

THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Although Called a Tideless Sea, Its Water Rises and Falls.

Why are there no tides in the Mediterranean? asks a reader. As a matter of fact, there are tides in the Mediterranean. The general rise and fall are, however, so insignificant, owing to the comparatively small area and the mass of water involved, as to have escaped detection until scientific methods were brought to bear, and hence the Mediterranean has come popularly to be looked upon as a tideless sea.

A similar want of knowledge and experience of tidal phenomena cost Caesar the loss of most of his fleet on his invasion of Britain in 55 B. C., when his vessels were dashed to pieces upon the coast.

At Algiers a self recording tide gauge was set up by Aime, and from its records he deduced a rise and fall of eighty-eight millimeters, or three and one-half inches, at spring tide, and half that amount at neap tide, a fluctuation which would escape ordinary observation, as it would be masked by the effects of atmospheric disturbance.

EFFECTS OF TOBACCO.

In Some Cases It Is Stimulating and In Others Narcotic.

Whether or not tobacco is a stimulant has been a vexed question ever since the time of Oviedo, the first writer to describe it fully, who says that the Indians of Hispaniola used tobacco to produce insensibility, whereas others among the old Spanish discoverers say that the natives smoked to stimulate themselves to fresh exertions.

Men whose business leads to exposure to weather or to violent physical exercise, such as sailors, soldiers, watchmen, mowers and field laborers, all take tobacco as a stimulant and have done so from the first.

These classes are mentioned as specially large consumers of the weed in Dr. Everard's "Tobacco," published in 1656. Hobbes and Newton both used tobacco to stimulate. Goethe and Helme hated it. Scott smoked profusely; but, according to Mr. Trevelyan, Byron "never smoked pipe or cigar."

CAT'S CRADLE.

Origin of the Name of the Familiar String and Finger Game.

Cat's cradle has been familiar to most of us from childhood as a game for two

players, in which the first winds a looped cord over the fingers of both hands in a symmetrical figure, and the second inserts his fingers and removes it in such a way as to produce a different figure. This they do alternately several times, always changing the formation. The art consists in making the right changes.

The cord forms a rude representation of a manger, and the name originally was "cratch" (crèche, French), such as that in which our Saviour was laid. "They layde hym in a cratche," was Wycliff's translation of Luke ii, 7. The word is still used in Roman Catholic countries in that particular sense.

The Abbe Prevost says in his "Manuel Lexique," "Cratch is the name given to a manger for cattle and which is consecrated by the birth of Jesus Christ." To the present day the racks which stand in the fields for cattle to eat from are called cratches.

"Yankee Doodle."

As for the origin of the tune of "Yankee Doodle," over which there is much controversy, this can be said—that most of the views expressed about its origin are right, but only partly so. It is true the tune is the same as that of "Lucy Locket Lost Her Pocket," "Yankee Doodle Came to Town," and that of the Dutch reapers' song, "Yonker Dudal, Dudal Daun," but it is also identical with the old Biscayan "Danca Esparta" (sword dance) and that of a German song which was published at Cologne in the year that Columbus discovered America.

Relative Advantages.

"Which do you think is better," asked the thoughtful girl, "wealth or social position?"

"My dear," answered Miss Cayenne, "with money to give entertainments you can get into the society column, but aristocratic origin does not necessarily insure mention in the financial news."—Washington Star.

The Record Lunatic.

"Here's a story 'bout a man what been married ten times!"

Brother Williams seemed lost in thought. Then he spoke up: "What make 'em print sich tales ez dat? W'en a man once gets in de lunatic asylum fide orter stop talkin' 'bout him!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Overdone.

Jasper—I often wonder why Jenkins is not more popular, for he is the most polite man I know. Jumpuppe—That is just the trouble. He is so confoundedly polite he leaves the impression that he wants to borrow money.—Town Topics.

Sometimes.

"My husband is a fatalist. He always maintains that men are not free agents."

"You must remember that your husband is married."—Town and Country.

AN ODD PHENOMENON.

Showers of Rain Can Come From a Cloudless Sky.

