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CLIMBING A CHIMNEY

The Way the Steeplejack Does His Dangerous Work.

HIS APPARATUS IS SIMPLE.

A Couple of Bo'n's Chairs, a Trio of L Shaped Iron Pegs, a Heavy Hammer and a Ball of Twine Will Take Him In Safety to the Summit.

In the climbing and repair of chimneys and steeples it is, as in so many of the upward steps of life, undoubtedly the first which counts, says the New York Times. Once set your man, with a ball of twine tucked in the pocket of his coat, safely astride the coping of the big brewery chimney which rears its bulk of brickwork perhaps 300 feet above surrounding roofs or on the apex of the steeple of a church, his arm around the weather vane's vibrating pole, and you have the means by which ropes, ladders, scaffolding and all the necessary structure for examination and repairs may be brought into place. To get the first man to the giddy summit—that is the question.

There was a day when this was not infrequently accomplished by what at first sight might appear the somewhat frivolous method of kites. A kite having a goodly length of string attached to its tail was raised in the usual manner and gradually coaxed over the steeple or chimney under treatment, then drawn down until the tail string lay across the top. It was then merely a matter of time and patience to pass a rope over and haul up a man. But the method had obvious disadvantages. To draw the tail line successfully across a chimney top, still more across the pointed spire of a church, often took more than one or two attempts. Moreover, there must be a fair wind blowing at the time, and a large open space available close by in which to raise the kite—this last condition one not often found about the chimney stacks or steeples of a town. Another system was that of ladders built upward from the steeple's base, exceedingly cumbersome and, in the opinion of many modern steeplejacks, highly dangerous.

The man who on this morning stands beside us at the foot of a great shaft of brickwork towering skyward from the very center of a famous northern town will fly no kite, nor does a wagon load of sectional ladders wait his orders in the yard. A small man, sinewy and lean faced, is he, and all the tackle that he needs to take him safely to the coping sixty yards above our heads has traveled to the scene of action in his pockets or his hands. On the ground before him are two bo'n's chairs, or short planks, through holes at either end of which a rope is passed, forming a loop by which the chair may be hoisted. Beside them lie three L shaped iron pegs or staples. The longer arm of each peg has a sharply pointed end and is nearly a foot in length; the short arm is but two or three inches long. The handle of a heavy hammer peeps from the pocket of our companion's coat, and that is all.

Taking a staple in his hand, he drives it into the chimney at a point breast high above the ground. On this he hangs a chair, and, mounting, drives a second peg two or three feet above the first. On this the second chair is hung. The upright arm at a right angle to the peg precludes all danger of the rope slipping off. Nor do the chairs hang close against the shaft, for strips of wood projecting from each end insure a space in which the climber's legs are free to move. Now, stepping up into the second chair the steeplejack drives the last of his three pegs. Above him is a peg, below another one, on which hangs a chair. Leaning aside and down, he lifts this chair and hangs it above him on the topmost peg; leans down and with a twist of his fork headed hammer wrenches out the peg. This is less dangerous or difficult than might at first be supposed, for the pegs are never driven deeply in, having but the steeplejack's light weight to bear, and that only for a few minutes at a time, while should the hammer or a peg slip from his hand it is easily recovered by means of the ball of twine in his coat pocket and the watcher below.

Such is the system—the mere mechanical repetition of the movements just described—which has carried him safely to the top of many a giant stack. Arrived at the summit of the chimney he will find holdfasts built into the masonry—sometimes a massive bar or chain is stretched across the shaft—to which a rope and pulley blocks can be made fast. This done, he can descend and reascend at will, scaffolding can be slung and inspection and repairs be carried out.

At the Bargain Counter. "That sharp tongued Miss Redpepp has been saying some mighty mean things about you and your wife." "What for instance?" "Says you picked her up at a bargain counter." "Great Scott, I did! She was the prettiest girl that ever stood behind one."

Generous. Professional Faster—I should like to undertake a fast of four weeks in this show of yours. How much will you pay me. Showman—I can't give you any salary, but I will pay for your keep.

There is as yet no method of progress known to men that is so rich and complete as that which is ministered by a truly great friendship.—Phillips Brooks.

"FOOL GUNNERY" IN THE NAVY.

Writer Says Methods on British Warships Are Out of Date.

The British fleet is now having its share of disparagement, and under the title of "Fool Gunnery in the Navy," a writer in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine declares that no ship of the most recent type which flies the "White Ensign" is properly equipped to sail out and demolish a naval antagonist. He lays the whole blame for this condition of things upon the lack of training and experience in the naval gunnery with which he charges the officers. Thus he bluntly declares: "The fleets at sea are undoubtedly well up to the standard of gunnery required by the Admiralty. The standards set up by that body, however, are not the standards of war. Nor do they remotely resemble war, and as they now exist public agitation should go on unceasingly, 'hesitating at nothing,' to use Sir John Fisher's own phrase, until such times as they have been remodeled on a fighting footing."

