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WHY ICE STAYS ON TOP.

Water the Sole Exception to an Otherwise Universal Law. It is one of the most extraordinary things in this extraordinary world, writes Henry Martyn Hart in the Outlook, that water should be the sole exception to the otherwise universal law that all cooling bodies contract and therefore increase in density. Water contracts as its temperature falls and therefore becomes heavier and sinks until it reaches 39 degrees. At this temperature water is the heaviest. This is the point of its maximum density. From this point it begins to expand. Therefore in winter, although the surface may be freezing at a temperature of 32 degrees, the water at the bottom of the pool is six or seven degrees warmer. Suppose that water, like everything else, had gone on contracting as it cooled until it reached the freezing point. The heaviest water would have sunk to the lowest place and there become ice. Although it is true that eight pints of water become nine pints of ice, and therefore icebergs float, showing above the surface an eighth of their bulk, still had the water when at the bottom turned into ice the stones would have locked it in their interstices and held it there, and before the winter was over the whole pool would become solid ice, and all the poor fish would be entombed in clear, beautiful crystal.

JAPAN'S GOD OF WAR.

Hachiman, Strange to Say, is a Lover of the Peaceful Dove. Hachiman, the god of war in Japan, strange to say, loves a dove, a bird symbolical in the west of peace and not of war. Go to any temple or shrine where Hachiman is worshipped, and you will find a great many doves cooing either on the roof of the temple or on the ground below. The tablet on which the name of the god is inscribed begins with the ideograph of "Hachi," the two strokes of which are intended to picture a pair of doves, the female on the right and the male on the left. Doves are Hachiman's favorite birds, messengers by which he sends good tidings of peace and love. Hachiman never fights merely to satiate his thirst for blood. He fights battles for peace. He never makes sacrifices of lives so that he may glory over the conquered. He is a great enemy of tyrants and oppressors. He is ever ready to help those who are oppressed and persecuted. He fights wars of justice. He wishes to see justice done on all sides. His banners bear inscriptions conveying the thought of righteousness and justice. Miserable will be the fate of any who venture to violate the peace and welfare of the world, for Hachiman in his righteous wrath will crush down such a one under his mighty feet.

Polar Plants.

Climate affects the inhabitants of the sea just as it does those of the land. As arctic land plants cannot flourish at the equator, so in the Arctic and Antarctic oceans marine plants are found which are unable to survive in warm water. Among the most remarkable of these cold water plants are the laminariaceae, a kind of seaweeds which sometimes attain a gigantic size, exceeding in length the longest climbing plants of the tropical forests and developing huge stems like the trunks of trees. Investigations have shown that these plants flourish in the coldest waters of the polar seas and that they never advance farther from their frigid homes than to the limits of "summer temperatures" in the ocean. The genial warmth destroys them, just as a polar blast shrivels the flowers of a tropical garden.

A Compromise.

Young Matron (with theories on the care of children, to nurse)—Jane, Nurse Yes-sum. Young Matron—When the baby has finished his bottle, lay him in the cradle on his right side. After eating a child should always lie on the right side; that relieves the pressure on the heart. Still (reflectively) the liver is on the right side; perhaps, after all, you had better lay him on the left side. No, I am sure the treatise on infant digestion said right side. On the whole, Jane, you may lay the baby on his back until I have looked up the matter more thoroughly.

The Only Obligation.

A story that comes from a country region not far from New York concerns a native who was seen stolidly plowing a field with a team of weary and dejected horses. As they approached the observer of rural life remarked sympathetically that the horses "didn't seem to like the work."

"Um," commented the farmer briefly, "they don't have to like it. They only have to do it."

Fair of Plaintiffs.

"See here," exclaimed the angry man. "I wish you would mangle that dog of yours at night. His barking keeps my baby awake."

"I was just going to request you to muzzle your baby," rejoined the neighbor. "His nightly howling annoys my dog."

No Common Hired Hand.

Agent of Apartment House—When can you go to work? Dignified Person (who has accepted position as janitor of building)—I can enter upon the duties of my office at once, sir.

A Recommendation.

Mrs. Darley—Why do you have Mrs. Gabb to sew for you? She is not a good dressmaker. Mrs. Cawker—I know that, but she knows all the gossip in the community.—London Tit-Bits.

CRETAN LEPEERS.

