

## SECRET OF LIVING LONG.

Swiss Believes in the Abstinence of Salt and Water.

A curious-looking man of strange habits and with a mission that is even stranger, has just arrived in London from Ascona, on Lake Maggiore, Switzerland. He has taken up his residence in the vicinity of Colney Hatch lane, N., and he believes that in abstinence from salt and water lies the secret of long life.

Herr Joseph Salomonson, the gentleman in question, wanders about the North London highways wearing a cassock of brown corduroy encircled at the waist by a girdle. His long brown, wisp hair, unincumbered by hat, hides his collarless neck, and a ragged-edged beard droops over the open part of his gown. His feet are incased in sandals, and at times he carries a staff that reaches to his shoulders. Altogether his appearance is reminiscent of figures in Scriptural illustrations.

Herr Salomonson's object is to try to induce London's 6,000,000 inhabitants to refrain from eating salt and drinking all manner of liquors, even water. He himself, so he asserts, has not taken any kind of liquid since Sept. 1, 1901, and he has eschewed salt for a longer period.

At Ascona he has established a colony of devoted disciples, male and female, who do likewise. Moreover, they work in a state of primitive absence of attire, separated by wooden partitions, and when the weather permits, they even sleep in this state on the bare ground. Herr Salomonson appreciates the difficulty of this part of his programme being carried out in London. "But," he explained the other day, "there are plenty of suitable sites within an hour's railway journey from the city."

He saw no reason, however, why London should not at once abandon the eating of salt and the drinking of liquors. "Salt," he averred, "is the beginning of all evil. It is ruinous to the body, damaging to the soul and destructive of the intellect. Water or any other form of liquid is a mere burden to the stomach and has no value at all."

In short, Herr Salomonson, who is a man of considerable intelligence, believes that if people followed his example there would be no sickness. During the twenty-six months that no drop has passed his lips he has lost in weight 62 pounds, but feels many years younger and much stronger.

"There is not a sound man in the world," he declared, "and yet people who eat salt and drink water live to be as old as 90 or even 100. When we live a natural life I see no reason why we should not attain to 200 or 250 years. I believe in the ages mentioned in the Bible, and I believe we should live as long in these days if we lived on the lines intended for humanity. That is my mission here."—London Mail.

## WIT WAS REWARDED.

Most of us are able to supply a repartee if we are given time to think it over, but a repartee half an hour after the occasion for it has passed is like a blank cartridge. It is the readiness of the retort that makes it effective.

The great Russian soldier, Marshal Suvoroff, was in the habit of asking his men difficult questions, sometimes foolish ones, and bestowing favors on those who showed presence of mind in answering him.

On one occasion a general of division sent him a sergeant with dispatches at the same time recommending the bearer to Suvoroff's notice. The marshal, as usual, proceeded to test him by a series of whimsical questions.

"How far is it to the moon?" was the first query.

"Two of your excellency's forced marches," the soldier promptly replied.

"If your men began to give way in a battle, what would you do?"

"I'd tell them that just behind the enemy's line there was a wagon load of good things to eat."

"How many fish are there in the sea?"

"Just as many as have not been caught."

And so the examination went on, till Suvoroff, finding his new acquaintance armed at all points, at length put a final poser.

"What is the difference between your colonel and myself?"

"The difference is this," replied the soldier, coolly, "my colonel cannot make me a captain, but your excellency can."

Suvoroff, struck by his shrewdness, kept his eye upon the man, and soon afterward gave him the promotion for which he had hinted.—Stray Stories.

## A Mountain of Alum.

German newspapers report that an "alum mountain" exists in China, which is not only noted as a natural phenomenon, but is also a source of wealth for the people of the vicinity. The mountain is said to have a circumference at the base not less than ten miles and is nearly 1,900 feet high. The alum is quarried in immense blocks, is then heated in large ovens, and afterward dissolved in boiling water. From this liquid the alum crystallizes in layers of about half a foot in thickness, which are cut up in blocks of ten pounds each. The Chinese use it mainly for purifying water.

