

FOR WRECKED BOATS.

AN IMPROVED LIFE RAFT FOR VESSELS IN DISTRESS AT SEA.

At Present There Does Not Seem to Be Any Lifeboat That Answers All the Requirements of a Ship About to Founder.

In the many methods adopted to prevent loss of life at sea the use of lifeboats and life rafts has not yet proved very successful, and it is doubtful if any great ocean steamer carries lifeboats with sufficient capacity to load the crew and the passengers.

In a moderate heavy sea it would be a difficult undertaking to lower them successfully from the davits, and almost an impossibility to land the passengers in them if once floated.

A life raft has been invented at the Kittery navy yard, in Maine, which is designed to surmount all these difficulties, and which may be used for war vessels and for big ocean steamers.

The raft consists of two long floats made of fabric bronzes about the size and shape of cunes. These floats are securely fastened together by metallic bands and flanges so that the heaviest strain in a rough sea cannot part them.

A sudden collision which might break into the water tight floats would be the only way to swamp these improved rafts. Each raft could sustain fifty persons in a rough sea, and in the event of a storm the mast and sail could be used as a drag, and by means of oil, always kept in one of the compartments, the "combing" of the seas could be prevented from doing any great harm.

When the storm was not raging the mast and sail could be put up and the lifeboat would make fair time in almost any direction, carrying its load of people lightly over the rolling waves.

The improved life raft is not perfect in every sense of the word yet, for its weight and cost make it impractical for many of the ocean steamers to carry them.

So light and buoyant are these metal rafts that they could be used even in the heaviest seas, and they could be stowed away without occupying much more room than the old fashioned lifeboat, which all the vessels are compelled by law to carry.

When the use of oil for calming the seas during the transference of passengers from the steamer to the floating raft has also been wisely recommended as a good method of performing the work easily and successfully.

Under some circumstances a frequent spraying of the throat and nostrils with such an apparatus might well be the means of preventing infection from diseases like influenza and diphtheria.

A Luxury in India.

Pawn (properly pān) is a luxury much esteemed by the natives of India. It consists of the fresh leaf of the betel vine (Piper betel), in which is placed a little red speck, betel nut and quicklime.

When eaten in moderation it stimulates the system, and is a tonic. It is also added and sometimes eaten with betel nut and quicklime. It is also added and sometimes eaten with betel nut and quicklime.

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THE MODERN JULIET'S BED.

Much Less Romantic Than the Old One, but Cleaner and More Comfortable.

Next to chairs and tables, beds are about the most important articles of domestic furniture. The European type of bed seems to have got itself fixed at a comparatively early date, and it did not change very late.

The theory apparently was to make the bed a sort of tent or fortification against the winds of heaven. The medieval upholsterer knew something about the medieval builder, and realized that when you went to sleep in a room with no paper on the walls, and huge windows which did not quite fit their frames, or little arrow slits with no glass at all, you wanted something to keep out the draft.

Long after there was any necessity for this tentlike arrangement it was kept up for the honor and glory of the thing, so to speak, because there was an air of luxury and coziness about these folds and lengths of silk or chintz which made people reluctant to part with them.

It must be admitted that if the modern British bedstead is, on the whole, cleaner and possibly healthier, it is certainly less romantic. One hardly likes to fancy Juliet's bed provided with round brass knobs and the corners for its support.

It is a doubly melancholy reflection for the collector of these days that in the earlier portion of the present century these delightful objects could be purchased at a price which would buy a pair of shoes.

Lincoln's Ghost Near Home. Near the graveyard where Lincoln's father and stepmother rest, seven miles south of Charleston, Ill., in a place then called Goose Nest, the Lincoln family made their final settlement on removing from Indiana.

How the Burglar Was Reformed. When Uriah Heep was in the model prison, enjoying all the favors which the system of reformation in vague terms conferred upon its recipients, he imparted to a company of visitors the important information, "It would be better for every body if they got took up and brought here."

Love's Lascivious Names. There is nothing funnier to the woman than the names a man calls her when he is in love. The apostrophes of these at the time she takes for granted, but in less disturbed moments it seems that they must have been a joke, and no one can so appreciate their humor as herself.

Death in Their Work. Gliders, photographers and those who handle the hydric and potassic cyanides are liable to suffer from chronic poisoning by hydrocyanic acid. They have headache, giddiness, noises in the ear, difficulty in breathing, pain over the heart, loss of appetite—in short, show all the evidences of lead poisoning.

A Valuable Addition to the Toilet. Many people now use as part of their toilet a spraying atomizer containing some harmless "antiseptic" solution. The practice is to be commended as a cleanly one, and in addition it has a considerable germ killing power.

Advertisement for Nervous Prostration, N. A. Hulbert's City Music Store, 411 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, Pa.

Advertisement for Bovine, The Original Raw Food, by H. C. Chapin, Editor St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Advertisement for Music Powder Co., Rooms 1 and 2 Commonwealth Bldg, Scranton, Pa.

Advertisement for Dexter Shoe Co., 143 Federal St., Scranton, Pa.

Advertisement for P.P.P. Prickly Ash, Poke Root and Potassium, Makes Marvelous Cures in Blood Poison, Rheumatism and Scrofula.

Advertisement for Lippman Bros., Proprietors, Lippman's Block, Scranton, Pa.

Advertisement for Trolley Soap, For Washing Clothes Clean and Sweet, It Lasts Longer than other Soaps.

Advertisement for Restored Manhood Pills, Dr. Mott's, Restored Manhood Pills.

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Advertisement for Business and Professional, Physicians and Surgeons.

Advertisement for Central Railroad of N. J., Lehigh and Susquehanna Division.

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Advertisement for E. Robinson's Sons' Lager Beer Brewery, 100,000 Bbls. Per Annum.