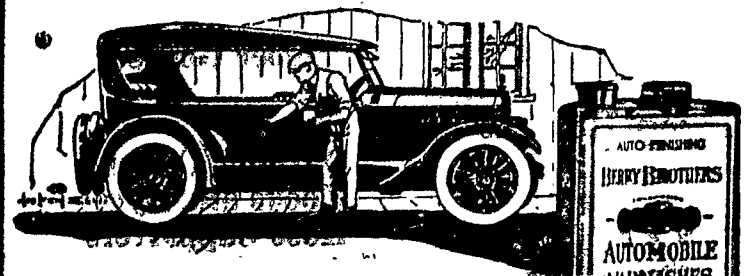


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HOW

SCIENCE HAS COME TO AID OF FOGBOUND VESSELS.—On December 12, 1924, occurred the most extensive fog within living memory. Over northwestern Europe it spread a huge clammy blanket for half a million square miles.

In the winter of 1870-80 fogs were unusually prevalent. For three months, with few intermissions, London was enveloped in a dark, choking pall.

More recently, during the Christmas of 1904, a disastrous fog mantled Britain for five days. All the transport services were disorganized. Apart from the increased mortality, the loss to the country was computed at \$50,000,000.

At sea fog is among the most dreaded perils. All sense of direction goes when it descends upon the vast trackless expanse of water. In olden days ships went forward blindfolded.

But science has come to the aid of the navigator, although "slow down" and blaring foghorns still play leading parts in the "safety first" campaign at sea. Submarine bells, wireless, and electricity are now used in the lines' fight against fog.

One of the new wireless light-houses, an odd-looking structure of steel lattice-work, has been erected on Inebeketh, in the Firth of Forth. Fitted with special apparatus, a ship overtaken by fog, but in touch with wireless light-houses, can have her exact position ascertained.



THE KANGAROOS

"I've always been thankful that my mother and my father chose a red suit for me," said Master Red Kangaroo.

"And I've been mighty glad, all my life," said Master Gray Kangaroo, "that my mamma and my papa chose for me a gray suit."

"Then we're both satisfied," said the Red Kangaroo.

Now these two kangaroos were especially large and fine. They had come from Australia and had only been in the zoo a short time.

"I see here many of my Gray relations," said Master Gray Kangaroo.

"Why, hello, Wally," he said as he saw Mr. Agile Wallaby hopping and jumping about.

Mr. Agile Wallaby was called by that name because he was so quick and active, for that is what agile means.

There were many kangaroos and their cousins in the zoo. The Brush-tailed Wallaby family were there. They looked like the kangaroos except that they were smaller. Their tails were very long and were of gray and brown and Auburn and they thought the coloring was exquisite.

Mr. Brush-tailed Wallaby sat on his tail so that it reached way out in front of him.

He said he didn't see why he couldn't make his tail do what he wanted it to do.

He objected to having his tail always behind him.

So he sat as he did, with his tail under him, coming out in front.

"When I walk, hop, skip or jump, my tail must be behind me," he said.

"But when I am sitting I can tell my own tail what it should do. It's quite enough to give it its own way the rest of the time."

Mr. Wallaroo, bigger than Mr. Agile Wallaby, had a talk with him about the different ways in Australia from those in the zoo.

They decided, after a while, that they liked the zoo immensely.

"People think we're strange looking," said Master Gray Kangaroo, sometimes known as the Great Gray Kangaroo.

"Why?" asked Master Red Kangaroo.

"Because our two front legs are so short and our back ones so long. They think we look very queer when we're half-sitting up, or when we're hurrying along."

"They wonder how we can go so quickly and they don't understand that we like being as we are," ended Master Gray Kangaroo, otherwise known as the Great Gray Kangaroo.

"I don't see why they should think we were queer," answered Master Red Kangaroo.

"It's the way kangaroos are made. We wouldn't be kangaroos if we were different. Besides, it's rude of them to think they're queer."

"We don't think they're queer and yet they have only two legs and no tail at all. And they don't jump, and they don't leap. We're very kind, I think," he ended.

"Very kind," agreed the others. "We don't make the remarks about them that they do about us—or, rather, we don't make similar remarks."

"Yet from our way of thinking they are quite as strange to us as we are to them."

"Quite as strange—from the kangaroo point of view."

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How Fluke Made Fortune

The rough bath towel that brings a healthy glow to the skin was an accidental invention. A manufacturer of fine, smooth toweling had trouble with his machinery. Instead of the finely woven material coming through as usual, the threads were loose and tangled and, from his point of view, quite unfit for sale.

He set to work to adjust matters and, after much trouble, got the machine working smoothly. But in the course of his work his hands became coated with oil and grime, and he used a length of the faulty and apparently useless fabric to wipe off the grease. He was quick to note that the rough discarded stuff did the work much better than ordinary toweling and, being always on the alert for a new idea, he added rough towels to his stock. The new stuff soon became popular, and the fluky towels soon became his chief output and made him a wealthy man.