It appears that rain can fall from a cloudless sky. This is true of a thif drizzle which falls in France, known as "serotin." As the atmosphere looks quite clear when it falls, the probability is all in favor of the moisture having been brought by the wind at a great elevation. In the island of Mauritius the phenomenon is by no means uncommon during the prevalence of southeast winds, slight showers falling in cloudless evenings when the stars are shining brightly. There the rain is thought to be due to invisible vapor in the upper reaches of the atmosphere, being condensed at once and falling in drops without passing through the intermediate stage of cloud. Ross said that in the south Atlantic it rained on one occasion for upward of an hour while the sky was altogether free from clouds. Says a Genoese naturalist, "The night was clear, the stars were shining with their accustomed brilliancy, when a shower of rain, consisting of large lukewarm drops, fell during six minutes upon the town." A similar view was once observed at Constantine, in Algeria, about noon, the sky being all the time a splendid blue. Some believe that these showers are the result of regions of ice formed in the higher regions melting and falling, while others attribute them to currents of warm and cold air traveling in opposite directions, with the result that the latter condenses some of the moisture in the former and causes it to fall.

OLD TIME MANNERS.

The Exaggerated Courtesy of the Eighteenth Century.

In Social England the following appears as indicating the exaggerated courtesy of fashionable people early in the eighteenth century: "Chesterfield teaches that it is boorish to congratulate a friend on his approaching marriage with merely 'I wish you joy,' when he should have said, 'Believe me, my dear sir, I have scarce words to express the joy I feel upon your happy alliance with such and such a family.' The compliment of condolence on a bereavement should not be, 'I am sorry for your loss,' but 'I hope, sir, you will do me the justice to be persuaded that I am not insensible of your unhappiness, that I take part in your distress and shall ever be affected when you are so.' His child began his lessons in 'breeding' at nine years old, having till then learned Latin, Greek, French, history and geography. He is warned to beware of using proverbial sayings in his speech, such as 'One man's meat is another's poison,' or 'Every one to his taste, as the good man said when he kissed his cow.' He must attend to the graceful motion of his arms, the manner of putting on his hat and ey-

ing his hand. Horace Walpole's entrance into a room is described by an eyewitness as 'in the style of affected delicacy which fashion had made almost natural, chapeau bras between his hands, as if he wished to compress it, or under his arm, and feet on tip-toes, as if afraid of a wet floor.'

Origin of Texts.

The custom of taking a text as the basis of a sermon originated with Ezra, who, accompanied by several Levites in a public congregation of men and women, ascended a pulpit, opened the book of the law and, after a prayer, "read in the book in the law of God distinctly and gave the sense and caused them to understand the reading."

Previous to the time of Ezra the patriarchs delivered in public assemblies either prophecies or moral instructions, and it was not until the return of the Jews from the Babylonish captivity, during which they had almost lost the language in which the Pentateuch was written, that it became necessary to explain as well as to read the Scriptures to them.

Elongated Palates.

It is not an uncommon thing to suffer from an elongated palate, which causes great discomfort in various ways. It is inflamed by cold and then aggravates a persistent cough. It brings a sense of oppression in one's breathing, and it is sure to make itself felt in long continued talking. Doctors are generally loath to touch it. Perhaps the most quickly efficacious treatment recommended by them is gargling with alum water just before brushing the teeth. This has been known to work a radical bettering of the distress.—Pearson's.

Jumping.

Long and high jumping alike give elasticity of movement to the person with sluggish, heavy gait. The high jump should be practiced over a piece of cotton fixed to two poles or other supports. This cannot possibly occur on the cotton near the center will be easily distinguishable. The student unused to jumping should begin with a nominal height, say twelve inches, increasing this as advance is made in proficiency.

Left the Farm Pertoree.

Golfer—You used to make a good living in the country, but you don't seem to be making your salt in town. Why did you leave the farm? Gosh—Because I couldn't bring it with me. It was held down by a mortgage.—Chicago Tribune.

Good Taste.

"What a homely shirt!"

"Yes. My wife picked it out."

"Why, man, haven't you any taste yourself?"

"Not for a quarrel with my wife."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

RELIC FROM THE STONE AGE.

A Body From the Prehistoric Burying Places of England.

