

# SAFE-GUARDING THE PEARL MUSSEL

### A Valuable and New Mississippi River Industry is in Danger of Extinction

## STORIES OF SOME LUCKY FINDS

#### Scientists Take Up the Question of Artificial Propagation—Excitement Caused by Lucky Finds—Pearl Hunting Parties.

One of the tasks the Government has set for itself this summer is to find out why the pearl bearing mussels of the rivers of the Mississippi River are disappearing, and to try to propagate them. A commission headed by Prof. Paul Bartsch of Burlington has made a thorough search of the Mississippi and its tributaries to find out all about the mussel.

The mussel is highly regarded in that section of the country. Not only has it been the basis of a very profitable industry in the way of furnishing raw material for button making but it has enriched a great many who have merely taken up the hunt in the hope of finding valuable pearls.

Mussels have been found in large quantities along the upper Mississippi, but pearls are few and far between, due possibly to the fact that the temperature of the water is not so favorable to the propagation of the slug, the technical name for the pearl bearing secretions. Down along the White and Arkansas rivers hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of pearls have been found in the last five years. In Arkansas more than a million dollars worth of them have been unearthed in that time.

The pearl bearing mussel has been found now and then for years in the Arkansas rivers by fishermen who use it as a bait for the drum and the red horse varieties of the sucker family of fish. Several lucky finds of this character on the Black River started everybody hunting.

It was all a gamble. Only now and then a mussel with the precious stone attached would be found, but when once discovered it was well worth the time employed. Those who would not wade loafed around on the banks and bid against one another for the untouched shells brought in by the fishermen. Bathing parties and picnics at which the interest centered in pearl fishing were common.

Many stories are told of lucky finds. A trio of tramps one day tried to induce a ferryman to carry them across the river. He gruffly refused, telling them to go work and hunt pearls for a living. They took his advice, and in about three hours had gathered several bushels of shells. Sitting down to open them, they discovered in the fifth shell a pearl that sold for more than enough to buy all the early possessions of the ferryman.

A lad playing about a boat used for pearl fishing discovered something shiny on the bottom. He showed it to a man whom he met on the street, and cheerfully accepted \$10 for the pearl. The man disposed of it to a friend for \$50, who sold it later for four times that sum to a professional buyer, who is reported to have received several thousand dollars for it.

A business man who was on the verge of bankruptcy went down to the river to put in a few days fishing while he contrived to think some way out of his difficulties. On the first day he found three pearls that he disposed of for sufficient to pay all of his debts.

Pearls worth \$900 were found one afternoon by three young Northern women who had accepted an invitation from a Southern hostess to join a bathing party with a pearl fishing attachment. The proper dress for these functions, by the way, was the ordinary bathing dress and broad brimmed straw hats.

Although the industry has waned greatly the last year, there are still numerous camps of fishermen to be seen dotting the river banks. The shallows were, of course, first looted, and nowadays most of the work is done in the deeps. For this purpose oyster tongs are used, and the work is kept up most of the year.

Dredging for pearls is very largely a business matter these days. Dredges are used on the deep places and on the bars the river bottom is ploughed up and the mussels brought in scows and opened. The shells are saved and sold to the button factories that have sprung up at every town and village. These shells more than pay the expenses of the work, and the pearls found are clear profit. Several comfortable fortunes have been built up in this way.

There are hundreds of button factories all along the upper Mississippi. Wherever there are sandbars and shallow places the work of dredging for mussels goes on. The supply is getting shorter every year, and to preserve the sources and propagate the mussel the last Congress was induced to make a liberal appropriation. Shells by the carloads are shipped to the factories and there they are made into blanks and buttons. A big business in shipping the blanks to Germany has been built up in the last few years.

### Rule Where Men Burn.

The rule of conduct on and beyond Aden, where men burn and die, is keep the head cool and the stomach warm.

## POISONING PRAIRIE DOGS

### They Are a Serious Pest to Western Farmers and Stockmen.

Who would think that the prairie dog, the shy and amusing little rodent that we like to watch before the door of his burrow at the zoo, would ever become the subject of Government intervention or endanger the success of stock raising? Yet such is the fact, says the Technical World.

Out on the national forests which Uncle Sam is guarding for the use of the public expert hunters have gone after the prairie dogs with zeal—and poison—and the work will go on yet more vigorously next year. In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the work an area of some 60,000 to 75,000 acres of actual dogtown was selected for the test by the United States Forest Service. From 80 to 90 per cent. of the dogs were killed with the first distribution of the poison.

