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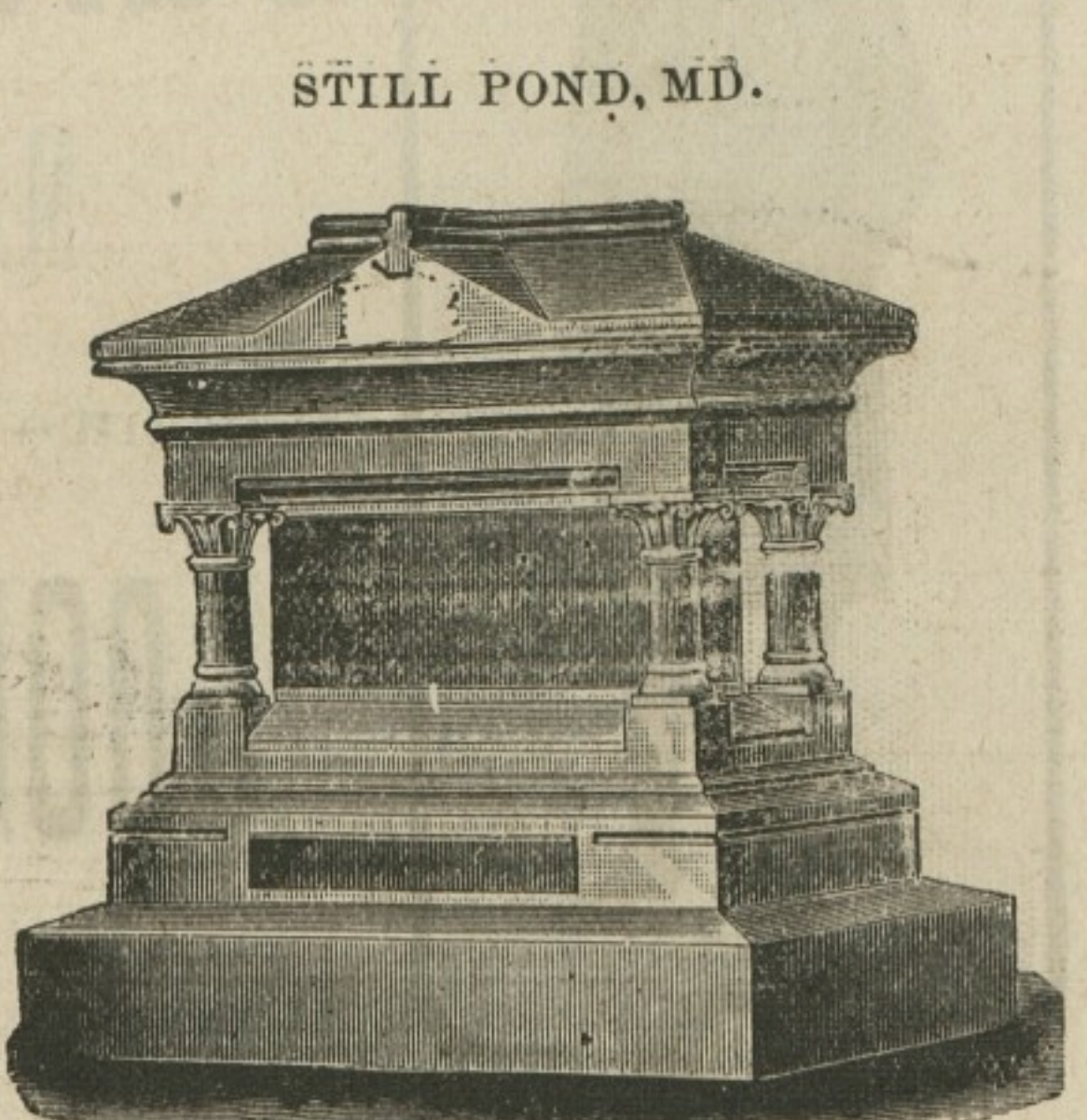
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ORIGIN OF MODERN CUSTOMS.

History of the Caps Widows Wear, Used to
Cover Bald Heads.

