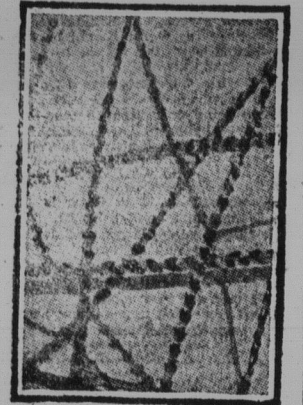


# STRANGE AND CURIOUS THINGS THAT ARE ENCOUNTERED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF WORLD

## Hair On Bat's Wing.

There does not seem to be anything extraordinary about a bat's wing, and yet the smallest section of it when examined through a microscope is of surpassing interest, not only for the naturalist, but also for every one who is not utterly blind to the wonders of nature.

The microscope shows that every hair on the wing, and indeed on any part of the bat's body, is composed of numerous little



funnels, which are clustered together symmetrically, and which look like a collection of tiny bamboo canes. On a single hair as many as 1,000 of these funnels have been found.

This is the first time that a bat has been closely studied under the microscope, and the German naturalists who have been engaged in the work are surprised with the results.

## Queer "Logrolling."

Londoners were initiated into the mysteries of logrolling a few days ago by an expert named Barton, who acquired his skill in Canada. The ordinary log used for upturning down the Mississippi weighs about four hundredweight, but the log used by Barton at Putney, near London, was a log only in shape and consisted of nine tin cans which were soldered together, each being one foot in length.

On this the expert balanced himself as

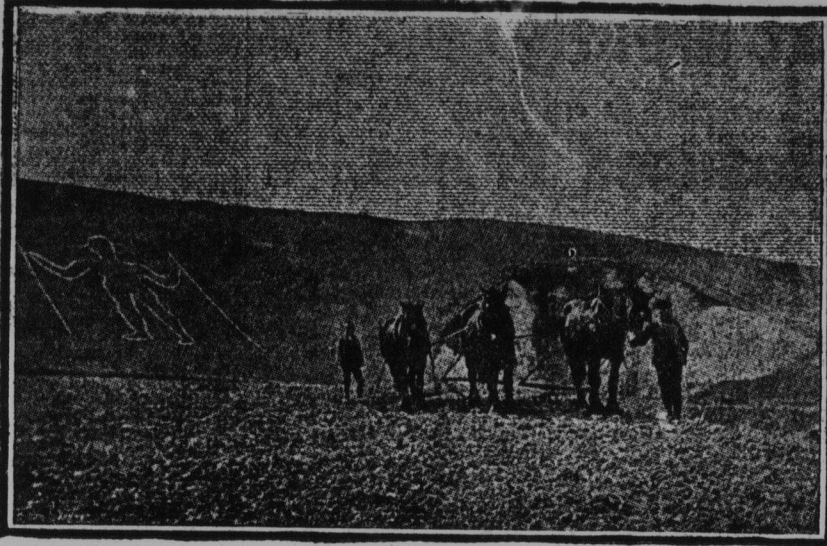


easily as if he was in a boat, occasionally varying the inventory by sitting on a chair with a table in front of him or lying at full length on the log. He says that in Canada, where he has spent five years as a logroller, the logs often weigh as much as five or six tons and that half a dozen lumberjacks sometimes tramp as many as two or three hundred logs down the stream.

His skilful performance is attracting much attention in England, and there are some who believe that logrolling may yet become a popular sport in this country.

It is usually imagined that the incandescent electric light gives out very little heat. As a matter of fact only six per cent of its energy goes to make light, while ninety-four goes into heat.

## A CURIOUS TURF MEMORIAL.



In Scotland there are a few curious turf memorials, but it is doubtful if any one of them is quite as interesting as the one which is shown in the accompanying picture. It is one of the most conspicuous landmarks in the valley of the Cuck, near the village of Wilmington, which is otherwise notable as the home of the famous Earl Godwin. It is the largest in England and

each hand contains a staff of about the same length. It is said that the giant formerly held a hoe in one hand and a rake in the other.

This striking memorial is known as the "Wilmington Giant," because it is near the village of Wilmington, which is otherwise notable as the home of the famous Earl Godwin. It is the largest in England and

according to antiquarians, is also probably the oldest. Some years ago it got into a very dilapidated condition, but was recently renovated, and there seems no reason why it should not continue to occupy its present prominent position for several more centuries.

## Odd New Hoop.

In the accompanying picture is shown a toy hoop, which is entirely different from the ordinary hoop. The latter, as every one knows, is made of a single piece of wood, or more popularly, is made of a single piece of wire, and is used for playing with. The latter is curved and bent in a most extraordinary manner.

The first hoop of section of a cylinder, of which this new hoop is composed, consists of a series of uniform and gradually curved corrugations, which project to both sides of the general plane of the hoop and are com-



paratively few in number in the direction of the circumference of the hoop. On the other hand, several corrugations project in a lateral direction, and as a result an apparently anomalous or undulatory movement is produced.

