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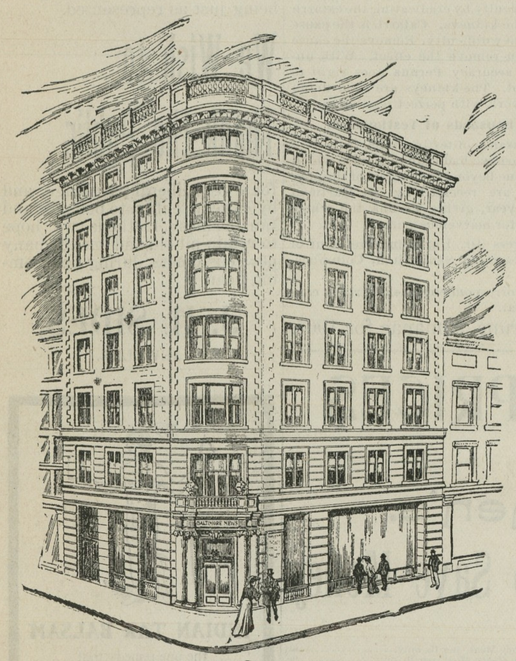
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DEEP SEA CURRENTS

THE GULF STREAM AND ITS COURSE THROUGH THE OCEAN.

Many Irregularities Are Known to Occur In Both the Direction and In the Velocity of This Peculiar River of the Atlantic.

Seamen sometimes seem to forget that even the most permanent of ocean currents are occasionally driven out of their usual track by a succession of strong winds from one direction, and the fairy tales with respect to the alleged vagaries of the gulf stream told so frequently only tend to show that navigators rather too frequently regard that river in the ocean as not less firmly fixed in velocity and direction than if it were flowing to the sea between banks formed by the solid earth of our planet. As a matter of fact, ever since the gulf stream was first discovered about four centuries ago it was recognized by thoughtful navigators that fixity of tenure did not and could not hold for that vast body of relatively warm water cushioned off from the Atlantic coast of America by the colder waters of the Labrador current even as far toward the equator as Florida. Were it not for the gulf stream, or, more accurately, the eastern extension thereof, the average air temperature in the winter would be not less than 29 degrees below the freezing point of water on a Fahrenheit thermometer registered at the Shetland islands. As matters stand the presence of the relatively cold current from the Arctic washing our shores, inside of the warmer gulf stream, closes up the harbors of Newfoundland at the same time as the gulf stream extension is keeping the Norwegian coast clear of ice even as far to the northward as the North cape. To put it another way, St. John's, N. F., is sometimes closed with ice even as late in the year as June, while Liverpool, which is 2 degrees farther to the north, has never been in that condition since the glacial epoch.

In fact, it has been seriously suggested that by diverting the course of the gulf stream into the Pacific, through the narrow neck of land joining the two Americas, it would be quite possible to freeze out a considerable portion of Europe. The cool Labrador current setting southward from the icy regions adjacent to the north pole impinges with greater velocity than usual upon the northern margin of the gulf stream in certain years. Cyclonic storms traveling up from the southward deflect it also, and consequently the gulf stream, although probably the most permanent of all the great ocean currents, is not invariable either in velocity or in direction. Generally speaking, this ocean river in the lower latitudes of the Atlantic is driven westward by the prevailing easterly winds acting upon the sea surface until the western side of the gulf of Mexico is attained. Thence it follows the land till an outlet is found through the strait of Florida, which, being both narrow and shallow, causes the velocity of the current to increase. Thence it sweeps northeastward outside of the Labrador cool current hugging the coast until the banks of Newfoundland are reached. About there the gulf stream proper is said to lose its identity as such, but the warm waters thereof are driven by the prevailing westerly winds toward the United Kingdom, Norway and even Spitzbergen. Many irregularities are known to occur in both the direction and the velocity of the gulf stream from time to time, consequent on wind changes and variations in barometric pressure.

Prior to the age of chronometers most extravagant views were put forward by navigators and others in a hurry to the effect that by the aid of an ordinary thermometer the longitude could be accurately determined if the shipmaster would but trouble to take a series of sea surface temperatures when in the vicinity of the gulf stream. Similarly the sea surface temperature was regarded in about the same geographical position as an infallible guide to the proximity of ice. Neither inference is true. High temperature indicates tropical origin and low temperature indicates polar origin generally speaking, but beyond this it is dangerous to predicate. The relatively warm water may be in a very abnormal position for the period of the year owing to natural causes, and a fall of 25 degress Fahrenheit is sometimes experienced in a short ship's length on the mingling places of the warm gulf stream and cold Labrador current on a beautifully clear day without the slightest sign of ice of any kind above the boundary line of sea and sky. Many a sailing ship, after vainly trying to reach New York, has got badly iced up and run to the warmer waters of the gulf stream to thaw out both her crew and her gear, but neither the longitude nor the presence of ice can be rightly determined solely by the aid of sea surface temperatures. Nevertheless the use of the sea surface thermometer is not to be despised, because it is undoubtedly of approximate assistance in defining a ship's geographical position. The line of separation of the two currents, the cool Labrador and the warm gulf stream, is often noticeable either by the vivid blue of the salter gulf stream in close proximity to the green color of the fresher Labrador current or by the ripple on the margin. It is said that a blockade runner from Wilmington, N. C., when chased by a Federal cruiser, managed to escape by the observation of this friendly ripple. The blockade runner edged into the current more favorable for her, while the cruiser kept in the adverse current and lost the prize.—American Syren and Shipping

CAYENNE PEPPER.

Try a Sandwich of It if You Are Troubled With Insomnia.

