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The Solving of Sea Puzzles

How long do whales live? How far do they travel? What is their birth rate? Upon what floating organism do they live?

These are questions that the British Colonial Office is trying to solve, and for which purpose an expedition has been sent to the Antarctic. One of the methods employed to solve the problems is to label whales. It is obviously out of the question to catch a whale alive, the method employed is to fire small darts into the thick layer of blubber on the back of the monsters by means of a specially designed cross-bow. Each dart has a label attached. In this way it is hoped to determine whether whales that breed in African waters migrate to the South Seas to feed. Some species, such as salmon, sea trout, mackerel, and pilchard, are regular migrants. Others, such as plaice and haddock, are partial immigrants. In the interests of the fishing industry it is important to find out as much as possible about the movements of fish, and with this object thousands of fish are caught alive, marked, and returned to the sea. The British Admiralty has a large trawler, the George Bligh, which, among other things, carries out that marking.

Caught in a Trawl Net.
The fish are caught in a trawl net which is towed through which water is pumped, and the best are marked and put back into the sea. The net consists of two ebonite discs joined together by a piece of silver wire, which is threaded either through the back fin or the hard flap covering the gill.

The disc is marked with letters and number, and trawlers look out for the marked fish and hand them over

to the authorities. For each fish sent in with its mark and full particulars of its capture to the fisheries laboratory at Lowestoft, England, a reward of two shillings (about 50 cents) is paid, and it is surprising how many are recaptured, and to what distances fish travel.

One young plaice covered 210 miles in eight months. Another, taken far up in the North Sea, was caught off Winchelsea, in the English Channel. Even crabs travel long distances. One large female crab caught and tagged off Cromer was retaken near Flemish-borough Head, a hundred miles away. Tagging salmon and sea trout has told a great deal about their habits and their rapid growth. A salmon labelled in the spring of 1919 by the Severn Fisheries Board was then three feet long and weighed thirteen pounds. Recaptured the following autumn after six months in salt water, this fish had grown six inches in length and had doubled in weight. Sea trout also double in size during one summer in the sea.

Bird's Long Journey.
Fish-marking has a commercial value, but of bird-marking the interest is mainly scientific. Yet it is interesting to be able to trace the over-sea journeys taken by such tiny birds as the white-throat, chaffinch, and swallow. Birds are marked by means of light aluminium rings fitted around their legs.

The first birds to be labelled were storks, which were marked in Hungary. The results were startling. Four of the marked birds were found in Palestine, one sent back from the Blue Nile, one from the Victoria Nyanza, and seventeen from various localities in South Africa. Two ringed storks, only nine months old, were found to have travelled 6,000 miles from their breeding place. It has been learned that the nightingale goes from England to Greece and so on to Africa, that the wheatear

flies through Spain to Morocco, and that swallows travel to Natal.

Jury Free Girl Who Shot Lover

CROWD CHEER OUTSIDE COURT
WHEN VERDICT IS ANNOUNCED.

LITCHFIELD, Conn., Dec. 9.—Olympia Macri, young New Haven singer, was acquitted of the murder of John Bagnano, alleged father of her baby, whom she shot and instantly killed in New Haven.

When the verdict was announced, Miss Macri threw herself into the arms of a police matron and sobbed. The spectators remained silent, for the judge had told them that no demonstration would be tolerated.

Later, outside the court house, Miss Macri was received with cheers. Bagnano was shot in front of a theatre and Miss Macri was found standing over the body with a revolver in her hand. She told police that Bagnano was the father of her child and that he had refused to support her or the infant. She was tried twice, the jury failing to reach an agreement for acquittal the first time by one vote.

Britain Does Not Have Women Spies

LONDON, Dec. 9.—A new angle is lent to the comedy of the arrest of alleged British spies in France by the announcement that Britain does not employ women as spies in her Secret Service as she finds them on the whole unsuited for this work. They believe that this is a case of commercial espionage rather than political, a practice which has grown to enormous dimensions since the war.

It is asserted that the French are annoyed at the progress made by British wireless firms in France and have seized upon this opportunity to put an end to it, if they can. Britain knows practically all she wants to know about French aviation because the French have been exceedingly frank in this regard. Evidence of this is found in the fact that when Doiny Britain asked to see the machine and the French actually flew the machine to Britain for inspection purposes.

Don't Think the World Has Time to Stop

And wait for laggards slow; But keep in step with those who strive To work and learn and grow. Don't fret if you must turn aside To let another by; The road was made for everyone, And they succeed who try. Don't frown because the day is dark, Don't grumble all the while; Hold up your head, be brave and true, And give the world a smile. —Mae C. Mirard.

Farming the Ocean

A fish a mile long is difficult to imagine. Yet, if all the fish taken from British waters last year were made into one gigantic fish, that would be its length, apart from its other dimensions.

More fish live and die in the sea without being seen than we can calculate; and owing to the rapid exhaustion of food supplies on land, as population increases, it is likely that the world's future food will be obtained chiefly from the oceans covering three-quarters of the globe.