How Patents Are Procured

New and original ornamental designs for articles of manufacture can be patented. Ornamental character, or beauty, is requisite to patentability. Mere utility is not taken into consideration, and it is questionable whether an article to which ornamentation would give no value is subject matter of a design patent. A design is not patentable if it was known or used by others in this country before invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or if it was patented or described in any printed publication in this or any foreign country before his invention thereof or more than two years prior to his application or was in public use or on sale in this country for more than two years prior to his application.

How Air Is Tested

Air is tested for carbon monoxide by means of the hood-mite. The hood-mite is prepared by mixing fuming sulphuric acid and iodine pentoxide, using granular porous stone as a supporting material. A sample of the air to be tested for carbon monoxide is drawn into a small rubber bulb, then forced through a small glass tube filled with chemicals upon which the carbon monoxide has the effect of changing the original color from gray or white to shades of green, the deepness of the green determining the percentage of carbon monoxide in the air.

How Quinine Was Named

Quinine or quinia, much used in medicine, was discovered in 1820 by Pelletier and Caventon, who obtained it from cinchona barks. The medicinal use of the bark, found in South America, was known to the Jesuits as early as 1535. It was used to cure of fever the wife of the Spanish viceroy of Peru whose name was Chinchona, and his name was given to the bark.

Making It Worse

A ladies' ready-to-wear shop in which I was working was having its spring opening. There were many wax models dressed up and standing around. Crowds had been coming all afternoon. I was standing in back of a woman and all of a sudden saw her head forward. I thought it was one of the wax models falling, so made a sudden grab at her. My action was so abrupt, and I was so embarrassed, that I made it worse by saying, "Oh, excuse me, I thought you were a dummy."—M. L. W. in Chicago Tribune.

January Clearance Sale

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Beloved Old Gossip

For 100 years the world has enjoyed the indiscreet and delightful confidences of Samuel Pepys, a writer in the Mentor's remarks. There is a marvelous array of women in the diary; women of station and artisans' wives and serving maids and titles and actresses, and the wife who was only five years when she married him. He loved them all, including his wife, of whose beauty he was proud—and jealous, too. He was stingy with her till shortly before she died, along toward the end of the diary. But Pepys shows his pride in such an entry as this: "My wife extraordinarily fine today in her flower baby suit . . . everybody in love with it, and indeed she is very fine and handsome in it."

Beautiful Redbird

Another name for the red-irid is the cardinal grosbeak. They are a prideful lot, these grosbeaks, and with reason. The cardinal grosbeak is first cousin to the blue grosbeak, the scarlet pine grosbeak, the orange, white and black evening grosbeaks and to others of the lordly tribe. In all the graces of bird life they stand separated from the common flock. Nature lavished its colors upon them, and the gift of music was not forgotten. James Lane Allen gave a tribute of praise to the beauty of the cardinal beside which all other tributes are and must be futile.

"Old" and "Young" Nick

The use of the name "Old Nick" applied to Satan originated in the comparison drawn between the machinations of his satanic majesty and those of Nicolo Machiavelli, one of the greatest Florentine statesmen, born 1469. He was crafty and dissembling, a firm believer in "the end justifies the means." Samuel Butler in his "Hudibras" in writing of Machiavelli, says "Nick Machiavelli had ne'er a trick though he gave his name to our Old Nick."

Old Christmas "Dance"

One beautiful feature of the "Messa de Gallo" in the great cathedral of Seville is a strange mystical dance on "interweaving the steps" by the choir boys, who thus dance before the high altar. This reverent dance, which is given but twice a year, is marked by the chanting of the choir boys, who carry tall lighted candles as they cross and recross up and down the wide choir steps. One of the occasions is the celebration of midnight mass on Christmas eve.

Put Life Work First

The hours will come, and come to every man, when task work quivers and palpitates with life—but perhaps they only come because we have been faithful, with a certain grimness, through the days of gloom. Let a man hold to his life work through mood and melancholy. Let him hold to it through headache and through heartache. For he that observeth the wind will never sow; and he that regardeth the clouds will never reap.—G. H. Morrison.

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HOW

WORK OF REJUVENATION OF STATUARY PROCEEDS.—

Do you know that statuary suffers from old age and has to be rejuvenated by beauty doctors just the same as human faces and figures? It does, and reports which have just come to hand concerning the accomplishments of Thomas H. Bleakney, technician to the Pennsylvania museum in Philadelphia, indicate that he is filling the role of beauty doctor to wood, marble and plaster statues with results that rival some of the marvels wrought by beauty parlors. Under his deft touches, aged carvings shake off their seariness and bloom again in the pristine beauty of their better days.

Old age works its ravages on art objects through chemical changes and bacteria which mar the "complexion" and leave cracks and wounds to fill with dirt. Under Bleakney's direction, these inanimate faces are treated for their looks by means of soap and water aseptic solutions and healing salves. Often the statue doctor's work resembles that of a surgeon, for wounds are cut into, cauterizations of diseased parts are made and even amputations are sometimes performed. Thymol, formalin, peroxide of hydrogen and ammonia are used sometimes.