"Did you ever try a cayenne pepper sandwich?"

This question was asked a lady to whom sleepless nights were growing to be an almost unendurable burden.

"Not that, but I have tried about everything else," was the discouraged answer. "I don't suppose, however, that it would do me any more good than the thousand and one things I have tried."

"I have suggested the remedy to a great many people similarly afflicted, and in every instance good results have followed. I wish you would let me make you one."

The haggard face of the sleepless woman told its own story. She languidly assented to her friend's request, with little or no faith in its efficacy, yet willing, like the proverbial drowning man, to "catch at a straw" that promised any relief.

A cracker was forthwith produced and quite generously buttered. A liberal sprinkling of cayenne pepper was then added, the two halves put together and the patient requested to partake of the spicy concoction.

Strange as it may seem, but little inconvenience was experienced. The slight smarting sensation in the mouth was soon over, and no unpleasantness was felt in the stomach. The cracker was eaten just before retiring, and very soon after the patient was sleeping peacefully.

The pepper acted as a stimulant to the stomach, drawing the blood from the excited brain and inducing a night of more refreshing sleep than had been experienced for a long time. The remedy was repeated the next night, with the same result. A cayenne pepper sandwich is much less harmful than drugs and when taken in small quantities is a good tonic for a weak stomach.

Sick headache has also been known to yield to a cup of hot water to which have been added a generous pinch of cayenne pepper and a nip of soda as big as a pea.—Table Talk.

TRICKS OF THIEVES.

Clever Schemes That Aid In the Perpetration of Crime.

"Thieves resort to clever methods in order to get away with the goods," said an old police officer, "and I am firmly convinced that if the criminals of the world would devote the same amount of time, talent and patience to thinking out uplifting and advantageous schemes for humankind they would in a short while revolutionize the world in many useful ways. But somehow the mind of the criminal seems to be sharper, if I may say it, and brighter and quicker than the mind of the honest man. The fact may be explained in any number of ways. In the first place, the criminal has nothing to do but think out some plan of getting something that doesn't belong to him. That is his special business. Quite naturally the plan he works out under those circumstances will often startle even the oldest men in the police departments of the country. Who would have thought of the wire saw, a thing so small that it can be slipped in between the layers of the shoe sole, but the criminal who found in it a ready, convenient and unfailing means of escape? He is constantly thinking up some new scheme. Here we find a man and woman in a jewelry store. The woman carries a parrot with her. The bird suddenly gets away and begins to flutter around in the store. The jeweler is afraid the parrot will break something. He tries to catch it and succeeds after a short while. A small purchase is made. The man and the woman leave. Result, several hundred dollars' worth of jewelry gone. It was stolen during the excitement over the bird. Good scheme, eh? Yet it is but one out of a million worked by the clever degenerates of the world."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Spinning Wheel In Ireland.

The spinning wheel and the flax wheel are still found in the Irish cottages, where many a girl has her wedding dowry of linen and homespun made at home. Although it is more the task of the older women, there are still girls who do their spinning stint and lay by a certain amount for their wedding outfit. A pleasant sight it is to see the elderly women outside their cottage doors spinning the flax or the wool. As long as the weather is warm the sturdy Irishwoman, old or young, scorns a roof except to sleep under. The free air and sunshine are her choice, and the sweet sky is the fairest roof.

Politics and Humor.

In the world of politics the man who would obtain political preferment must be serious. No man who cultivates humor to the exclusion of his other gifts can hope to attain to the highest places in the political arena. The American citizen reserves the inalienable right to vote for whom he wills, and the serious man who suppresses his sense of humor rather than the man who cultivates it is honored with his preference. —Senator Chauncey M. Depew.

Superfluous Details.

Caller (looking at picture)—Does your mamma paint? Little Son—Yes, but she's through with that an' is puttin' on the powder now. She'll be down in a minute.

Accepted.

"Jackson tells me the last thing he wrote was accepted. Do you know what it was?"

"Yes; his resignation."—London Million.

Rats and conquerors must expect no mercy in misfortune.—Cotton.

Blood

Keep your blood clean as you keep your body clean. You don't wait until your body is foul before you cleanse it.

It is a matter of surprise that many people who are so careful to have clean bodies make no effort to keep the blood clean. Everyone knows that uncleanness breeds disease; that those who do not keep their bodies in a wholesome condition and who dwell in filthy surroundings are the first to fall when some epidemic of disease sweeps the country. But foul blood is more dangerous to the individual than a foul body. An unclean body is rather a passive than an active hindrance to health. But unclean blood is an active threat against the very life—it makes the body a prepared breeding place for disease.

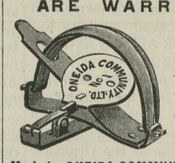
It is part of Nature's plan for human safety that in many cases where the blood is impure or corrupt she sets a sign on the body in proof of the corrupt current that is flowing through the veins. Scrofula with its disfiguring sores and scars, eczema with its irritation, salt-rheum, tetter, erysipelas, boils, pimples and other eruptions are only the outward signs of the impurity of the blood. But often in the earlier or simpler stages of the blood's impurity there are no outward signs of this condition; only dull, languid, sluggish feelings, which are commonly attributed solely to the sluggishness of the liver.

Of all preparations for purifying the blood Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery easily takes the first place. It eliminates from the blood the elements which clog and corrupt it, and which breed and feed disease. It acts directly on the blood-making glands, increasing their activity, and so increasing the supply of rich, pure blood which is the life of the body.

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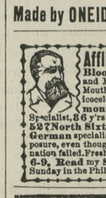
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