Submarine farming is the scheme now attracting scientists' attention. The ocean beds contain rich patches of vegetables, and in the Northern Pacific alone there are 2,000,000 square miles of sea bottom that have never been explored.

On the Sea Bed
No one knows what grows on the sea bed sometimes six or nine miles below water level, but all surface waters are crowded with plants ranging from the almost invisible diatoms to enormous growths longer than any found on land.

The sea is really a thin vegetable soup. So tiny are the diatoms that 200 in a row measure only an inch. In a single month one frisk diatom becomes one billion! They carry a little shell which makes them look, under a microscope, like pigmies in canoes.

Toothsome dishes are already prepared from the larger plant life of the oceans. All edible seaweeds have a peculiarly attractive flavour. Commonest is dulse, which the Highlanders and Irish peasants make into a very appetising dish. Carrageen, or Irish moss, is collected in large quantities at low tide and produces sea moss flour, a valuable ingredient of puddings, which is easily digested. The Irish make it into dainty blanchmanges and a jelly recommended for consumptives.

The World's Largest Plants.

Candyng the roots of sea holly was once a regular industry on the Essex coast, and another seaweed called laver is prepared like spinach and is eaten in soup in Philadelphia, although it is generally served with oil. Sea-kale originally grew by the sea, but it is now found in most kitchen gardens. The young white shoots are boiled and eaten like asparagus.

As good to eat as any vegetable grown in the garden are the giant seaweeds covering 10,000 square miles of the Straits of Fucua. These kelps, as they are called, are the largest plants in the world, for the stem is often 100ft. long and carries a tuft of leaves 30ft. across.

One hundred million pounds of kelp are consumed annually by the Japanese. Dried and shredded it appears in the market in about fifty varieties, including sheets, sticks, sugared sweets, powder as "curry" for rice, and even as a kind of tea. In Osaka alone forty-five factories convert kelp into edible products that have been popular in Japan since 1730. Pure gelatine is obtained from a seaweed called agar-agar. In Japan it is used for window panes as well as for thickening soups!

Oil Wells at Sea

Gold hidden below the billows is not all in solid bars recoverable by divers. Most of it has been dissolved by the sea water, every 500 tons of which is estimated to contain £5 worth of the precious metal. Some day scientists hope to rob the sea of this enormous wealth.

Huge deposits of valuable minerals fucalculably greater than those yet discovered on land lie under the sea. In Nova Scotia coal-mines run under the sea, and off Newfoundland, iron is mined from positions several miles out.

Pumping petroleum out of the ocean bed sounds far-fetched. But it is known that huge submarine supplies of oil exist. Oil wells have been sunk a considerable distance from the shore in California.

New Eyes for Machine Work

A new scientific instrument for machinists—a binocular magnifier—is expected to prevent much eye-strain and to increase production in machine-shops. The device is a pair of prism binoculars that can be fitted to any stand adapted to the work to be done. The object is shown without inversion in the exact position where it is seen by the naked eye, and it is brought out in clear and sharp relief. The tubes, besides being adjustable to the distance between the pupils of the observer's eyes, have sliding eye-pieces that correct any difference of vision of the two eyes. The magnification ranges from 3.5 to 30 diameters, and with low powers an object two inches in diameter can be covered at a working distance of six inches.

Electric Welding in Modern Industry

Electrical resistance welding, including spot, seam, and butt welding, has made remarkable progress, and G. A. Hughes, in *The Electrical World*, notes that it is now more generally

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McMurdo's Xmas Store News

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Defeat of Marshal Chang Was Debacle

Anticipate No Danger to Foreigners at Mukden.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—A despatch to the State Department from Minister MacMurray, in Peking, describes the defeat of Marshal Chang Tso Lin at Mukden, as a complete debacle. The minister added, however, that while there was a general exodus from Mukden, no danger to foreigners there was expected. In view of the situation it was generally expected there that Chang would leave China within the next few days, probably for Dairen or Korea.

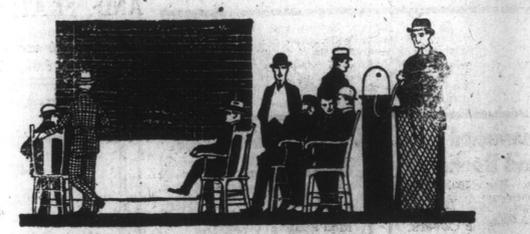
The complete collapse of the Manchurian war lord leaves the situation in the region between Peking and the Great Wall of China greatly involved, with little to indicate to which side the various provincial military leaders are throwing their sup-

Paint-Brush Rack

A useful method of supporting brushes in a can of turpentine when not in use is to hang them on a rack made of wire. The wires are twisted together and soldered except at the ends, which are bent out radially. The lower arms may be soldered to the inside bottom of the can although it is not essential; the upper arms support the brushes. Holes are drilled in the brush handles at the correct height to allow the bristles to be completely covered by the liquid, so that they are in good condition when needed again for work.

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