Pessimistic View of Life Not Warranted

"Not to be born is best, and next to die as soon as possible." This was the pessimistic view of life expressed by Sophocles. Most philosophers and intellectuals of ancient times agreed with him. Life was looked upon as an enigmatic affliction rather than a divine dispensation.

"These diagnoses were based upon a mere consideration of symptoms. They were made in almost complete ignorance of the underlying physical causes of human misery," is the assertion made by Dr. Eugene Lyman Fisk in Forbes Magazine.

"Many years of experience in sitting and sorting human types, in searching for the causes of physical failure, have convinced me of the falsity of this pessimistic philosophy. No one would wish to live in a world absolutely devoid of struggle, pain, grief or suffering."

"The world is as we view it. If we view it through bilious colored spectacles it is a bilious world. I have seen a man with big brain and dominant personality, fundamentally capable of a joyous, self-confident existence, wholly transformed into a pessimistic and walling misanthrope by so crude a thing as flat foot. Others have been similarly affected by poisoned or infected physical states, while sometimes the reverse is true and the body suffers because they are unhappy; others are unhappy because they stumpy."

Sediment Carried to Sea

It is generally believed that the amount of sediment carried down by the Mississippi river is greater than that of any other river in the United States. A vast amount of this sediment is brought into the Mississippi by the Missouri. It is estimated that a flood of 500,000 cubic feet per second carries into the Mississippi about 120 cubic yards of sediment per second, or more than 10,000,000 cubic yards per day. It is estimated that 400,000,000 cubic yards per annum are carried into the Mississippi from the Missouri and that approximately the same amount passes out into the gulf.

Rainfall in Palestine

Palestine is essentially an agricultural country. Its rainfall averages 21 inches a year, which is about as much as California receives. Palestine has really only two seasons in its year—a dry one, in the summer, and the rainy or winter season. The latter begins in October or November with the "early rain," and thereafter rain is frequent, with occasional snow in the mountains, until February. In that month the planting takes place. Then, in March and April, the "later rains" occur and start the crops along.

How Native Eskimos Get Fire by Friction

In their native state the Eskimos use the same method of making a fire as was used by most of the Indian tribes. This is by wood friction and the method was general throughout the American continent at the time of Columbus' first voyage. By rubbing two sticks together sufficient heat can be produced to set fire to inflammable material such as dry grass. The most improved method was to twist a dry stick in a hole in another piece of dry wood. The other way of making a fire among the natives of North and South America was by rubbing flints and pyrites together. This method was limited to a few tribes in Canada and Patagonia. Most of the Eskimos of today are supplied with matches through their trade with civilized nations.—Pathfinder Magazine.

How Hunters Signal

A sportsman and big game hunter, J. Allen Barrett, of Lykens, Pa., has just copyrighted a unique idea for a national code of distress signals for persons who may be lost, injured or in need of assistance while traveling or hunting in sparsely settled regions. Revolver shots should be used for the signals, but the victim should shoot, call or whistle them. The chief requisite would be to have the code widely understood. The code follows: To signify "lost," two shots quick; one shot "injured," three shots quick; wait; one shot. "Stek," four shots quick; wait; one shot. "Help," two shots quick; wait; two shots. Rescuers answer, using the same number of shots, but in reverse order. One shot; wait; two shots quick.

How Language Is Made

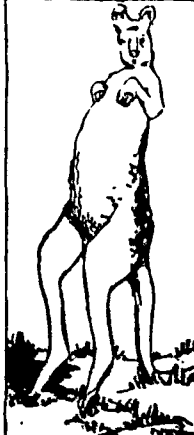
Glancing over a list of some of the old-time lingo and hostilities, one is compelled to wonder how such peculiar combinations originated. At these times, any title but the simplest was quickly assimilated to the vernacular often with amusing results. Thus "The Bacchanals" became the Bag o' Nails, the "Bellerophon" the Bully Ruffian, and the "Capture of Bologno Mouth," or harbor, the Bull and Mouth; while the text, "God Encompasseth Us," displayed over private doorways, readily lent itself to signboard embellishment as the goat and compasses. The list could be stretched out almost indefinitely.

How Coal Was Formed

Coal is one of the most important economic minerals, and is of vegetable origin. When vegetable matter accumulates under water it undergoes a slow process of decomposition, gradually giving off its nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen and some carbon, the result of which if carried far enough is the formation of a mass of carbon. The general theory regarding the formation of coal is that it results from the decomposition under tremendous pressure at a high temperature of vegetation in swamps. The first stage is peat; second, lignite; third, bituminous coal; fourth, anthracite, and the final stage is graphite.

How Sound Travels

Sound is a series of waves in the air, and the shorter the distance between these waves the higher the pitch. The bell, vibrating at a constant rate, sends out a constant number of waves per second, which travel toward the observer with constant velocity, relative to the air. But if the bell is approaching the observer the waves are closer together, hence the pitch is higher.



"When We're Half-Sitting."