

**SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.**

The "sand bag" of the thug used to stun his victim has been introduced into polite society in the shape of an exercising apparatus as a substitute for the Indian clubs. These are long, slender bags of stout fabric, filled with sand or some other similar material, made of any desired weight, and provided with rope handles at either end. On the sides of webbing into which are loops the feet can be inserted for leg exercises. Besides serving the purpose of several types of exercisers, it is pointed out that the sand-bags are preferable to Indian clubs and dumb-bells in that they can be used noiselessly.

Nearly all the German planes built within a year are found to be provided with a clockwork bomb, which is designed to make them self-destructive in case of capture by the enemy. One of these is installed near the fuel tank, and is supplied with a handle within easy access of the aviator. In case of capture or being compelled to descend within the enemy's lines, he may manipulate this handle, and in ten minutes his machine will be a total wreck.

A new and interesting route to the Far East will be in operation at no distant date, definite plans now being in the course of preparation. It will be possible for a tourist to board a train in Paris at noon on Saturday and proceed by way of Milan, Venice, Trieste, Belgrade, Nish, arriving in Athens Tuesday morning. It will carry Anglo-Indian and other Far Eastern mails and passengers, and will in this way vastly increase the importance of the port of Piræus which in future will be the starting place of steamers for the Far East. This will bring Greece hundreds of miles nearer Western Europe in distance and several days nearer in time.

The annual average number of boiler explosions in this country since 1868 is 281, which caused the death of 256 persons and injuries to 380 others.

A Swiss electrical publication gives particulars of a new process for moving the temper from hardened steel. The piece to be softened is placed on a plate of iron at red heat and covered by a plate of cold iron. After the whole has cooled, the piece of steel, whatever was its previous quality and degree of hardness, is tempered completely, and can easily be worked without its quality having undergone any change by, for example, decarburization. The method is specially applicable to the unhardening of tools, more particularly punches and dies. Tests have given excellent results, and the method has the advantage that shaped pieces of steel do not show any shrinkage after treatment.

Some South African capitalists are endeavoring to create a market for what is known as Eri silk, which is obtained from the cocoons of an Indian moth, the caterpillar of which is reared for the production of silk in Assam and to a smaller extent in certain parts of Bengal and northern India. This silk cannot be reeled like that of the mulberry silk worm, as the thread is not continuous, and it therefore has to be spun like ordinary silk waste. Eri silk takes dyes well, and when woven into cloth surpasses cotton in durability.

One of the developments of the war is a 20-shot syringe for hypodermic injections. Obviously its merit is that of convenience when physicians and surgeons are working under fire and in dark dugouts where continual recharging of syringes entails difficulty and retards operations. The instrument is supplied with a platinum needle which permits sterilization in a flame. The cap that protects it, when not in use, is kept filled with iodine or alcohol. When large numbers of persons are being inoculated with typhoid serum, for instance, an instrument such as the magazine syringe evidently saves much time.

The most active volcano in the world is Mount Sangay. It is 17,190 feet, situated on the eastern chain of the Andes, South America. It has been in constant eruption since 1728.

A superior waterproof paper, transparent and impervious to fat, may be prepared by saturating good water with a liquid prepared by dissolving shellac at a moderate heat in a saturated solution of borax. Such a mixture may be colored by the addition of various aniline dyes.

Seventy per cent. more coke than ever before will be available this year to help solve the fuel shortage, according to electrical Review. This supply will be further increased by the development of tar, coke-oven gas and other by-products newly dignified in war time as available fuels. Pulverized coal to attain the greatest efficiency is also a subject that is interesting fuel men just now. Some of the advantages of pulverized coal are: The utilization of every heat unit in the coal; the reduction of labor for handling coal, and the maintenance of a constant temperature in the furnace.

Experiments in Norway with a view to extracting salt from ocean water by means of electricity have been successful, and two salt factories will be started for this purpose in the near future. Each factory is calculated to produce 50,000 tons of salt a year for a start, but they will be so built that the production can be brought up to double the quantity, if necessary. Besides the salt, different by-products will be made.

**A Table Made With a Jackknife.**

A table containing eight hundred and thirty-two separate pieces, including many animals, has been made by a California man. The only tool employed in the work was a jackknife. It took just four years to complete the work, and the owner of the table values it at five thousand dollars.

—Advertise in the "Watchman."

