

WRITING WITH FIRE.

"TELEPHOTOS," A SYSTEM OF SIGNALLING BY FLASHES.

Enabling Communication to be Had With Ships Fifteen Miles Out at Sea—The Inventor Gives the Public a Specimen of Its Operation.

The letters seemed to stand out in fire from the wall of the darkened room, and those who were present read them like Daniel read the writing at Belshazzar's feast—that is, if they understood the Morse telegraph alphabet, they could read it.

It was up in the top story of the Buffalo Seal and Press Company's building at the corner of Seventh and Hudson streets, says the Buffalo Commercial, and a hundred or more of the city's best known scientific, professional and business men were present.

The occasion was the introduction of the "telephotos," to those who have long been anxious to catch a glimpse of the instrument that promises to instantly convey messages over a space of 10 or 15 miles of land or water, without the medium of wires, tubes or anything save atmosphere.

It is the child of Mr. C. C. Soughton's brain. For most three years the inventor has been working patiently upon it, and now he has a telephoto that he thinks is about perfection. That is why Mr. Soughton invited his friends in last evening and introduced them to a device that is destined to become a marked feature in army and navy service.

It is an extremely simple thing, and its simplicity is one of its strongest features.

In order to understand it imagine two parallel boards, 27 feet long and about two inches apart. In the space between these boards 100 incandescent electric lights of ordinary size are placed so close together that they touch, and form one solid line of lights. This shaft of lights can be placed in any position, but in actual use is intended to dangle from a mast or flag staff. The Morse telegraph alphabet, as almost everybody knows, is composed of two characters; the dot and the dash, in other words a small dot and a straight line or dash. All the letters and numbers are composed by forming combinations of these two characters. For example a dot preceding a dash is "A," and a dash followed by three dots is "B." Returning to the light shaft, and reading from top to bottom, suppose that two of the incandescent lights at the top are illuminated, and then a dozen more further down are turned on at the same time. You will see as a result a small spot of light and a straight line of light, or according to Morse, a dot and a dash. It will be readily seen that all required to write any letter or word is to throw on the current illuminating the lights in different forms and combinations. To do this quickly, is one of the nice points of the machine. An instrument resembling a type-writing machine connects each letter and character in the alphabet with a combination of lights corresponding with it upon the light shaft. To do this 5,000 wires are necessary, but they are held together so closely by a cable that they only occupy a space of 12 inches.

The operator simply writes upon the key board of the sending apparatus, and the letters he strikes stand out in electric fire from the otherwise dark surface of the shaft.

A 32 candle power can be distinguished at a distance of 10 miles or more. This light can be produced by a small dynamo worked by a naphtha lamp, when the telephotos is in use on shore. On shipboard that is hardly necessary, as all vessels now-a-days have an electric light machine. A test has already proved successful between this city and Point Abino.

The telephotos has been patented by Mr. Soughton in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Austria.

Shattering One of Youth's Idols.

As far back as 1697 doubt was cast on the story of Tell. The Swiss naturally defended the existence of the hero, and in 1769, when a pamphlet was published undertaking to prove his mythical character, it was burned publicly by order of the government of the canton of Uri, and many "proofs" were produced in favor of the existence of the famous patriot. In 1835 the historian Kopp cast further doubt on Tell's existence, and only as recently as 1867 and 1877 has it been proved finally that he was a mythical character; that "a mythological marksmen and an impossible ballist bearing the name of a real family have been joined with confused and distorted reminiscences of the events of 1315-17 (the confederation of the cantons against Austria) in which the names of many real persons have been introduced, and many unauthenticated acts attributed to them." The story of the archer who shoots a small object from another person's head is widespread in Denmark; it has almost precisely the form of the Tell legend, and it exists in Norway, Iceland, on the Rhine, and even in England, where William of Clonsley, one of Robin Hood's companions, is the hero.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Wonderful Things in Heredity.

It is a fact well established by students of heredity that children are apt to inherit not only the physical, mental and moral traits of their parents, but to be influenced by their age as well. Children born of very young fathers and mothers never attain so vigorous a growth of mind or body as those of older men and women, while children of old people are born old. One of the most surprising cases in medical history is that of Marguerite Grisowna, who died in 1763, aged 128 years. When 94 she was married to a man aged 105. Three children came of this union, but they had gray hair, no teeth, were stooped, yellow and wrinkled, decrepit in movement, and could eat only bread and vegetables.—New York Sun.

Urging a Canal System for Europe.

The president of the Vienna Corn Exchange, in a recent speech, said that grain growing in Europe had ceased to be remunerative owing to the development of new agricultural regions and to the lowering of railroad rates. The only chance he could see for the European farmer was in the construction of a network of canals in central Europe. Cheap water transportation would help the European farmer against the competition of the United States, India and Australia.

WHEN YOUR HEART FLUTTERS.

You Are Probably Suffering From Dyspepsia and Nothing More Serious.

