

GETTING HIS SEA LEGS.

Life on the Ocean Wave Has Its Drawbacks for the Young Navy Recruit.

The phrase "acquiring the sea habit," which is frequently used in connection with the training of recruits in the navy, carries to the lay mind nothing of an impression of a rolling gait, a chronic hitching at the waistband of the trousers, a saline vocabulary and a canny knowledge of the brands of eating tobacco...

WAIL OF A DEPOSED KING.

Paris Chef Who Has Cooked for Royalty Tells of the Good Old Days.

Casimir, the chef of the Maison Dorée, in Paris, which closed its doors some months ago, now describes himself as a king without a kingdom, says the Detroit Free Press.

WHERE ASPHALT IS CHEAP.

Indian Territory Contains an Extensive Mine That is Being Utilized.

Not far from the town of Ardmore, in Indian territory, and partly within the corporation limits is an asphalt mine which is thought to be extensive enough to pave all the streets in Indian and Oklahoma territories.

This also is thoroughly tamped and rolled. The last coat is made of the same material ground to a powder and then heated. No wagon ways have been made, but many sidewalks have been built in this manner and they are giving most satisfactory results.

Projectiles in Navy.

Four classes of projectiles are used in the United States navy—armor-piercing projectiles, for use against armor; common shells, for use against unarmored, or very thinly-armored parts; shrapnel, for service against exposed detachments of men; and canister, which is employed against detachments of men lacking protection within close range.

Locating Ores.

It is claimed by the Draft-Williams method of locating ores by the deflection of electrical currents that not only can deposits be located, but that the extent and depth of the lode can be determined with an accuracy that is quite impossible with any existing system of prospecting.

A Film of Oil.

According to Lord Rayleigh, a film of oil on water may be so thin that its thickness is no more than one twenty-five-millionths of an inch, which is computed to be, in all probability, the size of a molecule of the oil.

BEWARE OF THE PHAGOCYTE.

Little-known But Much-Dreaded Creature That Frequentates the Human Body.

"The hope of mankind," says Metschnikow, "depends upon the proper restriction of the phagocyte." Very few nonprofessional men know what a phagocyte is, and even numerous physicians try to get along without having made its acquaintance...

JAPAN A CURIOUS LAND.

Almost Everything Seems to Go by Contraries in the Mikado's Kingdom.

"There is no land that I have ever seen so curious as Japan," said Robert W. Brinkley, of Yokohama, to a Washington Star reporter recently.

"One of the strange features of the country is that all crops and fruits are almost certain to deteriorate. I have seen beautiful peaches grown the first year from stock imported from the United States. The second year they were still fairly good; the third season poor and after that unfit to eat.

WILL STUDY OLD RUINS.

American Servants on the Way to Explore Remains of Civilization in Russian Turkestan.

Raphael Pumpelly, who has been charged by the Carnegie institution with the exploration of Russian Turkestan has arrived at St. Petersburg with his son, R. W. Pumpelly, to procure the necessary permission.

The party will search for remnants of the once flourishing civilization of the basin of the Sea of Aral, will investigate the climatic changes that have taken place there, in historical times, and will seek to discover whether such changes have been sufficient to cause the present decline of this region, and whether equal or not greater importance should not be attributed to economic and political changes, such as the interruption of the old caravan route by the Arabs and Turks...

Will Be Bride of a Peer.

Lord Monson and Mrs. Turnure, daughter of Gen. Roy Stone, U. S. A., will be married soon, according to an announcement made at London.

Wild Animal Trade.

A dealer in wild animals in Hamburg collected and sold last year 78 lions, tigers and panthers, 42 bears, 32 elephants, 64 camels and dromedaries, 730 monkeys and a large number of smaller animals and birds.

Where Was It Small.

To ordinary eyes a man 1,600 yards away says, "a rifle range appears as a dot; he could not be known as a man except as being a smaller dot than a horse.

GIANT EGG OF EBYORNIS.

Marvelous Specimen Recently Acquired by the American Museum of Natural History.

A rare and remarkable curiosity in the shape of the largest egg in the world is now on exhibition in Bird hall of the American museum of natural history. The egg belonged to a gigantic extinct bird, called the abyornis, formerly inhabiting the wilds of the island of Madagascar.

From the length and size of the limbs and feet the birds are said by scientists to have been probably twice or three times the height of an ostrich, of which they are supposed to be a distinct group.

