THE DEADLY UNDERTOW

AND THE FATAL CLASP OF THE EVER STEALTHY "SEA PUSS."

Perpetual Ocean Currents Along the Shore—How They Are Produced and How They May Be Avoided—Advice That Every Bather Should Heed.

The many deaths by drowning on the New Jersey coast have caused a great deal of discussion. Some attribute the loss of life to the presence of a "sea puss" others say it was simply an ordinary undertow, while the conservative claim that it was neither.

The majority of people do not know the difference between a tide and a current, but believing the words to be synonymous, use them indiscriminately. A tide is the alternate rising and falling of the water caused by the unequal attraction of the sun and moon, while a current is a moving of a mass of water that may or may not flow, but has only one direction. Currents are sometimes produced by strong winds, but generally by a difference of level and the configuration of the bottom.

The first thing to avoid in the undertow, which is always strongest in water of your waist deep. If the bather would venture out farther or remain nearer the shore he would escape the strength of the undertow. The undertow is not always confined to no particular locality, though it is stronger in some places than in others, owing to the trend of the shore. It is caused by the rushing out of the water under the surface after being thrown up on the beach, and is always strongest in an angry surf. One may judge of the strength of the undertow by the height of the waves as they come and the velocity with which they hurl an object along the beach.

The explanation of the undertow is simple. The approaching waves have a velocity depending upon the strength of the wind. So long as the swelling lasts, so this is due to gravity and depends upon the angle of inclination of the beach. The breakers, incoming with their greater velocity, run over the top of the waves, while the receding water keeps below.

THE BRILLIAN "SEA PUSS."

Either are simply partial currents that take an opposite direction to the general stream, and are produced entirely by the trend of the coast. Wherever there is a recession of the beach or "point," as it is called, there will be found either a "sea puss" or a whirlpool. The latter, however, and of little or no danger to the bather.

We now come to a disturbance of the water the very name of which creates a panic among bathers. The "sea puss" has its place in physical geography, in fact, so scientist has deigned to bestow its pleasantness. Webster does not give a definition of it in his unabridged dictionary. In The Century it is defined as "a swirl of the undertow making a small whirlpool on the surface of the water; a local outward current dangerous to swimmers. Also called sea puss and sea purse."

How the "sea puss" is formed in twenty states, but in all probability it is due to the same cause as the whirlpool, in which it is closely allied. When two currents, with different sets and drifts, meet at a point in the water, the result is, as a motion of rotation, with a diameter and velocity depending upon the resistance with which it meets. The whirlpool or "sea puss" is given a motion of translation, which it takes from the stronger of the two currents. Now there is often a slight southerly current setting parallel to the shore along the Jersey and Long Island coasts. This sometimes meets another setting to the northward and the velocity of the two is formed the "sea puss" which moves slowly to the southward and outward.

OCEAN CURRENTS.

The constant currents may be due to storms, or to a storm many miles out at sea. Far away to the eastward, the water is piled up and driven landward, where it is smooth and unobstructed. In this way it is possible that the "sea puss" may be caused by shallow sides and in unruffled water. Would a bather be caught in the swirl, it is useless to attempt to swim against it. The water plus would be to keep his head above water and swim with it, gradually nearing the edge until he is out of its unwieldsome radius of action.

Professor Marry, formerly a lieutenant in the United States navy, attributed all these currents to a difference in the temperature and density of sea water at different places.

Another proof of the presence of submarine currents is the fact that in all deep sea soundings the line has never yet ceased to run out even after the lead has reached the bottom. Should it be left fast to the boat it will invariably part, showing where two of these currents of air are that the underwater are sweeping against the flight of it with that cannot call a "swinging force," attempt to resist, however strong, has yet been able to withstand this.

Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, when in command of her majesty's steam frigate Fredelsbaum in the Mediterranean, also made the important discoveries in this direction. In the attempt to bound the counter currents so strong that they often prevented the moving of his ship. In one instance when the water was very clear he had sent the lead with colored shreds of bunting attached to every yard. These proved to different directions all round the compass.—W. Nephew King, Jr., in New York Recorder.

Oaths in Olden Times.

The Roman oath of olden times was made with great solemnity and ceremonies. In Roman mythology Janus, with a pebble in hop, strengthened it by taking the horses in one hand and the earth in the other. Hecate and Rhadamanthus, Tartarus, by the Styx, by Cocytus, by hell, by the sacred spring, hills and rivers, and by the sun and the moon. Their oaths were of much value and meaning during the early days of the republic, but soon after they became strange.

Oaths lost their sanctity and became hollowed or profane at a very early time among the Jews. Greek ladies swore frightly by Venus, Diana and Juno, and lose and then by some Made and whose Jesus was frequently taken in vain by Mary Queen of Scots. The French monarchs, too, had their own peculiar forms of oaths.—St. Louis Republic.

CAN TALK WITH THE MONKEYS.

A Japanese Man Who Is Believed to Have Mastered the Simian Tongue.

