

Caught by an Octopus.

If you can stand before the glass case in the Smithsonian institution inclosing a specimen of the octopus and not feel your flesh crawl you have more nerve than most men. As one looks over those long, hairy arms, each one provided with suckers at every joint; as one notices the cruel beak and looks into the wicked staring eyes he is instinctively shrinks away, as if the demon still had the power to harm.

We were off the Florida coast gathering sponges. In those days and in that practice I was pursued by the poor classes of sponge gatherers—we got our sponges by anchoring our small sloop or schooner over the bed and then diving from the stern to the bottom of the sea, carrying a weight along to sink us the faster. A good pair of lungs and years of practically enabled me to reach the bottom of 40 or 50 feet of water, and come up with more or less of a haul.

On that warm coast the shark and the octopus and other horrible things belonging to the fish or reptile species are present, and often lying in wait. The diver has a horror of them at first, but the feeling soon wears away, and he becomes more or less reckless. During the first year I never went down without a sharp knife in my belt to give any prowling shark a thrust, but later on I would let the shark's dorsal fin cut the water not a hundred yards away.

During the second season we lost two men by sharks, but I took no precautions and had no narrow escapes. In the beginning of the third season we anchored over a splendid bed, in a locality which had been abandoned for some time, and we had reason to anticipate a profitable catch.

There were four of us on that trip, and the first morning I was taken by an old diver named Peterson. This was about 7 o'clock in the morning, and although we had been up for two hours the bay had been so calm that we had watched Peterson go over, but we watched in vain for him to come up. Twenty seconds passed—then thirty—then forty, and the captain leaned over the rail and cried out:

"Boys, the old man has got fast down there and is a goner!" We waited ten seconds longer and then felt sure that we should never see the old man alive again. We were in twenty-eight feet of water, and the trawl showed the bottom to be clear of weeds and made up of rocks and sand. It was hard to guess what had happened. He might have bumped his head against a rock, or had his foot caught in a crevice—he might have struck a blood vessel or one of the pumps. None of us thought of an octopus in connection with his sad fate. We had seen a small one three days before, and we knew that it was only a few seconds before it struck bottom close to a large rock. Sponges were growing all around me, and as I reached out for the nearest I felt something whip across my hand and shoulder. All the stress I had on was a pair of trunks, leaving legs, shoulders, arms and most of the body naked. That was something I should not have had blundered, but in two seconds the feeling had passed from my shoulders to my waist, and in another second it was in my legs. It was not until I tried to spring away that I realized my situation. At the first move I was jerked in the most violent manner towards the rock, and the burning increased.

FACETIE.

"TALKING OF DOGS," said the colonel, "talking of dogs, a friend of mine has a Gordon setter. She's the most sympathetic dog I ever heard of. She lumps the material instinct so strong that she has brought up a whole farm-yard."

"I've known of such cases," said the judge. "This is the most extraordinary. There was a hen had a chicken. The hen died, and the chicken was in sore distress. This dog took pity on it and suckled the chicken."

"And now," said the colonel solemnly, "that's all."

"Yes, Henry, my parents are dead," said the boy. "Is it not very sad to be an orphan?"

"What a pity!" said the man. "Oh, anything at all. I am not afraid of death."

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HOUSEHOLD.

CHOCOLATE-BLANC-MANGE without corn starch is made by dissolving half an ounce of gelatine in a little cold water as possible. Get one quart of milk and with one ounce of grated chocolate mix with it for five minutes; then add one cup of sugar; stir on slowly till the sugar is dissolved; then add the gelatine. It should then boil for five or six minutes, and the greatest care must be observed to prevent its scorching. Take from the fire, flavor with vanilla, pour into molds to cool, and serve with cream.

PEARL WHEAT.—This is an excellent form of breakfast cereal, which is a little known. Take half a cup of pearl wheat, two cups of milk and four cups of water with a scant teaspoonful of salt. Let the milk and water boil up in a saucepan on the stove, then stir in the wheat and salt. Put the wheat in the inside kettle, and pour in the outside kettle around it. Boil two hours. Let the steamer stand all night on the back of the range and in the morning let it stand up slowly, as the fire comes up. The wheat will be ready to serve when breakfast is ready.

APPLE PUDDING.—Stew a half dozen large apples into a nice, smooth sauce, and add white sugar and tablespoon of fresh butter, and sugar enough to make thoroughly sweet. Heat a little butter in the frying-pan, and then pour in a cup of bread-crumbs, which must be broken up. Stir the fire until they are pale brown. Then sprinkle these on the bottom and sides of a buttered mold; put three well-beaten eggs and a teaspoon of lemon juice into the apple sauce, then pour it into the mold, and spread some of the bread-crumbs over the top, and bake fifteen minutes. Turn out on a hot dish, and serve with wine sauce.

THE MIRACULOUS APPLE.—To divide an apple into several parts, without breaking the rind: Pass a needle and thread through the center of the apple, which is easily done by putting the needle in again at the same hole which came out of; and so passing on till you reach the other end, pass the needle in both ends of the thread in your hands and draw it out, by which means the apple will be divided into two parts. In the same manner you may divide it into three or four parts, as desired, yet the rind will remain entire. Present the apple to any one to peel, and it will immediately fall to pieces.

