the oscillations of a lamp suspended from the roof. He observed that the swings of vibration were all performed in equal times whether the arc of swing was great or small—whether the lamp had only just begun to oscillate, or had nearly finished. Following up the observation when he returned, he made temporary pendulums of various lengths, any kind of heavy weight suspended by a string; and he found that the time of oscillation for each pendulum bore a definite ratio to the length of the string. Armed with two-fold knowledge he virtually gave birth to the application of the pendulum as a regulator of clocks—an invention to which the precision of modern astronomy owes so much.

If the facts are correctly recorded, the reflecting apparatus for lighthouses arose out of a wager. Somewhat more than a century ago, among the members of a small scientific society in Liverpool, one offered to wager that he would read the small print of a newspaper by the light of a farthing candle placed 30 feet distant. The wager being accepted, he coated the inside of a wooden board with pieces of looking-glass, forming a rough substitute for a concave mirror; placing a small lighted candle in front of this mirror, the rays of light were reflected, and converged to a focus 10 yards on the other side of the candle, and the light at that focus was sufficient to enable the experimenter to read a newspaper. Of course, the distance of the candle from the mirror was made dependent on the curvature of the mirror itself. An observant, practical man, the dock-master of Liverpool was present. The idea flashed upon him that if the light of a farthing candle could in this way be thrown out to a distance, the light of a large lamp could similarly be projected to a mile, or miles away. The idea grew into form, and resulted in the invention of the reflecting apparatus for lighthouses.

The rollers which are used to spread the ink with newspapers and books are printed as the outcome of an accident. In days gone by, felt balls were used for this purpose. A Shropshire printer was once unable to lay his hand on the felt ball with which he wanted to ink the type. He was pressed for time, and caught up the first thing that seemed to him capable of serving the purposes of the missing felt ball. This happened to be a piece of glue, which had fallen from the glue-pot, and which did the work so effectively that he mentioned his improvisation to his fellow-workmen. Experiments followed, and it was soon discovered that glue mixed with molasses to give it the requisite consistency, was the best possible article for this purpose.

James Read Their Minds.

Lawley (short-hand reporter): I say, James, the boy from the newspaper office has called for the report of that lecture. Is it finished?

James: All but a short sentence in the middle of it, and I can't for the life of me make out from my notes what it is.

Lawley: Oh, just put in 'great applause' and let it go.

James acts on the suggestion, and the lecture is sent for publication with the doctored part reading: "Friends, I will detain you but a few moments longer. (Great applause.)"

Wet feet, cold in the chest, are reasonable complaints. Hawker's catarrh cure cures cold in the head. Hawker's balsam cures cold in the chest. School children are not always wise. They expect themselves, and presently you hear a nasty cough. Then you need Hawker's balsam.

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WILLIAM

DONE BY A SPIDER.

The Smallest Gunner in the World Has Been Found in South Africa.

Cape Town, South Africa, claims the honor of giving birth to the smallest creature ever known to become a gunner in the Royal Artillery, or any other artillery in the whole world. At the Castle, Cape Town, there is a magnificent gun work of electricity, used for giving the midday and evening time. One fine day all the military and civilians in Cape Town were astonished to hear the gun go off at 10.30 in the morning, an hour and a half before the proper time; twelve being the usual hour for firing. Messengers came from the General commanding the station, the brigade major, commanding officers of each regiment and battery stationed in Cape Town, and from everybody interested, but the answer was no person had been near the gun, nor had anyone interfered with the wires, battery or source from which it was fired. All the officials were fearfully puzzled at the extraordinary occurrence, but could give no explanation whatever. The General in command of the station became furious and said that there was mismanagement somewhere, and gave orders for a strict search to be made by the officials for the guilty party.

Search was made, but nothing to throw any light on the extraordinary affair, although the greatest possible pains were taken to solve the mystery. They had practically given the search up, when suddenly the news came from the officials stating that the culprit had been caught and arrested. It seems the electric current for firing off the gun is supplied by the Royal Observatory of Cape Town, and goes there by means of an instrument known as a relay that is in the central telegraph office of the station, the distance being about 500 yards. The action of the current going through the instrument's main moves a sort of light tongue, which is very finely set, so fine that the least little thing would effect it. This forces the current directly into what they term the time fuses, which have the power of firing the gun at the Castle.

On examining the instrument one of the officials found a big brown spider inside. It appears that the instrument the unfortunate spider must have touched this tongue sufficiently to move it, and consequently it fired off the gun. The General commanding the station sent the spider to the Cape Town Museum, where he is now to be seen with a card underneath him entitling him "The Little Gunner," and giving a full account of his adventure with the Cape Town midday time gun, which proved his last adventure, however.

MODERN ARMOR IN WAR.

It is Used by English Officers When They go on Active Services.

