

ARMOR MAY BE ABANDONED

Cost and Weight on Battleships Out of All Proportion to Value as Protector.

Will battleships soon be built without armor protection? Many naval experts believe that they will. The protective power of armor plate has increased only 2.3 times in fifty years, whereas the power of gun fire has increased in the same period eight times.

The question now agitating the naval constructors is whether the efficiency of the fighting ship will not be increased by doing away with the armor weight, which amounts to about 30 per cent. of the displacement of the most recent vessels.

It is argued by the no-armor crowd that the best defense of the vessel is in its own gun fire. If this can be made powerful enough the ship will need no other protection for it will be able to demoralize the enemy and prevent it from firing accurately enough to do any damage.

It is argued that the recent demonstrations in which the United States used the former battleship Texas as a target and the British demolted the Edinburgh showed that the cost and weight of armor are out of all proportion to its value as a protector.

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Colored checks were introduced by accident. A manufacturer had made a number of pieces and the white was so impure and soiled they could not be sold.

The new color was sent to London and sold rapidly. It was a short step to dye black and green and blue, and to make broken checks and the trade increased amazingly.

Idea for colors were collected in the bed of the River Garry and the pass of Killfrankie. It was now possible for a lady to have a reversible skirt made up in such a way that she might appear at one time in a modest blue and at another in the tartan of her clan.

Recording Sea Temperatures. The superintendent of the Johns Hopkins Botanical Gardens, William H. Witte, has given to the public his ingenious plan for automatically recording changes in sea temperature when a ship is passing through the ice fields.

To Watch Egypt's Banks. Lord Kitchener is preparing to introduce an innovation in Egypt which is also contrary to the practice at home in Great Britain by establishing a system of inspection for banks, both native and foreign.

Photographing a Tornado. We frequently hear of the daring of photographers who expose themselves to real dangers in order to obtain unique and interesting photographs.

325 for Each Australian Baby. The Australian house of representatives recently passed a bill providing a maternity allowance in respect of any child born in Australia.

When Weber and Fields got together in January, after an eight-year separation, they hired as many of the survivors of their old company as they could find.

There was one chorus girl, however, who seemed to Joe Weber's critical eyes too elderly a veteran, even for the collection which she adorned.

"I don't seem to remember that woman," he said. "Did she belong to our original company?"

"No," said Bill, "she didn't. A newspaperman asked me to give her a chance."

"Who was that newspaperman?" asked Weber. "Horace Greeley?" Saturday Evening Post.

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DID NOT LIKE BRIDGE

PLAIN SPOKEN GUEST TOLD WHY HE OBJECTED TO IT.

Mollycoddle Talk and Stereotyped Piffle Demanded By the Rules Too Much For Him.

A certain large-featured, firm-jawed man, with views on things, was "invited out" the other evening, along with his wife.

After the hostess had seen to it that her guests were all well enough fed that they wouldn't have any kick coming, they all crumpled up their napkins and fled into the front room.

They had been seated for about forty-four seconds—frail women in splotchy plush or leather chairs and the more ponderous men in the party on delicate little gilt chairs out of a child's playhouse set—the hostess announced beamingly that they would "have some bridge."

"Pardon me if I seem to be casting a wet blanket on the card feature of the evening's entertainment," he put in casually, at this juncture, "but I don't play that bridge game."

"No, I never learned the game." "Oh, well," but we can soon teach you."

"No, I thank you. The fact is I don't care to learn—again begging your pardon for spoiling your plans. You know, I never could stand for the game on account of the molluscoid talk I hear 'em getting off when they're at it—'Pray do,' and a lot more stereotyped, piffle-piffle-who-lets-me-out expressions. So that talks me out."

Whereupon everybody glared at him the rest of the evening for speaking his mind so freely, and regarded him as an altogether "impossible" person.

James Oliver Curwood, the novelist and magazine writer, was aboard the steamship Megantic, at Montreal, and just before the vessel left on her trip for Liverpool was watching the loading of an enormous quantity of Canadian cheese.

For a moment the young lady regarded him in astonishment; then she looked at the cheese being loaded by the hundred.

"It's truly wonderful!" she gasped. "I never would have believed it if I had not seen them with my own two eyes! And only 1,200 people! Goodness me, they must be fierce cheese eaters!"—Judge.

Lord Kitchener is preparing to introduce an innovation in Egypt which is also contrary to the practice at home in Great Britain by establishing a system of inspection for banks, both native and foreign.

The Egyptian ministry of finance, however, has drafted a law for bank examinations which is to be submitted to the legislative council at its next session and will eventually go to the mixed court for its sanction, so that it may be applied to foreign banks.

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PUMA THE FRIEND OF MAN

South American Mountain Lion, Natives Say, Will Defend Him Against Other Animals.

The North American "mountain lion" does not take kindly to captivity or taming, but the South American representative of the species, the puma, enjoys the title among the Spanish speaking people of "el amigo del cristiano," or friend of the Christian, and many cases are on record wherein it has been made as tame as a domestic cat or dog.

The belief of the natives of South America that the puma will defend a human being against any other wild animal is founded on the fact that in any region where two species of one genus inhabit the same country they are usually at enmity; and this being the case with the puma and the jaguar, the puma's well known indisposition to attack man, joined with its ferocity toward the jaguar, easily creates the impression that it is defending the human being against the jaguar.

There is a story of a Spanish governor of Buenos Aires, who once had a Spanish girl tied to a tree in a place infested by jaguars, as a punishment for visiting the Indians.

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LIZARD VERSUS SNAKE

BATTLE BETWEEN GILA MONSTER AND BIG RATTLER.

Former Gains Victory by Quick, Clever Work—Deadly Revenge of the House Cat.

