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A New Coast Light.

A new beacon or coast light, the invention of Professor Scharm, of Berlin, has been tested by the German Navigation Society of Hamburg with eminently satisfactory results on the coast near the mouth of the Elbe. The new method of illumination is said to have literally put the electric light to shame in the shade, and the cost of the light is stated to be insignificant. The apparatus, with all its accessories, is barely seven feet high, and is about three feet in diameter. In the interior part of the apparatus, which is best adapted for giving an intermittent light, there is a blast engine, by which benzine gas is produced, while air is driven through pumice stone strongly impregnated with benzine.

This benzine gas is carried through very fine magnesium powder and, saturated therewith, proceeds upward through a pipe, and is consumed in a small flame, yielding a light of the intensity of 400,000 candle power. The apparatus is controlled by clockwork, and is inclosed in glass with a view to protection from wind and weather. The consumption of magnesium is very small, varying, according to the power of the light required, from four to ten centigrammes of magnesium powder per flash.

The consumption in an hour would therefore amount to from 14.4 to 36 grammes of the powder, equal for a ten hour working to from 144 to 360 grammes, which would cost about six and thirteen shillings respectively. The apparatus, moreover, does not require condensers, fog arrangements or reflectors, but it lenses are used the light would be still further strengthened.—Iron.

Chinese Vessels of Fifty Years Ago.

Fifty years ago a class of Chinese vessels now almost unknown, were seen along the coast of China. They were manned by the best and hardiest sailors, and to these vessels is ascribed the gradual development of an adventuresome spirit which finally led many thousands of Chinese to seek their fortunes in other parts of the world.

As compared with ordinary junks these vessels were marine monsters. Their capacity was equal to that of any of the European merchant vessels plying in those days. They were driven by mat sails of enormous dimensions. They struck boldly out into the open sea and visited places as far away as Siam, Batavia and Singapore. They were cleared by English sailors with mixed feelings of mirth and wonder as they went tearing along before the breeze, their lofty, red painted sterns and bows high up in the air.

The vessels were known as Fokien junks, because they came from the coast of the Fokien province, the people of which were called the best sailors in China. They guided their big vessels from headland to headland, each of which their pilots knew, and when they ventured beyond their own coasts they went by compass or soundings until they reached the desired haven.—New York Sun.

A Story of "Old Ironsides."

One of the most famous of the Constitution's exploits was during the war of 1812, when she escaped from Broke's squadron among which she had accidentally fallen. The sea was almost a dead calm, so Captain Hull had to resort to towing. All her boats were lowered, with long ropes attached, and in addition Hull had ropes spliced together to make a line half a mile long, to which he attached a large anchor. This was carried in a boat half a mile ahead and dropped, when the crew hauled the ship rapidly forward. The commodore of the English squadron soon adopted the same tactics, and if it had not been for a breeze springing up the Constitution would have been captured.

In 1830 it was proposed by the navy department to take her to pieces, for she was said to be unseaworthy. But on account of her glorious achievements, people thought she should be preserved. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, then a young man of twenty-one, just graduated from Harvard university, wrote the famous patriotic poem, "Old Ironsides." This poem had such a powerful influence on the public mind that the vessel was saved and is still in existence, though nearly a hundred years old.—Harper's Young People.

COLLEGE MEN AT A DISCOUNT.

French Advice from a Sensible Sister Aided One Young Fellow to Get a Start.

He was a college bred youth, and after graduation came the question of how he was to make his living. He had the right stuff in him, though at first it was pretty well hidden by the high opinion he had of his own capacity.

A farmer's son, with no influential friends to assist him in obtaining a situation, he found himself alone in Boston. He presented himself at business offices, wrote letters in answer to advertisements, sought interviews with men prominent in commercial and banking circles, but was everywhere met with refusal. At last he began to grow despondent and to wonder what a college education was good for anyhow.

He now sought the advice of an old maid sister, his senior by many years, whose experiences in the world had made her thoroughly practical. She questioned him closely as to how he made application for a position, how he expressed himself, dwelt on what he had to offer, etc. When the young man had mentioned, she said:

"Why, just as I suppose, John. You didn't ask for a place as an employer as well. Your method is more like demanding that the employer hire your services than it is like asking for a position.

