HOW POOLBALLS ARE MADE.

Pressed from a Gun Cotton Mixture, Cut in a Lathe and Dyed.

"Celluloid has altogether superseded ivory as material for poolballs," said a manufacturer. "A set of sixteen celluloid balls will outwear three or four sets of ivory and they cost only twenty-five dollars, whereas you cannot buy sixteen good ivory balls for less than $115. The condition of the atmosphere which causes the ivory balls to shrink and swell and crack just as if they were made of wood has no effect upon celluloid.

"Of course you know that celluloid is a mixture of gun cotton and camphor. Naturally it would be yellow, but zinc white is put in to make it white. After the ingredients have been properly mingled with the aid of steam heat the celluloid is pressed into blocks, which are a little bigger than the balls that are to be made. In order to render them as hard as possible the material is subjected to a pressure of 300 tons on each ball. Next the blocks, are turned in a lathe to perfect spheres of precisely the diameter required by means of knives which work automatically and cannot cut beyond a certain distance from the center of each ball.

"When this has been done the perfect spheres of celluloid are ready to be dyed in various colors. For this purpose they are dipped and allowed to remain for some time in pots containing the dyes, those parts which are not desired to be colored being protected by means of little cups of brass ingeniously fastened upon the balls. In the plain balls of red, blue, green, purple and yellow only the round spot where the number is to go needs to be covered, but in the treatment of the striped balls the matter is not so easy. After they have been fished out of the pots the dyed balls are put on a lathe and made to revolve rapidly, while fine sandpaper is delicately applied so as to smooth their surfaces. Then a keen knife, manipulated by hand, removes from them the thinnest conceivable shaving all over, which does not take off the color, because the dyes penetrate to a little depth. Finally sandpaper is again applied and the balls are ready for the last process to which they must be subjected.

"This last process is the varnishing. They are placed for this purpose in little wire cups, which come into contact with them at as few points as possible, and a transparent lacquer is bestowed upon them by hand with a brush. As soon as they are dry they are ready to be packed and sent to the retailer. When they are newly finished they are quite as pretty to look at as any ivory pool balls that ever were made. When are the numbers put on, you ask? Oh, they are cut very quickly with dies before the balls go into the dye pots, and a little plumbago is rubbed into them to make them black. No it would not be possible for a celluloid ball like one of these to explode; nor could it be made to burn, inasmuch as its density is too great. However, if you were to cut it up into chips it would go off at a pretty lively rate upon being ignited."—Washington Star.

A Pet Crow.

A well known up town family has a pet crow which is given the liberty of the whole household. It is as precise and particular about its appearance as a prudish young maiden, and frequently it is allowed a place in the dining room when the family meal is eaten. When night comes it stations itself at one of the fence corners and keeps looking out for intruders until the early dawn, setting up a loud cawing at the sight of any stranger approaching. A valuable diamond earring belonging to one of the daughters was missed from the dressing case the other day while the crow was perched on the window sill. Search was made everywhere for the missing piece of jewelry without success, and the finding of it was given up as one of the impossibilties.

A few days since the crow was followed into a corner of the yard filled with empty boxes, and in one of them, hidden away from sight, was found a perfect bric-a-brac shop, a number of bright silver and copper coins, a filigree brooch, several lustrous tortoise hair ornaments, a lot of bits of broken colored glass, and a stock of shining buttons of endless variety, and the diamond earring. The character of the crow has been considerably lowered in the estimation of the family since the discovery.—Philadelphia Press.

The Locomotive's Voice.

An engineer on one of the railroads running into this city says that persons in his business can always judge of the condition of their machinery by the tone it gives out while running. Every engine, whether stationary or locomotive, has a particular tone of its own. The engineer becomes accustomed to that, and any departure from it at once excites a suspicion that all is not right. The engineer may not know what is the matter, he may have no ear for music, but the change in tone of his machine will be instantly perceptible and will start him on an immediate investigation.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Promised Electrical Improvement.

Such remarkable improvements are constantly going on in the electrical world that nothing now seems surprising. For that reason only one is enabled to read with equanimity that an incandescent lamp without a filament is the next electrical improvement promised.

An Odd Place to Store Plunder.

Much annoyance is frequently occasioned by persons getting keys for the purpose of viewing unoccupied houses and failing to return them. In this connection I may mention an incident that happened a year or two ago. A well dressed gentleman called at our office for the key of a house to look over it. He neglected to return the key, however, and the house was subsequently let to another party.

About twelve months afterward, while repairing a drain, the floor of one of the rooms had to be removed, when a quantity of watches, rings and other jewelery was found concealed under the joists. These were proved to be the proceeds of a burglary at a jeweler's premises. The man who had got the key of the house was known to the police as a notorious burglar, and at the time had been suspected of the robbery, but was allowed to escape from want of sufficient evidence to convict him. As he was kept shadowed by the police he had considered it impolitic to attempt to remove the stolen property.

Shortly after this he was arrested in the north of England for a similar offense and was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. His sentence has not yet expired, and he probably remains in ignorance of the fresh charge that will await him on his release.—London Tit-Bits.

