

THE ISLAND OF TUTUILA.

OUR SHARE OF THE SAMOAN GROUP.

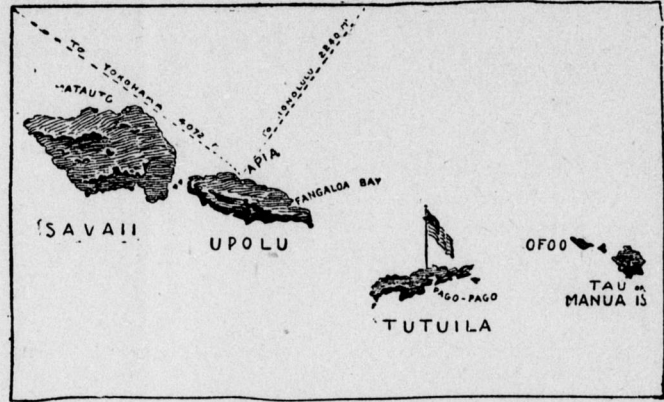
BY HUGH H. LUSK.

Under the new Samoan treaty the United States becomes the possessor of a small island in the South Pacific Ocean, situated about 930 miles south of the equator. For some fifteen years past we have had a more or less sentimental regard for this island, because it was here that our Government had acquired from a native chief a lease of part of the shore of a harbor on which to establish a coaling station. The harbor was the only one in the Samoan group in which vessels could lie safely during a hurricane, such as occasionally visits the group, and its only drawback was that it was almost wholly inaccessible on the landward side. Now and then, but at long intervals, an American man-of-war has called at this harbor, but it may be doubted whether any of the crews ever attempted to climb the almost precipitous hills that wall in the placid sheet of landlocked water which the natives call Pago-Pago. The island of Tutuila is by far the least known of the three main islands that form the group of Samoa. It lies about thirty miles south of the other two, on which alone Europeans or Americans have settled, either as planters or traders, and excepting the harbor of Pago-Pago on the southeast, and a small bay known as Leone, near the northwest corner, it possesses no place of anchorage or shelter even for the smallest trading vessels.

The general appearance of Tutuila, like that of all the volcanic islands of the South Pacific, is very beautiful. As we entered the passage, from twenty to thirty-five miles broad, between the islands, every eye scanned the shores, under the impression that the schooner would be found lying at some point under the lee of the land. There was, however, no sign of a sail. On either side the land rose high and broken, clothed from shore to summit in the luxuriant vegetation of the tropical islands, and as we proceeded at half-speed through the passage it became more and more evident that for some reason our tender had not arrived. We had reached the eastern end and cleared both islands before any solution of the difficulty presented itself, but then a very small cutter was discovered lying close inshore, at a point where a native village could be seen among the palm trees that formed a background to the silver-white coral beach.

The cutter turned out to be a trader engaged in collecting a cargo of copra (sun-dried cocconut) to be taken to Apia to the German company's stores. We were told we could stay on board if we liked, but the cutter must go to Leone Bay, at the western end of the island, before it would return to Apia. The prospect of staying on board was

enough to leave it to our hosts to paralyze themselves with the strange narcotic. In the meantime we had contrived to make it understood that we wanted a guide to show us the native path over the hills to Leone Bay, where the missionary lived, and the offer of a dollar readily secured a guide, in the person of a young man of magnificent build and appearance. The bargain once made, we lost no time in starting. Our guide, who was dressed in full native costume, which consisted of a very large and finely powdered head of hair, and a very



small cincture of some kind of native cloth round his loins, led us along the beach for a short distance, and then faced the hill which rose abrupt and very steep behind the little village. The climb was so steep that but for the profusion of saplings, shrubs, and climbing plants that hedged in the narrow path we should hardly have managed it. When at last we reached the top we found ourselves at a height of perhaps eight or nine hundred feet above the sea, on the top of a long



ridge that seemed to run the whole length of the island.

The land slopes downward from the central ridge on the northern side in a succession of spurs, with deep gullies and watercourses between; but on the southern coast, especially near the eastern end of the island, the slopes end abruptly in cliffs and precipitous banks that descend to the ocean. It is here that Pago-Pago lies, and from the top of the ridge it can be seen like a nearly circular basin of perfectly smooth water, shadowed by the surrounding mountains, and with only one narrow entranceway, which winds between two lofty wooded bluffs. The island is not more than eighteen miles long, and nowhere, I should judge, much more than five miles broad.

