

outline of the dialogue between the god and Captain might not be amiss. Neptune opens in a stentorian voice :

“Ship Ahoy!”

“Hallo!”

“What ship is that ?”

“British barque——of——”

“Where are you from?”

“London.”

“Where are you bound ?”

“The River.”

“Oh yes, I know. You have some uninitiated candidates for nautical mysteries. I will be on board later; meantime have a baptismal font prepared.”

“Ay, ay, sir”

“Thank you; good night”

“Good night, sir.”

By this time one bell has gone with its warning to the then watch below to get ready, so that at eight bells (8 p.m.) they will be prepared to leave the watch ; this done things settle down as before with the exception of the numerous questions regarding Neptune, put to the old sailors, by the boys, and, I can assure you, it is not, “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth” that goes to make up the reply. Now let us pass through the night and we find at 5 a. m. the watch getting coffee ; this pleasant repast over, the next thing is to get the font erected and the lather mixed in readiness for the coming visit. The boys get a puncheon, if there is one on board, if not a new sail suspended by the clews and earrings (four corners) will do ; this they fill with salt water, leaving the lather for older and wiser heads. The ingredients of this refreshing mixture are ; 1 pint of slush (grease from boiled meat), 1 pint of tar, 1 cup of cod fish oil, and one cup of black paint well mixed together.

Now that we have complied with Neptune's wish we