Setting Type with Both Hands.

A foreman of a composing room has conceived the idea of using both hands in picking up and setting the types in the stick. Ever since the composing stick was known the left hand has held the stick while the thumb pressed each successive type into place against the pieces already in line. A one armed compositor came to the foreman's room, and with a single hand set almost as much type as his fellow laborers did with two.

After thinking this over the foreman worked out two inventions, by which he proposes to use both hands at once. The first is a little mechanical device for taking the place of the thumb, and the second is an attachment by which the stick can be put in a convenient position for receiving the type without being in the way of any subsequent operations.

Having got so far, the foreman found that his next step was to train the left hand. This was by no means easy, but after patience and practice a considerable degree of proficiency was attained, and he added 60 per cent. to his former capacity. He believes a still further advance is practicable, but is confident that any compositor by the use of his inventions will be able to add at least 50 per cent. to his speed.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

A Monster Volcano.

Hawaii is chiefly famous for its volcanoes. Kilauea, the largest active volcano in the world, lies on the side of the mountain Mauna Loa at an elevation of 4,000 feet. We usually think of a volcano as a cone, but Kilauea is rather a great sunken pit in the midst of a vast desolate plain, which slopes up gently to the summit of the mountain. It is a pit of no less than nine miles in circumference and the area of its lowest level is six square miles. The level varies, but it is at present 600 feet below the surrounding country, and is reached by a steep descent down the sheer face of a precipice which extends right around the crater and, as it were, walls it in.

Within the crater, toward its southern end, is an inner crater with one or more lakes of fire, called Halemaumau, or House of Everlasting Burnings, which constitute the true chimney of the volcano. Here Kilauea exhibits its ceaseless activity.—Asiatic Quarterly.

The flowers that lead as providers of popular perfumes for the handkerchief and toilet are the jasmine, violet, tuberose, rose, bitter orange flower and cassia.

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For Pittsburg, Express daily 10.20 a. m. and 7.40 p. m.

For Cleveland, via Pittsburg 10.20 a. m. and 7.40 p. m.

For Washington, week days, 5.00, x6.-20, 6.25, x7.10, x7.20, x8.00, 8.35, x9.30, x10.20, (10.35 a. m., 12.00 p. m., 45 minutes) 12.15, x2 10, x2.30, 2.50, (3.45 45 minutes) x4.15, 5.00, x6.00, 6.18, x6.50, x7.15, x7.40, x8.18, 9.05, x9.55, x10.15 and 11.30 p. m., Sundays 6.25, x7.10, 8.35, x9.30, x10.20, (10.35 a. m., 12.00 p. m., *45 minutes) 1.05, x2.10, x2.30, (3.45 45 minutes) 5.00, 6.18, x6.50, x7.15, x7.40, x8.18, 9.05, x9.55, x10.15 and 11.30 p. m.

For Annapolis 7.20, 8.35 a. m., 12.15 and 4.15 p. m. On Sunday, 8.35 a. m. and 5.00 p. m.

For Frederick, 4.00, 8.10 a. m., 1.10, 4.-20 and 5.30 p. m. On Sunday, 9.35 a. m. and 5.30 p. m.

For Virginia Midland Railroad and South via Danville, *9.30 a. m. and *8.-18 p. m.

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For Lexington and points in the Virginia Valley, †4.00, †9.30 a. m. For Winchester, †4.20 p. m. Mixed train for Harrisonburg, ‡4.00 a.m.

For Hagerstown, †4.00, †9.30 a. m., †4.15 p. m.

For Mount Airy and Way Stations, *4.00, †8.10, ‡9.35 a. m., †1.10, (†4.20 stops at principal stations only,)*5.30, *6.30, *11.15 p.m.

For Ellicott City, *4.00, †6.32, †8.10, ‡9·35, †11.00 a. m., †1·10, ‡1.35, †3.30, †4.-20, *5.30, *6.30, *8.30, *11.15 p. m.

Trains orrive from Chicago, Columbus and the North West, daily, 1.00 and 6.00 p. m., from Pittsburgh and Cleveland, *9.00 a. m., *6.00 p. m.; from Cincinnati, St. Louis and the West, 6.30, a. m., 3.15 p. m. daily.

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For Atlantic City, 10:48 a. m., 12.55 p. m. Sundays 12.55 p' m.

For Philadelphia, Newark, Wilmington & Chester, daily, 7.00, 8.50, (10.48 stopping af Wilmington only,) a. m. 12.-55, 3.40, 5.55, 8.55 p. m., 12.50 night. For all stations, week days, 7.30, a. m., 3.35 and 5.15 p. m.; Sundays, 8.45 a. m., 5.15 p. m.

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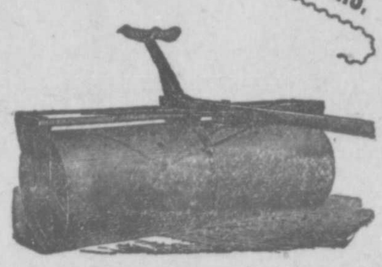
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