

**SINGULAR BALLOON ACCIDENT.**

A singular accident lately occurred at Hull, Eng., by which a large number of persons were seriously injured.

It appears that for several years a gala has been held every Whit Monday, in a large field in the Beverley road, and this year one of the attractions advertised was the ascent of a balloon. Arrangements were made with the British Gas Company for a supply of gas, it being estimated the balloon would require for its inflation about 18,000 cubic feet. There being a strong wind at the time it was filled, the balloon, although securely fixed to the ground with ropes, swayed vigorously from side to side. We learn from the local papers that close to the ring in which the filling took place there was a "striking machine," against which, just as the ascent was about to take place, the balloon was driven, and a long slit was made in the silk, through which the gas began to escape rapidly. Close to the striking machine which had caused so much damage there was a stall for the sale of hot peas, a kind of refreshment greatly in demand at entertainments of this kind. Very shortly before the balloon drove upon this stall a naphtha lamp had been suspended thereon, and the escaping stream of gas coming in contact with this naked light, a fearful explosion followed.

Spectators of the scene state that what they saw was a vivid flash, as of lightning, followed by a dense white smoke, this in turn being followed by a blaze which lasted so long as there was any of the varnished silk of which the balloon was composed remaining to be consumed. From the midst of this mass of smoke and flame there arose a mighty cry of anguish, and the excitement amongst the spectators was most intense. The policemen on duty at the gala, with many others who were not too much excited to act, at once rushed to the rescue, and soon one and another were hauled out from amongst the burning mass. When the balloon collapsed, owing to the escape and ignition of the gas, it fell upon quite a crowd of persons, who were completely covered by the silk and the netting in which it was inclosed, and these people, mostly young men and women and children, were rendered powerless to help themselves. Their position was, besides, rendered the more awful by the fact that the varnish with which the silk composing the balloon was covered, when it became heated, caused the material to stick to the hands and faces of the sufferers, and in numberless instances the skin was torn away from hands and faces as the unconsumed material was removed. Amongst the injured was a little girl, who was so frightfully burned that she expired next day.

**INDUSTRIAL SECRETS.**—A century ago what a man discovered in the arts he concealed. Workmen were put upon oath never to reveal the process used by their employers. Doors were kept closed, artisans going out were searched, visitors were rigorously excluded from admission, and false operations blinded the workmen themselves. The mysteries of every craft were hedged in by thicket fences of empirical pretensions and judicial affirmation. The royal manufactories of porcelain, for example, were carried on in Europe with a spirit of jealous exclusiveness. His Majesty of Saxony was especially circumspect. Not content with the oath of secrecy imposed upon his work people, he would not abate his kingly suspicion in favor of a brother monarch. Neither king nor king's delegate might enter the tabooed walls of Meissen. What is erroneously called the Dresden porcelain—that exquisite pottery of which the world has never seen the like—was produced for 200 years by a process so secret that neither the bribery of princes nor the garrulity of operatives ever revealed it. Other discoveries have been less successfully guarded, fortunately for the world. The manufacture of tinware in England originated in a stolen secret. Few readers need be informed that tinware is simply thin iron plated with tin, by being dipped into the molten metal. In theory it is an easy matter to clean the surface of iron, dip it into a bath of the boiling tin, and remove it enveloped with the silvery metal to a place for cooling. In practice, however, the process is one of the most difficult in the arts. It was discovered in Holland, and guarded from publicity with the utmost vigilance for nearly half a century. England tried in vain to discover the secret, until James Sherman, a Cornish miner, crossed the Channel, insinuated himself master of the secret, and brought it home. The secret of manufacturing cast steel was also stealthily obtained, and is now within the reach of all artisans.—*Metal Worker.*

**SUPERSTITIOUS CUSTOM.**—The custom of paring nails at certain times is a relic of ancient superstition, derived from the Romans, who would never pare their nails upon the Nundina, observed every ninth day, and other certain days of the week.

**WEDDING JOURNEYS.**

When a young man and woman marry, they generally think they must take a wedding trip, of greater or less extent, according as their purses are long or short. The idea is well enough in its place, if carried out in accordance with the laws of hygiene; but this is not always the case. We have just received a notice of the death of a friend, a beautiful and noble young lady. The cause was a cold caught on her wedding tour. Such cases are not rare; but even when death does not result, injuries which last for life may be received. It would be far better to give up the wedding trip than to injure the constitution by it. There is never a time more unsuited to journeys than just after marriage. The feelings are then at their highest pitch, and they advertise the fact by every look and movement, so that they are recognized wherever they go as a newly married couple. There ought to be a reform in this matter of wedding tours. Physiologists and hygienists should set the example. Let them be conducted strictly in accordance with the laws of hygiene, or given up altogether. It is said that the daughter of Dr. Hammond, recently married to an Italian marquis, has set a good example in this respect. The father, an eminent physician, stamped the idea of a wedding journey as something barbarous and unphysiological, and so, after the marriage, by his advice, the couple were left in quiet at their own home. If this is so it is an example well worth imitating. At any rate, let no newly married couple violate every physiological law by a wedding journey that may injure the health past all recovery.—*Herald of Health.*

**TO CLEANSE WOODWORK.**—Take a pail of hot water; throw in two tablespoonfuls of pulverized borax; use a good coarse household cloth—an old coarse towel does splendidly—and wash the painting; do not use a brush; when washing places that are extra yellow, or stained, soap the cloth; then sprinkle it with the dry powdered borax, and rub the places well, using plenty of rinsing water; by washing the woodwork in this way you will not remove the paint, and the borax will soften and make the hands white—a fact well worth knowing. The uses of borax in domestic economy are numerous; and one of the most valuable is its employment to aid the detergent properties of soap.

**WHITE HOUSE WHITEWASH.**—The following recipe, which is frequently inquired after, is given for the famous whitewash with which the Presidential mansion is adorned:

Take one half bushel of nice unslaked lime, slake it with boiling water; cover it during the process to keep in the steam. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer, and add to it a peck of salt, previously dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste; one half pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and one pound of clean glue which has been previously dissolved by soaking it well, and then hang it over a slow fire in a small kettle within a larger one filled with water. Add five gallons of hot water to the mixture, stir it well, and let it stand a few days covered from dust. It should be put on hot, and for this purpose it can be kept in a kettle on a portable furnace. About a pint of this mixture will cover a square yard upon the outside of a house, if properly applied. Fine or coarse brushes may be used, according to the neatness of the job required. It answers as well as oil paint for wood, brick or stone, and is cheaper. It retains its brilliancy for many years. There is nothing of the kind that will compare with it, either for inside or outside work. Coloring matter may be added of any shade desired except green, for there is no material that can be used with lime. Spanish brown will make reddish pink when stirred in, more or less deep according to quantity. A delicate tinge of this is very pretty for inside walls. Finely pulverized common clay, well mixed with Spanish brown, makes a reddish stone color; yellow ochre stirred in makes a yellow wash, but chrome goes further, and makes a color generally esteemed prettier. It is best to try experiments on a shingle and let it dry.—*American Builder*, xiii, 131.

**TO AVOID SLEEPLESSNESS.**—If you wish to sleep well, eat sparingly of late suppers. Avoid all arguments or contested subjects near night, as these are likely to have a bad effect upon one who is troubled with sleeplessness at night. Avoid having too much company. Many persons become so excited with the meeting of friends that sleep departs for a time. There is probably nothing better, after cultivating a tranquil mind, than exercise in the open air. By observing these simple rules, sleeplessness, in the majority of instances, may be cured.