

**ROPE LADDER RESEARCHES.**  
A Sort of Cave Exploration That Requires a Good Deal of Muscle.

Under the inspiration of E. A. Martel, who is now the most famous of cave explorers, the lovers of this sort of research are developing great enthusiasm for diving into the depths of the earth. Within the past two weeks Mr. Martel who has done far more than any other man to find out all about the many caves of France, has been engaged in subterranean explorations in Algeria and England: and the crowd of cave hunters who have followed his example and methods are diving into every underground opening they can find and have brought to light scores of caverns in the lime stone regions of France. They have formed the Societe de Speleologie and publish the results of their underground wanderings in the quarterly magazine Spelunca, which, from cover to cover, contains nothing that does not relate to caves.

Not a few of the French caves show no external evidence of their existence save a hole in the level surface of the ground, often so small that a man could not possibly fall through it, and frequently so well concealed in the undergrowth that it has never been discovered until quite recently. A peculiarity of many of these openings is that instead of giving access to a slope down which the explorer may make his way, and at our Mammoth Cave, there is nothing but air beneath them and one might drop a plumb line through the opening for hundreds of feet before it would touch the floor of the cavern. It takes a good deal of grit and the steadiest of nerves to launch one's self at the end of a rope into these black abysses.

There are two ways of making this gloomy trip and one of them requires not only nerve, but an unusual amount of physical strength. In this case the explorer depends almost wholly upon himself in making both the descent and the ascent. In the other the muscle of his comrades is called into service to lower and raise him and the exploit does not involve so much fatigue. If the man intends to depend upon his own muscles he requires a rope ladder and this appliance is a part of the equipment of every cave hunter who expects to investigate any of this class of openings. The distance from the opening to the bottom is first ascertained by means of a plummet line and then the rope ladder is lowered, and after securely fastening it at the upper end the explorer is ready for business.

His torch is fastened to his headgear and cannot easily be displaced. Two or three trusty comrades remain at the surface to attend to the orders they may receive from the explorer. Attached to his waist is a little telephone cord and the duty of one of the men is to receive the message over it and to pay out the cord or take in the slack as the circumstances require. The telephone cord is usually thirty or forty feet longer than the ladder, which is rarely over 350 feet in length. It has been found that in almost all cases this length of ladder is sufficient to land the explorer on the floor of the cavern.

It is not so very difficult to descend this ladder, but it certainly requires the strength of an athlete to accomplish the other feat of perpendicular stair climbing on the swaying rope. Frequent rests are necessary and sometimes the rope rests for a little way against the wall of the abyss for a shelf is found on which the explorer sits down to regain his breath.

The other method of making the descent is far easier for the explorer. He is seated at the end of the rope, which is slowly lowered by his comrades. In one hand he holds his lantern, while he manages the telephone transmitter with the other. There is not much fatigue, but strange as it may seem, most cave explorers appear to prefer to use the ladder, though sometimes they are over an hour in ascending to the surface.

The successful cave explorer nowadays is usually able to retrace his steps in the dark recesses which he is exploring and it very seldom occurs that one of them is not able to return without a blunder. This is more than one visitor in a thousand to Luray Cave is able to do. The guide there usually gives anyone who wants the privilege a chance to conduct the party back to the entrance and usually after three or four turns in the right direction the pilot branches off on some path that would lead him hopelessly astray if the guide did not put him again on the right road.

**Obesity Objected to.**

'As a sign of the times,' says a physician. 'I am sure I can never remember so many people in middle age seeking to reduce their weight. Hundreds of matter-of-fact business men there are to-day who are taking systematic exercise solely with a view to reducing or keeping down the girth of their waistcoats. Many times in the last two or three seasons have gentlemen come to me who years ago would have been considered lunatics when they put the question 'Do you think I may safely

start on a course of dumb-bells?' or 'Am I too old to learn to ride a bicycle? I am getting so stout.' One individual well on in years has worked wonders with himself by the aid of a skipping rope. The tricycle, I may add, affords a very fine exercise for elderly people, care, of course, being taken not to start too ardently with the pastime.'

