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You can hardly blame this man for what he is doing, as he is evidently suffering from an attack of Indigestion. It would be much cheaper for him to purchase a bottle of some good Stomach Mixture.

Stafford's Prescription A

would certainly help this man, and any other who would feel like doing the same thing.

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dered sugar.

Stage Secrets Revealed

Mr. Joseph Barker, in his book, "Studio and Stage," just published, reveals several stage secrets and tells how audiences are deceived. He says: When "The Garden of Allah" was produced at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, a couple of years ago, much speculation was excited by the realistic reproduction of a sandstorm—one of the big moments in the piece. Lots of people believed the "sand" to be real sand; while others declared that it was sawdust, while as many again were convinced that it was soft-soap. A certain piquancy was lent to the controversy by Mr. Arthur Collins' polite refusal to divulge the secret. As a matter of simple fact, none of the foregoing guesses was correct: the stuff used was catmeal.

Storms of every kind, except possibly the purely emotional variety, lend themselves to practice of the art of deception on the stage. Blizzards have, perhaps, not often been staged, but snowstorms are not at all uncommon. A common device used in obtaining the necessary effect is a long trough, which is hoisted in the flies. The trough is filled with pieces of white paper—the suggestion that the rejected efforts of budding playwrights are used for the purpose is not, I believe, supported by facts—and, at the crucial moment, the trough is inverted and the "snow" emptied through the fine-mesh wire netting on to the stage.

I remember that at a musical play called "The Snow man," produced at the Lyceum, London, one Christmas some years ago, the snow refused to fall. Courtice Pounds and James Welch were prominent in the piece, and the former, after waiting in vain for the snow to descend as it should have done, saved the situation by inventing the gag. "Let us go into the inn and procure a stoup of wine," Hardly had the pair left, the stage than the snow fell as if it would never cease.

Falling Rain.

The sound of falling rain is usually imitated by means of a metal drum, containing dried peas, revolved at the required rate; while a gale of wind is "put over" with the aid of a cylinder whose wooden cogs, coming into contact with a taut piece of linen or silk, give forth a combined whistling and moaning sound.

A thunderstorm affords excellent scope for mechanical and semi-mechanical devices. A story, wrongly attributed to Augustus Harris, is told of a producer at Drury Lane, London, who was rehearsing a thunderstorm scene, and who called out to the man whose job was to "make" the thunder: "Now then, hurry up!" Hardly had he spoken than a clap of real thunder shook the silence of the theatre. The producer waited until it had reverberated into the distance; then, shaking his head, said, testily, "Not a bit like it—have another go!"

I remember hearing a good stage thunderstorm story when I was working for Michael Gunn, the Dublin Manager and producer. "King Lear" was being presented, and in the middle of the storm a loud crash, as of thunder, startled the house, while, following it, there came rolling down stage a dozen or more hefty cannon balls.

At the sight of them the almost decrepit king was galvanised into taking hurried and undignified refuge on the orchestra side of the footlights, against which the cannon balls came to a standstill with a succession of metallic bangs.

It turned out that by way of obtaining the thunder effects in this particular theatre a man was employed in trundling a wheelbarrow-load of cannon balls over a specially prepared surface at the back of the stage. Somehow on this occasion the man had slipped and fallen, with the disconcerting result I have described.

Thrilling Arctic Exploit

A thrilling Arctic exploit is recalled by the recent death of its last survivor, Charles Kruger.

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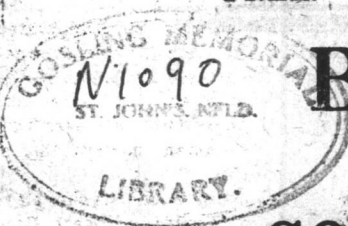
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Sept 8, 1917

Pole. Just after arriving at Thank God Harbor, Greenland, Captain Hall died of a mysterious illness. Then the *Polaris* ran into a storm, was caught in the ice pack and sprang a leak. Orders were given to save the provisions by throwing them on the ice.

Some of the crew got out to put the articles flung overboard at a safe distance from the ship, which by its rising and falling motion, was rafting the ice.

In the darkness of the night, with its blinding sleet, the party on the ice were separated from the *Polaris*. At dawn, not a trace of the ship was to be seen. Not until 1873 was the group cast adrift rescued. In those anxious months, the ice floe on which they were marooned, had drifted 1,500 miles.

Mr. Kruger returned to New York after this adventure and served for more than thirty years as a pilot on a ferry.

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