

careful examination of the acetyline lifebuoys he was speaking about, on the boat he went over on, which are supposed to be let go by the pressing of a button, he would have noticed that there was over a quarter of an inch of paint on the guide bars, and that the whole apparatus in connection with the lowering of the buoys was in such condition that it would be absolutely impossible to let them into the water even with the aid of a crow bar, and the same applies to most mechanical davits. The davit which Mr. Lewkowicz has shown you to-night is so constructed that it will work satisfactorily with a quarter or even half an inch of paint on the exposed working parts.

In connection with the releasing of the lifeboat when it is in the water, which some gentleman has spoken about to-night, I might say that more lives have been lost by boats being improperly released than have been saved from shipwrecks, and it has not always been caused by careless handling of incompetent men.

Take the time when the "Camperdown" was rammed by the "Victoria", as soon as it was discovered that the "Camperdown" was sinking, the order was given on the "Victoria" to man the boats, which were immediately lowered. The "Victoria" was working astern at this time, and notwithstanding that the boats were manned by the crew of one of the best British battleships, the leading end of three of the four boats struck the water first, and the hooks at once released at that end. The ends of the boats went under water, and standing the boats on end, dumped the crews out. With few exceptions, all were drowned.

This would be impossible with Mr. Lewkowicz's davit.

While davits have been greatly improved upon, releasing equipment has not been developed as fast.

I think gentlemen, that the davit you see before you to-night is the very best on the market to-day, and I take great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to Mr. Lewkowicz.

Chairman,—

You have just heard the motion to tender a vote of thanks to Mr. Lewkowicz, proposed by Mr. Wickens, and seconded by Mr. Newman. What is your pleasure? Carried.

Mr. Lewkowicz, it gives me the greatest pleasure to tender you the hearty vote of thanks of the members present for the very interesting and instructive paper which you have delivered to us to-night.

Mr. Lewkowicz,—

Mr. Chairman and fellow members, it affords me a great deal of pleasure after my long absence to get amongst you again,