THE FOLLOWING REMEDY, PREVENTIVE OF SICKNESS, RECOMMENDED BY PROF. G. TORQUEO OF BOSTON, MANAGER OF TOURIST EXCURSIONS. It was tried by himself and family, five in all, who had suffered from sea-sickness on every former voyage across the Atlantic, and in each case it proved successful and produced no unfavorable results: Dissolve one ounce of bromide of sodium in a quart of water, and add a few drops of lemon juice. Begin taking the above three days before starting on the ocean voyage.

TO CLEAN A BLACK SKIN DRESS take one quart of soft water and put into it an ounce of white soap. Boil the water; then take a sponge or soft piece of flannel and sponge it over; then run it on the wrong side while it is damp. It will look bright and new and will be quite as durable as the light-colored silk take a white glove.

RE-SAR.

LOOKING ON THE WOODLAND ways! With clumps of rhododendrons and great masses of May blossoms! "There was an interesting group."

It included one who had been a "Cotton spinner," but was now so "Paralyzed!" That he could only bear to be in a reclining position.

Home for Incurables! Near Manchester, in May, 1882. I am so "Advantaged." For anything in the shape of a "Medicine!"

DEATH OF IRON RAILINGS.—Every one must have noticed the destructive combination of lead and iron, from railings being fixed in stone with the former metal.

DR. WALKER'S VEGETABLE BITTERS, the celebrated Temperance Restorative, that tones without exciting, and regulates without pinning, is the only true and absolute remedy for biliousness, colic, indigestion, nervousness, sick headache, flatulency, liver complaint, rheumatism, and all ailments arising from corruption or impoverishment of the blood.

ST. BERNARD VEGETABLE PILLS. Warranted Purely Vegetable. The best cure for Liver and Bile ailments. Sold by all Druggists.

Listen to Your Wife.

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FARM NOTES.

WHAT THE ROOTS OF PLANTS DO. The roots are the alimentary channels of plants; they absorb the liquid food for the plant, the only form in which it can be taken up. The operation goes on at the extremities of the roots and the root hairs when they are present. The extremities of the roots are provided with a sort of sponge, or with organs possessing the same office as a sponge, and absorbing moisture when in contact with it. The root hairs produce a liquid acid which comes in contact with the particles of the soil, which are thereby dissolved. This acid does not pass out of the cell, but the corrosive action, the digestive process so to speak, is due to the action of the particles of the soil. Thus it will be seen that besides the liquid food that may be contained in the water or moisture in the soil, the digestive action of the roots is also necessary. Another important office of the roots of plants is the absorption of the oxygen gas contained in the soil. It is necessary that a supply of oxygen through the roots or they will die from suffocation. In this process carbonic acid gas is thrown off and with the moisture in the soil it forms the insoluble carbonate of lime, and the same of the phosphates. It is thus explained why mechanical action upon the soil becomes necessary, such as plowing and harrowing, and shows why "tilled" manure. As stated, loosening of the soil is necessary in order to admit the free passage of oxygen to the roots for absorption and throwing off the carbonic acid gas. All the processes of work for a specific purpose and it is only left for the farmer, if he would derive the best results from his operations, to be in entire harmony with the process of nature. It becomes a great study to learn regarding plant life, which is of the greatest importance to every farmer.

THE VELOCITY OF SOUND IN ICE has been determined by Frowbridge and McBee to be about 5500 feet per second, or about nine times the velocity of sound in the air.

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Only Temperance Bitters Known.

The Norwegian Government have decided to despatch an expedition to Finnmark for the purpose of effecting hydrographic researches and astronomical observations. Among the various grants by the Swedish Government for scientific work is a sum of \$200 toward the expenses of Mr. O. Norstrot's astronomical labors in England and Scotland this year.

MILK AND HUNGARIAN GRASS are especially adapted for summer crops, growing quickly and yielding largely nutritious hay, which is highly relished by the stock. The Hungarian grass is one of the new kinds which are certainly worth trying. The berries are large, the yield abundant and the flavor exceptionally fine.

CHICAGO ABSORBS 10,000 acres of straw-berry in a season and St. Louis 2,000 acres. Michigan grows 3,000 of the Chicago quota. The Henderson strawberry is one of the new kinds which are certainly worth trying. The berries are large, the yield abundant and the flavor exceptionally fine.

SWINE FED PRINCIPALLY ON BEANS will produce soft, spongy pork. About two months before killing change to corn and the pork will be harder and better.

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Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, highlighting its effectiveness for various ailments.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, detailing its medicinal properties.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, emphasizing its long history and popularity.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, providing contact information for distributors.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, featuring a testimonial from a satisfied customer.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, discussing its role in maintaining blood health.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, listing the various ailments it treats.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, describing its gentle and effective nature.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla, providing a list of agents and distributors.

Advertisement for Patents, offering legal services for intellectual property protection.

Advertisement for Patents, detailing the process of patent application.

Advertisement for Frazer Axle Grease, highlighting its superior quality for machinery.

Advertisement for Frazer Axle Grease, providing information on where to purchase it.

Advertisement for Worms, offering a cure for intestinal parasites.

Advertisement for Worms, describing the symptoms and treatment.

Advertisement for Le Page's Liquid Glue, promoting its strength and durability.

Advertisement for Le Page's Liquid Glue, listing its various uses.

Advertisement for Pennington's Liquid Glue, another brand of adhesive.

Advertisement for Pennington's Liquid Glue, detailing its benefits.

Advertisement for Pennington's Liquid Glue, providing contact details.

Advertisement for Pennington's Liquid Glue, emphasizing its reliability.

Advertisement for Pennington's Liquid Glue, discussing its history.

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