

AT POMPEII.
ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH A MAN-
SION OF STRANGE DESIGN.

Two Ladies Found Perfectly Preserved
After Burial in Cinders and Lava for
Nearly Two Thousand Years—Half the
City Has Now Been Excavated.

It has been almost 140 years since the first stroke of the archaeologist's pickaxe in the ruins of Pompeii, and there have been published thousands of books and pamphlets on the subject, yet, as a French archaeologist once remarked: "However much is said about Pompeii there remains much to be said."
 After many months of discouragingly-sterile explorations in these famous ruins, important new discoveries have been made. Another house has been found, whose architecture is considerably different from any yet unearthed. The parts so far restored are the peristyle or pillars surrounding the house, the main court with chambers on each side, and the bath and kitchen. The main entrance has not yet been found and is supposed to be at some distance on the so-called Street of Mercury. The peristyle has columns partly round and partly octagonal. The mosaic pavement of this mansion is very beautiful. The chambers are ornamented with frescoes, the most of them poor in design, with one exception which represents some of the adventures of Hercules. There are many other respects in which this house differs from the others so far uncovered. There seems to have been no prevailing style of architecture in the city, and one can discern reminiscences of Egypt, Greece and the Orient in the construction and decoration of the houses. Pompeii, a city without industry and without commerce, was chiefly a sort of watering place where the rich merchants of Italy came to live after they had made their fortunes or during the hot months. It had thus a cosmopolitan character and the ruins contain many a trace of the cultivated taste of its traveled inhabitants.

Of far more interest than the newly-discovered house are two bodies, which have just been dug up in another part of the city. They are the first found in the ruins in some time and are as perfect as they were on that fatal day in the year 79 A.D. when the city was swallowed up in the ashes and lava of Mt. Vesuvius. The bodies are those of a man and a woman and were found side by side. Except a certain contraction in the limbs of the man the bodies present a calm and peaceful appearance, and it is evident that death overtook them instantly and without warning.
 The fact that they have been so perfectly preserved since within half a century from the time Christ lived on earth is explained by the enormous envelope of cinders which protected them through the centuries from the air. They are partly petrified, like most of the bodies found at Pompeii. They have been placed in a special museum.
 That the dust and ashes which cover Herculaneum and Pompeii are the accumulations of more than one Vesuvian eruption is proved by the number of different layers, aggregating in some places as much as 15 feet. The comparatively few bodies found, and the almost entire absence of objects of great value show that most of the 20,000 inhabitants escaped and returned to bury their dead and recover their treasures. Less than half the city has been excavated.

A Friendship.
 One of the pleasantest of friendships is that between a young and a middle-aged woman. (There are no old women nowadays). If the two women are of exactly the right sort, the friendship is almost an ideal one. There can be no jealousy. The elder woman is too old to be envious of the younger, either of her loves or her companionship. The younger feels the superiority of her youth too keenly to care for the regard cherished by the older for her contemporaries. But each possesses a charm to which the other returns with never-ceasing delight.
 The older friend smiles over but rejoices in the freshness and ardor, the eager anticipations and daring impetuosity, of her companion. She speaks no word of discouragement. It is beautiful, this demanding youth, this splendid audacity, to which all earthly achievements are possible. It is the highest earthly wisdom to recognize that all this enthusiasm is needed for the lessons which divine wisdom shall teach.
 And the younger woman, pouring out her hopes and expectations, her passionate longings and wishful imaginings, feels strongly the mellow graciousness which experience has brought. Dimly she wonders at the content that is always the most puzzling to the youthful heart. Contentment should only be found on mountain peaks, she thinks.

Yet the large-hearted charity which endures all things, believes all things, and hopes all things is an ever-refreshing surprise. Sometimes as she breathes its fragrance the vague question stirs: "Is it possible that this charity, this content of themselves, are attainments? Is it so? Can it be? Ah, no!"
 No, not yet! For youth is the longing; for age, the knowledge that the longing was never meant to be satisfied here. Each is best for its own time. In such a friendship each grace finds its complement in the other.—Harper's Bazar.

Insects Are Practically Voiceless.
 If by voice we understand sounds produced by air expelled from the lungs, which, passing through the larynx, are modified by the tongue and emitted from the mouth, insects are unquestionably voiceless. At the same time, insects usually regarded as dumb may really produce sounds which are beyond our range of hearing. The sounds which insects make are produced in various ways—by the wings, or spiracles (breathing holes), and by rubbing one part of the body against another. The song of the cicadas has been celebrated from time immemorial; the chirping of the cricket and the grasshopper is also familiar to us. The musical organs of the former are internally placed, the sound issuing out of two holes at the base of the abdomen, while the chirping of crickets is made by rubbing the wing covers together. Flies and gnats, like the cockchafer, dragon fly and certain bees, produce sounds through the spiracles. The voice thus produced appears to some extent to be under the control of the will, and thus offers another point of similarity to a true voice. For instance, a bee in pursuit of honey hums continually and contentedly on A, but if it is angry or excited it produces a different note.

