RAKED FROM THE DEEP.

HOW SPONGES ARE GATHERED, PREPARED AND MARKETED.

lt's Really an Animal's Skeleton One Bathes With—How It Grows and is Reproduced—Sponge Fisheries.

When a sponge is taken out of water it is a soft mass of animal tissue surrounding a frame work of horny, glass-like or limy fiber. It is the horny kind that is the sponge of commerce. The sort used for bathing is the horny-fibered skeleton of a most interesting marine creature, from which all the soft parts have been re-moved, just as a human being might be moved, just as a human being might be divested of his flesh, leaving his bones behind. So delicately made is this horny structure that it is soft to the touch and absorbs water readily. There are thousands of varieties of sponges, but not more than half a dozen are useful.

A sponge, as it is found growing on the bottom of the sea, is composed, apart from the skeleton that forms its frame work, of a multitude of cells. Each of these cells is occupied by an animal organism, but there is dispute as to whether the organisms are distinct individuals or the organisms are distinct individuals or merely parts of one individual, which is the sponge. This contention is based upon the same arguments involved in the controversy as to whether each bud on a tree has or has not an individuality distinct from that of the parent stem. But at all events, it may be as well to consider the sponge as a single animal, growing by the substance it obtains from the water.

If you will look at the sponge you use for your bath you will see that it is covered all over with small holes, with here and there toward the top some large ones. Now try to realize that in life this creature, the skeleton of which you sh yourself with, was composed as to fleshy parts of small cells. The whole structure as it was in life might be compared to a city intersected by canals. Ever so many little canals gave entrance to the sea water, which was ex-pelled through the big orifices. In this way it was managed that no large foreign objects could be sucked in, while the sewers, as they might be called, were wide enough to drive anything out by.

From all the cells that line the channels in the sponge are projected little hair-like appendages, which keep up a con-tinual motion, the object of which is to create a current of water in through the multitudinous small canals and out by the big pipes. So actively is this opera-tion kept up that, looking at a sponge in shallow water, where it is growing, you will often see a boiling and bubbling going on as if there was a spring in ebullition. The object of the animal in passing this current through its own sub-stance is to bring within reach the animal and vegetable matters upon which it feeds. With the continuous current of water that passes through the canals sustenance is carried sufficient for the creature to thrive on.

The commercial sponges are found altogether in warm regions, the chief sources of supply being the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Bahamas and Florida. It is from the Mediterranean that the Sport wades are about the Mediterranean that the finest grades are obtained, but to these the best American sponges are not very inferior. It is largely popular prejudice that causes the best European sponges to sell for \$50 a pound, while the super-excellent American varieties bring less than one-tenth of that price. Altogether there are six varieties of sponges known to commerce. The grades into which they are divided are determined not merely by kind, but also by size, shape and structure. A sponge of the most exquisite quality may be so misshapen as to be worthless and un-marketable. On the nature of the bottom upon which a sponge grows its grade commercially may largely depend.

Of most interest to people in this country are the sponge grounds of Florida, which cover the reefs along the be eighteen times that of iron. Its elas-

rendezvous chiefly at Key West.

A sponge-fishing craft goes out early in the week, returning at the end of six days perhaps to the nearest shore and depositing its catch in an inclosure built out into the ocean, to which the sea has easy access. The tides, rising and falling alternately, leave the sponges to die and wash away their soft parts, so that at the end of the week, when the vessel comes back with a fresh load, all of the previous catch has been pretty well skeletonized. Depositing the fresh-caught sponges in the "stockade," the fishermen take the old ones and go off on another cruise for more, hanging the decayed animals all over the rigging, in order that they may become finally dried and dessicated. In this way, bringing in one batch and taking out another, a schooner usually manages to get a cargo within a month or two and then sets sail for Key West. There the sponges are schooner usually manages to get a cargo within a month or two and then sets sail for Key West. There the sponges are taken ashore and stacked in piles on the beach according to variety. They are sold to traders, who examine the piles and give bids on them in writing. After they are purchased in this way the sponges are packed tightly in bales by hydraulic pressure and shipped to New York, which is the centre of the industry in this country.

In the Mediterranean sponges are taken by dredges dragged along the bottom and by divers, who go down naked and have no difficulty in detaching them from the bottom. On the American coast the sponge producing waters are shallower, not exceeding thirty-five feet in depth, not exceeding thirty-five feet in depth, and the ordinary method pursued by the fishermen is this: Two men go out in a boat. One sculls, while the other leans over the bow with his face close to the water, holding a spear in his hand. When he sees a sponge he spears it and drags it into the boat. If the water is rough the man with the spear uses a water glass, which is made by simply knocking out the bottom of an ordinary pail and putting a pane of glass in place pail and putting a pane of glass in place | been sent to jail in Chicago for begging

of it. The spearsman wears this water glass hanging around his neck and sinks it below the surface so that he can set the things below as well as if there was a calm. When he sees a sponge he jabs at it. Weshington Star at it .- Washington Star.