The poison is prepared by coating wheat with a preparation of strychnine, cyanide of potassium, anise oil and molasses. When a sufficient quantity is ready the poisoned wheat is carried to the field of operations. There the stockmen gladly supply men and horses, and the wheat is given out to the riders and distribution begins.

Each rider carries the wheat in a tin pail supported by a gunny sack slung across his right shoulder and hanging at his left side. His left hand is free for the reins. With his right hand he uses a tablespoon to measure out the poison and drop it near the entrance of the holes.

A little practice enables the men to drop the wheat while keeping their horses on a sharp trot. By crossing the town to and fro, like a man sowing grain, they can cover a large area in a surprisingly short time.

It is necessary to go over the ground a second time, and by spotting the occupied holes the remaining dogs will easily be killed with a very small amount of poison. The average cost an acre for the poisoning material is one and one-half cents.

Prairie dogs are very obnoxious to the stockmen, for they devour much grass and undermine the surface of the ground with their burrows. Where they establish themselves the destruction of the range is only a question of time. While it is hard to say just what amount of feed a prairie dog will consume in the way of grass, it has been estimated by the United States Biological Survey that thirty-two prairie dogs will consume as much grass as one sheep, or 256 dogs as much as one cow.

### Fully Equal.

Aunt Mandy is an old colored woman who for years has done washing for several families. She has had several matrimonial experiences, and when her last husband died one of her customers attempted to console with her.

"I was very sorry to hear of your husband's death, Aunt Mandy," she said.

"Ya'as, ma'am," said Aunt Mandy. "He was a pow'ful good man."

"What did he die of?"

"Ah really don't know, ma'am."

"You don't know! Gracious! Could not the doctor tell you?"

"Ah didn't have no doctah, ma'am," said Aunt Mandy. "He jes' done died a natch'ral death."

It wasn't long, however, before Aunt Mandy had another husband.

"I hear you are married again," remarked her patron one day.

"Ya'as, ma'am," giggled Aunt Mandy. "Ah was done married las' Sunday."

"And is your new husband equal to the last?"

"Ya'as, indeedy, ma'am," said Aunt Mandy. "He's jes' as equal, if not equaler."

### Value of Snake Skins.

It is said to be a hard matter to skin a dead snake so that the skin will remain in good condition; consequently, in many regions of the world where snakes are caught for the purpose of supplying the market with skins for pocketbooks, belts, etc., the snake is skinned alive, an operation which inflicts upon this arch enemy of man the most intense pain. Some are skinned dead, but the difference in price of skins taken from the dead reptile and those from the one alive does not make the more humane method popular. Dead snakes bring only from 2 to 5 cents, while live ones bring from 25 cents to \$1. Sumatra has a number of snake skin factories, as that tropical island abounds in the ophidian species. When a hunter brings in a live snake, one operator takes it by the neck and another by the tail, and the reptile is attached by the neck to a tree trunk. A sharp knife is used to cut the skin just below the head, and then, while the other holds the snake taut, the first operator peels the skin from the squirming body. The reptile, minus its skin, writhes in excruciating pain for an hour or so before it dies.

### Traffic by Dog Team.

Dog teams are plentiful in Sault Ste. Marie. The boys and girls drive them for pleasure and the older people use them to travel into town from the surrounding country. They are also used to draw loads of 400 to 500 pounds, and this they do with ease. They travel five or six miles an hour and seem to enjoy it.

Both Newfoundland and St. Bernard dogs are used. The Indians of this section also drive dog teams, and still another interesting sight is the Indian children out playing in the snow dressed in real Indian costume and with toy tomahawks.—Sault Ste. Marie correspondence Kansas City Star.

## Helpful Beauty Hints

### How to Acquire Poise in Walking—Famous Beauty's Ten Rules of Health—Formulas For Cleansing Cream, Freckles, Etc.—The Proper Location of the Mirror.

The first essential of graceful walking is poise. The weight of the body must be adjusted over the balls of the feet. In correct poise, the chest always leads, the abdomen recedes, the back and head assume their right positions. It goes without saying that there can be no grace in a hasty walk. Haste causes irregular and uncertain movements of all portions of the body, detracts from a woman's dignity and makes rhythm impossible.

Activity and right use of the feet are the second essential of a graceful walk. The feet have a double duty to perform—in bearing the weight and propelling the body. When the standing position is right, one leg is swung forward from the hip, the knee acting in harmony, and the ball of the foot touching first. The weight is so quickly transferred that the heel makes no noise. Women who walk heavily leave the weight on the heel and are never graceful. The general saying that one should "walk on the balls of the feet" has led some people to try not touching the heel at all. The result is a mincing gait wholly without dignity or grace.