**Eugenic Mating Urged as Duty of the State.**

Harrisburg.—A bill providing for eugenic marriages and setting forth in great detail men and women who should not be permitted to wed, was introduced in the House last week by Representative Charles T. Hickernell, of Lebanon county. Those who would be under the ban, in the event the Hickernell bill is enacted into law, are:

The insane, epileptics, habitual drunkards, persons of unsound mind, and others. The words "unsound mind" as used in the bill, means mental unsoundness due to causes other than accident or disease. The word "insane" as used in the measure, means the state of a person whose mental unsoundness is due to accident or disease.

The bill goes farther and states: "That neither of the parents of either party has been or is of unsound mind, or epileptic; that neither of the parties has pulmonary tuberculosis in advanced stage, or any venereal disease, or any other transmissible disease; that the man contracting has not within five years been an inmate of any public or private home, asylum or institution for indigent persons, or if he has been such an inmate that the cause of such condition has been removed and that the male contracting party is physically able to support a family."

The bill provides that a health certificate, setting forth the physical and mental condition of each applicant must be presented with the application for a marriage license, reputable physician or an examiner of the State Department of Health, are authorized to issue such certificates. There must also be an accompanying affidavit from a person who has known the male contracting party for at least five years.

The State Department of Health is authorized to appoint as many as 30 examiners, "who shall, upon application, conduct the examination and tests herein required, and who shall, if such tests and examinations are satisfactory, issue the proper health certificates."

The bill provides that a bill of \$2.50 shall be paid by each person examined; that the department shall furnish each examiner with complete clinical and laboratory equipment and that the annual salaries of the examiners shall not be more than \$3000 each. The bill also contains a fac simile of the certificates to be granted.

**Hermitage Pictures Safe.**

Immediately after the collapse of the Czar's government, the Hermitage Palace at Petrograd, where was domiciled one of the finest art collections in the world, was plundered by the revolutionists and converted into a mere barracks for the Bolshevik mob. The priceless canvases disappeared from the walls, cut from the stretchers and the frames left empty in the usual place.

It was generally supposed at the time that Germany, acting largely through Dutch agents, had bought up the masterpieces and shipped them to Berlin, paying members of the Russian revolutionary clique a laughably small amount for pictures which were almost priceless.

Now comes a rumor, unfortunately it does not appear to be satisfactorily substantiated, to the effect that only a small and insignificant number of these pictures reached Berlin, the cream of the collection having been hastily removed by the Provisional government early in 1917, after the capture of Riga by the Germans, and sent secretly to Moscow.

The need for secrecy and the haste in which the work had to be done made it impossible to move the frames, the canvases being cut from their stretchers and rolled up for transportation. According to the present story, the original intent was to store them in the Kremlin, but for some unexplained reason they were sent to a private palace and left in the care of several eminent Russian artists.

Shortly afterward the Kremlin, after being bombarded for five days by the Bolsheviks, was looted, so that what was intended as temporary quarters for the Hermitage collection became the permanent storage house, in which it remains today.

This is mighty important news if it be true, but even if it be true the Hermitage pictures are still in danger, with Russia in such a state of political unrest and ferment.

Although an American would hate to think of Germany owning them, they would be safer there than in Russia. Unless, indeed, the Bolshevik movement is to overrun Germany as it did Russia.

A similar thought was back of Sir Claude Phillips' expression of opinion in hearing that these masterpieces have been taken to Berlin, his idea being that Germany, wishing to retain them, would treat them with care.

Certainly Moscow does not seem an ideal place for the storage of masterpieces each of which is worth a fortune.

The history of art is full of stories of lost masterpieces. Let us hope that those which went to the making of the Hermitage collection are not added to their number.—Francis J. Zeigler.