In Somersetshire, England, may be seen many "barrows," burying places of prehistoric man. Long ages ago, when the elephant and rhinoceros, the lion and bear, the hyena and wolf, the great elk and the reindeer were among the common animals of England, primitive man and savage beasts lived in caves in this region.

At the entrance to these caves the aborigines, clad in skins, kept fires burning for warmth and for protection from the wild beasts. It was here that they made flint hatchets, knives and arrowheads. Not long ago a trench was being dug within the mouth of one of these caves for the purpose of draining.

It was found necessary to break up a stalagmite floor of two thick layers. Between the layers was a deposit of cave earth and stones, in which was discovered the skeleton of a man of very great antiquity in an excellent state of preservation. With it were found several flint knives and flukes. Experts who made a careful examination of the skull, which has projecting brows and receding frontal bone, have decided that it belongs to the stone age and is of a type intermediate between the paleolithic and neolithic ages.

Apparently the body had been placed in a small passage leading off from the great passages to the stalagmite caves and had been prevented from disturbance by stones piled around it. The stalagmite floor had formed over it all, effectually preserving it to the present day.—Harper's Weekly.

ANIMALS IN BATTLE.

The Gorilla's Powerful Arms Make It a Formidable Foe.

Fish fighting is a most popular sport in Spain. The two fish, trained from the age of six months to fight, are placed in a large glass bottle. It is most curious to note each fish's attitude when it becomes aware of its adversary's presence in the bottle. Swelling with rage and pride, they sail around and around the narrow space, pretending not to notice each other until suddenly one fish makes a savage dart at its unwelcome companion, biting its fins and body. The fight continues until the referee sees that the issue is no longer in doubt, when the contest is stopped.

Horses use either their teeth or their hoofs as a mode of defense. A curious instance of the effectiveness of these weapons once occurred at Sheffield park. A bulldog, barking and snarling, chased a horse turned loose around and around a meadow, not with angry intent, but purely from excess of high spirits. After galloping around the field several times the horse stopped dead and, turning sharply around, dashed out at the yelping dog, with a fatal result, for its skull was cloven. The gorilla is a most formidable en-

ponent in battle, its great strength lying in its powerful arms. Few animals of the forest have the slightest chance of overcoming a gorilla. A python has been known to encircle its coils around the gorilla's body, only, however, to have its own body torn open by its adversary's hands.

Waste of Energy.

If you hold your fist as tight as you can hold it for fifteen minutes the fatigue you will feel when it relaxes is a clear proof of the energy you have been wasting, and if the waste is so great in the useless tightening of a fist it is still greater in the extended and continuous contraction of brain and nerves in useless fears, and the energy saved through dropping the fears and their accompanying tension can bring in the same proportion a vigor unknown before and at the same time afford protection against the very things we fear. The fear of taking cold is so strong in many people that a draft of fresh air becomes a bugaboo to their contracted, sensitive nerves. Drafts are imagined as existing everywhere, and the contraction which immediately follows the sensation of a draft is the best means of preparing to catch a cold.

Sermon of Three Hours and a Half.

Charles II. was wont in his humorous way to say of his chaplain, Dr. Barrow, that "he was the most unfair preacher in England because he exhausted every subject and left no room for others to come after him." It was indeed too much the doctor's way. When he got hold of a topic he never knew how to leave anything unsaid about it. One of his best discourses, that on the duty and reward of bounty to the poor, actually took up three and a half hours in delivering.

Luck.

Persons who believe in luck and signs will doubtless agree that it is unlucky to be struck by lightning on Monday, or take hold of a circular saw in motion on Tuesday, or tumble downstairs with a coal scuttle on Wednesday, or be hit by a trolley car on Thursday, or fall overboard on Friday, or marry on Saturday, or be one of thirteen to dinner on Sunday when there is food for only ten.

Groundless Fears.

Cholly—I did think of going in for politics, but I was afraid I wouldn't know just how to treat my infewiahs, don't y' know. Peppery—Your infewiors! Oh, you wouldn't be likely to meet any of them.—Philadelphia Press.

The Sword.

A sword is out of place in time of peace, and it is of very little consequence in time of war, except to adorn a big general or a lodge man in a parade.—Acheson Globe.