He particularizes as follows: "In the work of destruction of an enemy by guns, the fleet are not properly led or assisted by the Admiralty Board. The study of war not strategically or tactically, but so far as depends on gunnery efficiency, is neglected. Their orders and policy, and the general tenor of their thoughts as interpreted by the fleets, leads only to one thing—and that the ability of single ships to hit 'fixed' canvas targets. The target with many holes leads many an inland ironmonger to imagine that his country is safe; also that he is getting value for his money from the guns of the fleet. The poor target is a matter of time and patience to pass a rope over and haul up a man. But the method had obvious disadvantages. To draw the tail line successfully across a chimney top, still more across the pointed spire of a church, often took more than one or two attempts. Moreover, there must be a fair wind blowing at the time, and a large open space available close by in which to raise the kite—this last condition one not often found about the chimney stacks or steeples of a town. Another system was that of ladders built upward from the steeple's base, exceedingly cumbersome and, in the opinion of many modern steeplejacks, highly dangerous."

The long-course gunnery school at the principal gunnery school at Portsmouth get the very briefest amount of practical instruction in spotting. It is easy to be misled on this point. They get instruction on short-range spotting, which is useless to them. . . . The time of these young officers is entirely devoted to learning the number of cogs in some impossible wheel, ballistic theories, and the art of blackening their faces in deference to an overdone mechanical craze which is out of place in a school of gunnery."

The spotting is practically left to be learned at sea. The spotters are learned almost at random. The gunnery of the ship is thus committed to those who know almost as little about it as a landsman, and for six or nine months at the beginning of a cruise the ship would be at the mercy of a properly trained antagonist. Anybody on board a ship spots who can cajole the captain into letting him do so, we are told, yet while "gun-pointing may be summed up as muscle combined with mental brinks, brainwork is required, in seeing that the most effective use is got out of the muscles at the gun." The critic concludes: "The bare fact stands that captains are not given officers who can effectively control their gunnery."

Burglar With a Great Brain. There is a reformed burglar in London who is said to have the brain of a Cabinet Minister. This statement is made on the authority of a well-known medical man, who even went so far as to class this ex-criminal's intellect as better than that of a distinguished Parliamentarian whom he named.

Fortunately for the cause of psychology and human advancement, this interesting example of misplaced genius has seen the error of his ways and has given over his character and experience to the cause of science. He has been studied carefully by the doctor alluded to and by other experts in criminology, including Sir Ralph Littler, chairman of the Mid-dlesex quarter sessions, and he was taken as a living picture before a private gathering of psychological students.

"He is a most intellectual man," said the doctor. "His case is an extraordinarily striking instance of the fact that nine times out of ten it is society that makes the criminal, and that until we get a state of affairs in which a man with brains has a chance of congenial work we cannot hope to reduce our percentage of crime."

The reformed burglar has had a remarkable career—even for a jailbird. During the time in which he gave his predatory instincts full rein he displayed the utmost daring and cleverness, and he was concerned in the "cracking" of some big "cribs." It is said that more than twenty years of his life have been spent in prison. At present he is subsisting quietly on the proceeds of authorship and other noncriminal occupations, and while there are no indications that he is making his fortune in these less sensational paths he is understood to be satisfied with his modest rewards.

Two Moons. Mr. Lansing was reading his evening paper when his daughter Marie, aged seven, rushed into the house, greatly excited. "Father! Father!" she exclaimed breathlessly. "What is it, my child?" cried the proud parent anxiously. "Oh, papa, there's two moons to-night."

"Two moons! No, you're mistaken. There is only one moon."

"Yes, there is," she insisted. "When I was around the corner at Jessie Benson's house, I saw one, and there's another right over our roof."

CHINESE LANGUAGE.

Difference Between the Written Characters and Speech.

The dialects or languages of the Chinese empire are very numerous and dissimilar. Thus a Chinese speaking the dialect of the Kwangtung (Canton) province is not understood by a Chinese residing in the neighboring province of Fukien. The language or dialect spoken at Shanghai would be quite strange to the people residing at Peking. Written characters of Chinese are, however, understood and recognized in the same manner as our Arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., are recognized by the eye throughout Europe. But as these numerals when pronounced or read have entirely different sounds attached to them in England, France, Germany, Italy, etc., so the Chinese written characters are spoken in totally different words and sounds in the several provinces of China, with, however, the important exception that the mandarin language is spoken or understood more or less throughout three-fourths of China or, roughly speaking, in nearly all the provinces north and west of the river Yangtze.

The language known as Wen-li is the medium by which the classical books of China have been handed down. It is far excellence the written language of China, but it is not generally understood by the great mass of the people. The spoken language—viz, Mandarin—may also be written, and there is a good deal of colloquial literature in Mandarin. Versions of the Bible in the several districts of the southeast, where the dialects are very numerous and diverse.

In the Chinese written language there are over 40,000 distinct characters or symbols, and this vast number is being constantly increased by the addition of new characters to represent new scientific words and modern ideas.

Although the Chinese are considered a literary people and have naturally a desire for education, yet owing to the extreme difficulty of mastering the Chinese characters it is estimated that only one in ten of the population can read or write.—Contemporary Review.

LIVED AFTER HANGING.

