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 A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any technical journal in the world. 300 pages. Contains all the latest news of the scientific world. Published by Scientific American, Inc., 215 N. York St., New York.

**STEPHEN OTWAY'S
 SILENCE**

"No!" He had drawn himself a part; stood there, handsome and de-lished tenfold. My father—Here, look! I—I can't say it!"

A telegram had fluttered from his hand. Otway picked it up mechanically, and read: "Father dangerously ill; come at once.—Sybil." Next moment he had faced back sharply.

"Well?"

"I can't go, Stephen! I—I aren't now!" It was almost a scream. The dear old governor had set his heart on his winning this thing; and I couldn't—couldn't tell him!—The voice broke off into a convulsive sob; the man was shaking like an aspen. Otway looked at him pityingly; then crossed the room and began to finger a railway time table.

"Twelve-fifteen from Euston!" He pulled out his watch; stood in thought a moment. "I'll go!" he said, curtly. "You can stay here if you like!"

"You will? Heaven bless you for that, Stephen!" said the other, fervently. "You're a good fellow; it's ten times more than I deserve. Send word how—how things are going, won't you?"

Five minutes later Stephen Otway caught himself wondering for the second time that night if the whole of it was not a dream. No dream, however that midnight journey into Warwickshire, no dream the white-faced girl who crept softly down stairs in the early dawn to greet him, the startled question starting from her eyes before ever she spoke a word.

"Stephen! But where is Clive? He will be too late!" . . . His mumbled falsehood, and then: "Yes; very ill indeed! A sudden heart attack; the doctor has been with him half the night. You will not mind if I go back?"

Later she came to him again. He found himself following obediently up the stairs into the darkened room where old Farley Alnsworth lay, very still and very feeble.

"Stephen, my boy, how are you?" The words were hard to catch, all but indistinct. "Clive is coming soon, they tell me! I want to see the lad once more, to tell him I am proud—we are all proud. He won the medal, Stephen, eh? Couldn't help but win it, could he?"

The wrinkled hand was quivering feebly in his own. Bending down to listen, Stephen Otway remembered the debt of gratitude he owed the old man lying there. He glanced across at the girl standing by the window.

"Yes, he won it," he said quietly.

Later, walking away from that house with closed shutters and the drawn blinds, it seemed to him that either the world had grown different or he very old and weary. Nothing mattered now; all the days would be alike—a miserable, haunting drudgery. He recollected reaching Euston and walking to his lodgings; but nothing more was clear. His brain rocked stupidly; there was a dull ache, and a sense of heaviness that bore him steadily down—down—down at last there came a final blank.

Ten whole days that grim snap of feverish unconsciousness remained; and life and death were playthings; twilight which he hovered like a fretful child, uncertain which to choose. When the dark cloud lifted he knew that he was lying in bed, there was a little table holding medicines by his side. The dark-robed figure seated by the window heard him move; it struck him that the figure was familiar, what could Sybil be doing here? He said her name, half expecting the vision to dissolve.

"Stephen! Oh, how glad I am!" She came to him with joy shining bravely in her face. "There, don't try to talk; lie still and get quite strong and well. I know everything—all the miserable story. Clive has told me what a hero you have been."

Afterward? Nay, the story is too trite. Stephen Otway and his wife are happy, and success has come to him in plenty since then.—W. Strelton Smith.

Five Classes of Mules.
 Many persons do not know what constitutes the five classes of marketable mules known as cotton mules, lumber mules, railroad mules, sugar mules and miners. Cotton mules are most numerous. They range from 13 to 16 hands high and may be various builds so long as they are smooth. They sell at \$75 to \$165 apiece.

Lumber mules are large, heavy boned and dugged for use in big lumber camps. Their price ranges up to \$250. The railroad mules are similar, but need not have so much weight. They are \$15 to \$30 cheaper. They are used in grading and hauling. Sugar mules are lighter. They must be smooth, with small head and neck and smaller bones. Their price is from \$65 to \$210.