A Japanese individual beats Wagner's gardens in whom is attributed the gift of conversing with monkeys in their own language. He is a little old man who has seen about three score years and ten, but he is always alone and speaks to no one very little is known about him. For nearly a year past the old gentleman has daily visited that former popular resort, deposited the entrance fee, and so quickly as his feeble strength will allow and with eagerness depicted on his wrinkled and weather beaten countenance proceeds at once to the monkey cage.

The monkeys recognize him and set up a chattering and howling that would grate on a sensitive person's nerves, but the old man does not mind it a bit. He enjoys it, and leans on the quadrangular front while every effort to reach him through the iron bars with an expression that would lead one to think that his soul was wrapped up in them.

Finally, the noise subsides and the old man gazes into a dozen musical expressive faces pressed against the bars, with twenty-four pairs of bright eyes looking at him, and others a few guttural sounds that astonish and please the monkeys. He perfectly understands the sounds of most of them, and all strange, the motion is a sentiment and with great sentiment listen to all he has to say. Sometimes his tone is serious, when all the monkeys put on a subject expression and look as sorrowful as a monkey can.

Then again, when the tones are different, the monkeys will dance about with every evidence of delight, and all begin to jabber at once, until the old man points his finger at one of the biggest. All counts silent while he seemingly carries on a conversation with one of the older ones, imitating all the grimaces and actions of a monkey as well as any human being could.

Sometimes the conversation lists an hour or more, when the little man bids his friends adieu until the morrow.

It is said by some that the little man was once a sea captain, whose crew was mutinied by the natives on the coast of Brazil, and he made his escape to the forests of the interior with no some persons but the monkeys for many months, and subsisted entirely on the wild fruits and other food herbs that he could gather. It is supposed that he obtained some knowledge of their method of communication during the months of his enforced residence in the wilderness that enables him to engage the attention of the monkeys at Woodward's Gardens.

When accosted he is very much not rude, and his expressions belong to a source of much comment.—San Francisco Examiner.

A Live Package in the Dead Letter Office.

It is to be expected that an memory clerk, without special remuneration, shall expose himself to the dangers incident to the opening of the undeliverable and mysterious packages that are left as metaphorical footlings upon the figurative doorstep of the postmaster general. Lest these perils be deemed imaginary, it may be appropriate to relate the experiences that arrived together on one occasion in a parcel of the sort described, although they were all very much alive, especially a rattler, eight feet in length and one of the biggest ever captured, that rattled its nine rattles and showed its fangs to the unaffected disgust of the young gentleman who held the bundle.

No great war has ever occurred that he failed at the moment to keep accurate count of the rattlesnake consignment, and three weeks later the entire office was set in a stir by the unexpected appearance from beneath his desk of a three foot adder speckled in yellow and black. Owing to the fact that adders of other than the antimedical variety are discouraged in government offices, the gentleman escaped to new subjects a personal space in a bottle of alcohol on a shelf in the pathology department.—Washington Letter.

Origin of an Old Tale.

A practice was common about five years ago of rubbing thorns in a peculiar way from the outer to the inner corner, the tooth being, as was supposed, to strengthen the sight. The practice originated with President John Quincy Adams, who had what is called "a weeping eye," disease having caused the loss of some of the duct, so that he was forced to wipe away the overflowing moisture where none in every five minutes. He always wiped his eye from the outer to the inner corner, and some one noticing this peculiar action, and knowing also that, although he had passed his eighteenth year, he never used spectacles, connected the two facts and started the story that reading the eye in the way indicated prevented the changes incipient from advancing years. For a time all the old people in the country spent half their time rubbing their eyes, but the fad soon died out, and is now entirely remembered, save by some old man who saw people practicing it when he was a boy.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Pledge of an English Church.

Often in the Dutchmanner out of an aisle or chapel, pressed into the wall, or lies slightly standing out of it, beside or hidden, may be seen the coat pledge that was used in old times when there was no altar there. Besides these, only the pledge is seen rarely, as pledges upon the ground may be seen. This is a small hole upon the floor at the east end of the church, south of the altar. If there were no pledge into which the cloth was pinned, we might assume this was intended to carry it away, but in three out of four examples known there are pledges in the walls as well.

These second pledges have been noticed in St. Catherine's chapel, in Carlisle cathedral, and in the churches at Uffculme, in Lincolnshire, Little Cathcart, Renfrewshire and Bromyard, Sussex. It has been suggested they may have been made to carry away the water used in the consecration of the building.—Gentleman's Magazine.

Eskimo Mourning Customs.

All Eskimos are superstitious about death, and although they hold burial in no honor of departed friends, they will usually carry a dying person to some abandoned hut, there to drag out its remaining days without food, medicine, water or shelter. After the death of a kinsman or a wife the survivor cuts the front hair short and feels for twenty five days.—St. Louis Republic.

THE STOCKLOCK.

He Is a Well Worker, an Indefatigable Hunter and a Kind Father.

In Europe the life history of the little "stickleback" has long and carefully studied. Living as it does in shallow ditches, the work of observation presents few difficulties. When in Germany some years ago, I had a very favorable opportunity to watch a pair of these little fish, and daily observations enabled me to verify the interesting facts the scientific fish publishes about them. What astonished me most at first was the surprising energy the father displayed—for, as with the cardinal, the male stickleback does everything but lay the eggs.