**Paper Famine in Old Times.**

There was a paper famine in Europe in the seventh century. In A. D. 640 the Saracens conquered Egypt, and at the same time, by order of Omar, their Caliph, the renowned library at Alexandria, consisting of 400,000 volumes, was burned. The paper supply of the then known world was derived from the papyrus bark, a reed which grew only in Egypt. Consequently, when the Saracens gained possession of the country the paper supply was cut off. This led to the adoption of a curious expedient. The writing on used papyrus paper was erased and the paper which was thus made available again brought into use. An old author has suggested that probably owing to this many valuable contributions from classic writers, Tacitus, Livy and others, were lost to the world.—Ohio State Journal.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

**FLED IN DISGUISE.**

**Noted Men Who Escaped Captivity by Subterfuge.**

Gen. Hans von Beseler of the German army is said to have escaped out of Poland in disguise as a stowaway on board a Vistula river steamer. In the fall of 1914 Von Beseler was glorified as the conqueror of the city of Antwerp, the chief stronghold of Belgium and the chief port of continental Europe. Germany's conquering heroes of 1914 have been vanquished and Von Beseler is but one of a great company of notable fugitives who have saved their lives by fleeing in disguise. Judge Jeffries of English history, whose name is associated with the "bloody assizes," tried to hide himself and escape the vengeance his savage cruelty merited by donning the garb of a coal miner and hiding in a tavern at Woking, but he was recognized, captured, imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he soon died. Prince Charles Edward Stuart, pretender to the throne of Great Britain, escaped from Scotland in petticoats, disguised as Betty Burke, maid to Flora MacDonald. Louis Philippe, the "citizen king" of France, fled to the coast of Normandy where he posed as "Mr. Smith," a British subject, in order to secure passage to England on a steamer. Napoleon III, while a pretender to the throne of France, was imprisoned in the fortress of Ham. After several months of confinement repairs were begun on the fortress. Napoleon bribed one of the carpenters to smuggle in a workman's garb for his disguise. He dressed himself in the coarse overalls and blouse, shouldered a short plank, which he carried on edge so as to conceal his face, and walking past his guard he escaped to Belgium and thence to England. Porfirio Diaz was twice compelled to flee from Mexico and seek safety in the United States. He made one trip from New Orleans to Vera Cruz disguised as a stoker on board a steamship and was soon leading a new band of revolutionists. Empress Eugenie, disguised as a servant woman, was taken out of Paris by Doctor Evans, an American dentist, in whose house she had been hidden. Thus she escaped the blind fury of the French mob and gained safe asylum in England. Jefferson Davis, fallen president of the Southern Confederacy, is said by his enemies to have tried to escape out of the country and evade his pursuers disguised in woman's garb, but he was captured and imprisoned until the passions of some of the northern fire-eaters had cooled.

**The General's Drop.**

I have been told this story of a "flying" general, who has had experience as a parachutist, says a writer in the London Evening News. A few days ago he was a passenger in an airplane going north. After a while he picked up a village where he intended to stop for a day or two, and informed the pilot, who at once signified his intention of making a landing. "Oh! don't stop!" shouted the general, and he proceeded to attach himself to a parachute and his suitcase to another. He dropped the case overboard and then stepped off himself. General and suitcase floated down gently and safely to earth, while the airplane continued its flight.

**Comfortable Beds.**

Mattress and pillow used in the berths of sailors and firemen aboard government-operated merchant vessels are of the most approved type for sea use, for besides making good bedding, they are the best sort of life preservers. Their filling is a soft, resilient tropical fiber known as kapoc, which can sustain 25 times its own weight in salt water for 48 hours.

On each of the new merchant ships built under the direction of the United States shipping board, shower baths are provided for the crew, there being one for the foremen and another for the deck force.—Merchant Marine.

**Kaiser's Thankless Dentist.**

"Now that Doctor Davis has finished his revelations," says Nate Sausbury, as reported by the Chicago Evening Post, "the kaiser may realize how sharper than an ulcerated tooth it is to have a thankless dentist. We should like to have held the doctor's job and, when it appeared necessary to draw the kaiserliche molar, warbled as we closed down on the forceps, 'The yanks are coming, the yanks are coming!'—From Outlook.

**An Awful Waste.**

"When a senator dies at least eight thousand volumes of eulogy are printed and distributed by the government," said Professor Pate. "This is an appalling waste, and—"

"It is indeed," replied J. Fuller Gloom. "In most instances three cheers would be more appropriate.—Kansas City Star.

**The Right Sort.**

Two Aucklanders were talking about a mutual friend. Said one: "So Jim has gone into the navy and is now on a destroyer. I thought he was a pacifist."

"He is; a naval pacifist."

"And what is naval pacifist?"

"One who plants depth bombs for the purpose of spreading oil on the troubled waters."

—There is no state of life without its obligations. In their due discharge consists all the nobility and in their neglect all the disgrace of character.

—It is easier to preach than to practice. Therefore it must be easier to be a clergyman than a physician.

