



Making Water Climb.

There are three old well-known ways of lifting water from a low to a high level. These are the pump, the hydraulic ram, and the Archimedes screw.

But if you use the force of a big stream to push a little stream of water up a pipe, this is something different. It is the fountain invented seventeen hundred years ago by a man called Hero, then rediscovered three centuries ago by Della Porta, an Italian.

Neither of them knew that compressed air wants to expand most powerfully—for instance, in the air brake which stops a railway train.

Working for Nothing.

If you use the push of descending water, and the pull of expanding air, you get the new invention called the "Hydraulomat."

It is a series of closed tanks alternating with a series of open tanks, in all a sort of stairway of tanks, up which a stream of water will climb, step by step, of its own accord.

The height to which it will climb depends on the headrace of the sea-side or of a running stream. The size of the tanks will vary with the amount of water available.

The water staircase, then, is a very simple set of tanks and pipes. It uses the natural pressure of the air, and the fall from a head of water, to push and pull a stream from tank to tank uphill. It works all by itself, so long as water flows. Only a front would put the machine out of action, or the need, perhaps, of an occasional clearing; but it has no working expenses whatsoever.

For that reason it will make poor nations rich and deserts fertile. That is why the greatest living authority on physics, Sir Oliver Lodge has an hydraulomat in his garden near Salisbury to test what is perhaps the most wonderful invention of the age.

For Fighting Fires.

The inventor, Mr. Allen, was born in America, but is a British subject, and lives in England. He made the first bicycle tour round the world, and has earned a large fortune as a manufacturer.

The first and simplest use of the great invention is in filling the tanks which are needed at the top of tall buildings in case of fire. Suppose that the public water supply runs up to one hundred feet, the hydraulomat will use that head of water to lift a small stream to the roof tanks. There is no expense in pumping, and no sound, whereas all sorts of pumps are noisy in actions and rather expensive to work.

The greater the head of water the larger the tanks it will fill, and the higher the water staircase. The Nile has a considerable supply of water, which supports eleven million people in the river flats.

With the hydraulomat, part of the flood water can be lifted right out of the Nile valley to make the surrounding deserts into a garden. Some of the water will evaporate and make dew to refresh the crops at night. Most of the water will flow back into the river, to be used all over again. They say that the British administration doubled the population of Egypt; the hydraulomat may double it again.

Transporting Rivers.

Babylon the Great had walls pretty nearly as high as the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, its hanging gardens were among the seven wonders of the world, and its population must have been well over a million, where now there is a naked desert. The Euphrates flowed through the city, and flows now through the shapeless mounds of ancient Babylon.

It is quite likely that by means of the hydraulomat this valley, once the centre of the world, will once more be fertile, full of people, supporting a mighty nation, where now there are scattered tribes of wandering Arabs.

One third of the great area of India is a desert awaiting the machinery which will lift the rivers from their beds and throw the water broadcast over the empty wastes. The hydraulomat may add a hundred millions to the population of India.

In China there is a big river, the Hoang-ho—a name meaning "The sorrow of China." When it floods it drowns millions of people. Not far away from the upper valley is the Gobi Desert, once an inland sea. It is possible that the hydraulomat will lift the surplus water out of the Hoang-ho to make Mongolia a rich and populous country.

Siam Has Discarded Worship of White Elephant.

BANGKOK, Siam.—White elephants are losing prestige in Siam, the country which made them famous. Although these animals are kept in captivity in Bangkok, the capital, they are no longer revered by the people as in former days. The possession of one or more white elephants was considered as one of the necessities of kingship by the early rulers of Siam and the other countries of the Malay peninsula. Disputes over the ownership were the cause of frequent wars. In the sixteenth century, for instance, Bayin Naur, King of Burma, demanding a white elephant from the King of Siam. Upon being refused, he invaded the country and captured the royal family and three white elephants. According to one of the Siamese legends, Gautama Buddha was once a white elephant, and his mother in a dream, met him in heaven in that shape. No elephants are entirely white. The so-called white elephants are only a little lighter in color than ordinary elephants. Sometimes one has a few white hairs on the head or tail.

A GIFT FOR THE KING.