Day after day for a week the little fellow rushed around, collecting loose plant stalks, grasses and mud fibers, often much larger than himself, assorting them carefully and choosing only the very best materials—sometimes even going to the trouble of tearing off strips of growing plants, which work generally costs him about twenty minutes of hard labor. He selected a spot where the branches of an aquatic plant offered a suitable shelter, and to them he fastened a layer of plant stuff, gluing it firmly over his work and annoying some sticky substance.

Then he brought sand and scattered it over the layer of fiber and began another layer, added more sand, bits of shell and rock, pressing everything firmly together, and soon a round, shaped nest arose as big as my fist and resembling a sandfish. While he worked he never sat or rested, and kept a keen eye for any possible evil presence, darting upon any fish or insect that happened to pass by, all in sharp little spurts or leaps momentarily.

When the female had her eggs they stuck to the sides of the nest and she went away, her duty done. But the male remained, if possible more watchful than ever. He kept to the vicinity of the nest, and would drive away the slightest provocation, often rushing upon a piece of wood or other strange object that drifted by. In a few days the nest was swarming with a crowd of tiny creatures, all anxious to get out and see the world, but the father kept them shut up for two days, and the times he was kept up for two.

Many times a day he would take them out for a while and bring them back to the nest after an hour's excursion, and so child of his was allowed to leave the nest and wander away alone.

Sometimes I would see him chasing some disobedient, heedless young fellow back to its home, and it really seemed as if some punishment would be inflicted, for often some were shut up while the others were let out.

The surrounding ones only moved when the young stickleback could pass their weapons of defense and had become thoroughly acquainted with their surroundings. I have few animals whose home life presents as many pleasant and interesting traits as that of the member of the despised fish family.—Detroit Free Press.

Wonderful Erosions.

A curious effect of the power and force to which the earth's crust is now being subjected is exhibited in the singularly capped pinnacles existing on South river, in the Wilbanks mountains. There are hundreds of these slender pillars, ranging in height from 40 to 60 feet, most of them crowned by large caps of stone. They are not works of human art, as might be imagined, but are the memorial monuments of the hill from which they have been cut by the action of air and water. These pillars are about twenty feet square miles of solid rocks, which have been washed away to a depth of some 400 feet.

The greater hardness of the surface has caused it to resist erosion more than the underlying rock, thus leaving large caps of stone perched high in air on the points of their columns. One double column, capped by a single stone, forms a natural bridge both serious and picturesque.—St. Louis Republic.

Why Dogs Are Half Shot at Sunrise.

I am told that the servants at the Crescent's Bay Ridge House are driven almost out of tracks by being constantly asked "Who is dead?"

This query is suggested and from any look of animation about the club, but because nearly every morning the club flag hangs at half mast. The cause question has begun to be propounded at the Marine and Field club, and in order that the epidemic may not spread the following explanation is in order: When the flag is raised in the morning the halliards, wet with dew, take shrunken. Naturally, the moment the sun is up they get dried out and stick, so, thus lowering the flag. This phenomenon was noticed at the state snap and consequently the color bearer, or whatever his title is, watches and raises the drooping signal.—Brooklyn Life.

A Noble Heart.

The lady had lost his "dollar piece." Everybody was looking for it but Willie. He sat on the stairs and did not move for a long time. Presently he walked into the corner and said: "You needn't look any longer. I think an Indian has got it by this time." Everybody stared at Willie.

"You see the missionary in Sunday school made me feel very sorry for the poor little Indian papoose, and I thought I'd help him to buy a spring wagon or something, so I sent him the lady's dollar." "But, Willie," said mamma, "why did not you send your own money?"

"Oh! I'm saving mine to buy a drum fish."—New York Recorder.

The South American trumpet tree might furnish a hint with musical instruments, inasmuch as its hollow branches are utilized for horns and also for drums.

The improvements in the long distance telephone have raised the question of the possibility of their being put into operation between this country and Europe.

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TESTIMONIALS

TOD A. CRAWFORD,

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SALT LAKE CITY, UT., Jan. 12th, 1891.

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LEGAL NOTICE.

In the Probate Court in and for Salt Lake County, Territory of Utah.

In the matter of the Estate of Moses G. Kimball, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT William H. Kimball administrator of the estate of Moses G. Kimball, deceased, has rendered his settlement, and that a said court, at the court room, in the city and county of Salt Lake, on the 10th day of September, A. D. 1891, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, has appointed for hearing said settlement, and petition for final distribution of said estate, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest said settlement, and petition for final distribution, and be heard thereon, and may examine the account of said administrator and the vouchers in support thereof, and the petition for final distribution of said estate, and may file objections to said settlement and petition for final distribution, and be heard thereon, and may examine the proofs and evidence adduced in support thereof, and may file objections to the same, and may contest the same, if any they have, and assert their rights, if any they have, and assert and prove a claim to said estate, if any they have, and assert and prove any other matter or matters, if any they have, and assert and prove any other matter or matters, if any they have, and assert and prove any other matter or matters