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STORY OF AN OYSTER

TOLD BY HIMSELF ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS TRIBE.

The Trials and Tribulations of the Succulent Bivalve From the Time of Planting Until His Appearance on the Fishmonger's Counter.

There were about 900,000 of us when, as tiny flakes of spawn—or "spat," as the oyster spawn is called—we floated out into the water one day on "the flats."

At first we were white and apparently lifeless. Then we turned gray and finally black. At this stage we became visibly alive. For several days we floated, the sport of waves and tides. Some of my brothers were carried out to sea and so vanished; others were swallowed by fish. At last we all began instinctively to sink toward the bottom.

Then began again terrible destruction. Many fell on mud—the most fatal thing a young oyster can do. These perished at once. Others attached themselves to plants and weeds which grew at the bottom of the sea. They lived for a time—so long at least as the plant remained alive. Then, when the plant died, they perished as well.

Fortunately for myself, I drifted on to a bit of "culch"—that is to say, one of the old shells which the draggers and oyster men so carefully scatter all over the sea floor of an oyster bed. I settled with my deep shell uppermost and my flat or right shell nearest the ground. At the time I did not know why I did this. I have since realized that it was because in that position I should be more easily able to eject the sand and grit which a rough sea sometimes stirs up in shallow water. I attached myself firmly to my anchorage of "culch" and felt myself at last fairly started in life.

Soon I noticed that every single morsel of shell or stone around me was tenanted by tiny oysters, all lying in the same position as myself and all firmly anchored.

There I lay, unmoving, for nearly a year. Food, in the shape of tiny animalcules, which an oyster loves best, was plentiful. When the water was thick with it, we all opened our shells wide, and making currents in the water by means of the tiny hairs which fringe our gills and which men call our beard, we washed the dainties into our mouths. Our choicest delicacies were the minute green algae, which give to full grown oysters that greenish tinge that is the mark of the aristocratic native.

When I first anchored myself, I was but the twentieth of an inch in diameter—so small, indeed, that a microscope would have been necessary to examine me. At that stage my shell was perfectly transparent.

At the end of ten months I had increased in diameter to fully the size of a dime and become what is called "brood."

During all this time I had been learning many things. I found out that it was necessary to close my shell tight when dangers of various kinds threatened, when the tide was low or, in winter, when frost was severe. You may perhaps imagine that an oyster is a creature of such low organism that it cannot see or feel much of what is going on round about it. But you are wrong. The mantle fringe of an oyster is very sensitive. If you watched us from a boat in calm water, you would see that the mere shadow of the boat crossing an oyster bed will cause those of us upon whom it falls to close our shells immediately.

It was necessary to be most careful. Dangers were many and terrible. Sea urchins prowled among us and devoured many. But of all our foes the worst is the five fingered starfish. One of my sisters, anchored not a yard away, fell a victim to this terror of the oyster beds. It clutched her with its long fingers. She closed her shell. But the creature was not to be shaken off. Hour after hour it clung there until on the second day after its first grip she, poor thing, opened her shell to get a mouthful of food. At once the starfish injected into her a fluid which stupefied her so that she could not close again. Then the monster turned itself inside out, shot itself into the open shell and devoured her.

Then, one day a year after I had floated as "spat," came a startling change in my existence. Something huge and heavy came out of the shadow of a boat above and approached, stepping and grating along the bottom. It was a great triangular dredge of wrought iron. At the bottom was a flat bar with a blunt edge, known to the draggers as the "bit."

As the "bit" approached it scraped the bottom of the sea clean, and next instant I, too, found myself lifted and dropped into the net, together with hundreds like myself and a miscellaneous collection of small soles and other things.

One of the men sorted over the catch and, having selected all the oysters and spat, "shaded" the rest back into the sea through a porthole.

I, in company with enormous quantities of other brood, was put into a "wash"—a measure holding five and a quarter gallons—and relaid. Here life was less eventful and food most plentiful. To fatten well an oyster must have a certain amount of fresh water.

In this snug retreat I passed from brood to half ware and from half ware to ware, or full grown oyster. But I still went on growing and developing, until one day the dredge swept me up again, and I was raised once more into the upper air and rapidly brought in.

I was then dropped into a large bag and suspended in a tank of fresh sea water, which is constantly renewed. There I await my final fate, which will, I fear, be a fishmonger's counter.

—New York News.

SEEN ON THE STREET.

Shawl-like Fur Stoles—Black Velvet and Chiffon Velours.

One of the most novel walking costumes seen recently was of almond green cloth, trimmed with tiny green buttons. The coat was trimmed with four little capes, and the large sleeves appeared to be laid in successive folds after the fashion of the cape. The skirt of the coat was also trimmed at the lower edge with tucks, and the



CREAM CREPE DE CHINE DRESS.

skirt proper was trimmed at the bottom with five similar folds. This skirt was very full and barely escaped the ground.

Some of the new stoles are much too wide and are likely to detract from one's height. The well dressed woman will take these matters into consideration and only choose what is in good proportion according to her height.