The position of the feet should be straight. The weight of the body being on one foot while the other is swinging forward, the strongest position of the foot should be taken, which is practically straight. As children are always taught to "turn their toes out" this will surprise many.

The carriage of the shoulders is an important element in graceful walking. Nervousness, self-consciousness and haste show in stiffness of the shoulders, also in the aggressive elbows and clasped hands. If the chest is well up and forward, the shoulders will take their natural position and the arms hang at the sides. Forget your shoulders and think only of your chest.

- Cleansing Cream.**  
Oil of sweet almonds, 4 ounces; White wax, 1 ounce; White vaseline, 1 ounce; Extract of violet, 2 drams.
- Toilet Water.**  
Elderflower water, 2 ounces; Distilled water, 2 ounces.
- Cosmetic Glove Paste.**  
Myrrh, 1 ounce; Honey, 4 ounces; Yellow wax, 2 ounces; Rose water, 6 ounces.
- Freckle Lotion.**  
Corrosive sublimate, 2 grains; lemon juice, 1 ounce; Rose water, 4 ounces; Powdered borax, 1-2 dram. Apply once daily.

### A Famous Beauty's Advice.

Mme. Lina Cavalieri, the famous grand opera singer, who has been called the most beautiful woman in the world, says that as a result of her experience in preserving youth and good looks she has framed ten simple rules which apply to every woman seeking to retain her attractiveness:

1. When your mirror tells you you are not looking well, rest.
2. To keep the hair beautiful wash it once a week.
3. To keep the mouth young massage with the little fingers the lines of petulance from nostrils to lips.
4. To have always a youthful contour, keep the line of the jaw as thin as a knife edge.
5. To take away the ugly, middle-aged redness of the nose, use hot compresses on it.
6. To keep the tired lines away from the eyes, bathe the lids and skin about the eyes with water as warm as you can endure it.
7. To make the eyes always brilliant, bathe them as often as you do your face.
8. To avoid the multiplied chin, sleep with the head low, the lower the better.
9. To refresh the dry, withered skin bathe it often in water as warm as you can endure.
10. "You see," she says, "they begin with 'rest.' In practice they end with that. I might drop half of them and use rest instead. Rest is beauty's magic."

### Where is Your Mirror?

One reason that girls are so often badly dressed as to their head and neck is the bad location of their mirror. Every dressing table or mirror used for toilet purposes, should be so placed that it gets a strong light both night and day. Preferably the light should fall full upon it and the dresser when using the mirror, should sit with her back to the light.

One young woman who frequently appeared in public with a smudged face, to her great mortification, found that her dressing table was so placed that there was not enough light to reveal imperfections plainly seen by everyone else.

Particularly if one makes up the face or is addicted to the use of powder, the location of the mirror is important. If one must resort to art, it should at least be artistic and that is out of the question if there is not a strong light coming from behind on the pictured face in the mirror.

## A SIMPLE MEDICAL COIL

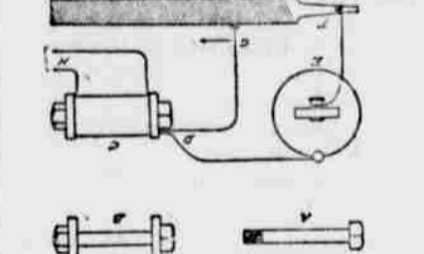
### Will Give Good Results at a Very Small Cost.

Doubtless there are many persons who would like to make an induction coil for medical use, but are deterred from so doing by the belief that the work is too difficult for any one but a skilled mechanic to undertake. This is a great mistake, however, as it is quite possible for almost anybody to make a coil that will give good results at a cost of but a few cents and with the use of only the most ordinary tools.

For the core there may be used an iron bolt about three inches long and three-eighths of an inch in diameter, as shown at A in the accompanying drawing. It is a good plan to soften the bolt by heating it red hot in a fire and allowing it to cool slowly. Make two thin wooden washers about an inch and a quarter in diameter, and glue them on to the bolt to form a spool as shown at B, and cover the iron between the heads with a wrapping of two layers of paper glued on. The nut shown is not necessary, but makes a neat finish.