It is most surprising what a number of
little things we do without knowing the
reason.

Why, for instance, do widows wear
caps? Perhaps you may say because
they make them look pretty and interest-
ing. But the real reason is that when
the Romans were in England they shaved
their heads as a sign of mourning. Of
course a woman couldn't let herself be
seen with a bald head, so she made her-
self a pretty cap. And now, though the
necessity of wearing it has passed away,
the cap remains.

What is the meaning of the crosses or
X's on a barrel of beer? They signify
degrees of quality nowadays. But origi-
nally they were put on by those ancient
monks as a sort of trademark. They
were crosses in those days, and meant a
sort of oath on the cross, sworn by the
manufacturer, that his barrel contained
good liquor.

Why are bells tolled for the dead?
This has become so familiar a practice
that a funeral without it would appear
un-Christian. Yet the reason is quite
barbarous. Bells were tolled long ago,
when people were being buried, in order
to frighten away the evil spirits who lived
in their air.

Why do ladies break a bottle of wine
on the ship they are christening? Merely
another survival of barbaric custom. In
the days of sacrifice to the gods it was
customary to get some poor victim when
a boat was being launched and to cut his
throat over the prow, so that his blood
baptized it.

Why are dignitaries deafened by a
salute when they visit a foreign port? It
seems a curious sort of welcome, this fir-
ing off of guns, but it appears the custom
arose in a very reasonable way. Origini-
ally a town or a warship fired off its
guns on the approach of important and
friendly strangers to show that they had
such faith in the visitors' peaceful inten-
tions they didn't think it necessary to
keep their guns loaded.

Why do we sometimes throw a shoe
after a bride? The reason is not very
complimentary. From old it has been
the habit of mothers to chastise their
children with a shoe. Hence the custom
arose of the father of a bride making a
present to the bridegroom of a shoe as a
sign that it was to be his right to keep
her in order.—New York News.

NEW WOMAN OF LEISURE.

Prominent Part She May Take in the Domes-
tic Regime.

The woman of leisure who wakes up to
her possibilities must begin by training
herself to a new specific work. Let her
leave to man the making of skirts as well
as steel rails, but let her take up his
former work, which he has largely ex-
changed for hers. Some one must do
some hard thinking. He has no time for
it. She has. She must do harder
thinking in new lines if her children
are not to be spiritual degenerates. She
educates them; their father pays their
bills. The ideals of both are fighting
for supremacy in the child's mind. If
she is not sane and wise and has no vi-
sion of the family, the nation, the world
that should be, if she has no philosophy
of life and is too apathetic to work to
get one, she is of all endowed creatures
most contemptible and pitiable. For
the salvation of her own family, the
standard of life and thought of the larg-
er class of women with less leisure and
the physical conditions of the largest
class, with no leisure, largely depend on
her.

If the brain power that goes into what
were put on the school question or the
time spent in learning to say nothing in
French were put into the study of ideas
in the field of economics or sociology or
American history, to be expressed in
clear English; if half of the energy spent
on horse shows, golf, teas, dances and
other amusements, harmless only when
one does not gorge on them, were spent
in coming face to face with real pro-
ducers in tenements, factories, shops,
schools or college settlements, several
things would happen.

The ambitious, fretful woman who is
driving her husband to forgery or the
divorce court; the woman who finds life
a busy bore, a monotonous, irritating
kaleidoscope, and the sweet little lady
who thinks herself too small and help-
less even to venture to try to get an
opinion on the big questions over which
her supposedly wise husband shakes
his head, would all begin to get the joy
of real power. Men absorbed in the
technicalities of one business would
gladly learn from such wives some other
aspects of the great problems of busi-
ness, justice and democracy and gain a
wider horizon than their office or the
Stock Exchange.—Pilgrim.

CASTORIA
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Disasters of a Year.