## RAILWAY TO VESUVIUS.

New Electric Line Has Been Built Along Mountain.

A new electric railway has just been completed by which the traveler can now reach the smoking crater of Vesuvius in a comfortable car. The new line starts from Pogliano, at the base of the volcano and within a short distance of the shore of the Bay of Naples. The trip from Naples itself can be accomplished in an electric tram car, and the old cable railway up the cone has itself been electrified so that practically the whole journey from Naples to the cone can now be made by electrical propulsion.

The new railway has been constructed by the world-famous firm of Cook, who have worked the cable railway up the cone for the past fifteen years. The total length of the railway is just over four and one-half miles. It is built up of three sections, the first and third of which have ordinary smooth rails, the second section having an additional cog-rail. The first section of the railway passes through a lovely vine-clad zone on which are grown the grapes which make the famous "Lacrina Christi" wine. The houses are gradually left behind as one approaches the second section. This section is the steepest part of the journey, the cars which are self-propelling on the easier gradients being here disconnected from the current and pushed up the slope by an electric locomotive with two motors and elaborate brake attachments.

The power station is situated at the lower end of the steep section and a large hotel at the upper station, known as the "Hermitage," from the terraces of which splendid views can be obtained. All the way up the steep section the line is bordered with verdure, and the "Hermitage" is itself embowered in greenery, but on passing this point a sudden change occurs. The true nature of the mountain shows itself without any veneer of vegetation to cover its ashy sides. Fields of brown lava stretch away in all directions as the car mounts to the bottom of the fanciful railway which carries the traveler almost to the lip of the crater itself. A few more paces and one has reached the store of horrid activity which has buried cities in the past and may yet bury them again in the future.—Sphere.

## Colombian Warfare.

Although the Colombians are extremely brave their generals care nothing for the lives of their men, as the following incident will show.

At the battle of Palo Negro, when Gen. Uribe Uribe, the Liberal leader, was beaten back in his efforts to reach Bogota, over 7,000 men were left dead upon the field and many terrible atrocities were enacted. One of the worst was related to me by a Government officer, Gen. Triana, after he returned from the fight.

"It was a glorious victory and a horrible affair, and we whipped the Liberals properly," he told me. "But one thing happened which has disgusted me with the whole war. I never want to see any fighting again."

"There was a strong force of Liberals ambushed in thick brushwood on the side of a hill. One of our generals was ordered to clear them out, but he could not locate their exact position, and he knew that to advance blindly upon them would mean the loss of a great many of his men."

"What do you think he did? Among his troops there were about forty little boys from 10 to 14 years old. He picked them out and told them to march across the exposed ground toward the enemy. They had never faced death before and were proud to march ahead of the rest. Before they had gone far thousands of rifle-men opened fire on them and every one of the forty was killed. Then, the enemy having unmasked their position, our general easily drove them away. A pit was dug after the battle, and the corpses of the forty boys were all thrown into it together."—Thomas S. Alexander, in World's Work.

## Some Remarkable Echoes.

The suspension bridge across the Menai straits, in Wales, produces one of the most remarkable echoes in the world. The sound of a blow with a hammer on one of the main piers is returned in succession from each of the cross beams which support the roadway, and from the opposite pier at the distance of 576 feet, in addition to which the sound is many times repeated between the water and roadway at the rate of 28 times in five seconds.

An equally remarkable echo is that of the castle of Simonetta, a nobleman's seat, about two miles from Milan. The report of a pistol is repeated by this echo sixty times. A singular echo is also heard in a grove near castle Comber in Ireland. In the garden of the Tuilleries in Paris is an artificial echo, which repeats a whole verse without the loss of a single syllable.

Another wonderful echo is heard outside the Shipley Church, in Sussex, which echoes some 20 syllables in the most perfect manner. The well-known echo at Woodstock repeats itself no fewer than 50 times. In one part of the Pantheon so great is the echo that the striking together of the palms of the hands is said to make a report equal to that of a 12-pound cannon.—New York Herald.

## TO BANISH THE FRECKLES.

They're No Longer Fashionable—Soap and Water the Best Cure.