From what I saw of the natives of

There is certainly no wealth to be extracted from Tutuila. Even the primitive agriculture of the island could hardly be much extended, as there is scarcely an acre of level land to be found there. Cocoanuts, indeed, grow along the shore everywhere, and even to some extent inland; orange-trees grow to the dimensions of forest trees; there are nutmeg-trees in the forest that clothes the slopes; and arrowroot, ginger and pineapples abound everywhere. All these things go to make America's South Sea island a delightful fairy spot, but they are, and must always be, on too minute a scale to hold out any temptation to the planter and the trader. Perhaps, for the sake of the natives at least, it is well.

The Navy Department has decided to assign Commander E. F. Tilley, of the collier Abarenda, as the commandant of the Pago-Pago coaling station, which will place him in charge of the administrative affairs of the Samoan territory of the United States. Commander Tilley is now at Pago-Pago. The naval officers who have been on

the island of Tutuila recently in connection with the work of building the wharf and establishing a coaling station in the harbor of Pago-Pago state that there are at present about 1500 people on the island of Tutuila, owing allegiance to about three chiefs. The principal chief is named Mangun. The people are different from the inhabitants of the other Samoan Islands, being particularly peaceful in disposition.

The population is unique in the fact that every soul is reputed to be a devout Christian. They are so orthodox that not one person could be induced to come aboard one of the American ships on Sunday, while all of them go to church. This condition is ascribable largely to the influence of French missionaries.

Nothing has been positively settled as yet as to the government of the islands beyond the fact that the principal official will be a naval officer. The general purpose is to have him interfere as little as possible with the natives so long as they continue in their present peaceful manner to govern themselves without friction.

Steyn's Cyrano Courtship.

President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, took for a wife Miss Fraser, who was the belle of Bloemfontein. This was many years ago, when the great African was a poor, struggling law student and clerk. Miss Fraser's parents were very proud and well-to-do and did not favor the match. Steyn made love and wrote love letters by proxy, choosing a prominent young farmer as the go-between. Every day, sometimes twice a day, Miss Fraser and the farmer would take long walks and rides together. Bloemfontein made up its mind that Steyn had been cut out, when the law student returned from Europe, where he had taken his degree. Gossip rose to fever heat when the news came that Steyn had called upon the farmer. Everybody was certain that a duel was about to come off. A short time passed in which everyone was on the qui vive. Disappointment was nothing to the feeling which was created when, instead of a duel, there was the wedding of Steyn and Miss Fraser, with the farmer as the first groomsman.—Philadelphia Post.

Bridget Was an Irish Woman.

A lady had in her employ an excellent girl who had one fault. Her face was always in a smudge. Her mistress tried without offending to tell her to wash her face, and at last resorted to strategy. "Do you know, Bridget," she remarked in a confidential manner, "it is said that if you wash the face every day in hot soapy water it will make you beautiful?" "Will it?" said Bridget. "Sure, it's a wonder ye never tried it, ma'am."—Our Dumb Animals.

Effective Entrenchments.

With regard to the Boer entrenchments, it may be noted that, according to the reports of Boer prisoners, the comparatively small effect produced by the English artillery fire is largely owing to the trenches being made in the form of the letter S instead of in the straight lines adopted by European armies. This pattern, which has been borrowed by the Boers from old Basuto methods, affords, it is said, both freer movement and greater protection. Many of our present ideas with regard to entrenchments have been learnt from the Turks.—London Mail.

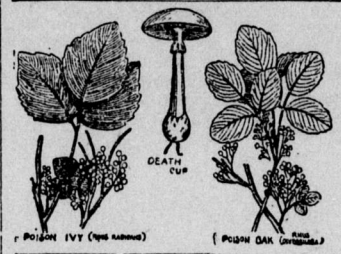
Good Coffee in Boerdom.

The coffee is always good in the Transvaal, but usually over-sweetened. When any guest is in a Dutch household his good books she shows her appreciation of him by loading his cup of coffee with sugar, which he must drink, unless he desires to upset her easily-aroused susceptibilities.

THE DEATH CUP.