"There are few things in life," said an experienced physician to a writer for the New York Ledger, "to which many men and women cling more persistently than to the idea that there is something the matter with the heart. They have a little palpitation, a little fluttering or a little distress, and straightway they have some form of heart disease, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred there is no more use in reasoning with them than there is in whistling at the wind. Tell them that they simply have dyspepsia or some form of indigestion and they are as indignant as you can imagine. The idea that they should have anything so common as dyspepsia! And do you know, it took me a good many years to make up my mind why it is that people are so unwilling to admit that they have indigestion, and the most unwilling are those who are very fond of the good things of life. It is the good feeders who think they have heart disease and are angry when they are contradicted. Indigestion suggests cutting off of some of the delicacies of which they are fond, and of whatever else you deprive them, never meddle with their diet. I think it perfectly safe to assert that out of 1,000 persons who are certain that they have an organic disease of the heart 999 have some form of gastric difficulty. It may be more or less obscure—indeed, it often is—but all the same it's there, and that is the cause of the trouble. Indigestion or dyspepsia, with its many variations, is an awfully common, ordinary disease. There isn't anything very high sounding or dignified about it.

"I had a patient once who by no process of reasoning could be made to believe that he had any disturbance of the digestive apparatus. As long as I called it by any of the ordinary names he was as irritable and disagreeable about it as a really amiable and good-natured man could be. One day he stumbled across a term in something of a religious nature, and when next he came to me his face was beaming with delight. He had just found out what ailed him, and when I agreed with him he was simply overjoyed. He had a good deal of sharp pain in the region of the digestive apparatus, and when he made up his mind that he had pneumogastric neuralgia he was perfectly willing to be treated for that or any other disease. I saw fit to give him medicine for, provided I called his trouble by that name.

How to Cure a Cold.

The following is the advice given by a prominent doctor for getting rid of a cold: When the first symptoms manifest themselves is the time for action, and this should consist of a hot mustard foot bath before going to bed and a hot draught of milk. The covering of the body should be linen and wool, the former in the way of the sheet and the latter in the blanket. No attempt to get up an active sweating should be made. The foot bath and the warm drink will give a sense of warmth and facilitate the natural excretion of materials which should pass away by the skin, and any effort to arrest this will be not only superfluous but harmful. The blanket should never be worn next to the night robe, and should not be so thick as to confine the air next to the body. It is, indeed, often advisable to lighten the covering of the feet, and to preserve a certain amount of weight over the loins, and to have the shoulders protected from the external surroundings in general. The last measure is not to be underrated. A sensitive lung carries with it susceptibility to take to itself everything that could possibly affect it to its detriment. Lung diseases belong to sensitive persons, and may or may not be the sequence of a cold. The majority of them, however, can be traced to imprudence in dress and exposure. Pneumonia, pleurisy and consumption are partners of carelessness in the dressing of the chest and back, and "colds," which might stop at the throat by a little prudence, are their apprentices. If you have unconsciously contracted a cold and want to get relief from it, you must, in the first place, avoid too much medication. A properly clad skin and a clear digestion ought to shorten the life of the "cold." If a little comfort can be secured by wearing a light covering on the head during indoor hours, it should be respected. Ventilation of apartments comes in for a slight amount of attention, and it should be simply sufficient to furnish fresh air and not to produce currents which can be appreciated. Nothing is more fallacious than the belief that health is promoted and life prolonged by air in excess, and this is proved by tombstones. There are a few good remedies which appeal to us as matters of tradition. Our grandfathers used them with effect, and we might follow their example without injury. One of these is sassafras tea, another is boneset tea and another is senna tea. Each has its office, and each is of value in its peculiar line, and at the same time is harmless.

What Are Called Showers in the Tropics.

Some idea of how it rains in the tropics may be gleaned by northern readers from a few items in the West Indian newspapers relative to the "autumn showers." One day it is noted that on a previous evening "a block occurred on the car line at North street, one of the cars being unable to cross the gully, down which the water was rushing like a river." Another day several gangs of men were reported out repairing the damage done to the car tracks by the "showers of the previous day." Next day the city had men out "clearing up the debris washed down by the showers." At a celebration some people were detained in the building over three hours by the showers. The children were kept from school one day. And there have been times when the "showers" have developed into "heavy rains," and business has had to be suspended in Kingston, even to the extent of newspapers suspending publication. But the marvelous way the country freshens up after the showers makes them not only welcome, but simply delightful.—New York Sun.

1892

Fall and Winter.

1893

AGAIN Grim Winter is upon us; again we must bestir ourselves to withstand his attacks.

MEMORIES of past winters and by-gone experiences have taught us what is needed, and we have secured the best things in

STAPLE and fancy Dry Goods, Fine Boots and Shoes, Men's and Women's Rubbers & Overshoes, etc., that the market affords, and at prices that keen competition and stern necessity always offer to the cash buyer.

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Our Customers come from far and near. Our Stock is fully assorted for Winter, and MISS KINSEY will undertake to satisfy the most fastidious in this line.

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