Black chiffon velours and velvet are the very smartest black materials. Black broadcloth is not seen so much this winter as formerly.

The wide lace collar and the fichu are godsend to the girl who must occasionally renovate her old frocks. The illustration shows a gown of cream crepe de chine trimmed with shirring and having accented plaited angel sleeves. JUDITH CHOLLET.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE BEATEN AGAIN

Mary Malcolm's Life Was Measured by Days and Hours

Dodd's Kidney Pills Had Her Able To Be Out in A Week.

Another Remarkable Cure Brought Out by the Collingwood and Eglington Cases.

Toronto, Feb. 8.—(Special).—The interest in medical circles here over the cures of Mrs. Adams, of Collingwood, and Mrs. Philip, of Eglington, of Bright's Disease, has been given fresh fuel by another and yet more startling cure of that same terrible ailment. This latest case is that of a young girl, Mary Malcolm, who lives with her parents at 199 Marlborough Avenue, this city.

DEATH SEEMED SURE.

This cure is little short of miraculous. Miss Malcolm was in the clutches of Bright's Disease from May until September, and had sunk so low that her life was measured by days if not by hours. Hope had given place to a certainty of death, and her friends had turned to the sad task of preparing her grave clothes. These last ghastly garments are now in the house, but Mary Malcolm is a strong hearty maiden who can look on them without even a shudder of fear. Dodd's Kidney Pills effected the change. Here is the story as told by the girl's mother, Mrs. W. Malcolm:

"My daughter, Mary, who is now fourteen years old, was taken suddenly ill with Bright's Disease in May, 1902. We had the doctor and consulted with him till September, 1902, when he said he could do nothing more for her. She was so swollen with Dropsy as to be almost unrecognizable.

CURE WAS QUICK.

"From a book dropped in at the door, we learned of Dodd's Kidney Pills and as a last resort determined to try them. They gave her relief from the very beginning, so much so that in one week we were able to take her out to Munro Park for an afternoon.

"After taking four boxes, she was entirely cured and she has never had the slightest relapse. We can never say too much for Dodd's Kidney Pills, which certainly saved my daughter's life."

And Mary, the daughter on whom Bright's Disease had pronounced the sentence of death, now a picture of healthy girlhood, smiled a cheerful assent to her mother's statement and chimed in, "If I am ever sick again I will take nothing but Dodd's Kidney Pills."

It is hardly necessary to add that proof piled on proof has convinced the public that Bright's Disease is curable and that Dodd's Kidney Pills are the cure; that if the disease of the kidneys or from the kidneys the one unfailing remedy is Dodd's Kidney Pills.



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Whooping Cough, Croup, Bronchitis, Cough, Grip, Asthma, Diphtheria

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CRESOLENE is a long established and standard remedy for the diseases indicated. It cures because the air rendered strongly antiseptic is carried over the diseased surfaces of the bronchial tubes with every breath, giving prolonged and constant treatment. Those of a consumptive tendency, or suffering from chronic bronchitis, find immediate relief from coughs or inflamed conditions of the throat. Descriptive booklet free.

LEARNING, MILES & CO., 1451 Notre Dame St., Montreal, Canadian Agents

Cresolene Antiseptic Tablets dissolve in the mouth are effective and safe for coughs and irritation of the throat.

10c a box. ALL DRUGGISTS

Norwegians and Lapps, the tallest and the shortest people of the world, live side by side.

The scratch of a pin may cause the loss of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Balm. It is an antiseptic and unequalled as a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by All Druggists.

A man needs 1600 lbs. weight of food in a year, a woman 1200 lbs., and a child of six about 900 lbs.

Birth-marks which mark and mar the outside of the body are a grief to every mother whose children may bear them. But for every child who bears a birth-mark on the skin there are many who bear an indelible birth-mark on the mind. Nervous mothers have nervous children and many a man and woman owe an irritable and dependent temperament to those days of dread when the mother waited the hour of her maternity. The use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription strengthens the mother for her trial. With strength comes a buoyancy of spirits and quietness of mind, which is one of the happiest gifts a mother can bestow on her offspring. By giving vigor and elasticity to the delicate womanly organs "Favorite Prescription" practically does away with the pain of maternity and makes the baby's advent as natural and as simple as the blossoming of a flower. There is no opium, cocaine or other narcotic contained in "Favorite Prescription."

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The social climber believes that all's well that ends swell.

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Sure Sign of Spring.

People are beginning to leave their orders for papering and painting now. So be wise and don't wait until the rush is on.

Come now and pick your papers and set the date for your work, and we will do the rest.

TILT'S ART STORE.

Suitable Holiday Presents.

A nice line of Perfume in Boxes and Bulk. Nasmith's High Grade Chocolates in boxes. Roy's Sweets.

A beautiful line of Ebony Mirrors, Hair Brushes, Cloth Brushes and other natural woods.

A large assortment of Shaving Mugs, Brushes and straps.

Cigars in boxes of 10 and 25 from 50c up at

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