The first part of the winding or primary coil, requires about half an ounce of No. 20 or No. 22 double cotton-covered magnet wire. Pass the end of the wire through a small hole in one of the heads, and wind on a smooth layer of the wire like thread on a spool. When the opposite head is reached wind a second layer of wire over the first one back to the place of beginning. Cut off the wire and pass the end through a second hole in the head near the first one, as shown at D. The excess of wire will be useful for connections.

The next part of the winding or secondary coil, requires an ounce or two of No. 32 single cotton, covered magnet wire. Finer wire gives more powerful results because of the greater number of turns for a given weight but it is rather delicate to handle before winding on any of this wire, glue on a wrapping of two or three layers of paper over the primary coil, to keep



A Simple Medical Coil.

the two coils entirely separate. The secondary wire need not be wound in layers, though care is required to avoid injuring the insulation or breaking the wire by pulling it too tight. The two ends may be left projecting, as shown at H, for connection to two handles or electrodes, and the coil may be protected by a final wrapping of paper, as shown at C.

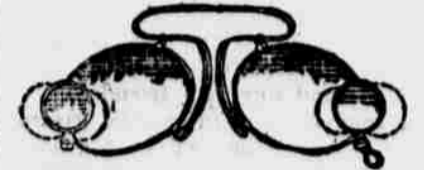
One pole of a dry battery E is connected to the tang of a large file F, and the other to one of the primary terminals D. The remaining primary terminal G is then lightly dragged along the surface of the file, thus making and breaking the circuit in rapid succession as the wire passes over the teeth. If the shocks received from the handles are too strong, use a longer piece of wire at G; if too weak, add another dry battery in series, or put more wire on the secondary.

### The Wise Owl.

"In a hollow tree, during my vacation, I found two young owls," said a student. "I also found in the same nest two eggs. Puzzled that the mother owl should have abandoned her setting ere its completion, I laid the subject before my farmer host. 'The farmer told me that country people know well that the owl, after hatching half her brood, leaves the other eggs to be hatched by the newborn birds. These young are warm blooded, they are helpless to leave the nest and in nine cases out of ten they complete the hatch as well as the mother would have done. 'I'd consider this a superstition if I hadn't seen a proof of it.'"

### Glasses to See Behind You.

A little apparatus that enables a man to see behind him as he walks along the street has just been put on the market in Paris. It is called the periscope and is the invention of Count Soule de Cenac. The periscope consists of two tiny circular mirrors which can be attached to the outer edges of any ordinary eyeglasses. They swing on pivots



which enable the wear to adjust them to his eyes, or to swing them down in a position in which they will be out of his range of vision. They can also be adjusted to the focus of the eyes.

The inventor thinks the periscope will prove valuable especially to detectives who may desire to watch a person without his being aware of the fact that he is being watched.

### Magnetized Watches.

People who travel daily on electric railways or cars often have great difficulty in getting their watches to go properly, as the electricity magnetizes them. Here is a simple test to show whether a watch is magnetized or not. Place a small compass over the open part of the inner case. If the watch is magnetized the pointer on the compass will revolve. If the pointer remains quite still, the watch is not affected.

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Syrup of Gum Guaiacum—  
Syrup of Gum Licorice—  
Syrup of Gum Clove—  
Syrup of Gum Nutmeg—  
Syrup of Gum Pepper—  
Syrup of Gum Cardamom—  
Syrup of Gum Anise—  
Syrup of Gum Fennel—  
Syrup of Gum Mustard—  
Syrup of Gum Sarsaparilla—  
Syrup of Gum Sassafras—  
Syrup of Gum Turpentine—  
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The profit of a gold mine depends, not on the amount of rock crushed under the stamps but upon the amount of gold which can be extracted from the rock. In a similar way the value of food which is eaten does not depend on the quantity which is taken into the stomach but upon the amount of nourishment extracted from it by the organs of nutrition and digestion. When these organs are diseased they fail to extract the nourishment in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of the several organs of the body, and these organs cannot work without nourishment. The result is heart "trouble," liver "trouble," and many another ailment. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, acting on every organ of the digestive and nutritive system, restores it to health and vigor. It cures diseases remote from the stomach through the stomach in which they originated. "Golden Medical Discovery" contains neither alcohol nor narcotics.

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The appearance of great numbers of "golden beetles" in Austrian vineyards this summer has been welcomed with rejoicing by the proprietors, for it is a universally-credited superstition that the advent of these insects is followed by a good wine harvest. This year their belief has been justified, for it is calculated that the yield from the vines will be twice as great as in 1908. As many as 15 and 20 bunches of grapes can be counted on each plant in vineyards in the neighborhood of Vienna.