The Yearly Victims of the Poisonous Mushroom Are Many.

It is probable that not many people ever heard of phallin, not only one of the most remarkable substances in the world, but one of the most terrible poisons. And it is so very common that



it can be found in almost every field and swamp in the country, for phallin is the poisonous element in the deadly mushroom, the "death cup," as it has been most appropriately called. Not only that when phallin was first discovered it was found that it was almost identical with the poison of the rattlesnake, so that death from mushroom poisoning is very similar to death from a serpent bite. But still more wonderful. It is known that various bacteria produce nearly the same poison—the bacteria, for instance, of diphtheria and typhoid fever. It seems odd enough that death from the poisonous mushroom, from a rattlesnake bite and from diphtheria should result from practically the same cause.

It is said that twenty-five people are killed every year in the United States by eating the death cup, mistaking it for the edible mushroom. It requires only a bit of the death cup to kill—a piece the size of a pea will do it. One case is cited in which a boy ate only a third of a small uncooked cup of the deadly mushroom, but it was enough to cause his death. Indeed so baneful is the phallin poison that even the hardening of the death cup and the breathing of the spores may produce serious illness.

The "death cup" is only one of a number of poisonous plants in America, although there are not many in this country or in Europe. The commonest of all is the familiar poison ivy of our fields and roadsides. Contrary to almost general belief, poison ivy is not injurious unless actually touched. Its irritating power is due to a non-volatile oil contained in the leaves, the effects of which, while distressing, are not deadly. A very good representation of the poison ivy leaves and fruit is shown in the picture. Once familiar with it, one needs never mistake it for anything else. Poison ivy is much more common in the East than in the West; one of its favorite growing spots is along old stone fences and at the edges of swamps. The poison oak, so-called, because its leaf resembles that of a Western oak, is first cousin to the poison ivy; it is found only in the far Western States.

Thousands of Doll-Makers.

Over in Germany there are 5000 children in one district alone who are employed to dress dolls and help in the manufacture of various kinds of toys. All the children who do this work are under twelve years of age. They are taught the art of dressing a doll at the tender age of four. At the same time, according to the compulsory education law, they are obliged to go to kindergarten school for at least one year, and that term is devoted to such things as making dolls and dressing them, doing everything, in fact, except molding the heads, which is done by men expert at the business. After that the German children have three or four years of study, when they are allowed to go into the doll or toy factories to add to the daily income of the family to the extent of a few cents a day. The children who go to the kindergarten have lots of fun making clothes for the dollies, and so fond do they get of the little waxen-faced creatures that they are often sore at heart when the matron comes around to collect them all to be sent abroad.

An Interesting Tree.

The old tree shown in the illustration stands in front of the house of William Bremmer, of Flowertown,



Penn. Upon its trunk is an iron tablet, which reads as follows:

Henry Kent, Coward, Was Hung from this tree January 17, 1777. For DESERTION.

The accepted belief is that Kent was a soldier in the Continental Army, and some even believe that the tree is haunted by his ghost.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Various devices have been used in Europe for the ventilation of tunnels. In some cases oil burning or electric locomotives have been substituted for the trip through the tunnel, and in other cases artificial ventilation has been used.

Plants have been rendered artificially Alpine by M. Gaston Bonnier by keeping in an icebox at night and fully exposed to the sun by day. The leaves grow smaller and thicker, frequently with a reddish coloration, and the flowers become relatively larger and more highly colored.

A geological party recently discovered in a glacier of the Rocky mountains in Montana, a large quantity of grasshoppers buried in the ice. It is supposed that when the prairie grasshoppers go north and cross this glacier, many of them succumb to the cold and are entombed in the ice. The glacier has been named for the grasshoppers.

A method of rendering corks very impermeable without affecting their elasticity has been patented in Germany by Herr F. H. Wundrum. Caoutchouc is dissolved in 19 times its weight of benzine, and the corks are placed in this solution and submitted to a pressure of 10 or 12 atmospheres by means of a force pump. They are then dried in a strong current of air.

The artificial coal of Montague is claimed to cost only half as much as the best Silesian or Scotch coal, while having three times the heating power. Peat moss and a special clay, with several residual substances, are understood to be constituents. Most of these materials exist in the soil in the suburbs of Mannheim, Germany, and it is at this spot that a new coal factory is projected.