**FIFTH ARMY FOUGHT WELL.**

**British Troops, Battling Against Desperate Odds, Allowed Enemy to Gain Only by Inches.**

Then I was with the British Fifth army, and I'll tell you why they didn't hold against the Boche—they simply couldn't. They were outranged and outnumbered cruelly. Never in my life did I see such heroism and gallantry displayed against frightful odds as by those men, and if they didn't fight then there never was any fighting anywhere upon the face of the earth, Maj. Cushman A. Rice, U. S. A., writes in Leslie's Magazine. Attacked by a tremendously superior German force, they lost almost all of their artillery of any weight the first day, but stuck at the Somme line until almost annihilated. For every inch of ground they gained the Huns paid the highest price in men, and I could tell 500 instances in which the British battlers proved to be magnificent heroes. I saw a captain who was in charge of a battery of six-inch howitzers have a hand shot away. He stopped fighting only long enough to have temporary dressing applied and then returned to his post and assisted his men in removing the guns. He was killed the next day. I was with a machine gun company until all but three of the men had been killed or incapacitated. I told them that I was going to fall back and urged them to do likewise. The leader, a little Lancashire sergeant, answered: "No, the Boches have chased us far enough. Here we stick." And they stuck and were killed to the last man.

And these Canadian units. Man, I simply can't tell you how they fought against odds for five days and six nights, going back only inch by inch. One division of 10,000 men, sent in to replenish the line, fought continuously for three days and nights. A roll call showed 916 left. Still there are those who ask if the British ran away. No, a thousand times no. With comparatively few reserves they hung on. They were sacrificed, but it was their duty to stay, and they did. Too much cannot be said in praise of the Fifth army, for it saved the day and prevented the Huns from breaking through to Abbeville until the French came up.

**Was Taking No Chances.**

One of Lucy's friends was giving a little birthday party for the little boys and girls of the neighborhood, and of course the children were much excited about it, particularly as it was customary for each little boy to ask to take the little girl he was most proud of. Several days passed and no one asked Lucy. And then one afternoon she came home from school in great glee.

"Mother," she said, "I have asked Bobby to go to the party with me."

Mother was shocked. "You asked Bobby to go with you? Why, Lucy, that wasn't a very nice thing for you to do. Bobby might prefer to take some other little girl."

"Well, you know, mother," Lucy replied, "that's just what I was afraid of."

**The Airplane Runabout.**

At last there is being produced in England a small airplane, with wings extending only 15 feet, or actually less than the wing extension of a real bird, the albatross. This, to be sure, would be a large albatross, but cases have been known of these birds measuring 17 and 18 feet from tip to tip. There is evident advance toward the day when anybody who can afford the price will be able to own an airplane, without the need of a special landing place for it. The one referred to can, it is claimed, come down in the street without blocking traffic any more than would a hay wagon on its way to market.

**Famous Generals.**

Admiral Keyes of the Dover patrol, who landed at Ostend not long ago, was present at the siege of Peking in 1900. He was then a lieutenant and naval A. D. C. to Gen. Sir Alfred Gaselee, commandant of the British force, and in that capacity took part in the famous march to the relief of the legations. The British were the first to effect an entrance to the Chinese capital, which they did by the water gate under the city wall. Besides Admiral Keyes there were present two naval officers whose names have become famous during the war just ended—Admirals Jellicoe and Beatty.

**Too Old for Little Folk.**

An Indianapolis teacher in the early thirties was recently transferred from the first primary to teach in one of the upper grades of the same building. Most of the youngsters missed her, but it took little Carl L., a particularly bright youngster, to explain.

"You see, Miss Anne used to teach us in the first grade," he told one of the other teachers, "but she just got too old to teach the little children and had to go up to teach the big ones."

**Opened by Mistake.**

I sent a friend of mine in the army a box of cookies, candy and gum. When it came he was on sentry duty. Two of his friends opened the box and in the next letter we received he said: "Thanks for the empty box you sent me."—Chicago Tribune.

**What He Got.**

Kind, Strange Old Lady.—And what did you get for Christmas, little boy? Little Boy—Why, I got dis-dis-dis-er.

K. S. O. L.—Oh, tut, tut, my boy, not dis; you should say 'this.'

Little Boy—Well, if you know so much about it, I got thisappointed.

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Shoes.

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