

LIFE SAVING DEVICE.

Trigger That Launches Lifeboat From a Dirigible "Way."

SIMPLE IN ITS MECHANISM.

Invention of Albert T. Brock Successfully Tested From Lighter in the Ocean—If a Ship Sinks Suddenly the Boat Is Automatically Released and Floated.

In the upper New York bay off Owl's Head the other day there was tested a new life saving boat, the invention of Albert Theodore Brock. Although the apparatus was not in perfect condition and the vessel from which the test was made was not entirely adapted to the purpose, the trial was successful in the extreme, the boat taking the water within three seconds after the command "Let go."

The apparatus used was, except in point of size, identical with the perfected device. It consists of a boat supplied with air tight compartments which make it unsinkable and an exaggerated keel into which are sunk small copper rollers, the purpose of which is to reduce friction as the vessel is launched from a dirigible "way."

It is this latter feature which makes the device unique among life saving apparatus. The boat rests upon this way, held in place by hooks, which release it when a trigger is sprung. At the will of the person directing the launching the portion of the way immediately beneath the boat can be swung overhead from the ship at any angle. When adjusted to meet the conditions and upon the release of the trigger the movable part of the way tilts at an angle of 45 degrees, and the boat fairly leaps into the water, says the New York Herald. In event of the vessel sinking suddenly the boat is automatically released and floated. The entire mechanism is simple in the extreme.

In its perfected state the boat will be of ample size to carry fifty passengers, each having a seat on a settle or transom running around the cockpit, with partition rails for each person. In the bottom, resting upon the keel, are two fresh water tanks, and in lockers under the seats is storage room for food and other necessities sufficient to supply fifty persons for several days. The cockpit has a waterproof canvas cover that drops from the ridge of the awning supports by pressure on a lever to admit passengers and is closed in similar manner when the weather is bad or high seas are running.

It is asserted by Mr. Brock that this feature of his device will permit the loading of the boat to its full capacity in a minute at most. The boats are provided with a metal tube for the ingress of air when the cover is on and which may be used as a mast if desired.

For the purpose of the test the way was attached to the upper deck of the Daniel McElroy, a big lighter. On board were several shipping men and Captain William C. Cannon, assistant depot quartermaster, U. S. A. Mr. Brock stood in the cockpit of his boat, and when all was ready he signaled to an assistant, who pulled the trigger and caused the water to drop toward the boat. Simultaneously the boat started on its journey. At the time the McElroy was making about six knots, and the little craft hit the water with a great splash, rising on a wave like a cork. Not a drop of water was shipped, and the decks were hardly dampened by the spray, though the vessel had taken a sheer drop of fifteen feet after leaving the fixed part of the apparatus.

All those who witnessed the trial were enthusiastic over its success, and Captain Cannon, who has paid much attention to life saving devices, expressed himself as being satisfied with the feasibility of Mr. Brock's invention. Mr. Brock afterwards explained that several of his ways could be permanently attached to the decks of a liner, with several of his boats stowed near by, without unduly taking the available space. He declared boats could be launched at intervals of a few seconds and that all persons able to reach the deck could be saved, provided, of course, a sufficient number of boats was carried.

Cauliflower Luncheon the Latest.

It is not now to have a certain fruit served in many forms at a luncheon and bestow the name of that fruit upon the meal. Thus the strawberry luncheon and the cantaloupe luncheon are old friends. But to use that idea in connection with vegetables seems new. Has anybody heard of a spinach luncheon? Miss Newberry, daughter of the assistant secretary of the navy, struck out along that path recently when she gave a cauliflower luncheon. Cauliflower was used as a centerpiece, white and dainty looking and surrounded by nodding clusters of white sweet peas. Every course introduced the same vegetable, and the cakes and ices were miniature heads of the patrician cabbage. Miss Newberry wore white organdy, much befriended and suggestive of cauliflower. The idea does not seem poetic, but is novel.

Sweetnote's Vacation.

"J. A. Sweetnote, Chicago." That inscription on the register at the Coates House in Kansas City excited the curiosity of one man the other morning, and when he suggested to the owner of the name that it was a euphonious one Mr. Sweetnote grinned. "But there's a funny connection between my name and my business," he said. "I'm a traveling salesman for a boiler factory."