**Deadly Narcotics**  
**Drag a Lady to the**  
**Depths of Despair.**

**Death Longed for as a Release from Suffering.**

**Paine's Celery Compound Rescues the Victim and Builds Her Up Physically and Mentally.**

WELLS & RICHARDSON CO.

Gentlemen:—I am happy to tell you that I have completely recovered my health through the use of Paine's Celery Compound. For some years past my nerves and system were almost wrecked by narcotics used to alleviate pain. The doctors could not help me, and I thought I would forever have to remain a slave to deadly drugs. I often longed for death as a release from my sufferings. After enduring pains and agonies that were terrible, I determined to try Paine's Celery Compound, without any tulle hope however, that it would cure me. When I had used a part of the second bottle I thought it was doing me good; I could sleep well and did not faint so often, and I decided to continue the use of the medicine. After the use of fifteen bottles I am completely cured. I feel so strong and well now, and have such perfect health that I sometimes think it is too good to be true. For the benefit of thousands of poor souls suffering from the effects of deadly narcotics I give my statement as an encouragement to them—in assurance that Paine's Celery Compound will cure them.

Sincerely and gratefully,  
MRS. LOUISA WARNER,  
Montgomery, N. W. T.

**THE GULF STREAM.**  
Abandoned the Idea That it Reaches Europe as a Distinct Current.

The best school geographies nowadays do not say that the climate of northwest Europe is rendered mild by the Gulf Stream as such. They admit the Gulf Stream as one of the most powerful influences contributing to the mild winter climate of that region, but the great current has ceased to figure alone as the element which makes England and Scotland fertile, while Labrador, in the same latitude, is bleak and very cold.

The best maps also no longer show the Gulf Stream as extending clear across the ocean. They show the current as flowing north as far as the neighborhood of Newfoundland, and beyond this region they depict a movement toward Europe of oceanic waters to which they have applied the name of Gulf Stream Drift.

The fact is now well understood that as a distinct current the Gulf Stream disappears south of Newfoundland. The

enormous river in the ocean, far greater than all other ocean currents, rushes northward from the Straits of Florida, with a depth of 2,000 feet, a width of forty miles and a velocity of three to over five miles an hour. But it gradually spreads out and thins until in the region of the Grand Banks, it becomes dissipated like a stream in a swamp and is no longer recognizable as a distinct current.

There is, however, a constant set of warm surface waters toward the European coast. The prevailing west winds carry them toward Europe, and their total influence is to modify the winter climate of that region, and this warmer water comes not only from the Gulf Stream, but also from the great current that flows north outside the Bahamas.

Many sailors do not realize the strength of the Gulf Stream current. Mr. John E. Pillsbury, who spent much time several years ago investigating the Gulf Stream for our Government, wrote that one day, his vessel was anchored in the stream, observing the current, when a sailing vessel was sighted ahead, drifting to the northward. The wind was very light but as she came nearer and nearer it became evident that there would be a collision unless steps were taken to prevent it. The crew of the sailing vessel trimmed their sails to the gentle air, but it was useless, for onward she went, carried by the irresistible force of the current directly toward the bow of the steamer. As the vessels approached one another, by a skilful use of the rudder on board the steamer she was moved to one side and the sailing vessel drifted past a few feet distant. The Captain of the latter was astonished as he was thankful that his vessel was not lost. All that he could cry out in broken English as he flashed by was: 'I could not help it the water bring me here.'

**LESS LIKE STOVEPIPES**  
Kidney Irregularities Developed into Dropsy—South American Kidney Cure Cured Him.

South American Cure is doing every day for hundreds what it did for this steamship man out in Lisbon County. Through exposure while sailing he contracted kidney disease and in a short while dropsy developed, so that his legs swelled as large as stovepipes. Doctors held out no hope of his recovery. He was recommended to use this great kidney specific, with the result that in a few weeks' treatment he was able to resume his work again a cured man, feeling stronger and heartier than he had for years.