In olden days, the discovery of the white elephant was a source of great joy to the people. After the animal had been tethered with silken cords, news would be sent to the king. Then a body of nobles would visit the place and escort the elephant, in stately procession, to the capital where a palace would be erected for it. After a period of taming the elephant would be given covers of velvet and silk, embroidered with gold and precious stones. A gold plate, bearing his name and titles, would be fastened to his head. Slaves, priests, musicians and dancing girls were set apart

Just Folks.

By EDGAR A. GUEST.

BOYS AND GIRLS.

Some folks pray for a boy, and some for a golden-haired little girl to come. Some claim to think there is more of joy wrapped up in the smile of a little boy. While others pretend that the sticky curls and plump, pink cheeks of his little girl bring more of bliss to the old home place. Than a small boy's queer little freckled face.

Now which is better I couldn't say. If the Lord should ask me to choose today.

If He should put in a call for me, And say: "Now what shall your order be?"

A boy or girl? I have both in store. Which of the two are you waiting for?"

"Send either one, if it can't be twins!"

I've heard it said to some people's shame They cried with grief when a small boy came.

For they wanted a girl. And some folks I know Who wanted a boy just took on so

When a girl was sent. But it seems to me That mothers and fathers should happy be

To think when the Stork has come and gone That the Lord would trust them with either one.

Boy or girl? There can be no choice; There's something lovely in either voice.

And all that I ask of the Lord to do, is to see that the mother comes safely through

And guard the baby and have it well With a perfect form and a healthy yell.

And a pair of eyes and a shock of hair, Then, boy or girl—and it's dad won't care.

for his amusement. The finest vegetables and fruits were given him as food. But nowadays white elephants have gone out of style. At the present time they are brought to Bangkok by train, without any guard of honor. They are housed in ordinary stables, with no priests or dancing-girls in attendance. Hay, leaves and young bamboos are given them to eat. The white elephant now lives the same work-a-day life as his darker skinned fellows, though in the legends of the Siamese and in their national flag he will be honored for centuries to come.

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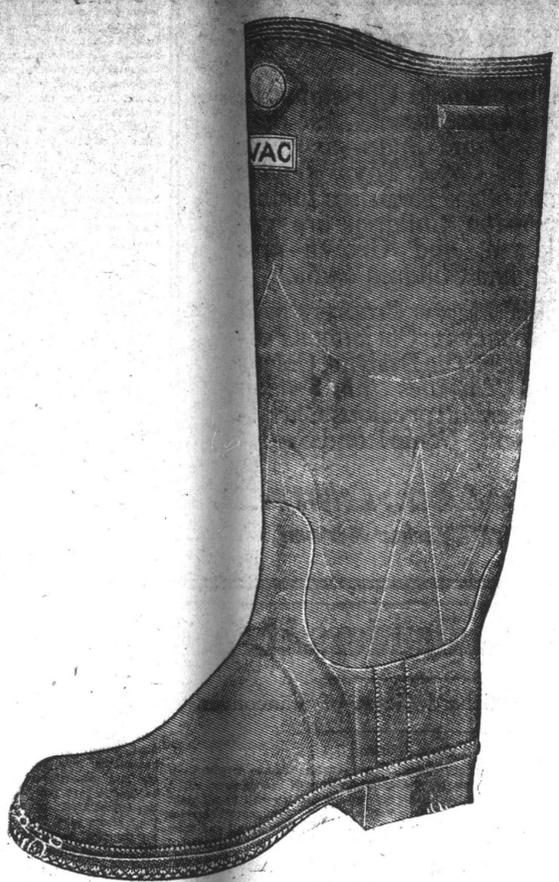
The Progressive Germ.

A man called on his family physician, who was also a family friend, with the information that his son had scarlet fever. "But the worst of it," said the anxious father, "is that the young scamp confesses he got it from kissing the housemaid." "Well," said the doctor, soothingly, "young people are often very thoughtful." "But, don't you see, doctor! Now to be plain—between you and me—I've kissed that girl myself!" "Oh, by Jove! That's too bad!" The doctor still used his most soothing professional tones. "And," continued the unhappy patient, "as I kiss my dear wife every morning and night, I'm afraid that she, too—" But he was interrupted by the doctor dropping his professional manner with a crash. "Good heavens!" he yelled excitedly. "Then I, too, may have it!"

At the dance, white turbans are featured prominently, tinsel thread stitching being the only ornamentation.



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