"Don't say to a man from whom you expect a situation, 'My dear sir, if there is an earlier vacancy in your establishment I shall be glad to fill it, being assured that my qualifications will enable me to assume any position you may have to offer.' Don't believe that there are a few things but which you don't know, and make your application accordingly."

John was sensible, and saw the force of his sister's remarks. His next request for a situation was couched in more modest terms than the others, and his college training was not mentioned until the very last part of the interview, when it was drawn out by the employer's own questions.

He got that situation after a few days without further trouble. That was several years ago, and today he holds a much better position in the same establishment.

Only the other day John repeated his sister's advice to a recent graduate from his alma mater, at the same time relating his own experience.—Boston Herald.

Hardy Goat Eaters.

Many races of men live entirely on animal food, and these are the most hardy, and from all I have been able to gather on the subject the most free from diseases of all kinds. My friends lived upon of the Pampas in diana. They are all horsemen, or rather pass their lives on horseback. In spite of the climate, which is lacerating hot in summer and freezing in winter, these brave men, who have never yet been subdued, are entirely naked, and have not even a covering for their head. They live together in tribes, each of which is governed by a cacique, but they have no fixed place of residence. Where the pasture is good they are to be found until it is consumed by their horses, and they then instantly move to a more verdant spot. They have neither bread, fruit nor vegetables, but they subsist entirely on the flesh of their mares.—Gentleman's Magazine.

Electricity in Modern Warships.

In modern warships electricity is playing a very important part. The commanding officer, who sits in his conning tower, has at his disposal every electrical device known, and by the pressure of a button on table his wishes known to every part of the vessel, as well as direct to some ments mechanically. Now, by a new application, the fighters on the Minneconnock can blow away the smoke from their eyes, and it may not be long ere some invention is patented by which they may blow this smoke into the eyes of their enemies.—Electricity.

How Sharks Bite.

I once hooked a shark about five feet long, which fought longer than usual, and when brought to gaff it was found to be hooked in a side fin, so that he retained his full powers. So also with the hammerhead. The clevelamer shark I have found to be the most active of them. The nurse shark lies on the bottom, but its bite is not felt or its presence known to the angler till he raises his rod, then the fish comes up like a log, without resistance.

The Cheapest Light.

Secretary Langley, of the Smithsonian Institution, has been experimenting for some time past with fireflies from Cuba. He says that the light they give is the "cheapest" in the world produced, that is to say with the least heat and the smallest expenditure of energy; and he believes that a successful imitation of it would prove a most profitable substitute for gas and electricity. The insects are beetles two inches long and belonging to the family of "snapping bugs," so called because when one of them is laid on its back it snaps itself into the air with a clicking sound.—Washington Star.

One Way to Intimate a Frog.

A frog cannot breathe with his mouth open. The conformation of his breathing apparatus is such that when his mouth is open his nostrils will be closed and, paradoxical as it may seem, all you have to do to induce a frog to put a stick in his mouth so he cannot shut his jaws. It is a strange phenomenon, probably unparalleled in animal history, but nevertheless any one who pleases may make the experiment, though it certainly will be Greenbacks to the frog.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Olive Oil Becoming a Style.

The development of the olive oil industry has been so great and the many articles now made from it are so nice that it has supplanted the famous olive tree products in a majority of cases.—New York Journal.

The Waiter's Impudence.

Mr. Wayback (at hotel)—What's that—lemonade?

Waiter—That's a finger bowl, sah.

"What's it for?"

"To wash de fingers after eatin, you know, sah."

"Concern yr impudence! I don't eat with my fingers if I do come from the country. I eat with my knife, same as other folks."—Good News.

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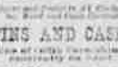

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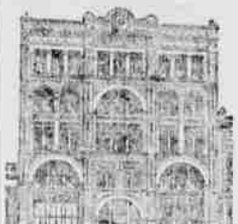

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