

SOME ECCENTRICITIES
OF THE GULF STREAM;
A POWERFUL CURRENT

When the Panama Canal was being built many dismal prophets prophesied that the warm waters of the Gulf Stream would flow through the canal and leave the Eastern States and Northwestern Europe under Arctic conditions. Here is an authoritative statement by Jacques W. Redway, F.R.G.S., respecting the matter. Stories concerning the dreadful things which are to happen because of the eccentricities of the Gulf Stream come quite as regularly as epidemics of the influenza, but about thirty times as frequently. The influenza visits us only about once in a generation. The vagaries of the Gulf Stream are rehearsed every summer. In order to understand what may be the changes in warm ocean currents and their connection with the weather, one would better begin with first principles, namely, the Equatorial Current.

In equatorial regions a steady wind blows from the east-northeast and southeast in different latitudes, but always from the east. The skin friction of this great wind belt in the course of years multiplied by tens of thousands has finally dragged enough water along in a westerly direction to set in motion a feeble current, 1,000 miles or more in width which flows westward. The Equatorial Current is the greatest of all ocean currents. There are other factors involved in the formation of ocean currents, such as the differences in temperature, differences in specific gravity—for salt water is specifically heavier than fresh water—and the earth's rotation; but the factor chiefly to be considered is the direction of the wind.

The South American continent projects a fairly sharp angle against the Equatorial Current, splitting it squarely in two, turning one part along the Brazilian coast, the other in a northerly direction. The latter finally becomes the Gulf Stream.

As a definite current the Gulf Stream has not nearly the extent with

which common opinion credits it. The waters which form it gather rather broadly, but gradually concentrate at Santaren Channel and Florida Strait. At this locality they become the Gulf Stream. Years ago, common tradition had it that the Gulf Stream made a complete circuit of the Gulf of Mexico, and hence the name. As a matter of fact, a small amount of water is drawn out of the Gulf by a process akin to that of aspiration, but it is not Stream water; it differs therefrom in temperature, color and salinity.

In extent one may safely assume that the Gulf Stream begins in Florida Strait. At a point roughly between Miami and islands lying eastward—one of which is Bimini, with a stream not associated with the Gulf—the Gulf Stream is a powerful current with a maximum velocity between five and six knots, and a minimum of about three knots. At this point its flow reaches to the bottom and sweeps the ooze therefrom as far north as Cape Hatteras.

Off Cape Hatteras, at a point where the 2,000 fathom curve is nearest the coast, the velocity rarely exceeds one and one-quarter knots. Thence north-eastward the velocity gradually decreases until, at the southern limit of Grand Banks, off the Newfoundland coast, its force is lost and it becomes merely a wind drift.

The velocity of the Gulf Stream along the Florida coast varies with the season and even with the passage of the moon; that is, the variations are both seasonal and monthly.

The Gulf Stream water is saltier than the cold water which forms its banks. Off the Florida coast its waters show a strong color contrast in comparison with surrounding waters. Between the Gulf Stream and the coast is a cold water counter-current flowing southward; and small southbound craft frequently use its flow to gain a knot or two in speed. Off Cape Hatteras an adverse under-current appears seasonally at the surface, meeting the Gulf Stream and throwing the surface into the rips which navigators have named rather aptly "Little Hell."

Winds may, and frequently do, disturb the surface waters of the Gulf Stream. A favorable wind may accelerate the flow; an adverse wind may not only retard it, but scatter the surface waters to the one side or the other. A strong southerly or southeasterly wind many times has blown warm surface water out of the course of the Gulf Stream and has lodged it against the coast.

The Gulf Stream has much to do with the economies of the commerce of Western Europe, but mightily little to do with its climate except in an indirect way. Its flow does not reach within two thousand miles of any part of Europe. But it does carry an enormous volume of warm water into the region of westerly winds,

A WOMAN'S INTUITION
HAS BEEN GIVEN NEW NAME

(New York Sun.)

Lovers of domestic truth will rejoice to hear that woman's uncanny gift for seeing through a lie has at last been recognized by science. It seems that midday has a special faculty, in effect like a third eye, which illuminates her while Adolphus is spinning his ingenious yarn about the things that kept him out so late the night before.

Prof. Charles Richet of the French Academy of Medicine proposes a name for that mysterious faculty—"cryptaesthesia." Sagacious husbands have long known about cryptaesthesia but they haven't called it by that name. It wouldn't be polite to print some of the things they've called it. A milder point of view might be reflected in some such speech as this:

"No, it's no use lying to Madge. She'd just look through me with those great eyes of hers, and I'd know that she was reading me like a book."