**Quite Innocent.**

'You ought to have seen Mr. Marshall when he called on Dolly the other night,' remarked Johnnie Conklin enthusiastically to his sister's young man, who was taking tea with the family. I tell you, he looked fine a-setting alongside of her with his arm—

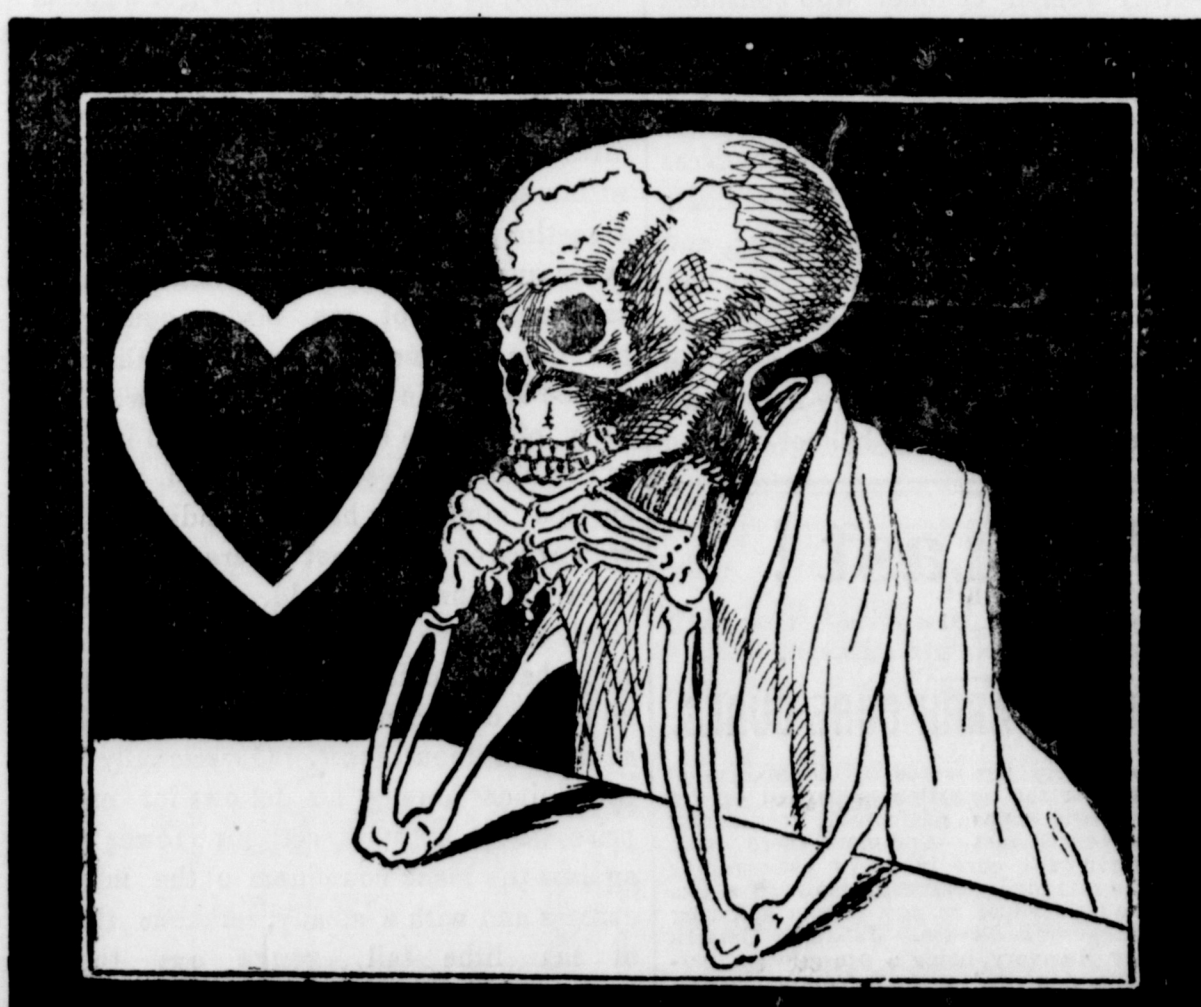
'Johnnie,' gasped his sister, her face assuming the color of a boiled lobster.

'Well, so he did,' persisted Johnnie. He had his arm—

'John,' screamed his mother, frantically as she made a reach for his ear and upset the contents of the teapot in the company's lap.