Whether children will prefer this new fangled toy to the ordinary one, which gave so much pleasure to former generations, remains to be seen. That this new hoop moves more gracefully than one composed of a plain circle of wood is evident, and, if it is capable of attaining as much speed and is not hampered in any way by its undulatory motion, there is little doubt that many boys and girls of the twentieth century will give it a fair trial.

## A Water Monkey.

How many people know what a water monkey is? It is a small quite commonly used in the tropics, and is nothing more nor less than a jar of very porous clay, with a small mouth, and provided with means for hanging it up. It is always hung in a breezy spot, if one can be found, and the water contained in it becomes comparatively cool—a point of much importance in warm



countries, where a drink of cool water cannot always be easily obtained.

A dance under somewhat novel conditions took place the other day in a mining camp in Washington state. Two new cyanide vats were being put in, and it was decided, in order to celebrate their completion, to hold a dance inside. Four sets of dancers were going simultaneously in each of the big vessels, the couples having to climb down ladders to reach the floor.

## THE KEY WEST SPONGE MARKET.



Everybody knows, of course, that the sponge is an animal that grows in the water. The fisherman picks it, with the help of a "water glass," which is a bracket, with a piece of window glass in place of the bottom. Then he takes it up with a long pole, which has a hook on the end. Next, the sponges,

after being brought ashore, are allowed to rot in the sun, to get rid of the fleshy substance. The sponge of commerce is nothing but the skeleton of the animal. In the accompanying picture men are shown buying sponges at Key West.

## PICTURESQUE CUBAN MILK VENDER.



The milkman in Cuba is decidedly picturesque. Sometimes he drives his cow from door to door in the towns. In the rural districts he rides a donkey, which is further burdened with huge cans. The picture shows a milk vendor, near Santiago, pursuing his daily route.

The United States has now 20 crematories.

## NO USE FOR RHYPHENS.

According to a foreign journal, there is at present a tendency in certain parts of France to write compound words as though they were single. Why any one objects to the harmless little hyphen no one has explained, but presumably, it is ever dis-

carded, the reason will be because people have said to themselves: "We don't need the hyphen, for by omitting it and joining the various parts of compound words we can make them all single."

If France ceases to use the hyphen, other countries may follow her example, and in that case we may expect to see in print such words as railroadtrain, baggage-master, topography, ticketlesswoman, spreadeagle, speaking-trumpet, helter-skelter, worldwide, Spanish-American, English-speaking, ten-methouse, love-dances, subterranean, and self-education.

## HAUNTED CYPRESS OF MONTEREY.

At the south end of Cypress Point, Monterey, Cal., from where the water of the ocean appears in harmony with its name of peace and the view up the coast is irregular and rocky, there rises a tall, thin, and somewhat twisted cypress tree. It is said by those who know it well to be haunted and a menace to the good fortune of all who pass within its radius. Nor would the lie be given to this strange tale by its appearance. Gaunt, misshapen and leafless, its lower limbs and branches have also a look as though they were dead, while still they serve to strengthen the strange dance of life thrilling through the dense foliage at the tree's summit.

It is not because of some malicious specter that the cypress of the point has been dubbed haunted; more likely its reputation is owing to the uncanny noises, said to be groundings of souls in distress, which sound from its barren limbs in times of high winds. That it leans always toward the ocean and is quite commonly seen with its lower limbs hung with dead serpents and other crawling things that have come up from the water is another fact cited in argument by those who credit the tree with little good.



## FIRE TREE OF THE PHILIPPINES.



The fire tree is in bloom this month. Throughout the warmer parts of Asia and in the Philippine Islands the country is redolent with scarlet foliage of the intensest description. The blossoms retain their color for about a month, when they fade away, and the fire tree is once more only a green-leaved member of the mimosa family.

All the gold coin at present in use in the world weighs less than 900 tons.

A harvester was used last autumn in Canada with a cutting bar no less than 35 feet in width. It takes a 50 horse power traction engine to pull it.

## COLLECTING CORKS.

The fact that the world's supply of cork is much less than the demand has been working a peaceful revolution in many trades. In the big hotels, restaurants and saloons the cork perquisite is now a moderately valuable privilege. They are no longer cast contemptuously by, but are thrown into a box or cask, where they are kept until the cork picker arrives, who pays a round sum in cash for all offered to him. The average waiter now employs corkcans as a means of saving money, and this is which inflicts minimum damage upon the cork, and in many places where a number of bottles are opened in the course of a day a steel cork extractor is used.

Many large corks can be recut with considerable profit. Others, which have been injured, can be cut so as to discard the less injured portion and utilize that which is sound. Corks which have been discolored by grease can be cleaned by benzine, ammonia water or lime and water. Those which have been discolored or stained by medicine can be rendered usable by long soaking in a solution of soda or potash, followed by a small amount of chloroform of lime and subsequent drying in a kiln or oven.

