

SWIMMIN'.

In where the pool lies clear and deep,
Up in the shadow where cows stand
asleep,
A-dashin' an' splashin', now in, now out,
Darin' each other a turn about,
Then divin' off the big ol' limb—
That was the way with me an' Jim.

Chasin' the shiners so bright an' shy,
Laughin' to see 'em go scurryin' by,
Tryin' to trace a big bumblebee
Flyin' home to his hollow tree;
Watchin' the swallows flit an' skim—
That was the way with me an' Jim.

Wadin' 'way out where the current runs
swift,
Throwin' in chips to see 'em drift,
Followin' on till they're 'way out of sight
Down where the channel turns to the
right,
Then a-straddle a log with legs brown an'
slim,
That was the way with me an' Jim.

Up to the bushes when the sun gets low,
Tumblin' now in our hurry to go;
Pullin' on our clothes most any way,
Wonderin' what had will have to say;
I take the flickin', bein' older than him—
That was the way with me an' Jim.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Some Paragraphs That Will Add to Your Stock of Knowledge.

Eight out of every 10,000 English people emigrate every year.

Twenty-one thousand pounds' worth of articles are left in London cabs in a year.

South Shields is said to possess the oldest lifeboat in existence. It has been in use since 1830, and by means of it 1,028 persons have been rescued.

The largest seal cargo ever obtained has been landed at St. Johns, Newfoundland, from the steamer Terra Nova. It consisted of 40,000 seals, weighing 800 tons.

One and one-half millions of diamonds, valued at from £30,000,000 to £40,000,000, have been taken from the famous Kimberley, South Africa, diamond mines since their discovery in 1871.

In the annual railway coupling contest of Furness railway employees, which took place at Barrow recently, the winning competitor coupled and uncoupled 20 wagons in 1 min. 28 1-5 seconds.

Losses in London.

There are roses which Londoners, however poor, may buy in November. They are technically described as "very single tea roses," and, as a matter of fact, they are made up of only about 20 petals. If you happen to buy them wired and keep them in a moderately warm room, they do not wither, but simply dry, and so you get a bunch of everlasting roses. They come from the south of France, where they grow on hedges and get practically no attention until the time comes for culling them. They more or less resemble the Gloire de Dijon in color, but usually the outer petals have a deep stain of red. They always come with stems a foot long and a plentitude of glossy, dark green foliage. The baskets generally travel to this country by way of Paris, where they are opened and the choicest of the blooms extracted and put into special packages. These selected roses fetch comparatively high prices; but the others, in baskets containing from eight dozen to a gross of the blooms, go so wondrously cheap that you may buy them in the streets in November at the price of just a half-penny.—Chambers' Journal.

This Will Surprise You.

It is said that the roar of a lion can be heard farther than the sound made by any other living creature. Next comes the howl of a hyena, and then the hoot of the owl, the cry of the panther, and the yelp of the jackal. The donkey can be heard fifty times farther than the horse, and the cat ten times farther than the dog. Strange as it may seem, the cry of a hare can be heard farther than that of either the cat or the dog.

MEN!

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OVERCROWDED LONDON.

Fewer Houses For the Increased Population Shown by the Census.

One thing proved by the census figures for London is that overcrowding must have increased to an extent unknown at any previous period. The total increase in London appears at 307,717. Where has London, during the past ten years, put its additional 300,000 people? According to a return prepared by the London County Council in 1896, the increase in population in the first five years was at the rate of 4.75 per cent.; but the increase in the number of new houses was only at the rate of 1.54 per cent. London has had to squeeze a good part of its additional population into the existing houses. The number of people to each house in London increased during the whole of the last century. Here are the figures showing the inhabitants per house at different periods:

1801	7.93	1871	7.78
1821	7.29	1881	7.83
1851	7.72	1896	8.61

It is estimated that the number per house for 1901 will be found to be as it was in the mid-census of 1896, taken by the London County Council. These figures represent the number per house for the whole of London, but if we take particular districts we find many more people in each house. For instance:

London as a whole	8.01
Spitalfields	15.41
Soho	13.73
St. Giles	13.25
Holborn	13.18
Whitechapel	12.56

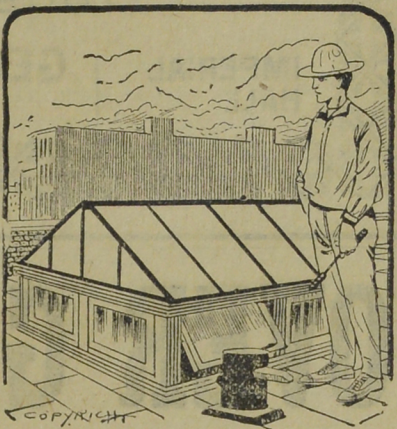
A further proof of overcrowding is shown by the rise in the number of persons to the acre in London. Sir B. Richardson held that no city could afford to have more than 25 persons to the acre, but the new census for London work out at a fraction just below 60 persons. In 1861 there were 37.21 persons to the acre in London, and at the 1891 census the figures were 56.19. Here, again, the overcrowded districts exceed the average for the whole of London. In 1896 Spitalfields had 315 persons per acre, Soho 237, and Holborn 225. How far have these overcrowded districts got rid of their excess? In Shoreditch, Finsbury and Holborn, each of whom shows a reduced population, overcrowding has been getting worse during recent years. This reduction in numbers is due to the fact that these districts, being near the city, have been invaded by warehouses and factories. Thousands of people in the central London districts are displaced every year to make way for business premises. It does not follow, however, that all who are displaced move right away. Many settle in the nearest tenements to their own, thus making the remaining houses more overcrowded than they were before. The population of Bermondsey has diminished by 5,500, but more than twice that number has been displaced during the past ten years to make way for factories, etc. Obviously, then, if houses that held 11,000 people have been pulled down, and the population has only shrunk by half, the remainder are overcrowding the other houses.

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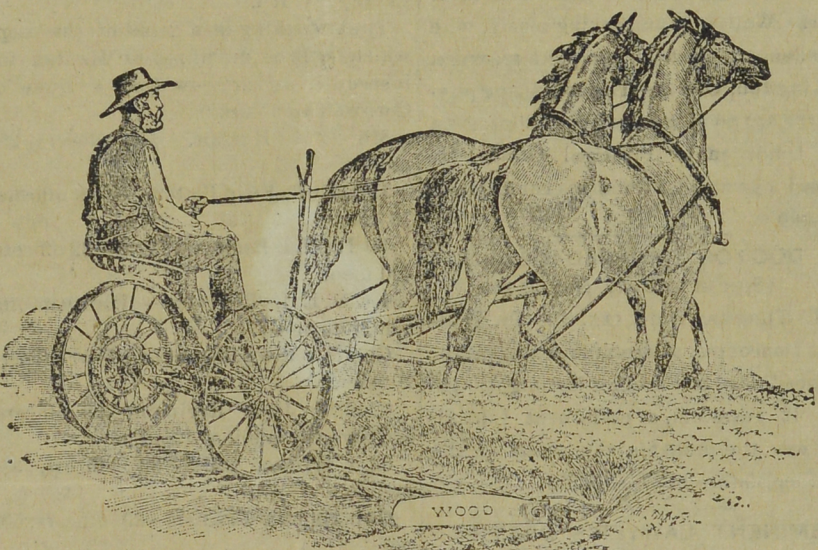
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