Setting aside at once all talk about protections that are perfectly bullet proof, says a London "service" accoutrement maker, an immense number of the officers of our army and navy who go on foreign service, provide themselves with certain easily recognized protections.

These are well-known articles of trade to the services. The commonest and most usual type of these protections consists of fine but beautifully tempered single chains, inclosed in soft leather, which run along the shoulders, down the outer side of the arms, and over certain parts of the body. These can either be sewn into a particular tunic, or they can be adjusted separately and put on like harness. Take it absolutely that hundreds upon hundreds of sets are sold. The most valuable of all chains, in connection with accoutrements, are those which guard the head; and in cases where the regulation cap or helmet is not sufficiently protected in this way, specially made chains are sewn inside the same and covered by the lining.

Only those who have been in actual conflict know how valuable all the chains mentioned are in minimizing the effects of sword-cuts. As regards protection both from sword and bullet, the general belief of officers nowadays seems to be in thoroughly tanned leather, and great quantities of tight-fitting leather undergarments are made for officers, the favorite pattern—said to be the invention of the late Sir Richard Burton—being that which forms a not too prominent ridge down the centre of the chest. I have heard innumerable stories from officers of bullets which have been diverted in some degree by these leather tunics, some of which are lined with woven steel wire. Of course, none of these things are supposed to be an absolute protection, but only a sort of palliative.

A West-end gunsmith who sells a great many chain made body protectors, which fit almost like a large number of them to army men, and he not long ago sent a gross, as many as he could get made in the time, to Japan, where they were snapped up like wildfire, as he tells me. I have had made, on behalf of individual officers who have themselves drawn the design, a variety of different patterns of what you might call armour, but fine flexible chains and leather have entered into nearly all of them.

Origin of an Old Story.

To be "hailed over the coals" is a saying which is generally understood to mean being brought to task for shortcomings. The phrase owes its origin to the fact that at one time, if the king or barons wanted money, the Jews were made to find it, and were put to torture if at all obstinate. One common form of torture was to haul them over a slow fire; in other words, to give them a partial roasting.

USE of the mangle by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Dabbouse. CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS.

I CURED A HORSE, badly torn by a pitch fork, with MINARD'S LINIMENT. EDWARD LINLEY. St. Peter's, C. B. I CURED A HORSE OF A bad swelling with MINARD'S LINIMENT. THOS. W. PAYNE.

are reported to the hydrographic offices in sufficient numbers, it will be possible, it is believed, to calculate the swiftness and establish the direction of ocean currents almost accurately.

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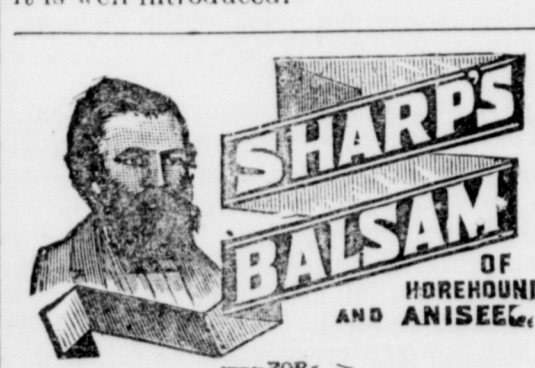
A despondent man, who had applied to us, soon after wrote:

"What I tell you that the first day is one I never forget. I just bubbled with joy. I wanted to hug everybody and tell them my old self had died yesterday and my new self born to-day. Why didn't you tell me when I wrote that I would find it this way?"

And another thus:

"If you dumped a cartload of gold at my feet it would not bring such gladness into my life as your method has done."

Write to the ENIG MEDICAL COMPANY, Buffalo, N. Y., and ask for the little book called "COMPLETE MANKHOOD." Refer to this paper, and the company promises to send the book, in sealed envelope, without any marks, and entirely free, until it is well introduced.

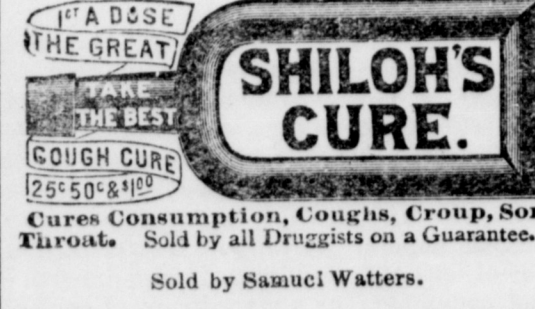


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PEOPLE WHO EAT ARSENIC.

The Habit in Vogue Among the Austrians for Many Years Past.

For many years the habit of arsenic eating by the people of Styria, a duchy of Austria, has been known to the scientific world. Travelers who have passed through Styria have come back with reports of this practice, saying that the people of that country were accustomed to taking a white mineral, which was arsenic.