The finest quality consists of champagne corks. These always command a good price. It is possible to reuse them, and this is said to be done by many manufacturers both at home and abroad. Others can be reused so as to obliterate the maker's or bottler's name, which is usually branded upon the side or lower surface.

## Journalistic Device.

Recently an Australian publisher, finding that the circulation of his paper was steadily decreasing, determined by hook or crook, to regain the lost ground, and consequently as the first step in this direction he wrote and published the following startling notice:

## First Steam Turbine.

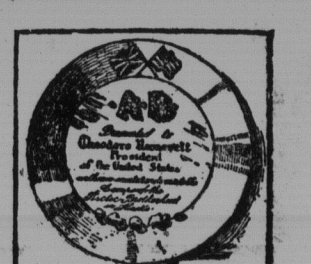
Now that all the engineering world is re-echoing with praise of the achievements of the wonderful steam turbine, it is apropos to remark that the idea is not as novel as generally supposed by the admiring lay public. In fact, it dates back considerably more than 250 years, when Branca, the philosopher and one of the most acute scientists of his time, formulated a rudimentary steam turbine. This plan of applying steam directly to the wheel was published by Branca in 1629.

## Hangman's Pay.

In the East a hangman's trade is very profitable. As soon as a person is condemned to be hanged notice is sent to the executioner, who has the privilege of erecting the scaffold wherever he pleases and at the time he next morning he begins his work. Accompanied by his assistants, who guard the condemned man and carry material for the scaffold, he goes to some prominent place in front of a large dwelling, and there proceeds to erect the scaffold.

## Gold Pan For President.

One of the unique presents bestowed upon President Roosevelt during his tour of the West was a solid gold miner's pan, from the Arctic Brotherhood of Alaska, members of which organization endured the hardships of the frozen North in Alaska in quest of the yellow metal, and who have contributed in Seattle, Wash. The pan is 20 cents fine and weighs 20 ounces. The metal of which it is made came from the mines of Nome and other Alaskan camps. The pan is inscribed with the President's name and title, and bears an invitation to the Chief Magistrate to visit Alaska.



## For The Blind.

In school for the blind founded in Lisbon by Bruno Rodrigues a new kind of industry has been established, which is proving most remunerative to the inmates. It consists in unraveling or "picking" vegetable fibers, which are used as stuffing material for furniture, beds and other articles. A blind person, working eight hours, can earn from 40 to 60 cents a day, and many orders for work are expected as the founder of the school has written to all the furniture makers in Lisbon and Oporto begging them to give him their custom. The blind, who do this work, receive all the profits, and hence are much interested in the new enterprise.

## A Giant Mushroom.

Little mushrooms, growing in caves, are common and uninteresting, but a mammoth snow mushroom nine feet in diameter, weighing a ton, and perched upon the summit of the Belknap Mountain, is a veritable wonder and extraordinary freak of the elements.

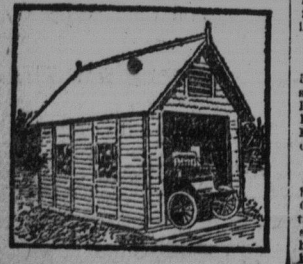
These remarkable snow mushrooms have just been reported by Dr. V. C. Cushman, P.E.G.S., before the Royal Geographical Society, London. They are formed upon the tree stumps near the Glacier House, in the Belknap Mountains, B. C. In falling trees a sharp of several feet in height is always left, and this is the stalk or pedestal of the mushroom. The Belknap started an immense snowfall from the most of the Pacific. The fall of last year was forty-eight feet, and the depth of the snow on the ground was six feet.

The mushrooms are formed of moist snow. When the wind is light—which is always the case in this region—the snow surface remains smooth, presenting many points for attachment. The upper surface of the stalk which is exposed to the air remains moist until another falls upon it, when the surfaces in contact are united by a thin layer of ice, which is then a part of the structure of each mushroom.

As the depth of the snow deposit increases by successive falls of the lower layers. These become more compact and more tenacious as the process proceeds. A stump two feet in diameter had a mushroom nine feet across, the lower part projecting three and a half feet all around the pedestal. A broken tree four feet in diameter had a mushroom twelve feet across. The weight of the mushrooms in most cases is over a ton.

## Portable Auto House.

A genius of Springfield, Mass., has invented a portable automobile house, which is made in sections, and which can be put up or taken down in a few minutes, as there is not a single nail used in its construction. The house is made of plan, and the roof is covered with chemically prepared duck or pressed steel, in imitation of shingles.



Both of these roofs are waterproof, and the latter is said to be absolutely fireproof, which the automobile is not, in many instances. Such an edifice may be purchased for less than \$100, and is designed for transportation between the various points where the owner of the automobile may desire to temporarily sojourn.

The world's typewriting record is claimed by Miss Mary Pretty, a clerk in the Patent Office at Washington, who has accomplished the remarkable feat of typing twenty thousand four hundred words in six hours. She had only ten minutes' rest, and rechecked half of what she had written.