Three Great Rivers.

The three rivers which may be regarded from a commercial point of view as the most important in the affairs of the world are those on which the three greatest cities are situated. The Thames, on which London, with its 6,000,000 people, is located, has a length of 215 miles. The Hudson, at the mouth of which is New York, with 4,000,000 of people, is about 370 miles long, while the Seine, on which Paris stands, with her 2,000,000 inhabitants, is 407 miles long.—New York Tribune.

Silence and blushing are the consequence of women.—Chinese.

BULLER, THE FIGHTER.

How Sir Redvers Won the Victoria Cross.

AN EPISODE OF ZULU WAR.

British General's Brilliant Record of Bravery on One Busy Day in South Africa—A Sample of His Persuasive Powers and His Congeniality.

General the Right Hon. Sir Redvers Henry Buller, the famous British warrior, who recently died in London, England, was called by the Zulus the "devil's brother." To read the story of how he won his Victoria cross is like reading of the deeds of some enchanted prince in a fairy romance. The story entrances one, yet to those who knew the man the astonishing details seem to lose much of their marvelous quality.

It was on March 28, 1879, at which time he was in command of the mounted troops—strictly they were not cavalry—of Sir Evelyn Wood's column in the Zulu war. He had been dispatched by his commander to clear the Inhloane mountains, in South Africa. The task had been accomplished in the face of stupendous difficulties and some opposition, when enormous Zulu reinforcements were observed coming up and threatening to cut them off. He was by sheer force of circumstances compelled to retreat by making a descent by the precipitous sides of the mountain. His force lost heavily, but his calmness and magnificent self devotion saved it from the absolute destruction which seemed imminent. The much prized decoration was won not by a headlong rush against a foe nor yet by a sudden impulse of gallantry, but by three unaffected acts of unselfish devotion, involving almost certain death.

First, when the pursuit was hottest he saw Captain D'Arcy of the frontier light horse dismounted, his horse having been killed under him, and retiring on foot. Colonel (as Sir Redvers then was) Buller, though he himself was a big, heavy man, quite a load for a horse, especially after a fatiguing morning, promptly took Captain D'Arcy up behind him and carried him out of the reach of the foe. A little later on the same day under similar circumstances and in the same manner he rescued another officer of the frontier light horse, Lieutenant Everett. He finished, also on the same day, by carrying out of danger a trooper whose horse was completely exhausted. When he took this man up behind him the Zulus were within eighty yards of them. Three separate and distinct actions in one day, each of which would have gained the famous bronze cross for any man! Finally he led into camp seven other troopers who, flying from the mountain, had lost their way.

General Buller was undoubtedly a strong man, with a will of iron rigidity, but he also possessed and occasionally used his characteristic powers of persuasion and generally to good effect, as the following anecdote will show:

When serving in the Canadian Red river expedition under Colonel Wolsley, some years ago, Buller, then a lieutenant, arrived at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, where their further advance was hampered by dense fogs. Presently their provisions threatened to run scanty, and a galley was dispatched to an island in the vicinity on which was erected a station for the aid of the shipwrecked sailors. Lieutenant Buller accompanied the boatmen and discovered a woman in charge of the station provisions. He asked for a supply of food, but was refused.

"No," averred the woman. "Our provisions are only for those who have shipwrecked, not for folk like you."

"But," reiterated Buller, "we are servants of the government, and this is a government store."

"But I can't let you take the provisions; you're not shipwrecked," was the rigid response.

Buller observed the odd suggestion of dialect in the speaker's voice and words, and he addressed her persistently in the Cornish dialect:

"What? Not for dear old 'ome and all, and a Buller?"

"What?" came the surprised response. "Be you from Cornwall, and a Buller? Take anything you like in the store, you're hearty welcome!"

Many years ago, during the Red river expedition, a soldier in the King's royal rifles was much in need of a pipeful of tobacco. He approached his brother Tommies for what he required, but without success. A figure that seemed familiar marched steadily ahead, and the soldier, in desperation, slapped the individual on the back, saying, "Got a pipeful of beery, mate?"