True Independence is to be found

where a person contracts his desires within the limits of his fortune.

Near Side and Off Side.
When horses were first hitched to vehicles the driver never thought of riding himself, but walked by the side of the road as he held the lines. So as to have his right hand always ready he walked on the left side, and consequently the horse on the left side came to be known as the "near" horse, and the one on the right side was called the "off" horse. In that manner the terms "near horse" and "off horse" became general and still pertain to horses hitched as a team.

Reluctant to Give Up.

"Lend me \$10, old man. I'm a little short."
"That won't help you any. You'll be just as short after getting the money."
"Nonsense, old chap! How do you make that out?"
"Why, after giving you the \$10 I don't expect to see you any longer."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

He Probably Took the Hint.

Young Tutter—Miss Clara, suppose that tomorrow evening I should call again and, having nerved myself up to it, suddenly, while we were conversing, I should without a word throw my arms around your neck and deliberately kiss you, what would you do? Miss Finkley—Oh, Mr. Tutter, don't ask me to look so far ahead.

A Maddening Position.

The hardest thing a girl does is to refrain from asking a man a question that she knows will make him mad when she is just boiling with curiosity to know the answer.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Easy Remedy.

He—Here is your dressmaker's bill. She is becoming impatient for her money. She—Indeed, then I must call tomorrow and order a new dress.

The Brute.

She—You married me for my money. He—Well, it's no use grieving over it now; it's all gone.—New Yorker.

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MICA ILLUMINATING DOOR,

Gives a cheerful and comfortable look to the stove. Does away with the one objection to stoves of this class.

COMBINATION SWING AND LIFT FEED DOOR

is largest made and permits use of big lumps of coal as well as rough wood.

POLISHED STEEL BODY which requires no blacking, is protected from action of fire by heavy cast lining

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DOUBLE FIRE POT is corrugated and allows for expansion and contraction, insuring durability and being exposed gives immense heat.

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BURNING SOFT COAL OR SLACK—Cold air like cold water quenches fire quickly, because the fuel (or particles of carbon) in smoke is chilled before reaching the igniting point, ceases to blaze and goes out chimney with the smoke.

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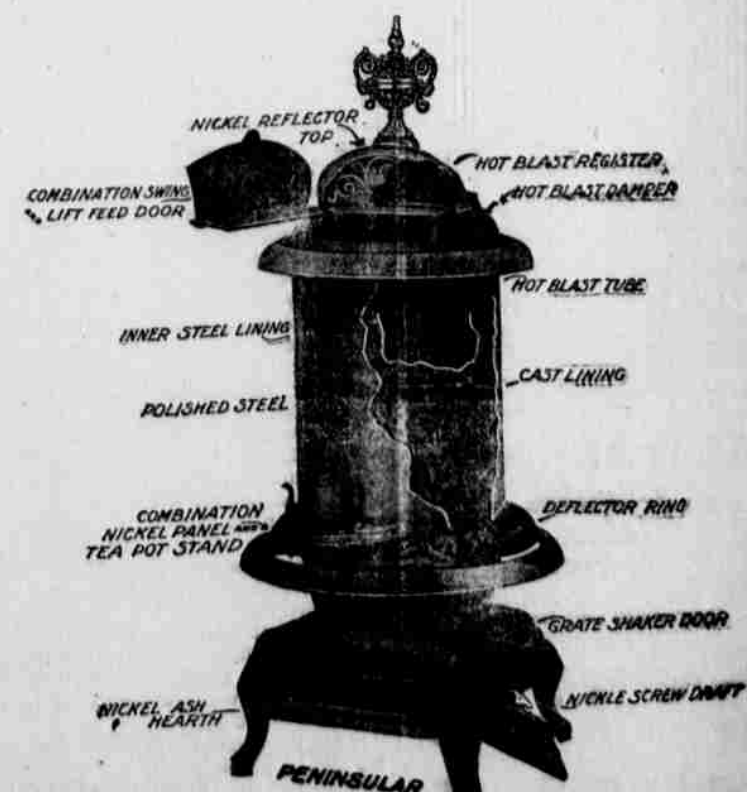
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