Nearly half a hundred hen eggs could be packed inside, says the New York Commercial-Advertiser.

QUEER KIND OF THEFT.

Mexican Hotel-keeper Tapped Electric Light Company's Cable to Save Cost.

A hotel keeper in the City of Mexico, whose place was always brilliantly lighted by electric lamps, apparently without regard to cost, has recently been convicted by a local judge for stealing from the electric light company the current with which his hotel was lighted.

The landlord who attempted to evade the electric company's charges wired his house and made a connection with the company's cables, with the intention, as he pleaded, of calling at the office of the company and explaining the matter at a later day.

EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN.

Where City Parents Trade Their Offspring with People from the Country.

A curious arrangement, called "The Exchange of Children," was adopted by some charitable people of Berlin last summer, and will be revived this spring, says the New York Tribune.

Highest Waterfall.

While mining in Mexico, William P. Dunham, of Denver, visited what is considered the highest waterfall in the world. It bears the Indian name of Basaseachic, and is located about 130 miles west of the city of Chihuahua, near the summit of the Sierra Madre mountains.

Large Artificial Lake.

In a gorge of rock little more than 200 feet wide the United States government has decided to construct a dam of solid masonry, the first under the Hansborough-Newslands act, at the Tonto Basin site, that will create in the valleys of the upper Salt River and Tonto creek the largest artificial lake in the world. It will irrigate 200,000 acres.

Stuck on the Snow.

A man in Skowhegan, Me., recently sold his beloved pig to raise money to take his family to the circus. The next week he asked the town for financial aid, as he claimed that the hog was his entire capital stock.

ENGLISH HOUSEHOLD TROOPS

Regiments That Date Their Establishment from the Time of Charles II.

The privileges of the household troops, which are now being called into question, date from the establishment of the regiments from Charles II, according to the London Chronicle.

Parliament disbanded the Ironside army, but an outbreak of fifth monarchy fanatics in January, 1661, afforded Charles a pretext for maintaining troops for his personal protection.

CAMELS IN LOUISIANA.

Said to Have Been Introduced There by a Lumberman as Far Back as 1842.

James Boardman Cable, of Longbeach, Miss., is authority for the statement that his father, the late George W. Cable, imported a herd of camels for utilitarian purposes in 1842, reports the New Orleans Picayune.

That was long before the days of the logging steam train. Horses and mules were unserviceable, because of the sandy soil. In 1842 a herd of camels was imported from Arabia, through New Orleans, and put to work hauling logs to the saw mill.

ANIMALS ON ANIMALS.

Parasites That Take Up Their Lodgings on the Bodies, Beasts, Birds and Fishes.

All animals both great and small, suffer as severely as mammals in the matter of parasites, says Leslie's Monthly.

The most interesting of the pigeon's parasites is the one known as the slender pigeon louse, which is supposed to do good service to the bird by thinning its body plumage as the weather grows hot.

WHEN MILES WAS DEFEATED.

Irish Woodchopper Was More Than a Match for the General in Repartee.

Gen. Miles is quoted by a fellow officer as telling the following story on himself:

"It was during our pursuit of Chief Joseph," said the general. "One exceedingly stormy night we encountered on our march in the Bearpaw mountains a few woodchoppers' cabins. The woodsmen were not inclined to be very hospitable, but we finally induced them to share with us the protection their huts afforded.

"They consented, however, only upon condition that they should not under any circumstances be compelled to give up their beds. It fell to my lot to share the bunk of the boss, a very stern Irishman, who was not delighted with his guest.

"Hoping to establish an entente cordiale I said, banteringly, as we were preparing to retire:

"Come now, Patrick, you know you'd be a long time in Ireland before you'd get a chance to sleep with a general."

"And it's O! that am thinking, he instantly retorted, 'that you'd be a long time in Ireland before you'd ever be made a general.'"

"Only One Arsenal.

Canada's only arsenal is at Quebec. Her main arteries run close to our frontier, and in case of war could easily be cut by raids, says a British colonel.

DEGREES OF TEMPERANCE.

Funny Answers to the Question: 'Do You Use Intoxicating Beverages?'

Among the regular questions to be answered by applicants for admission to the examinations in the city of New York is the following, says A. M. Jones, in McClure's: "Do you use intoxicating beverages, and if so, to what extent?"

"No, but I take a drink," and it was a Swede who carefully estimated the extent of his indulgence as "one glass of beer in ten days."