The modern child wants a modern toy. Five years ago steam engines, printing presses, singing tops and other juvenile devices flooded the market. Today the cheap phonograph and electric motors, telephones and telegraph outfits are sold by hundreds of thousands. It is remarkable to realize how rapidly electric toys sprang into existence so as to constitute a definite and permanent branch of the toy industry.

An acetylene gas plant has been erected at Assam, which shows that the case with which this gas can be generated from calcium carbide should gain for it wide favor in parts of the world where it would be impossible to have a gas or electric light plant. The lack of a good illuminant is often felt severely by colonists and others in far-away parts of the world, and acetylene is a welcome relief from kerosene oil and candles.

Yankee Invention to Win.

It is a happy fact that Yankees are so quick to invent and so skillful to use machinery of all kinds. Within the next few years there will be tremendous opportunities for civil, mechanical and electrical engineers in Asia. When the Chinese east the first railway from Shanghai to Woosung into the river they were only preparing themselves for a network of railways all over China. When the Koreans in Seoul destroyed the new electric line and burned up the cars, they exhausted the forces of conservatism, and before long concluded that the electric railway was the best scheme for saving extra exertion in walking that had ever been devised. Large portions of South America and South Africa may be undeveloped, and possessed of great material resources, but nowhere does such a combination of human and natural conditions tempt industrial activity as in China. Nowhere else are so many hard-working and temperate men and women, waiting only to be taught, such wealth of coal and other minerals, such fertile soil, such splendid rivers and harbors. Were the field small it would not be so tempting. But China is in area larger than the United States, and has a population four or five times as large. For the last quarter of a century prospectors have been studying the provinces of the interior, and yet our knowledge still seems to be most limited.—Ainslee's Magazine.

New Estimate of Geologic Time.

An ingenious theory for the estimation of the time of the various geological periods has been produced by an engineer whose work on western railroads takes him into primitive countries. He says that in one great depression in Wyoming the trees have been recording the rate of erosion of the slopes for about 300 years so accurately that the data to be obtained by a careful study of them will be a factor of extreme importance in enabling scientists to convert geological time into years. While he has not yet had time to collect these data properly, he makes the rough deduction that, according to their records, the Pliocene and Pleistocene periods would represent about one and one-half millions of years, and that, on this basis, the Cenozoic time would be about four millions of years. This would mean that all geological time from the beginning of the Cambrian epoch would be sixty-four millions of years.

Madame Patti's Parrots.

Among the possessions of Mme. Patti are two parrots, one of which talks all day long and imitates his mistress's trills, while the other is dumb, though he has only been so since his purchase by Mme. Patti. Before that he was the most wonderful talking parrot in captivity, and was valued at \$200, the price which she paid for him in New York.

FOR THE HOUSEWIVES.

Brass Ornaments.

With the Dutch oak furniture so much used now for libraries, brass candlesticks and writing accessories are effective and appropriate. Immense candlesticks with wide, high-tipped basins and low sockets of hammered brass are sold for \$1.50 and \$2. A great ring or a curious twist of metal serves as a handle. An old brass ink-well is a boar's head, the top of which can be thrown back, disclosing the glass well within.

Removing Vaseline Stains.

Few stains are more obstinate than those made by vaseline. How to remove them was told recently by a domestic science teacher. "I've ready," she said, "a moderately hot iron and four pieces of blotting paper. Put two thicknesses of the paper on a board and wet the spot thoroughly with benzine. Lay on the stained cloth, cover with two other pieces of blotting-paper, and press quickly with the iron. An old stain may need two or even three applications to remove the stain. The caution is repeated that benzine being very inflammable it must be used with great care."

Dainty Clothes Hangers.

Gowns wear so much better when hung away properly that every woman should make it a point to do so. And since such dainty hangers have come into general use the custom can prove but a joy. A successful and charming hanger can be made from a quarter of an old barrel hoop, cleaned thoroughly. Cotton batting, sprinkled with sachet powder, is fastened to the frame, which is then covered with two widths of ribbon, run together and musquetaired. Ribbon sufficient for a long loop (for hanging) and a bow is then fastened to the centre, and this dainty addition to a woman's wardrobe is complete.

An Original Chopping Knife.