Men and Women Who Survived the Ordeal of the Scaffold. Innumerable instances of resurrection after hanging are recorded. Henry III. granted a pardon to a woman named Inetta de Baltham, who was suspended from 9 o'clock on a Monday to sunrise of Thursday and afterward "came to." Dr. Plot tells of a Swiss who was hanged up thirteen times without effect on account of the peculiar condition of his windpipe, it having been converted into bone by disease.

Annie Green, a servant girl, was hanged at Oxford in 1659 and recovered fourteen hours afterward under a doctor's treatment. Mrs. Cope, who was hanged at the same place eight years later, also recovered. On Sept. 2, 1724, Margaret Dickson was hanged at Edinburgh and recovered while being carried to the grave. She lived for many years afterward and was universally known as "Half Hanged Maggie Dickson."

A housebreaker named Smith was hanged at Tyburn in 1705. A reprieve came when he had been suspended a quarter of an hour. He was cut down, bled and revived. William Duell, hanged in London in 1740, revived and was transported. A man hanged in Cork in 1785 was taken in hand by a physician who brought him round in six hours, and we are told the fellow had the nerve to attend a theatrical performance the same evening.

Richard Johnson, hanged at Shrewsbury, Oct. 8, 1696, obtained a promise from an undersheriff to place him in the coffin without changing his clothes. After hanging half an hour he still showed signs of life, and on examination it was found he had wrapped cords about his body connected with hooks at the neck which prevented the rope from doing its work. The apparatus was removed and the man hanged effectually.

It may be offered in explanation of the cases mentioned that there was no drop used at executions in those days, the culprit usually suffering asphyxia without the central column being broken.—London Tit-Bits.

Grim Comedy. A certain young actress was constantly irritated by the pompous behavior of the actor-manager in whose company she was playing. "Now, Miss Blank," said the great one, "you'll have an opportunity to show your talents in another direction. I've cast you for a dandy part, small, but 'fat.' And you'll have a chance to study me in a new role. You've never seen me do farce comedy, have you?" "Yes, I have," contradicted Miss Blank; "I've seen your Macbeth."

The Pain of It. "I wouldn't have minded being whipped so much," said the young culprit, "if the teacher hadn't said that my punishment hurt him more than it did me."

"That oughtn't to make you feel any worse."

"Well, it did. What he punished me for was telling stories."

Barred Out. "Don't you feel well?" asked a friend. "Not very," answered Mr. Cumrox. "Why don't you go home?" "I can't. Mother and the girls are giving a tea, and I'm not invited."

Misery may love company, but it doesn't entertain its company very well.

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RAILWAY TIME-TABLE

GOING WEST		
	No. 1	No. 8
Brockville (leave)	9.30 a.m.	4.20 p.m.
Lyn	9.55	4.45
Seelays	*10.05	4.42
Fortilton	*10.18	4.48
Elbe	*10.24	4.58
Athens	10.38	5.05
Soperton	*10.58	5.22
Lyndhurst	*11.05	5.29
Delta	11.13	5.35
Elgin	11.22	5.49
Forfar	*11.40	5.55
Crosby	*11.48	6.00
Newboro	11.58	6.10
Westport (arrive)	12.15 p.m.	6.30

GOING EAST

	No. 2	No. 4
Westport (leave)	7.00 a.m.	8.20 p.m.
Newboro	7.10	8.35
Crosby	*7.20	8.46
Forfar	*7.25	8.52
Elgin	7.31	8.42
Delta	7.45	8.41
Lyndhurst	*7.51	8.48
Soperton	*7.58	8.47
Athens	8.15	8.55
Elbe	*8.22	9.12
Fortilton	*8.27	9.18
Seelays	*8.38	9.30
Lyn	8.45	9.41
Brockville (arrive)	9.00	6.00

*Stop on signal

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In Germany—with a Chemist in the City of Darmstadt—I found the last ingredient with which Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Remedy was made. That last ingredient, I successfully treated many, many cases of Rheumatism; but now, as last, I fully cured all curable cases of this horrid disease. Those sand-like granular much dyed Rheumatic Blood, seem to dissolve, and pass away under the action of this remedy as easily as does sugar when added to pure water. And then, when dissolved, these poisonous wastes freely pass from the system, and the cause of Rheumatism is gone forever. There is now no need—no actual excuse to suffer longer without help. We sell, and in confidence recommend

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Mr. W. A. Singleton, Portland, Feb. 8, 1908.
Dear Sir,—In the winter of 1905 I was laid up with La Grippe and unable to get relief from several other patent medicines. I was convinced by several of my neighbors to try St. Regis Lumbago Cure, and I can thankfully say it was the first thing that gave me immediate relief. Since that time I have never been without it in my house, and cannot speak too highly of it, especially for children, as it will break up a cold at once. I have also found it a sure cure for lame back. You are at liberty to use my name for reference if you wish to publish it for the benefit of others. I am yours truly,
C. A. VANKOUGHNET.

If your dealer does not keep this medicine kindly ask him to order same for you as any sized order will be filled promptly. First order, freight prepaid. Yours truly,
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