Men as well as women may enjoy the possession of cryptaesthesia. The word might be rendered as "hidden feeling." It's the feeling a woman has when, in answer to your question, "How do you know that?" she shrugs her shoulders and says:

"I don't know how I know it; I just know it, that's all—I feel it."

You don't often hear a man say that. A man doesn't consider that he knows a thing just because he "feels" it. He has to know a thing by way of his brain, or else he'll disregard all the "hunches" suggested by his cryptaesthesia.

Big Decisions From Bench.

And yet it is related of some of our Napoleons of finance, not less than of the real Napoleon, and of many geniuses in history, that in coming to weighty decisions they didn't always depend on their reasoning faculties but obeyed a voice of "hidden feeling" that we used to call intuition before the learned Richet named it cryptaesthesia.

Richet compares it to a "paroptic vision, or vision outside the retina, enabling one miraculously to see hidden objects." He classifies it as a psychic rather than a physical faculty. "By an infallible reflex, a woman

registers a lie the very moment it is being told her. Her sense even goes further, enabling her to recognize actual facts which are happening at a distance."

All of which agrees perfectly with the conclusion of the French philosopher Bergson, who has proclaimed intuition to be a mode of knowledge not less than intellect. The greatest protagonists of the intellectual mode of acquiring knowledge are mathematicians. Those of the intuitional mode are women, poets and wasps.

Lying to a poet is just as useless as lying to a woman. If he takes the trouble he can see right through your shenanigan. And as for wasps, they're equally difficult to deceive. Especially the big solitary wasps that sting a cicada, spider or caterpillar into a state of suspended animation so that the baby wasp may feast indefinitely on fresh meat.

Real Basis For Theory.

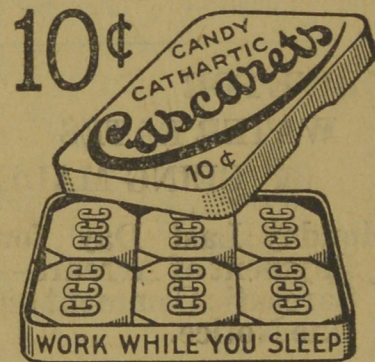
Of all the animal kingdom these are declared by Bergson to approach man most nearly in intelligence. And it is the same kind of intelligence that madame exhibits when she sees through monsieur's fiction about an "important business conference" detaining him down town.

Henri Fabre, who has studied wasps as earnestly as some of us study women, also gives them credit for a mode of knowledge apart from the intellectual mode and superior to the vague and limited faculty known as instinct. His conclusion split the naturalists of the world into two camps, for these were those who clung to their comfortable materialism and refused to follow the French genius in his lofty estimate of insect consciousness.

All things considered, it's probably more agreeable to be married to a woman than it would be to a wasp. And Richet arrived at his cryptaesthesia by the human route—tireless experimentation in psychology, psychiatry and psychic research. Not without weighty evidence would he be likely to credit woman with a faculty for detecting lies and witnessing events at a distance.

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Days when these gods spread leaf-rugs for man's feet.

But see that muskrat gliding through the marsh,
Bearing a sprig of rush to thatch his mound;

Well does he know a snow-squall's voice is harsh;
Full well he knows the arrowroot he found

Soon may be looked beneath the bog's black ooze—
With hags like mad Squaw Winter lurking 'round!

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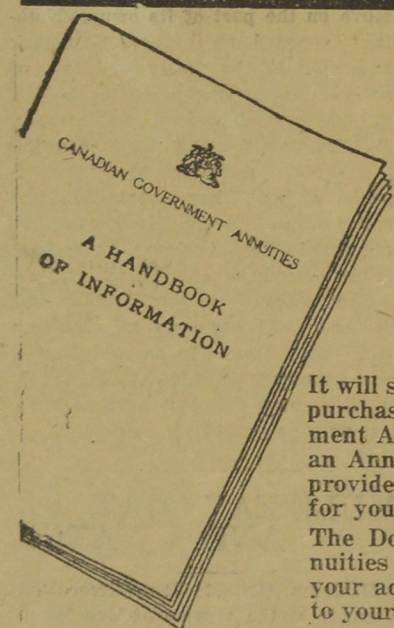
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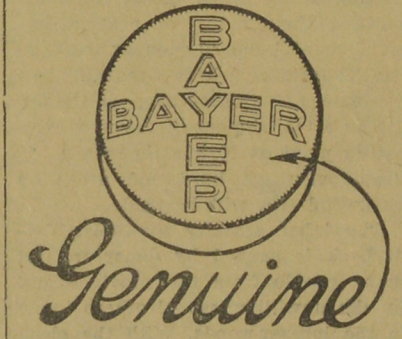
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