

DEEP-SEA WONDERS.

One of those prying fellows, the naturalists, has been bringing queer live things from more than half a mile deep in the ocean, where there are no voices, and the day is almost as dark as the night. Of course, he himself did not go down for them, but he sank a dredge, or open-mouthed bag, fastened to a rope, and dragged it along the bottom. The things shown in the picture came up in this dredge, not very long ago.

The lower of the two beautiful filagree marvels is a sponge, and its stalk is a bundle of about three hundred threads of glassy stuff called silica. Indeed, this material glistens as if it were in reality the finest spun-glass; and, although the silvery web is so delicate, it is able to withstand the tremendous pressure of the water all about it. The other sponge, with its spreading roots, has been dragged out of the mud and is floating in the water. Those too-many-legged shrimps once frolicked about in their cold, sunless, soundless home, among myriads of just such lovely forms as these.—*St. Nicholas.*

FURS USED FOR LADIES' CLOAKS.

Frank Buckland, in *Land and Water*, gives the following information as to whence the skins used for lining ladies' cloaks are derived. Fur lined cloaks are now quite abundant and fashionable. The skins used as linings are of various kinds. The commonest of all is white rabbits; these are not English, but imported from Lissa, Poland, where they are dressed by the furriers, and manufactured into linings for cloaks. It is not certain whether these skins are from wild or tame rabbits. As many thousand skins are annually used, it is very probable that they are rabbits bred for the purpose. Besides rabbit skins, many cloaks are lined with what are called "squirrel bellies."

These are literally bellies of squirrels. These animals are skinned in a peculiar manner so as to make the most of the fur. The squirrels used for this purpose are of various kinds and prices. The most expensive squirrel is the Siberian squirrel. The general color of this is blue, some light blue, some dark blue; the dark blue are the most valuable, particularly if it is void of the red stripe down the back. These squirrels are killed by thousands in Siberia; they are mostly shot with a small bullet. Those from Sweden and Norway are caught in traps, probably pitfalls baited with food; they are also intercepted when in the act of migrating. The Swedish squirrels are very large. Some of the squirrel skins are of a red color; these are the same squirrel in the

summer dress. Squirrels are also imported in large numbers, especially from Kasan, in Russia, but they are rather inferior to other sorts. There are various modes of dressing squirrel skins. The Russian skins are pickled in salt, and in consequence are apt to feel damp in wet weather. They do very well in Russia, as the weather there is always dry. In this country the skins are dressed with butter or lard, and it is a remarkable thing that the Russian furriers cannot use butter dressed skins, because in Russia the skins thus prepared become quite hard in very cold weather. For years past the trade of dressing squirrel skins has had its head-quarters in Saxony, principally at the town of Weissenfels. Leipsic is celebrated

In the first place, to skin a cat when alive would be utterly impossible; and secondly, it does not make any difference in the quality of the skin. The origin of the fallacy is probably that a cat is easier skinned immediately after death than if allowed to become rigid. It is very remarkable how fashions set by English ladies influence wild and tame animals even in the most distant parts of the world. It is fortunate that ladies have made cats fashionable, as at last some use is found for these animals, which, being untaxed, are so abundant that any night and in any weather cats—many of them half starved—swarm in the London streets, and the poorer the neighborhood the more abundant are the cats.



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for its fur market, especially at Easter, when the great fair takes place. From Leipsic furs are sent to China, Russia, Turkey, Greece, etc.,—in fact, all over the world. Large numbers of common wild rabbit skins and silver grays are exported from England for use in Russia. Cats are largely cultivated in Holland, especially for their skins. The fur of the Dutch cat is very long and soft as compared to the English cat, the fur of which is hard and wiry. There is some secrecy as to how the cats in Holland are fed; it is possible that they are fed on fish. The best Dutch cats are black. A good skin of jet black color is worth half a guinea. The Dutch cat killers have a most peculiar and clever way of killing their cats. It is a fallacy to suppose that cats are skinned alive.

been got rid of. The plates thus obtained are broken up and soaked for twenty-four hours in alcohol. The matter is then passed between rollers heated to between 140° and 150° Fah., whence it issues in the form of elastic sheets. Celluloid is made to imitate amber, tortoiseshell, coral, malachite, ebony, ivory, etc., and besides its employment in dentistry is used to make mouthpieces for pipes and cigar holders, handles for table knives and umbrellas, combs, shirt fronts and collars and a number of fancy articles.

THE ELEPHANT AND THE APE.

A HINDU FABLE.

An elephant named Grand Tusk and an ape name Nimble were friends.

Grand Tusk observed, "Behold how big and powerful I am!"

Nimble cried in reply, "Behold how agile and entertaining I am!"

Each was eager to know which was really superior to the other, and which quality was the most esteemed by the wise.

So they went to Dark Sage, an owl that lived in an old tower, to have their claims discussed and settled.

Dark Sage said, "You must do as I bid that I may form an opinion."

"Agreed," said both.

"Then," said Dark Sage, "cross yonder river, and bring me the mangoes on the great tree beyond."

Off went Grand Tusk and Nimble, but when they came to the stream, which was flowing full, Nimble held back; but Grand Tusk took him up on his back, and swam across in a very short time. Then they came to the mango-tree, but it was very lofty and thick. Grand Tusk could neither touch the fruit with his trunk, nor could he break the tree down to gather the fruit. Up sprang Nimble, and in a trice let drop a whole basketful of rich ripe mangoes. Grand Tusk gathered the fruit up into his capacious mouth, and the two friends crossed the stream as before.

"Now," said Dark Sage, "which of you is the better? Grand Tusk crossed the stream, and Nimble gathered the fruit."

Each thing in its place is best.

GOOD MANNERS.

The secret of good manners is to forget one's self altogether. The people of really fine breeding are the ones who never think of themselves, but only of the pleasure they can give to others. No adornment of beauty, or learning, or accomplishment, goes so far in its power to attract as the one gift of sympathy.

CELLULOID.

The *Journal of the British Dental Association* quotes from *Le Progres Dentaire* a description of the process carried out at a factory near Paris for the production of celluloid.

A roll of paper is slowly unwound, and is at the same time saturated with a mixture of five parts of sulphuric acid and two of nitric, which falls upon the paper in a fine spray. This changes the cellulose of the paper into pyroxyline (gun cotton). The excess of acid having been expelled by pressure, the paper is washed with plenty of water until all traces of acid have been removed: it is then reduced to pulp, and passes on to the bleaching trough. Most of the water having been got rid of by means of a strainer, the pulp is mixed with from 20 to 40 percent of its weight of camphor, and the mixture thoroughly triturated under millstones. The necessary coloring matter having been added in the form of a powder, a second mixing and grinding follows. The finely divided pulp is then spread out in thin layers on slabs, and from twenty to twenty-five of these layers are placed in a hydraulic press, separated from one another by sheets of thick blotting paper, and are subjected to a pressure of 150 atmospheres until all traces of moisture have