WISE WORDS.

Get to the root of things. The idle boy is often father of the

tramp. It will not do to have two mainmasts

in a ship.

Experience is an admirable teacher though often very severe and expensive.

There is poetry and there is beauty in real sympathy; but there is more—there

Habits of industry are as truly the result of training and association as are habits of idleness and negligence.

Provide some useful employment for the children, then make it as agreeable as possible so they will love their work as possible so they will lo and take an interest in it.

It is no doubt a difficult thing to do, to defy the power of society, but the sky and earth will always cover a man, and no one can boast of being better covered.

A person will be more comfortable to be society ostracised, even if all doors are closed against him, than to carry a hypocritical heart encased in the most faultless manners.

The noblest and most powerful form of sympathy is not merely the responsive tears, the echoed sigh, the answer ing look; it is the embodiment of the entiment in actual help.

As a penny held close to the eye will shut out the glorious light of th so the habit of petty gossip, mean and poor as it is, will quite obscure all the light which intelligence, thought and warm sympathy would shed upon hu-manity. manity.

See that your child never leaves any task half done or slovenly finished; therefore give not too many tasks. Thorough ness is the cornerstone of success. No place in the world now for smatterers; but always honorable places for those who can do any kind of honest work in the best manner.

Brevity is justly demanded of all who seek attention of the public in this nine-teenth century and in this brief human life. We need to set high value upon directness and dispatch. Time flies. The average man is very busy. The age is of rapid movement; it is the era of railroad, telegraph, telephone. fore, waste no words; what thou hast to say, say quickly.

The Properties of Aluminum.

To the layman a few statistics about aluminum may be instructive. The atomic weight is 27.4. With iron three or four pounds of aluminum to the ton s the melting point to such reaches the menting points in liquid state that it can be run into the finest interstices of the mould and produce the finest castings and consider improve the quality of the iron. copper aluminum very easily amalga-mates, improving the quality, appear-ance and resembles gold. Useful results are obtained with about five per cent. Aluminum also amalgamates with many other metals, and this is a boundless

track for experiments.

Aluminum is sonorous, and doubtless when alloyed with other metals would produce as good an effect as now can be produced from the finest bell metal. Its lightness in this respect would be of advantage for high elevations. The specific gravity of the metal is 2.55. It is about one-seventh the weight of gold, about one-fifth the weight of lead, a.d, roughly speaking, about one-third the weight of copper, zinc or iron. The melting point of aluminum is about 1500 degrees Fahrenheit, while that of iron is almost

south end of that State, extending up the west shore as far as St. Mark's and Apalachee Bay. These grounds have a total area of 3500 square miles, and sponge fishing is carried on all over them by a large fleet of vessels, which rendezvous chiefly at Key West.

A sponge-fishing craft goes out carly is

pay his respects to Admiral Farragut. Captain Leroy received him at the gangway, escorted him to the Admiral's cabin, where he made a brief visit, offering the usual civilities, etc., then returned with him to the quarter-deck and accompanied him to the gangway, both bowing and scraping like French dance ing-masters.

ing-masters.

Finally, the French Captain stepped up into the gangway, and, facing about, made his farewell bow; then, forgetting that there was no outside ladder shipped, stepped back on what he thought would be the upper landing, and of course went overboard like a shot—epaulettes, cocked hat, sword and all. Leroy immediately gave the order to 'lower the mediately gave the order to dower the life-buoy; then taking his station in the gangway, watched for the reappearance of the Frenchman, and as he bobbed up serenely, made him a most profound salaam. The French Captain was saved from drawning but it is said he died from drowning, but it is said he died a few days later of a broken heart. -Globe-Democrat.

A miser worth \$400,000 has recently

MEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN

Some of the new evening dress deluged with lace. Jeweled nets will be much worn in the

way of draperies this season. The teagown is becoming mas well as more popular every

A butterfly calendar of celluloid, trimmed with ribbon, is very pretty. Silk chair scarfs in all colors and

highly transparent show gold embr

Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M. D., of London, advises elderly ladies to play ball. Towel racks of celluloid rings and ribbon are a useful adjunct

Miss Ellen Terry, the actress, has beome the President of the Ladies' Cyclin

Club in London. Mrs. Langtry, as Cleopatria, the role she is now playing in London, is said a *look" her loveliest.

Postmistresses, hitherto prohibited from marrying in France, have now been granted this privilege.

For aesthetic women who go in for physical culture, pretty dumb-bells are now made of cut glass.

The question of higher schools for girls in London has recently been attracting much attention.

In New York City home weddings are quite the fashion, as church ones are voted so very "common." Some of the women of Paris are wearing entire dresses for fur, which do not

require any cloaks or wraps. Many of the new morning wraps are in the new turquoise color. This is rather the new turquoise color. This is trying for morning complexions.