Their Numbers Are Swelled by Their Food and Their Faith. In the small island of Crete leprosy is shockingly prevalent. The Cretons have themselves to thank for this state of affairs. The houses may be pretty and whitewashed on the outside, but within the filth is fearful. And the food they eat is just what encourages leprosy. The Greek forbids meat about 300 days out of the year, so as good Christians they must live on salt fish, which is not improved by its long journey from northern seas to southern heat. The olive oil is so plentiful—they export 20,000 tons each year—that they use it to excess, even adding it to the milk of a rice pudding. But the crowning evil is pork, the favorite fare of the Cretons on days when the leper is not cut off here as he is in the Fiji Islands or at the Cape. Outside each village may be seen a little white house called the "leprochorian." Here the lepers live. Their estates, if they have any, are administered for them by friends, and any one passing by the door may speak to them. If the sufferers be poor the state provides each day a loaf of bread, and the charity of passersby adds the luxuries.

THE PRIMITIVE STAGE.

How the Drama Flourished in the Time of Elizabeth. The great plays of Marlowe, Shakespeare and Jonson were performed by actors in Elizabethan dress in front of a curtain, usually in daylight, on a little stage partly occupied by the gallants and tobacco pipes. There was no fashionable actress, no orchestra, no limelight, yet the drama was more popular than churchgoing and held its own even with such gentle sports as bull baiting and "wiping of the blind bear." The little that we know of the actors shows them, with the exception of Burbage and Nathaniel Field, to have been very ordinary workaday people, with empty pockets and domestic affections and other modern characteristics. Yet the protests of the Puritans, the avaricious records of the censor and the continual erection of new theaters in spite of the solemn threats of the city fathers are evidence enough of the marvelous popularity to which the art attained in that "spacious time" of playhouses most remarkable for lack of space.—London World.

OIL ON THE WATER.

Its Soothing Effect Was Known as Early as the Sixth Century. A few gallons of oil cast upon stormy seas moderates their violence and prevents the waves from breaking with force. That this is the case has long been known. Theophrastus, the Byzantine historian of the sixth century, propounded the question, "Why does oil calm the sea?" and answered it to the effect that as the wind is a subtle and delicate thing and oil is adhesive and unctuous the wind glides over the surface of the water on which oil has been spread and cannot raise waves. The wind, in fact, slips over the water without being able to obtain a grip. In the gulf of Mexico there is a remarkable stretch of water about two miles long by three-quarters of a mile broad to which the name of "oil spot" has been given because in the worst of storms the mariner finds still water there. Its character as a safe harbor of refuge is said to be due to an oily property of the mud stirred up by the storm.

Peru's Whistling Jars.

Among the ruined cities of Peru nearly fifty different kinds of musical instruments have been found. Unique among these are many double whistling jars or musical water bottles. Near the top of the first or front jar, which is usually surmounted by a human or animal figure, is the opening of the whistle. When the jars have been partly filled and are swung backward and forward a number of whistling sounds are produced. As the vessel swings forward and upward the water is lowered in the first jar and rises in the other. In the backward motion it rushes back into the first, forcing the air out through the whistle.

Customs in Mongolia.

Tea, with an admixture of salt and mutton grease, is the common beverage in Mongolia. It is not recommended. Snuff taking is universal, and the offer of the snuff bottle is the general method of greeting. Mongols appear to seclude their women in some measure, at least, from strangers, and a traveler's arrival is usually the signal for a hasty departure of the ladies of the family for the tents of their next neighbors.

The Whole Story.

Robert—How your wife must curiosity? Richard—Oh, an awful lot. If I began to tell her what you told me standing on this corner she wouldn't hear a word of what you said until I told her what corner we were standing on.

Timely Warning.

Fortune Teller—Beware of the handsome man with dark eyes and brilliant diamond pin. Fair Maid—Why? Fortune Teller—You can't support him.

Know It.

She—I suppose you flatter yourself you are a great man? He—I do not flatter myself. I merely recognize a fact.

To know how to be silent is more difficult and more profitable than to know how to speak.—Dumas.

CAUSTIC CARLYLE.

His Contempt For Great Men Was Subject to Modification. Carlyle's opinion of Herbert Spencer as "the most unending ass in Christendom" must, of course, be read in conjunction with Carlyle's derision for mankind in general. "Mostly fools," he cheerfully thought of us all. Darwin, we know, he would not have at any price—not a word of him. Cardinal Newman, he estimated, had "the brain of a medium sized rabbit." Ruskin was a bottle of soda water. "A bad young man" was his sum up of another eminent writer. But these hostile phrases were subject to considerable modification if the man against whom they were aimed came near enough to Carlyle to do him a personal favor, even to pay him a personal compliment. Disraeli, whom he had described as a mountebank dancing upon John Bull's stomach, offered Carlyle a baronetcy and elicited from him, together with a refusal of the title, many tributes to his magnanimity. He said very little about Disraeli henceforth in print, and in private he spoke of him only as "a very tragical comical fellow."—London Chronicle.

