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Exploring the Bottom of the Sea.

For ages men have felt the power and majesty of the sea. Man alters the face of the land almost beyond recognition, but he can work no change in the appearance of the mighty deep. There the Almighty works alone, with none to disguise or disfigure his

letting his fancy play over the sights which the ocean-bed would reveal could we but see them, says:—

'Methought I saw a thousand fearful wrecks;
A thousand men that fishes gnawed upon;
Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearls,
Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels,
All scattered in the bottom of the sea.

his endeavors to explore, or enrich himself by, the treasures of the bed of the ocean. The pearl divers of the tropical seas are trained to remain for some minutes at the bottom of the water, simply by holding their breath. Our own divers' dress enables a man to walk about beneath the water so long as he is supplied with fresh air, and by means of the diving bell a party of people can make a descent together, subject to the same condition.

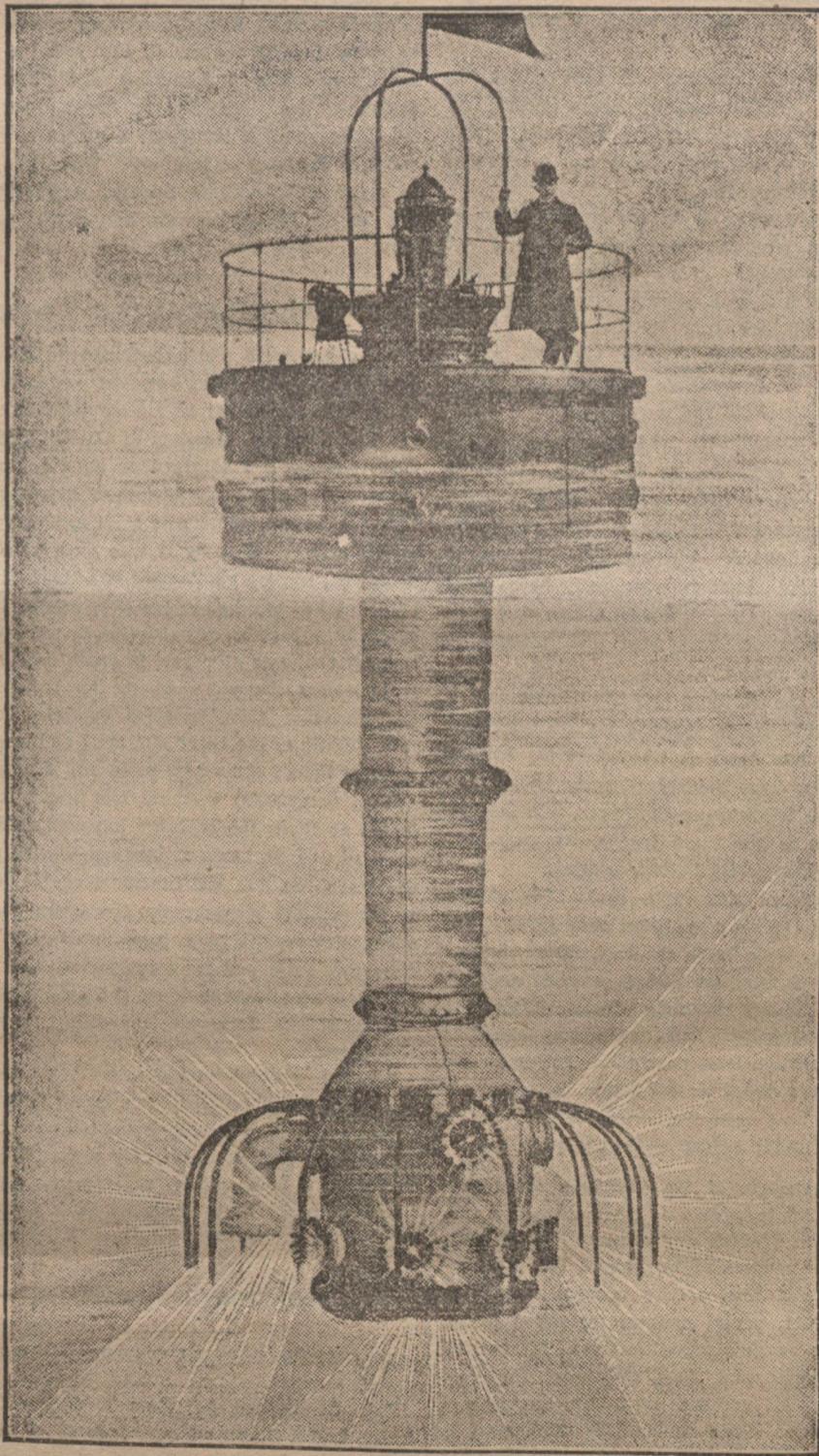
But the recent invention shown in our picture enables the ocean-bed to be examined with much greater ease than ever before. The hydroscope, as the appliance is called, is made of steel, and is like a huge telescope pointed downwards into coral caverns or sunken ships, instead of upwards at the sun and stars. By means of a complicated system of lenses and mirrors, the rays of light are reflected up the tube, and present a very clear picture of the sea-floor to persons in the chamber at the top.

As will be seen, the hydroscope is fitted with powerful lights, which can be used to illuminate the sea-bottom, but, in fact, there is considerably more daylight at the bottom of the sea than we are accustomed to think. The inventor has himself read a newspaper at a depth of 360 feet by ordinary daylight. The stillness of the water at the bottom allows sediment to sink, leaving the water clear; whereas at the top the constant motion keeps sand and other matter in solution, rendering the water thick.

But the hydroscope not only makes visible objects at the bottom of the ocean; by means of its powerful raising apparatus it can bring them to the surface. One of its most romantic feats in this way was the raising of an old Spanish galleon, one of a numerous fleet sunk in the Bay of Vigo in the year 1702. Unfortunately, the metal bolts which held the timbers of the ancient vessel together had rusted almost completely away, and after being raised the old hulk turned over, broke in pieces, and again sank.

Some successful attempts were made, however, to raise heavy boilers which had been buried beneath the waves for over ten years; and it is hoped that by means of the hydroscope much of the treasure of bygone ages may possibly be recovered.

This appliance should be of great use in enabling vessels to keep clear of sunken rocks, mines, and similar dangers. A tube leading from the captain's bridge, and penetrating the bottom of the vessel, can be so fitted as to give a view of the water beneath the ship to a distance of ninety feet, and by the use of an extending portion a still greater range of vision can be obtained. Ship-owners and sailors have, therefore, cause for gratitude to the inventor of this clever contrivance.—The 'Cottager and Artisan.'



THE NEWLY INVENTED HYDROSCOPE.

handiwork. For the sea is not a mere waste of waters; it has its part to play in the great plan of Nature, and the more we learn about it the more important we find the sea's work to be.

And what secrets the sea hides in its bosom! What human lives, what treasure it has swallowed up! Our own poet Shakespeare,

Some lay in dead men's skulls; and in these holes

Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept (As 'twere in scorn of eyes) reflecting gems That wooed the slimy bottom of the deep, And mocked the dead bones that lay scattered by.'

Many ways have been adopted by man in

The price of three battleships would put ten thousand volunteers into the missionary field for a year, says ex-Chancellor McDowell. He also remarks that the Protestant church is liberal with Bibles and stingy of men; it is willing to send a book. The Roman Catholic church is liberal with men and stingy with Bibles. It sends a priest. The church of the future will be liberal with both Bibles and men.