On the first day of January a New
York paper printed a list of what were
termed as "appalling disasters" that
"marked the old year." This list in-
cluded fires involving destruction of
property alone, explosions causing loss
of life, fatal railroad mishaps, mine dis-
asters, floods in the rivers, volcanic dis-
turbances of a terrible character and a
number of severe earthquake shocks.
Included in this list were five tragedies
in New York city alone, by which fifty-
one lives were lost, and the total for the
country by what are called "appalling
disasters" was a loss of 196 lives. Then
there were scores of minor mishaps, each
causing the deaths of one or more per-
sons, and the aggregate list of deaths
from what are generally accepted as
"accidents" must have contained names
of four or five thousand persons.

The actual "appalling disasters" were
those with which man had naught to do
—volcanic eruptions and seismic quivers.
The total loss of life from these causes
is given in round numbers as 48,000, and
this does not include the lives lost by
volcanic and seismic disturbances on the
isthmus between the two Americas.
Thus the loss of life through what may
be called unnatural accidents—those the
result of man's energy, such as the min-
ing of coal, the running of railroad
trains, the boring for oil, the ignition of
fireworks, the digging of tunnels, etc.,
was not as great as the natural disasters.
Man has devised many methods sug-
gestive of personal injury and loss of
life, but nature is more to be dreaded
than man's utilization of nature's forces.
Floods in rivers, volcanic eruptions and
earthquakes wrought the greatest havoc
among the peoples on earth during the
year 1902.

The facility for gathering data of this
kind, and the constant intercourse be-
tween all parts of the world, have made
possibly a nearly complete compilation
of the stories of death and destruction.
Nature is a great devastator and there
is no getting away from the terrible
force of the elements, whether they are
operated from the heavens or from the
bowels of the earth. While there have
been thousands of lives lost by nature's
performances, by the failure of man's
plans, by the destruction of valuable
property, and all that sort of thing, the
average showing of death from violence
is not increasing so far as the percentage
of victims to population is concerned,
while increasing in actual numbers.

Nothing escapes, in these days, the
newspaper men, and thus it is that the
records being kept now show such a
marked increase, in point of numbers
of lives lost, over the old and incomplete
records. Death lurks everywhere, and
there is no getting away from it. Yet
when it is borne in mind what myriads
of death dealing forces are employed
every hour in the day for man's use and
benefit, it is remarkable that the annual
list of disasters is not more appalling.
And it must be taken as an illustration
of the marvelous control that man has
of the tremendous energy of steam that
the passengers on the hundreds of
thousands of railroad trains are almost
entirely exempt from sudden death
through accidents. The millions of
steam boilers in daily use, the hundreds
of thousands of elevators carrying men
and women up and down through great
buildings, the electric cars dashing
everywhere, and the multitude of devices
of men are all fraught with danger; yet
the sum total of mishaps as a result is
not so startling as might be imagined.
The tendency is to reduce the element
of danger, and the inventive genius of
man is bound to win in this respect.
—Ex.

Admiral Dewey's Prediction.

Admiral Dewey said our next war
would be with Germany. It begins to
look as though the Admiral's prediction
would come true. Germany is dealing
with Venezuela, and her effort to bag an
island from Venezuela two years ago,
came very near to challenging the Mon-
roe Doctrine. Despatches state
that German capitalists are making
an effort to secure control of the Panama
Canal Company. If this is true it is the
beginning of a struggle.

Germany evidently desires to contest
the Monroe Doctrine. In the Venezuelan
affair, she duped Great Britain into an
alliance, and her intention, no doubt,
was to have made a test case then. Great
Britain declines to go the lengths Ger-
many desired, and Germany's intentions
were not carried out. If there be any
truth in the report that German capital-
ists have made an effort to obtain con-
trol of the Panama Canal Company we
shall be very close to Admiral Dewey's
prediction.

A contest between the two countries
would be on water. As Germany has
a much larger navy than the United
States at present her acts in Venezuela
and Panama would indicate that Ger-
many would like to test the Monroe
Doctrine at once. Germany will not
undertake the task alone. If she can
form an alliance with several nations,
the effort to test the Monroe Doctrine
will be made by the purchase or an-
nexation of South American territory.

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hardest money to save is that which you
haven't earned.—Chicago News.

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