The figure turned, revealing General Buller, then a captain in the same regiment. The soldier was overwhelmed with confusion. "Very sorry I can't oblige you," said Buller, "but I haven't a pipeful for myself," showing at the same time an empty pipe.

"I'm related to General Buller that once had a very narrow escape from having to abandon his military career. Shortly before he joined the regiment to which he had been gazetted as a subaltern he cut his knee very badly with an ax. The wound was so severe that the surgeon said the limb must be amputated. Buller, however, said that if he could not have two legs he would have none at all, and the result was that which usually happens in such stories—the doctor was all wrong and Buller was soon able to join his regiment."

Lieutenant Governor Henry B. Gray, the best judge of whisky and the strongest supporter of the prohibition law in Alabama, has composed a poem dedicated to the cause of temperance in the south. At an ice water banquet in the Country club of Birmingham, Ala., the other night he recited part of it. The first stanza is as follows:

The mint bed makes a pasture;
The corkscrew hangeth high;
All is still along the still side;
The south is going dry.

The Professor's Wife.—You haven't kissed me for a week. The Professor (absently)—Are you sure? Then who is it I have been kissing?—Life.

A NATIONAL DANGER.

Dr. Darlington's Warning as to Cause of Heart Disease.

MENTAL AND BODILY UNREST.

Equanimity Need of the Times, Says Health Commissioner—Cardiac Disease Mortality Increases, While That From Other Maladies Declines

That the effect produced by high strung nervous tension induced by modern methods of social and business competition must be regarded as a causative factor in the production of functional and ultimately organic cardiac disease was the point made the other day by Dr. Thomas Darlington, commissioner of health of New York city, at the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the American Climatological association, which assembled at Boston under the presidency of Dr. Thomas D. Coleman of Augusta, Ga.

"During the early years of our national life," said Dr. Darlington, "physical labor was the rule and essential in the upbuilding of the country, but with it, hand in hand, went the normal and wholesome conditions of living imposed by the limitations of a young country and the virile qualifications inherent in the hardy sealer."

"Then, with the advent of what we are pleased to call the concomitant attributes of civilization, came the age of social and mental unrest, vast commercial opportunities and competition. We are paying our prices for our social and material advancement."

"Out of 275,000 children examined in the public schools of New York city more than 70 per cent were found to be suffering from some physical abnormality—all handicapped at the very beginning of their life struggle—and of these children nearly 3,500 had heart disease in some form. There is a wide gulf between the three 'I's' which were taught in the country school fifty years ago and the extensive and overburdening system of education now placed before the children. Economic conditions today are also bearing hard upon their physical well being."

"Children acquire by subtle inference the thought that the ultimate measure of gain is the acquisition of the 'mighty dollar.' With such a goal the race starts early in life and competition is the relentless pacemaker."

"In this connection we must take account of the modern tendency to over-indulgence in athletic sports. It is well known that overactivity in this direction, with the physical strain resulting from keenly contested games, leaves its imprint on the physical status of the immature or underdeveloped youth. Insurance companies consider athletes 'poor risks,' and this attitude is well grounded. It would seem that the medical profession might well take cognizance of this matter to ascertain what bearing it has, if any, upon this question of the increase in the prevalence of and death rate from heart disease."

"Oser, the master mind in medicine, has given to his profession its master word, and in it is held, if not entirely at least partially, the solution of our difficulties."

"Equanimity" is the need of the times and the need of the people. Let us teach it; let us live according to its law. In calmness of mind and evenness of purpose we may find the pancea of the world is seeking to combat, the ill arising from mental and physical unrest."

THE CAPTAIN'S PLAN.

His Rule For Fighting Seasickness Didn't Work Both Ways.

A young woman who recently made a trip to Europe decided to consult the captain of the ship as to the best preventive for seasickness. Having arranged herself with a letter of introduction to the officer, she waited until the ship had cleared Sandy Hook, says a writer in the Bohemian, and then approached him. She described her fears and begged for a remedy.

"My dear lady," replied the captain, with an amused smile, "you will not be troubled with any illness if you will do what I tell you. Most ladies confine themselves to their staterooms and thereby incur the very thing they fear. Now, if you will stay on deck, get all the fresh air you can, walk up and down, take good physical care of yourself and try not to think of trouble you will never be seasick."