Farm mules are the culls rejected from the other classes. Level mules are used near steamboats and docks for the heavy work. The miners are the hardest class to supply. They must be either a dark bay or black color. White and sorrel mules are never used. Where the mines have coal region especially, they say a white mule resembles a ghost and frightens the other mules beyond control.

The government buys all classes of Missouri mules, but never a cheap one, and the examination of mules for the public service is rigid.

A Portrait of King Charles' dwarf, by Dobson, which, at a sale in 1323, failed to realize more than \$37.50, was sold by auction in London recently for \$1,350.

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MANUFACTURE OF VIOLINS.
Great Care Required in Construction To Bring Out the Tone.

Violin ribs and sides are usually made out of the choicest maple; the back and belly being ordinarily of old and sound mountain pine. Maple strips for the side are immersed many times in boiling water so as to render them pliable without being brittle, and they are then reduced to the proper shape by means of heated irons. Of course, no kind of metal nail is ever used.

Before the belly of the violin is fixed one of the most skilled of all the mechanics has to do his delicate part. This is to place in the precise spot, with infinite tact and caution the sound post, which is called in French "the heart of the violin," because through it passes all the heart throbs or vibrations generated between back and belly.

The most exquisitely sensitive item in the whole fabric, however, is the bass or sound bar, which is considered to be the very nerve of the violin. It is always of soft green pine, and placed inside the upper table under the left end of the bridge. Its function is supreme; for it not only consolidates the upper plate so as to aid it in enduring the heavy pressure of the strings, but it also conveys to the entire surface of the plate all the exquisite vibrations of music.

The strings for violin bows made at Mittenwald, in the Alpine mountains are of the intestines of sheep. September is the great string season, and there is then in Italy and Bavaria an immense demand for material yielded by young lambs six or seven months old.

It is curious that although the Mittenwalders turn out every year thousands of superb violins and cellos, they seem to care little for the music of these instruments, and revel in the zither, the national instrument of Tyrol, to which they dance on moonlight nights after they have taken to market a big consignment.

FIRE-KILLED TIMBER.
Value of Wood That Has Been Through Flames.

The traveler who has wondered why some use is not made of the timber that has been fire-killed all over the country will be interested to learn that the United States Forest Service at the University of Washington, Seattle, has discovered a means of utilizing this timber, which in the past has largely gone to waste.

In testing fire-killed timber—that is, timber which had its bark destroyed by a fire not severe enough to entirely consume the tree, and which left it standing—it was found to be thoroughly sound and, to all intents and purposes, thoroughly seasoned lumber.

It was determined that if such lumber is cut within the first year after it is injured it can be used for any purpose for which the original wood is satisfactory, but if allowed to stand the timber checked so badly that it cannot be worked up to advantage.

It has also been disclosed by investigations undertaken that good railroad ties have been made from timber that in some instances was killed 50 years ago.

Superstitious Eskimos.
 The Eskimos at Rahmah and at the stations south are all supposed to be Christians, but, naturally, they still retain many of the traditional beliefs and superstitions of their ancestors. says a writer in *Outing Magazine*. They will not live in a house where a death has occurred, believing that the spirit of the departed will haunt the place. If the building is worth it, they take it down and set it up again somewhere else.

Not long ago the wife of one of the Eskimos was taken seriously ill, and became delirious. Her husband and his neighbors deciding that she was possessed of an evil spirit, tied her down and left her, until finally she died uncaared for and alone, from cold and lack of nourishment. This occurred at a distance from the station, and the missionaries did not learn of it until the woman was dead and beyond their aid.

Once Dr. Grenfell visited Rahmah and exhibited to the astonished Eskimos some stereopticon views—photographs that he had taken there in a year previous. It so happened that one of the pictures was that of an old woman who had died since the photograph was made, and when it appeared upon the screen terror struck the hearts of the simple-minded people.

They believed it was her spirit returned to earth, and for a long time afterward imagined that they saw it floating about at night, visiting the woman's old haunts.