THE ONION CURE.

A Remedy Which is Claimed to Be Infallible in Pneumonia. This remedy, which is claimed to be infallible, was formulated many years ago by a well known physician in New England, who never lost a patient by this scourge: Take six or ten onions, according to size, and chop fine. Put in a large pipet the same quantity of rye meal and vinegar to form a stiff paste. Stir thoroughly and simmer five or ten minutes. Put into a cotton bag large enough to cover the lungs and apply to the chest just as hot as the patient can bear it. In about ten minutes change the poultice, and thus continue reheating and applying, and in a few hours the patient will be out of danger. And just here a word of caution. In applying this or any other hot poultice care must be exercised not to let the patient get chilled during the changing process. Have the hot one all ready to go on before the cooling one is removed, and make the changes so swiftly and deftly that there is not a moment's exposure of the body surface, which becomes exceedingly sensitive to a chill.

POSITION DURING SLEEP.

Slightly Raise the Head and Lie on the Right Side. The main object of sleep is that every organ of the body should have perfect rest. The brain, the lungs and the heart have been, not inappropriately, called the "tripod of life," as upon them hangs the prosperity of the whole frame; hence we slightly raise the head to check the flow of blood to the brain and more or less quickly find out the position of greatest ease for lungs and heart. This will be found by sleeping for the greater part of the time on the right side, for nearly two-thirds of the heart is on the left of the medial line, and the apex points closely to the smaller left lung; hence the fullest and freest play possible should be given to the left side. A quiet pulse, diminished respiration and refreshing rest are all combined when open windows, moderate warmth and unchafing heart work together. It is often best to curl sleep on the left side and turn to the right before going off.

A Philanthropist.

Modern Advertising can cope even with the etiquette of courts. A London journal tells us that a young American woman wished to be presented at the court of the king of Saxony. The high officials, having inquired into her social standing at home, objected. They represented to her that the king could scarcely receive the daughter of a retail bootmaker. The young woman calmed home and told her father the situation. The next morning she received his answer: "Can't call it selling. Practically giving them away. See advertisement."

A Doctor's Visit.

More patients become dissatisfied because they are not visited often enough than because they are required to pay for excess of services. One of the most grateful families that I ever knew was one that had just paid a young medical grafter for fourteen visits made between 5 and 11 p. m. of a single day, when two visits would have been amply sufficient. Small wonder that some of the younger men yield to this temptation and shortly become known to the profession as repeaters. But these soon lose caste.

Lesson in Modern Finance.

"Pa," said the son of the captain of industry, "what is being recant to one's trust?" "Not increasing the capital stock every time the public can be hypnotized into buying a few more shares for the benefit of the people who hold the bonds."

Foresight.

De Garry—As you intend to marry her, why did you consent to her riding a bicycle when you are so opposed to it? Merrit—Well, I knew she would have her way in the end, and I calculated that by giving in now her father would have to pay for the bicycle.

Nothing is farther from the earth than heaven; nothing is nearer to heaven than earth.—Hare.

SHORT WINDED.

Why Some Persons Become Breathless With Severe Exercise. Breathing consists of two rhythmical alternating processes—inspiration, in which the muscles of the chest play their part, and expiration, in which the elasticity of the lungs and the weight of the chest force out air. The number of breaths, which varies with the age, is one to every three or four pulse beats. In ordinary breathing only about one-sixth of the air in the lungs is renewed, but in exercise the amount is considerably increased and the number of breaths multiplied. In disease such as reduction of lung area the blood is in danger of becoming overcharged with carbonic acid, and the lungs struggle to get rid of this and to bring in more oxygen. Exercise causes a similar change, and if of the right sort and not too long continued the circulation and breathing are quickened, and the result is good. In severe exercise, such as long continued speed trials, the quickened breathing can no longer cope with its task, so carbonic acid accumulates faster than the heart and the lungs can deal with it, and breathlessness results.

HABERDASHER.

The Word is Supposed to Mean Things of Little Value. The word haberdasher first appears in the language as coming from haper-tas, the name of a fabric mentioned in the Liber Albus along with wool, canvas and felt, as subject to customs about 1419. A parallel and almost contemporary list has haberdassier. The word is supposed to mean things of little value—small wares such as buttons and tapes. Skeat derives it from the Icelandic haperbask-trumpur, pedlar's wares. In a register of burials of Ware in 1655 we have one entry: "Michael Watkins, London, haberdasher of hatts," probably this being the first material of which hats were made. Chambers gives another meaning to the word. He says it is derived from the ancient name for a neck cloth, berdash, which is derived from beard, and tache, a covering. Hapertus was originally a cloth of a particular kind, the name of which was settled by Magna Charta. Hence a haberdasher was the seller of hapertasserie.—London Answers.