COPPER CAN BE TEMPERED.
A Canadian Blacksmith Rediscovers a
Lost Art.

A poor French-Canadian blacksmith named Ferdinand Allard, of L'Assomption, Quebec, has discovered the secret of the lost art of hardening copper so that edged tools of that metal will equal the best steel, and copper plates will turn any ball. The announcement of the discovery, though involving results of the greatest economic importance, attracted, as often happens in such cases, little or no local notice, but outside of his own country Allard's invention promises to be eagerly seized upon. It was brought to the attention of Major-General Herbert, the commander of the Canadian militia, and the cutting tools made by Allard were submitted to his inspection and to that of engineers named by him. All of the examiners expressed their surprise at the wonderful edge and hardness that had been attained. It was the general's suggestion, made with an eye to the possibility of the discovery's being utilized for the arming of British war vessels, that the inventor prepare a sheet of his hardened copper, 14 of a fine thickness, to be tested under the direction of the lords of the admiralty. Private reports from England state that the experiments in the royal dockyards have proved eminently successful, though nothing official upon the subject has yet been communicated to Allard. At a preliminary trial of similar sheets at the rifle ranges, the bullet, fired from a distance of forty yards, was shattered into a thousand fragments by its first impact with the hardened copper. On the second trial the missile, striking the plate more fairly, was completely flattened, but remained embedded in the plate, which it merely dented slightly, without cracking it in any way. Allard's friends declare that all the tests so far made have proved most satisfactory, and that the inventor, among other things, has made by his process a copper razor equal in edge and temper to the best article of the famous Rodgers manufacture.

The story of how Allard came to rediscover the art which was known to the ancients, and especially to the old pyramid-builders of Egypt, reads like a romance. Thirty-three years ago, when working at his trade in the United States, he heard a comrade in the same shop say that the man who could rediscover the lost secret of tempering copper would make a fortune. Ever afterward this saying haunted his mind, and for over thirty years he sought the secret in vain. He made thousands of experiments which ended only in failure and disappointment. A hundred times he vowed that if the next trial failed he would abandon the search, which was wasting his limited means and proving seemingly a veritable will-o'-the-wisp for him. At last he fully decided to make one more trial, and if that failed to give the whole thing up forever. A new combination had occurred to his mind and success crowned his efforts.

One-Piece Barrels.
 A German has patented a process for making barrels without staves. The trunk of a tree is sawed into lengths to the size of the barrel required, and the chunks are placed in a boiler and boiled for a few hours. It is believed that if a current of electricity be passed through the boiler a chemical action is generated that softens the wood for working. After the boiling the bark is stripped from the chunks. In front of a cutting tool the chunks are held by forks in a manner similar to that in which a piece of wood is held in a lathe. The chunk revolves rapidly against the edge of a fixed broad blade that cuts a continuous sheet of soft wood of any desired thickness. The strip passes to a flat table, where it is cut transversely into lengths of the required size. One machine cuts grooves for the head and the bottom, and another cuts V-shaped slots out of the edges. Then the pieces are bent into cylinders and hooped. Moisture is extracted by a drying apparatus.

Wonder Workers.
 An English mint possesses an electrically operated machine for counting coins.
 There is a tree in Jamaica known as the life tree on account of its leaves growing even after being severed from the plant; only by fire can it be entirely destroyed.

The Russian physician who proposes to cure neuralgic pains by throwing a beam of electric light from an arc lamp on the part affected is entitled to a respectful hearing. It will be a long time before we exhaust the uses of this mystic agent.
 A French manufacturer makes minute electric lamps about the size of a pea for the use of photographers in the dark room. They are intended to be mounted in the middle of a pair of spectacles or on the frame without the glasses, the lamp being shielded by a reflector. The battery is made up of accumulator cells.

A Substitute for Asbestos.
 A new material, not unlike asbestos in its properties, has been discovered in immense deposits in the United States of Columbia. It is stated to be the color of amber, perfectly transparent, and incombustible. Experiments made at Bogota indicate that it will be of great value for the manufacture of bank note paper, for fireproof and waterproof roofing tiles, and for suits for firemen. A white varnish can be extracted from it. The substance has been named by cara manquina, and it is expected to prove of greater importance than asbestos.

The Earth's Population.
 The latest estimates make the total population of the earth 1,440,000,000. This also set down that the languages spoken number 3,000. The Lutheran Kirchzeitung states that the Bible is now accessible to fully two-thirds of the human race. It is true that the Scriptures have been translated into not more than 187 languages, but those are the dominating tongues of the world, and through them Christianity reaches the bulk of mankind—or may do so. England and America are immeasurably ahead in the production of translators and translations.

Cloth from Wood.
 A German chemist has patented a method for the isolation of the fibers of wood so that they can be spun and made into yarns capable of being woven. The wood is first cut into thin strips, which are repeatedly passed between roughened rollers, so that they are bent and cracked in many places. After thorough treatment in this manner the mass is finally changed into a fibrous substance, the fibres being very delicate and soft, and yet strong. It is said that the material can be spun like cotton, and takes colors very well.

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