Metal Burial Caskets.
 Recent progress made in machinery for the manipulation of sheet metals has opened the way for an improvement in burial caskets, whereby the complete casket, made in two pieces without seam or joint, is pressed out in a few minutes' time, to which any degree of ornamentation can readily be attached, and any wood faithfully represented. This, with means for hermetically sealing, on which patent was granted recently to a Camden man, makes it a great sanitary achievement, giving a more lasting protection to the dead.

ADJUSTABLE BUILDING.
St. Paul Auditorium Shuts Up and Opens Out as Will.

The St. Paul Auditorium, is an elastic sort of affair. According to The Bellman, the local architects have invented mechanical appliances by means of which a row of boxes and a balcony will swing toward the center and walls will drop from out the ceiling, cutting off about half of the area of the building and making a good sized, well proportioned fan-shaped room suitable for a concert room.

The balcony and boxes are swung back and the partition walls climb to the ceiling again when any big event, such as a hippodrome or a convention or grand opera calls for the full size of the auditorium.

Ancient Egyptian Forging.
 The illustrations preserved of Egyptian iron manufacture show that the process was precisely the same as that still obtaining among the Ethiopian races. On a stone, preserved at Florence, a negro slave is depicted working bellows from which the blast is conveyed by a bamboo pipe to a shallow pit in which the iron is smelted. In a second illustration is shown the forging of the iron by hammering it with a rounded stone on a stone anvil with a wooden base. It is clearly proved by pictures on Egyptian tombs that bellows were in use in the fifteenth century. B. C.

Cremation in England.
 Cremation is increasing in Great Britain, the number of bodies cremated being 743 in 1906, against 604 in 1905. Consul Mabin of Nottingham writes: "There are crematories at Leicester, Hull, Leeds, Ilford, Bradford and Sheffield, owned by the respective municipalities, besides several conducted by companies in other cities. The operation of cremation requires about an hour and a half; the ashes are perfectly white and weigh four pounds, and the cost is about \$25. Cremation is fully recognized by law in Great Britain, though strictly guarded."

African Fever Cure.
 Bedouins in Africa have a rough-and-ready method of attempting to cure the fever caused by the wounds they have inflicted on those they have captured for sale as slaves. Ice baths being impossible, the patients are buried up to their necks, in the hope that the cool sand will allay the fever. They remain so buried for several days until they have been killed or cured. Eighty per cent succumb to the treatment.

Glass Tower for Long Beach.
 A glass tower resting on the bottom of the ocean 30 feet below the surface and extending up into the open air is to be built at Long Beach, Cal. The shaft will be constructed almost entirely of heavy plate glass with a glass room 12 feet square at the bottom reached by an elevator. This will give visitors an opportunity to observe the wonderful sea gardens for which these waters are celebrated.

Where Males Exceed Females.
 A recent estimate of the population of Seoul gives the total at 199,805. In every ward but the north one the number of males exceeds that of females, but in that part of the city the number of males is given as 17,000, while the females are 90,000. This would be hard to explain on any ordinary theory of population. Seoul has no quarter set aside for the exclusive residence of females.

A Valuable Investment.
 Among the rare books coveted by collectors is the first issue of the famous French explorer, Samuel Champlain's first narrative of his first voyage to America. Only four copies of this edition of the work are known to be in existence. One of them was sold at auction in New York recently for \$2,900. Its former owner was an American who bought it in Paris for 20 cents.

Religion in Australia.
 The progress of the Catholic Church in Australia is perhaps the most striking religious fact in modern history. There are men living who remember the time when there was not one priest on the Australian continent.

The Austrian's Handicap.
 Austria's fishing industry suffers from the handicap that the fishermen are nearly all in the clutches of usurers. They are compelled to borrow money when the catch is poor, and they are never able to get out of debt again.

South Needs Immigrants.
 Only four out of every 100 immigrants who land at New York go to the Southern States. The South is crying loudly for them, too, and there is a bright future for the Swedes and other hard-working people on Southern plantations.

Rings on Their Fingers.
 The hands of female mummies found in the tombs of Egypt are literally covered with rings, in many instances there being from two to six on every finger.

A Garden of Hyacinths.
 The Sultan of Turkey has a whole garden exclusively devoted to hyacinths of different kinds.