Clever draughtswomen are in demand by dry goods houses to make pen and ink sketches of gowns, furs and the like.

There are now women students at the Russian universities of St. Petersburg. Moscow, Kiew, Charkow and Odessa.

Irish poplin is a fabric-a most excellent and really beautiful one-which for durability will outlast two silk gowns.

Women were admitted to the Oxford (England) examinations for the degree of bachelor of medicine by a single vote.

Winter dresses for day wear are made of wool rather than silk, though some-times there is a comb nation of the two.

The so-called bebe dresses, which have been designed expressly for ladies in the bloom of womanhood, are very popular. The Queen of the Belgians is an ex-

cellent linguist and has just accomplished the task of learning the Walloon lan-Some of the designs in passementerie

comprise five pieces—a collarette, upright crescents for the shoulders and deep cuffs for the wrists. The fashionable young woman who has a dog and a bangle orders a collar for her canine's neck to match the bau-

ble she wears on her arm. Fashionable women are undecided whether to employ the Russian samovar, the English teapot or the Dutch kettle at their five o'clock teas. The Duchess of Portland is endeavor-

ing to revive the woolen industry, which is carried on in many cottage homes about Langwell, England. Pink velvet strings are said to be a very becoming feature of dress bonnets. They always accompany hats which are ornamented with rink roses or other flowers. Great clusters of soft pinks are worn on white honnets.

white bonnets. The Silver Cross Circle of King's Daughters proposes soon to open a house in New York City where apartments of one, two or three rooms will be rented at the lowest possible rate to widows with children to support.

Among the many varieties of hats for young girls fashionable this season, it is noted that the English "pork pie" has returned in the original shape after an absence of twenty years. Thus does absence of twenty years. Thu fashion history repeat itself, too.

A decorative bow showing two colors of satin ribbon and covered with a spider web, whose realism is enhanced by the presence of two spiders, and an autumn leaf is one of the prettiest designs of the season which no ingenuity can discoun-

Mrs. Lynn Stevens, who was known forty years ago by the name of Yolando Marie Louise Duvernay, as one of the greatest dancers in Europe, has defrayed the entire expense of a \$500,000 Romar Catholic church on ground given prince lly by the Duke of Norfolk at Can bridge, England.

Rheumatism

Is of two kinds, acute and chronic. The former accompanied by high fever, and in the swollen join accompanied by high fever, and in the swollen joints there is intense pain, which often suddenly changes from one part of the body to another. Chronic rheumatism is without fever and not so severe, but more continuous, and liable to come on at every storm or after slight exposure. Rheumatism is known to be a disease of the blood and Hood's Sarsaparilla has had great success in curing it. This medicine possesses qualities which neutralize acidity and purify, enrich and vitalize the blood.

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A Boiling Lake.

There is a lake of boiling water in the Island of Dominica, lying in the mountains behind Roseau, and in the valleys sur-

behind Roseau, and in the valleys surrounding it are many solataras, or volcanic sulphur vents. In fact the boiling lake is little bettter than a crater filled with scalding water constantly fed by mountain streams, and through which the pentup gases find vent and are rejected.

The temperature of the water on the margin of the lake ranges from 180 degrees to 190 degrees Fahrenheit. In the middle, exactly over the gas vents, it is believed to be about 300 degrees. Where this action takes place, the water is said to rise two, three, or even four feet above the general surface level of the lake, the cone often dividing so that the orifices through which the gas escapes are legion through which the gas escapes are legion

This violent disturbance over the jets causes a violent action over the whole surface of the lake and it surface of the lake, and though the cones appear to be special vents, the sulphurous vapors rise with equal density over its whole surface. Contrary to what one would suppose, there seems to be in no case violent action of the escaping gases, such as explosions or detonations. such as explosions or detonations

The water is of a dark-gray color, and having been boiled over and over for thousand of years, has become thick and slimy with sulphur. As the inlets to the lake are rapidly closing it is believed that it will assume the character of a gey ser or sulphurous crater.—New York Journal.

Transmitting Pictures Electrically.

Not many months ago a new system of sending pictures by telegraph was scribed in the electrical journals. principle of this process was the division of the picture to be sent into squares, each square being numbered to correspond with a paper similarly prepared and to be used at a distant point, to be drawn upon according to the direction sent from the transmitting station by the unawn upon according to the direction sent from the transmitting station by the number communicated. While applicable to pictures having only straight lines, the process was not found feasible for the transmission of portraits. For this purpose an improved method has this purpose an improved method has been suggested, by which it is claimed that an exact reproduction in chiaroscuro of the original photograph can be elec-trically transmitted to the receiving sta-

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-New York Commercial Advertiser.

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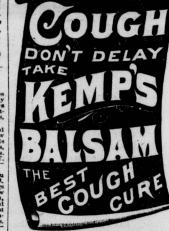
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