'Why,' whined the now badly frightened boy, 'I was—'

'You boy,' roared his father, 'get out!' And Johnnie got out, crying as he went, 'I was only going to say he had his arm in his coat sleeve and Dolly knows he did, too.'



**You'd Never Die**  
If your heart never stopped beating. You would never be sick if your heart was always able to carry rich, healthy blood in sufficient quantity to every organ and tissue of your body.  
When your heart, through weakness or the strain due to worry and overwork, is unable to supply the necessary amount of rich, healthy blood, every part of your body begins to show signs of weakness and disease.  
**DR. AGNEW'S HEART CURE**  
Strengthens the heart and purifies the blood. It positively gives relief in thirty minutes and effects a speedy, permanent cure. It cures nervousness, sleeplessness, neuralgia, headache, despondency, female diseases, and all other ailments that spring from diseases of the heart and blood. If you suffer from palpitation, weak or irregular pulse, shortness of breath, fainting spells or a lack of normal strength and vigor in any part of the body, you should secure Dr. AGNEW'S HEART CURE.  
DR. AGNEW'S CATARRHAL POWDER is endorsed by Canada's greatest ministers and statesmen. Try it. DR. AGNEW'S OINTMENT is without a peer in cure of skin diseases. Relief in a day. 35 Cts. Use DR. AGNEW'S PILLS, 20 Cts.

**FLASHES OF FUN.**

She: 'I will never marry a man whose future has not at least five ciphers in it.'  
He (triumphantly): 'Oh Darling! Mine is all ciphers!'

The Groom (very wealthy): 'Why did you marry an ordinary chap like me?'  
The Bride: 'I haven't the slightest idea. Mamma managed the whole affair.'

Amicus: 'Who is the most prolific newspaper writer in London?'  
Editor: 'Well, it is about even between 'Old Subscriber' and Pro Bono Publico.'

'I always look out for number one,' said the selfish man; 'don't you?'  
'Well, hardly,' said the person addressed, who happened to be a widow; 'I am looking out for number two.'

She: 'I don't believe you think half so much of me as Tom Binsley does. He tells me he could die for me.'  
He: 'That's nothing. I love you well enough to live with you.'

Nothing bothers a modest but hungry old hen so much as when she has made a hearty breakfast of an old shoe-lace and finds the unfortunate shoe still at the end of it.

The Carpenter's assistant: 'What was that new plumber sacked for?'  
The Plumber's Assistant: 'He was sent to do half an hour's work in a private house and finished the job in half a day.'

Willy: 'I say, auntie, what did Uncle Bob marry you for?'  
Aunt: 'Why, for love, of course!'

Willy (meditatively): 'H'm! Love will make a man do almost anything, won't it, auntie?'  
The Young Man: 'Gracie, what is it your father sees in me to object to, darling?'  
The Young Woman (wiping away a tear): 'He doesn't see anything in you, Algernon, that's why he objects.'

Neighbor: 'And you expect to support my daughter on £2 a week?'  
Clarkets: 'Yes, sir.'

Neighbor: 'Well, go ahead; my heart refuses, but my pocket consents. She costs me £10.'

Smithers: 'Halloa, Tompkins, haven't seen you for months. But what are you carrying that jumping jack and rattle home for?'  
Tompkins (whose first infant occasions him no little embarrassment): 'F-for-a-a young friend of mine.'

McCorkie: 'You can say what you please about flying machines, but one of them saved my life once.'

McCorkie: 'How?'  
McCorkie: 'I had arranged to go in one on its trial trip, but something got wrong with it, and it never started.'

Lady (to servant): 'Well, Mary, is your sister married yet?'  
Mary: 'No, mum.'

Lady: 'How's that? I thought she was to have been married last week.'

Mary: 'Yes, mum, so she was; but her young man, instead of buying the furniture, bought a bicycle.'

Little Boy: 'What's all these women here for?'  
Little Girl: 'They've been upstairs to see the baby.'

Little Boy: 'Babies is plenty 'nough.'

Little Girl: 'Yes, but this is a new one, an' I expect they wants to see the latest fashions.'