The commonest answer to the question consists either of the single word "moderately" or of some equivalent phrase, which, on the whole, seems to the examiners the most suitable response.

MAN WHO USED A PURSE.

It Was Too Much for His Finances and He Broke the Engagement.

Rumor has it that a belle of this city broke her engagement with a certain Washington club man, just because he carried his money in a purse," reports the Washington Star.

"I can't abide," she is quoted as saying, "a man who carries a purse at all; and as for one who keeps his change in it, he is simply beyond hope, and it's sure to follow that the man with the little purse will be as little and close about everything else. You may not notice it during the engagement, but it will come later.

KEROSENE AND MOLASSES.

Both Are Carried in the Same Tanks by Ships in West Indian Trade.

Commerce—dull, prosaic, matter-of-fact commerce—plays queer pranks. One of the queerest is played in the kerosene trade. Almost all the kerosene oil that is shipped from America now goes out in great oil tank steamships and barges—vessels that are practically nothing but mighty floating kerosene cans.

Now, when these tank vessels carry kerosene to the West Indies, they cannot afford to return empty, for the voyage home is just as expensive to the owners as the voyage down. So, after the oil has been pumped out of them, they are sealed again and superheated steam is forced into them until they are perfectly clean.

To put molasses into tanks that have been used for kerosene would surely be the last thing that most persons would think of. But commerce does it.

Saved by Quarantine.

A few years ago it would have seemed absurd to promise that the great commercial ports of the world could be made absolutely free from danger of invasion by such epidemic scourges as cholera and plague, but a careful investigation of the elements of danger and a rigid enforcement of quarantine regulations have made all our cities exempt from infection.

Smallpox Disfigurement.

In a recent article in a widely-read magazine on "Niels Finson and His Heating Rays" it is said: "All the world might now have smallpox without fear of disfigurement."

Venom of Snakes.

The venom of snakes contains only intermediary bodies which alone would not be virulently poisonous, but the normal blood serum of susceptible animals contains the substances which, by conjoint action with the intermediary bodies of the venom, cause the deadly poisoning.

Tragedies in Arctic Seas.

During the nineteenth century 200 ships, numberless lives and over \$30,000,000 were lost in futile efforts to reach the north pole.

BEST OF THEM BLUNDERED.

Ludicrous Mistakes Made by Some of the World's Most Celebrated Artists.

In Van Dyke's celebrated picture of Charles I. in armor both of the gauntlets are for the right hand. Wilkie painted a horse without a bit foaming at the mouth. Angelo, in his great picture, "The Last Judgment," has introduced Charon's bark.

There are numerous similar errors, all most ludicrous, but I cannot at the moment get hold of a list of them, says a writer in the New York Press.

PICKED UP SPILLED OYSTERS. Fish-Monger's Boy Was Unabashed and Deliberate in Righting Things.

Ten feet in advance of the young man who was hurrying to a dinner engagement walked a fish-monger's boy.

"I can't abide," she is quoted as saying, "a man who carries a purse at all; and as for one who keeps his change in it, he is simply beyond hope, and it's sure to follow that the man with the little purse will be as little and close about everything else. You may not notice it during the engagement, but it will come later.

CASE OF COSTLY COURTESY. One Instance Recorded in London Where It Did Not Pay to Be Polite.

The following pathetic story was told in a London police court recently:

A man was sitting in a comfortably furnished car when a woman entered and broke the laws by hanging in pathos her desperation to the end of a strap.

GULLS FOLLOW VESSELS. Sea Birds of Puget Sound Afford Travelers an Interesting Study.

To the traveler on Puget sound there is nothing that so holds the interest on the day's trip from Seattle to Victoria, on Vancouver island, as do the sea gulls. These birds distinctly are the feature of the trip, greater in many respects than Mount Rainier or Mount Tacoma, as it is well known to the first settlers, and which rises for thousands of feet toward the southeast; greater than the Olympic mountain range on the land between the sound and the Pacific, and which rises cold and drear to no mean proportions.

The sea gulls of Puget sound are an institution, and as an institution are protected by the government of the state of Washington and of British Columbia. To kill a sea gull is a crime, and punishment is swift and sure to anyone who is caught committing such a deed.

New Premature Burial.

Speaking of cremation, the London Lancet expresses the opinion that the chances of a living body thought to be dead being reduced to ashes are too infinitely remote to merit attention.

In the vast majority of instances there is no real foundation for the stories of premature burial or intended burial.