THE LUDDITES.

Authors of the Famous Stocking Frame Riots in England. Early in 1811 bands of distressed stocking knitters in Nottinghamshire began a long series of riots, marked by most wanton mischief. Assembling in parties of from six to sixty under a leader styled general or Ned Ludd, disguised and armed with swords, pistols, hammers and axes and bound together by illegal oaths, they succeeded in smashing stocking frames in all parts of England, and their daring outrages continued even when a large military force was brought into the neighborhood and two London police magistrates came down to assist the civil power. To such a pitch had this dangerous disturbance grown that a royal proclamation was issued offering a reward of £50 for the apprehension of any of the offenders. Not until October, 1816, did this wholesale destruction and violence cease, by which time more than a thousand frames and many lace machines had been broken up and the mischief had spread into neighboring counties.—London Chronicle.

Five Thousand Distinct Languages.

Mr. J. Collier, writing on the subject, says that over 5,000 distinct languages are spoken by mankind. The number of separate dialects is enormous. There are more than sixty vocabularies in Brazil, and in Mexico the Nahuas language has broken up into 700 dialects. There are hundreds in Borneo. In Australia there is no classifying the complexities, and generally the number of dialects is in inverse proportion to the intellectual culture of the population. Assume that only fifty dialects on an average belong to every language and we have the colossal total of 250,000 linguistic varieties.

African Road Breakers.

Engineering feats by big game in Africa are thus described by a recent explorer: "Elephant and rhinoceros tracks were ubiquitous. These monsters are certainly the best road breakers in Africa. Among the hills some of the rhinoceros paths were extraordinarily well graded. Unfortunately the rhinoceros has a hide three-quarters of an inch thick and so does not see the necessity of clearing the thorn bush from over his road. An elephant is more considerate—he makes a clean sweep of everything."

A Hint.

Borem (11 p. m.)—Yes, I'm a perfect martyr to insomnia. I've tried everything I ever heard of, but I simply can't get to sleep at night. Miss Cutting (suppressing a yawn)—Did you ever try talking to yourself after going to bed?

Cause For Cheerfulness.

Cranky Husband (at a reception)—I wish you were as lively as that woman over there. Wife—Humph! No wonder she's jolly. She's a rich widow.

Served Them Right.

He—They have dropped their anchor. She (on her first trip)—Serves them right. It has been hanging over the side all day long.

All men are equal the day they are born and the day they are buried.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Don't try cheap cough medicines. Get the best, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. What a record it has, sixty years of cures! Ask your doctor if he doesn't use it for coughs, colds, bronchitis, and all throat and lung troubles. Correct any tendency to constipation with small doses of Ayer's Pills.

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Fashionable Hats. Fashionable Ties. I have just received a stock of the very latest in these lines. One of our hats and ties will bring you right up to date. A. M. Chassels.

B. W. & N. W. RAWLAY TIME-TABLE. GOING WEST. No. 1 No. 8. Brockville (leave) 9:40 a.m. 4:20 p.m. Lyn (Jct. G.T.R.) \$9.55 10:00 " 4:35 " Seeleys " 10:08 " 4:42 " Forthton " 10:20 " 4:52 " Elbe " 10:25 " 4:57 " Athens " 10:37 " 5:04 " Soperton " 10:55 " 5:21 " Lyndhurst " 11:02 " 5:28 " Delta " 11:10 " 5:34 " Elgin " 11:28 " 5:47 " Forfar " 11:35 " 5:58 " Crosby " 11:42 " 6:08 " Newboro " 11:55 " 6:08 " Westport (arrive) 12:10 " 6:20 " GOING EAST. No. 2 No. 4. Westport (leave) 7:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Newboro " 7:12 " 3:45 " Crosby " 7:22 " 3:55 " Forfar " 7:28 " 4:01 " Elgin " 7:38 " 4:09 " Delta " 7:46 " 4:27 " Lyndhurst " 7:52 " 4:38 " Soperton " 8:16 " 5:04 " Athens " 8:22 " 5:09 " Elbe " 8:28 " 5:15 " Forthton " 8:38 " 5:25 " Seeleys " 8:45 " 5:35 " Lyn (Jct. G.T.R.) " 5:45 " 5:45 " Brockville (arrive) 9:00 " 6:00 " *Stop on signal.

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