That this was so was denied by many, who said that the mineral taken was nothing more or less than chalk. There was much discussion over the matter, and the subject proved itself of such interest and importance that scientific societies took the question up and investigated it, and it was pretty well proven that such a usage did exist, but not so widespread as it was generally supposed. Many physicians have gone there simply to investigate this practice of arsenic eating. While some of them have found out much about the custom, others have come away no wiser than they went, owing to the secrecy which exists among those addicted to the habit. As it is against the law to obtain arsenic without a prescription from a physician, of course those who do so are anxious to keep it quiet. There are also found among the peasants of Salzburg and Tyrol those who follow the same practice. In these regions several arsenic works are situated, and the only way the employees can stand the poisonous fumes is by taking the drug internally, at first in small doses and gradually increasing the dose until the system tolerates large quantities.

It is probably from these arsenic workers that the custom spread to others, principally the lower classes, as hunters, wood cleavers, stable grooms and charcoal burners. All forms of arsenic are taken—the pure arsenic, the red sulphide and the yellow sulphide, or orpiment.

The arsenic eaters begin with a dose about the size of a pinhead, and increase this amount gradually until they are taking a piece about the size of a pea.

The habit is generally begun at the age of fifteen and continued up to the age of seventy and seventy-five. The users of hidri, as arsenic is known among the peasants, are generally long-lived people, but unless at the age of fifty they commence to gradually discontinue the use of it, they invariably die a sudden death, and the fact that death occasionally occurs from poisoning by hidri eating shows that even the Styrians are not invincible to the deadly effects of this drug.

The reason for this custom is asserted by some to be for their personal appearance, but the fact that the habit exists principally among the male sex disproves this. It is said by the peasants themselves that it is done to make them strong and healthy, and they really are a strong and healthy people.

Enormous quantities of the drug are taken by some of them. In one well authenticated case the man, a manager of some arsenic works, took daily a dose of twenty-three grains, each dose large enough to kill several men unaccustomed to its use. Another strange thing about this case is, the man began first by taking three grains, an amount which we would consider decidedly dangerous. On several occasions he attempted to leave off taking the drug, but was made violently ill, only to recover on resuming his usual allowance.—Washington Star.

ALL ABOUT A TEA POT.

The Smashing of It Led to a Long and Bloody War Among the Chinese.

The annals of China record at least one conflict which has always, in the popular Chinese mind, been identified as the "tea-pot war." It seems that for hundreds of years the northwest corner of the Chinese Empire has been inhabited by tribes of barbarians who, dwelling in a mountainous district, are, in virtue of that circumstance, of a bold and turbulent disposition. Owing only a nominal allegiance to the Emperor, they obey or not his commands, according as these are agreeable or otherwise to their wishes.

About the year 1650 a Chinese dignitary was travelling through their country, and in his train was borne by one of the menials a certain earthenware teapot that the maddorin looked upon as one of the most valuable of his possessions.

During the journey the servitor who bore this precious utensil became separated from the rest of the train and fell into the clutches of the mountaineers, who smashed the teapot to pieces on a stone. The whole affair, with proper additions, was reported to the Emperor who undertook to avenge the injury done to the pot, and so made war on the mountaineers, the conflict lasting for nearly a hundred years, and resulting in the loss of over five hundred thousand lives.

How the Chinese Gamble.

A Chinese when his heart is in the business, makes an ideal gambler. He never gets excited or loses his nerve and no expression of feeling ever shows itself in his face. He wins or he loses with apparent indifference. Some of the ways in which he risks his money are novel and amusing. Here is one game. Those who wish to enter the game pay two or three shillings and write their names on separate slips of paper. These slips are shaken up in a hat and one is selected and placed in a small basket. This basket is suspended from the ceiling and the Chinamen make their bets as to whose name is in the basket. The basket remains suspended for a fixed length of time. The lucky man whose name fate has selected, wins the pool.

An All Round Newspaper Man.

Who is the man who carries a dress suit case in one hand and a pair of overalls in the other?

"His name is Kollum Raites, and he is a very versatile and distinguished journalist. He is fully equipped, as you see, for his work on the Morning Fake."

"But why does he carry the dress suit case and overalls?"

"Because he is doing night duty, and wishes to be ready for any emergency."

"Well but—"

"Well, how does he know whether the managing editor will hand him a mop or a pair of opera tickets? I tell you he is an all round newspaper man, and they use him for pretty nearly everything, from washing wind-roses to writing musical criticisms."



DISEASED LUNGS

CURED BY TAKING

AYER'S Cherry

Pectoral.

"I contracted a severe cold, which settled on my lungs, and I did what is often done in such cases, neglected it. I then consulted a doctor, who found, on examining my chest, that the upper part of the left lung was badly affected. The medicines he gave me did not seem to do any good, and I determined to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. After taking a few doses my trouble was relieved, and before I had finished the bottle I was cured."

—A. LEFLAR, watchmaker, Orangeville, Ont.

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