The lady thanked him. She followed the directions faithfully, and when the ship ran into the tail end of a heavy northwest gale she never felt a qualm. She appeared regularly at meals and enjoyed herself thoroughly.

As the gale was abating she thought her that it was due the captain that she should thank him for his good advice and, approaching the deck steward, entrusted him with a message asking for an interview. In due time the steward returned, saying that the captain was unable to grant her an interview.

"Why not?" she questioned. "Why won't he see me?"

"Captain's compliments, miss," said the steward, "but he's suffering with a bit of seasickness which 'as lasted two days now, an' he ain't in shape to talk to you."

Saluting the Quarter Deck.

One of the oldest customs in the navy and one that is often puzzling to the landman is that of "saluting the quarter deck." Many have the hazy idea that the national colors are its object and that it is merely a naval rite. While to a certain extent it is a rite, it is one of hoary antiquity, being a survival of the days when a crucifix was placed on the stern of a ship and was always saluted as a matter of course. When the crucifix was taken away the old feeling still remained, and men continued to salute the place where it had been. The younger generation imitated their elders, and the salute became a habit and continues until this day.—Los Angeles Times.

A Vast Difference.

"Don't I give you all the money you need?" her husband complained.

"Yes," she replied, "but you told me before we were married that you would give me all I wanted."

Others Whenever.

Some people make happiness whenever they go.—Success.

HOPE FOR THE BLIND.

Patients Tell of Relief Gained From New X Ray Method.

INTERMITTENT RAYS ARE USED

Discovery Made by Dr. Finley R. Cook While Treating a Cancer—Cataract Films Even Pierced by the Powerful Light—Thirty Persons Benefited.

That blindness can be overcome and the eyes regenerated by a new method of utilizing X rays is the discovery claimed to have been made by a prominent New York physician and surgeon, Dr. Finley R. Cook.

Though he has made no formal announcement concerning his discovery to the medical fraternity, Dr. Cook has had the advice and assistance of several general practitioners and eye specialists in using it upon some thirty persons suffering from loss of sight in varying degrees. And when the Academy of Medicine resumes its meetings in the fall he will make a full report to that body on the success he has attained in these cases.

Despite Dr. Cook's desire to keep his work a secret until the time arrives for making it known through medical channels, several of those who declare he has benefited them are enthusiastic in their wish to tell of what it has done for them.

Remarkable statements regarding the manner in which the X rays had restored their sight were made recently to a New York American reporter by several of these patients.

T. J. Byrne of New York city said: "I was going blind when I began to take the Roentgen ray treatment and could not recognize a friend who passed me on the street. Now I can distinguish faces for a distance of half a block and can read the finest print."

Mrs. Rose Bopf of New York city said: "The sight of my left eye was dimmed, and the right was totally blind. Though I had worn glasses for more than fifteen years, my sight was rapidly falling when I started the X ray treatment. At the present time I can see with the eye that formerly was useless, and the left one has improved so much that I have stopped wearing glasses."

Even more striking than these two cases is that of Frank Constock of Meriden, Conn., which is vouched for by Mr. Byrne. Constock was totally without vision when he was first treated with the rays, the retina of one eye being detached, while the other had been badly affected by degeneration of the nerves. He was then unable to make his way through the streets without assistance. He is now able to read and can find his way easily from place to place without any help.

Dr. Cook's discovery of the method which he uses in applying the X rays to the eyes was made while treating cancer with the powerful light. While trying to hit on a plan for preventing his patient from being burned he decided the only way to do this was to make the exposures of the light upon the subject intermittently. When he tried this he found the rays were just as effective, while they did not leave any harmful effects.

He concluded, therefore, that the fault lay in the fact that the rays were used for a continuous period, which resulted in irritation following quickly upon the stimulation which was sought. After that he modified the treatment to "flashes," these being for just a second, but of great power.

Shortly after this step had been taken a young woman who had been blind for twenty-seven years applied to him. The result in this case was not very promising, as the young woman suffered very severely from cataract, but it was sufficient to show that the rays had a regenerative effect upon the eye.

Through discussion with Dr. David Webster, a well known eye specialist of New York city, and others familiar with diseases of the optics he was enabled to obtain patients for further experiment.