A Bad Blunder.—Visitor (in gaol, to prisoner): 'What are you here for?'  
Prisoner: 'For stealing.'

Visitor: 'What did you steal?'  
Prisoner: 'I stole a girl's affections.'

Visitor: 'Well, that is no refraction of the law.'

Prisoner: 'H—m, I carried 'em off with her father's horse and cart.'

It was Scythe's wedding-day, and he was teasing his boy brother-in-law. Well, Johnny, he said, 'I'm going to take your sister away, and have her all to myself, and you won't see her any more.'

'No, really—are you?' said the boy, curiously.

'Yes, I am. What do you think of it?'  
'Nothing. I fancy I can stand it if you can.'

The house surgeon of a London hospital was attending to the injuries of a poor woman whose arm had been severely bitten. As he was dressing the wound, he said:—

'I cannot make out what sort of a creature bit you. This is too small for a horse's bite and too large for a dog's.'

'Oh, sir,' replied the patient, 'it wasn't an animal; it was another lydy.'

Mistress (to nurse-girl): 'I hear that you are seen quite often speaking to the policemen in the park. I cannot allow that.'

Artful Maid: 'I can't help it, ma'am. All the policemen in the park admire the baby so much—they will stop the perambulator to speak to him. They all say that he is the handsomest baby that comes into the park.'

The maid was forgiven.

D. at and dumb beggar (at unexpectedly receiving sixpence): 'Oh, thankee, sir.'

Benevolent Passer: 'Eh? What does this mean, sir? You can talk.'

Beggar (in confusion): 'Y-e-s, sir. Ye see, sir, I'm only mindin' this corner for th' poor deaf and dumb man wot belongs here.'

Benevolent Passer (quickly): 'Where is he?'  
Beggar (in worse confusion): 'He's gone to th' park t' hear the music.'

**What's in a Seal?**  
In this one there is health and keen enjoyment, for it is the symbol of the finest coffee grown.  
**Chase & Sanborn's Seal Brand Coffee**  
is always the same. It is the Coffee that is bought by the best families of America, people who appreciate the good things of life and insist upon having them. When you buy Chase & Sanborn's Seal Brand Coffee you get the Best.  
It would be impossible for money or position to procure anything superior.

**CALVERT'S CARBOLIC OINTMENT**  
Is unequalled as a remedy for Chafed Skin, Piles, Scalds, Cuts, Sore eyes, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Earache, Neuralgic and Rheumatic Pains, Throat Colds, Ringworm, and Skin Ailments generally.  
Large Pots, 1s 1/4 each, at Chemists, etc, with Instructions.  
Illustrated Pamphlet of Calvert's Carbolic Preparations sent post free on application.  
**F.C. CALVERT & CO. Manchester**

**JUST A BAD COLD.**  
A sharp stinging pain in the back—you think it doesn't amount to anything—but all right in a few days—but it doesn't get all right—kidneys are not doing their duty, and the poisonous matter that they ought to remove is going all through the system—causing rheumatism, gout, dyspepsia, headaches, backaches—all sorts of ills.  
**DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS**  
Cure the disease by removing the cause.  
W. D. Popham, Talbot St., St. Thomas, Ont., says: "I have for a long time had serious back and kidney trouble. My back was so stiff and painful that when I sat down I had to have something to assist me to get up. I have taken four boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills, and they have taken the stiffness and pain from my back and enabled me to straighten up without pain or difficulty."  
Price 50c. a box, 3 for \$1.25, all druggists. The Doan Kidney Pill Co., Toronto, Ont.

**BENSON'S**  
3 SEAL STAMP (ON THE GENUINE)  
**'t is the best POROUS PLASTER**  
Has cured millions. Will help you, if suffering from Lung, Chest, Kidney, Muscle or Joint affections. Price 25c. All Druggists. Refuse substitutes. O'agts. Leeming, Miles & Co. Mont'l, if unobtainable.  
BUY **Coleman's Salt** THE BEST  
Every package guaranteed. The 5 lb Carton of Table Salt is the neatest package on the market. For sale by all first class grocers.