Of course every housekeeper has a chopping bowl and a chopping knife, and presumably they are always handy. Happening to be in the country one day, the writer saw a young and progressive woman using a contrivance which she declared to be far superior for chopping potatoes for warming over. It was nothing less than a baking powder tin (the half-pound size), minus the cover and with nail holes punched in the other end. The sharp, round edge made a splendid knife and it was easily handled. The potatoes were put in the pan right on the stove and chopped while they were warming. It seemed to save time if it had no other advantages.

For the Well-Appointed Table.

Tablecloths to which up-to-date women accord the highest homage are of plain French damask, hemstitched and worked with magnificent sprays of filled-in embroidery. These sprays are varied in shape. Some tablecloths have two, starting at opposite corners and swinging their way along the ends and up to the opposite side for a short distance; others have bands across the ends, while still others have great, fanciful effects. The important thing about these sprays is, of course, that they must not interfere with the placing of plates.

When the filled-in embroidery covers the sides of the tablecloth pretty thoroughly no monograms are used. But ordinarily a tablecloth is embroidered with four, one at each corner, 24 inches from the end, and 12 inches on each side of the centre. This arrangement places them so that they remain uncovered during the entire meal.

For more ordinary use tablecloths are still of French damask, with wide hemstitch. The patterns vary; some are large, others small, and generally a woman chooses them to suit her fancy. Yet there seems to be a tendency to select the small, plain patterns, rather than those more elaborate. For instance, a popular design is merely striped damask, with a fancy square woven in the centre. Fringed table linen rarely now is used.

Recipes.

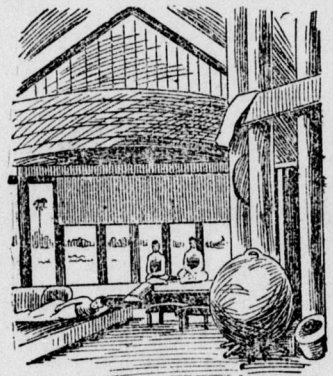
Steamed Corn Bread—Three cups of sweet milk and one of sour, three cups of Indian meal and one of flour, one-half cup of molasses, one teaspoonful of saleratus, salt to taste. Steam three hours.

Mock Oysters—Three grated parsnips, three eggs, one teaspoonful salt, one teaspoonful sweet cream, butter half the size of an egg, three tablespoonfuls flour. Fry as pancakes. Parsnips in place of parsnips is equally as good.

Cheese Sandwiches—Cut white bread quite thin, and spread with grated cheese mixed with thick, sweet cream. The cream should be thick. Lay a lettuce leaf between if you want something extra dainty, and if you like onion, to rub a cut onion over the lettuce gives the slightest possible flavor, hardly discernible, yet heightening the piquancy.

Egg Balls for Soup—Rub the yolks of three or four hard-boiled eggs to a smooth paste with a little melted butter, pepper and salt; to these add two raw ones, beat in light, and add enough flour to keep the paste together; make into balls with floured hands, and set away in a cool place until just before the soup comes off, when you put them in carefully and boil one minute.

Broiled Tripe—Wipe honeycomb tripe as dry as possible and cut in pieces for serving. Dip in fine cracked dust seasoned with salt and pepper. Brush over with olive oil and again dip in the cracked dust. Place in a greased broiler and broil over a clear fire for five minutes. Place on a platter honeycomb side up, sprinkle with salt and pepper and spread with butter.



INTERIOR OF A TUTUILA CHIEF'S HOUSE.

so disagreeable that several of the party determined to try the alternative plan of walking overland to Leone and there awaiting the arrival of the cutter. Leaving all our luggage on board, we were landed on the beach within a hundred yards of the village, which now showed among the trees like a group of overgrown beehives of the old straw material and conical shape. The natives were most friendly. They invited us into the largest hut, on the floor of which we were accommodated with mats of woven grass,



PAGO-PAGO, TUTUILA, SHOWING THE HILLS RISING FROM THE SHORE.

while two girls prepared a bowl of kava juice for our special entertainment. Personally, I had heard enough about this famous liquor of the islands to decline it, and though my companions tasted it, they were wise

during the last twenty years. Tutuila, I should suppose them to be well disposed to Europeans so long as they are not much interfered with. There have been repeated and somewhat sanguinary wars among them