Where the weakness of the vision was caused by degeneration of the nerves or detachment of the retina uniformly good results have been attained, it is said. Where the patient has been the victim of cataract the improvement has been less marked. This is explained by the fact that the cataract covers the eye with a film which must first be removed before the eye can be regenerated.

In some cases the rays have even caused the piercing of this cataract film. In the case of a Mrs. Watson of New Rochelle, N. Y., this was accomplished. Mrs. Watson, who had been totally blind for a great many years, was enabled to see the lights four minutes after the X rays had been used upon her. Later she declared she was able to see slightly.

While Dr. Cook admitted that he had been carrying on this work, he refused to discuss the cases, saying that in the fall he proposed making an exposition of his findings before a scientific body. Dr. Cook is a leading member of the Academy of Medicine and is also a member of the New York state and county medical societies and the American Medical association. He is an assistant surgeon at the Vanderbilt clinic and physician of the Virginia Day nursery.

Potomac Poisoning Cure.

Professor Wassermann of Berlin has succeeded in finding a serum which he claims brings about the cure of ptomaine poisoning.

The Good Old Days.

The richest man in King Charles II's England could not get so good a dinner as tens of thousands will sit down to today. Cattle were of a far poorer breed, vegetables were few and bad and the commonest conveniences of the table were unknown. Fish knives, for instance, are hardly considered an extravagant luxury, but Mr. Gladstone could remember when they were not to be found on any table.—London Telegraph.

Possibly the idea has got abroad among poets that the sea waves are sad because the ocean is so very blue at times.

COAL SAVING SCHEME

St. Louis Man Burns It With Limestone.

HIS FUEL BILLS CUT IN HALF

Alexander Marshall Obtains Intense Heat by Mixing Limestone With Coal—Clinkers Eliminated—Smoke Reduced to Minimum.

Alexander Marshall of St. Louis told the other day how he has solved an important problem that may greatly reduce the world's consumption of coal.

He claims to have discovered a method whereby the cost of coal, by the use of limestone, in furnaces of any kind may be reduced to one-half. The limestone exists in sufficient quantities in the Plasa bluffs along the Mississippi river to supply Alton with fuel for centuries to come. Marshall's scheme proved generally successful.

"You see, I throw in plenty of coal to get a red hot fire in the furnace," said Mr. Marshall to a reporter of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "Then I throw in equal parts in bulk of coal and limestone. In a few minutes a white heat is generated which has absolutely no smoke."

A strong limelight blaze at once flared up in the furnace. The former dark black smoke from the stacks began to be transformed into a light airy gas—carbonic acid gas released from the carbonate of lime. The heat was intense, and in a few minutes it seemed as if the seams of the boilers would melt.

"Coal alone never gave such a heat," remarked Mr. Marshall. "In a few weeks I shall have a testing apparatus here for the purpose of finding out exactly the amount of heat units in a given quantity of coal and then the number of units in coal and limestone."

After the test the residue left was exhibited in the grate. There were no clinkers. The coal had evidently all been consumed.

"The residue makes a good fertilizer," Mr. Marshall said. "Of course the ashes are not so good as the limestone before burning, for that contains 40 per cent more of carbon. The advantage lies in the fact that use has already been made of the coal. Left in the ground for a longer length of time the burned limestone will bring about exactly the same effect as the pure limestone—that is, in correcting the acidity of the soil."

Mr. Marshall then explained that the coal he formerly used up to the eve of his limestone fuel discovery a short time ago cost \$2.40 per ton. The actual cost of limestone is 60 cents a ton. As the limestone and coal are used half and half the actual cost of a ton of the Marshall heating material is \$1.50.

"The use of my discovery," said Mr. Marshall, "would insure smokeless heat which I'm sure would do away with the big city smoke annoyance. Then there are no heavy clinkers to deal with, and, besides, we have an almost perfect fertilizer in the ashes, to say nothing of the prime consideration, the reduction in fuel cost."

"My explanation of limestone's value as fuel is that it contains 80.75 per cent of pure carbonate of lime. This is not combustible unless heated, but when heated in a red hot blaze becomes combustible, sending off carbonic acid gas, giving a limelight fire in the furnace which is many times hotter than the ordinary coal fire. In order to make it smokeless we must shut off as much oxygen as possible, which is partly done by closing up the furnaces."