The use of soap and water is one of the latest complexion fads, and it is especially directed against the freckles.

Freckles, by the way, are not fashionable. The up to date poet or novelist never mentions them. His heroine may be permitted to have a becoming coat of sunburn—a sun kissed skin he calls it—but that is all. The freckle is banished, or rather it is every woman's duty to try to banish it.

To get rid of freckles there have been women willing to undergo even the torture of having their face peeled—of having the outer cuticle burned off by a powerful acid. This process requires them to remain in seclusion a month or more nursing their faces. Such heroism, though, is infrequent.

The average woman is timid about applying strange acids to her face, and it is probably for that reason that the soap and water cure is destined to enjoy more or less of a vogue. Another feature in its favor is cheapness.

It is necessary only to invest in a camel's hair face brush and a cake of pure soap—plain castile, say. These, together with plenty of hot and cold water, represent the equipment required.

At a luncheon party in the hotel restaurant the other day a party of women were discussing the subject of complexion. One of them was badly freckled, and consequently in quite an unhappy frame of mind.

"Now look at Mary," she exclaimed in an aggrieved tone. "I don't see a spot of any kind on her skin and yet she used to freckle just as much as I do."

Mary met the sustained and curious glances of her friends with a smile and hastened to say:

"I don't mind letting you into the secret. It's nothing but a faithful devotion to the soap and water cure."

"You mean face steaming?" asked one.

"Not at all. This is a newer remedy. I wonder you haven't heard of it, for all the complexion specialists are advising it."

"Use water just as hot as your face will comfortably bear. Make a lather of the soap and scrub with the camel's hair brush fully five minutes. Nothing less than five minutes will answer, and be sure to time yourself, or you will imagine the time is up when you have been scrubbing about one minute."

"After the scrubbing rinse off the soap with very hot water, using plenty of it. Then begin rinsing with cold water and continue that until the skin feels quite cool. That's all."

"To get the best effects the face must be scrubbed both night and morning for several weeks. Lately I have taken the scrubbing only in the morning, but I kept it up faithfully twice a day for nearly three months."

"The trouble with some women is they expect almost instantaneous results and, becoming discouraged after a week or two, give up the treatment altogether. Judging from my own experience I am firmly convinced that soap and water is the best complexion lotion on the market, the very best freckle eradicant extant. And I mean to stick to it."

## The Value of Steel Cars.

The Illinois Central has adopted a new style of car for use on suburban trains. It has several side doors instead of the end door. Passengers will be able to get on and off more quickly and running time can be shortened. The new cars are to be of steel construction and will be much stronger than those now in use. That is, indeed, a change for the better.

The suburban service of the Illinois Central has been remarkably free from accidents, but railroad men have sometimes remarked that it would be a bad business if anything were to happen to one of the crowded suburban express trains while going at its customary high rate of speed. There will be less cause for apprehension when steel cars which can withstand a pretty severe shock take the place of the frail wooden cars. All passengers coaches ought to be of steel and to have as little wood about them as possible. Then collisions and derailment will be a little less serious.—Chicago Tribune.

## Curious Old English Law.

It is interesting to recall in connection with railway accidents that only a few years back any instrument which by accident was the immediate cause of loss of human life became in English law "deadend"—that is, became forfeit to the crown, to be devoted to pious purposes. This law applies to locomotives, but in course of time coroners' juries, instead of claiming the forfeit, inflicted a fine. So recently as the year 1833 a locomotive on the Liverpool and Manchester line, which, by exploding, caused the death of its engineer and fireman, was fined £20, while the following year another engine on the same line was fined £1,400.—London Tit-Bits.

## Over Eighteen.

A Kansas City girl the other day, in order to obtain a marriage license, wrote the figure 18 on a piece of paper and put it in her shoe so that she might swear to being "over 18." The deception has long been practiced in Kansas, but for another purpose. "There are hundreds of quarter sections of land in western Kansas," a paper says, "that were proved up by girls who played that same trick at the instance of lawyers. It is a scheme as old as Kansas almost."—Kansas City Star.

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