"I intend to build what is called a 'Dutch oven,' a class of furnace into which coal is dumped at the top by a sort of mechanical contrivance which prevents any air from escaping when the furnace, which is otherwise closed, is being fired."

"I have been studying this matter ever since I read of the experiments of Mr. Ridder of the waterworks plant at Baden. He made gas for lighting by heating limestone red hot in retorts over the fire. I wondered at once if the gas could not be made right in the furnace and retained there to increase the heat of the fire under the boilers. By a series of experiments lasting over a month I learned that it could be done, and I have been doing it successfully ever since in our plant at Elsau."

Mr. Marshall resides in Carondelet He is fifty-three years of age and is of Scotch descent. He wears a large reddish beard, which reaches below his coat lapel.

F. X. Hixby of St. Louis is president and one of the principal stockholders in the Whiting plant, where the Marshall demonstration is being made.

First Electric Furnace For Steel. It is claimed to be the first electrical furnace for the production of steel in Belgium is approaching completion at the works of the Societe des Acieries Liegeoises at Brussels. It is of the Kjellin-Roehling type.

Spring Dog-grel. Oh, listen close for the voice of spring! Though faint and fine, 'tis the fairest thing. That ever assailed the ear. Chilly winter may go for us. But wait till the pussy willow purrs And the cow's lips lap the sap as it stirs—

A delicate thing to hear. But, trust me, none of them all to me. I love the bark of the dog-wood tree.

With marshes flaunting a hundred flags With every delicate cat-tail wags, With care I for city news? Each blossom blows like a faroff flute. And the wilder flowers their pistols shoot, While all the trumpet vines tenderly too, Earn their honest dues.

From a litter of leaves come a sound— Ah, me— The shrill bough-wow of the dog-wood tree.

—Burgess Johnson in Good Housekeeping For April.

Bielovitka Forest, Lithuania.

In the great park Bielovitka forest, in Lithuania, which is about 150 miles in circumference, the primeval forest still stands, and all the wild animals native to central European forests are found there except bears and wolves, which were exterminated some years ago. Except for the roads which pass through it, the forest is unchanged. It is visited by few people except the foresters.—Forest and Stream.

THRILLING SPORT.

Rafting Down the Canyons of an Un-mapped Glacial River.

With Provisions for Only Ten Days a Party of Explorers in Alaska Found One September that they must build rafts and take their chances of letting the swift river carry them to settlements where food could be obtained; otherwise snow and snow would shut them in from all hope of rescue.

"The Shameless Diary of an Explorer" Robert Dunn tells of the journey on the roughly made rafts.

"At 11 o'clock today began the most thrilling sport I know, rafting down the snaky canyons of an unmapped glacial river."

"Fred and I captured the Mary Ann II, the other three the Ethel May. We rasped and hauled them over the gravel shadows of our tributary, shot out between the main walls of the stream and seized upon that boiling current."

"We reached silently from cliff to cliff, jammed pike poles into the slate shelf overhead, twirled out the most thrilling sport I know, rafting down the snaky canyons of an unmapped glacial river."

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PLAN TO BUILD NEW ALPS.

Miniature Switzerland to Be Constructed of Cement.

A young Alsatian engineer, M. Weiss, suggests that an artificial range of mountains should be built some fifteen miles north and northeast of Paris, in France.

According to the scheme, which he explained, he would create a sort of miniature Switzerland within easy reach of the French capital by taking a strip of territory 15 miles in length and an artificial range of mountains 3,000 feet high.

"These mountains from huge concrete blocks, which would be cast on a spot. Landscape gardeners would arrange valleys and precipices. Streams would be artificially diverted and caused to fall in cascades. Cog-wheel railways would carry the visitors up to picturesque looking villages.

He estimates the scheme would cost \$25,000,000, providing labor for 20,000 workmen for ten years, and that it would be of national utility, placing Swiss scenery almost at the gates of Paris. Moreover, it would form a sort of summer pleasure resort, in which thousands of people would build country houses to enjoy the air of the artificial mountains, while being able to go into the city to business every day.

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