The "rattlesnake season" this year in the southwest was unusually destructive of life and was marked by some startling and dramatic incidents. It is estimated that some 50 deaths from snake bites have occurred this season in the plains country and in the mountain regions of New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, a New York World's Dalhart, Tex., correspondent writes.

E. B. Van Veen of the Pinal mountain district tells of a fight between a rattlesnake and a gila monster. Bob Henry, on returning from his camp by the Pinal mountain road, was attracted by the sound of a rattlesnake.

Turning, he saw a rattler about seven feet long and three feet away a gila monster sitting on an ant hill. The snake stood up from the ground higher than a man's knee in the shape of an elongated S. The remainder of his body was upon the ground behind him in a straight line.

From Flagstaff, Ariz., comes the story of John Gustafson, who, bitten in the palm of the right hand by a rattlesnake at Russell's mining camp in the Copper Basin district, has fully recovered.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Nelson of Jerome Junction, Ariz., vouch for a story told of a fight between a house cat and a rattlesnake. The cat, the mother of six kittens, was perambulating among the little mounds of a prairie dog town when she was attacked by a rattler and bitten on the cheek.

Near Bisbee, Ariz., Alfred Kinney, seventeen years old, encountered a rattler by the roadside, apparently stunned by the repeated strokes to its lair and the boy was preparing to mount his horse, it sneaked out of the hole and bit the boy and he died a few hours later.

The eighteen-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Otto of Skidmore, Tex., was bitten by a large rattler and died within a few hours.

Samuel Dunlap of Comanche, Tex., while on a visit to his farm in Miles county, discovered two large rattlesnakes in a pile of brush and undertook to capture them alive.

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MAN HEIR OF ALL THE AGES

His Body and Mind the Accumulated Inheritance of Countless Myriads of Forebears.

Man is the heir of all the geologic ages; he inherits the earth after countless generations of animals and plants, and the beneficent forces of wind and rain, air and sky, have in the course of millions of years prepared it for him.

One would fain arrive at some concrete belief or image of his life or descent in geologic times as he does in the historic period. But how hard it is to do so. Can we form any mental picture of the actual animal forms that the manward impulse has traveled through? With all the light that paleontology throws upon the animal life of the past, can we see where amid the revel of these bizarre forms our ancestor hid himself?

Can we see him as a reptile in the slime of the Mesozoic world? What mark or sign was there upon him at that time to the future that was before him? Can we see him as a fish in the old Devonian seas or lakes? The primitive fishes were mostly of the shark kind. Is there any connection between that fact and the human sharks of today? Much less can one picture to one's self what his ancestor was like in the age of the invertebrates amid the trilobites, for example, of the earlier paleozoic seas.

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REAL FRIEND IN NEED

STORY OF JAMES T. BRADY AND A NEW YORK NEWSBOY.

Famous Lawyer Rescued Orphan From Poverty and Started Him On Way to Prosperity.

It is several years ago now, but this story was told me shortly after my admission to the bar; it left a lasting impression, writes William Sulzer in the New York Times.

How the biting-cold wind howled and whistled that night as it swept down avenues and around corners. A lawyer, whose fame was known far and near, had just left his office on Broadway, where he had been detained by an important consultation, and was hastening as fast as he could uptown.

At the corner of Duane street he saw a newsboy leaning against the lamp post; under his left arm were a few evening papers. He was shivering with the cold and crying. His shoes were broken so you could see his bare feet. His clothes were ragged.

He may have stood there for an hour or more; hundreds of people had passed him. Not so the lawyer. One glance told him the story; he approached the little urchin, and inquired the trouble. The boy, amid sobs, said that it was his birthday; he was just five years old; he had been out all the afternoon trying to sell his papers, with small success. The only friend he had in the world—his widowed mother—was lying ill in a tenement house a few blocks away.

The story touched the heart of his questioner. He took the boy by the hand and led him home. Up the rickety stairs to the top floor of the tenement; he opened the door into a little garret room; striking a match he lit the remains of an old candle.

To the side of the room some one was breathing heavily. It was a woman lying on what was not even an apology for a bed. Squalor and despair only were there. A hurried glance around told all. The little newsboy's mother lay there; she was asleep. The boy went over and kissed her affectionately. He put his arms around her neck and said, "Wake up, mamma, wake up, here's a nice man who wants to see you."

She awoke with a start, dazed and frightened. The stranger reassured her. She had a raging fever—she was dying there alone, and as well as she could she told her story of hardship and trials.

The lawyer summoned a physician, and everything that could be done to save her life was done. But the dread disease had progressed too far, and notwithstanding the best medical aid, she died the next day, and the newsboy was an orphan. That week was a busy one for the lawyer. He neglected briefs, and clients, and cases. He personally superintended the burial of the woman. After the funeral he took charge of the orphan, sent him to school and college, and for years did for him all that a father could do for a loved son.

The lawyer has long since gone to his reward. The little newsboy is a prosperous merchant today in New York. He is loved and respected by all for his kindly spirit and his many generous benefactions.

He has an office downtown, and over his desk, in a most conspicuous place, hangs a large picture. Every lawyer in the state knows that picture—that massive head, those curly locks, that stern, kindly countenance—the picture of the newsboy's benefactor, James T. Brady.

A man's organs and those of his bones which are not subjected to pressure grow continuously until he is forty years old; that is to say, in the heart should become stronger, the capacity of the lungs increase, and the brain should develop steadily until the fourth decade of life. Also one should wear a larger hat at the age of forty than at thirty.

A man ceases to grow tall, however, at the beginning of the third decade, because after that time the downward pressure exerted by the weight of the body while in the erect position compresses the vertebrae or small bones in the spine, the disks of cartilage between them, the pelvis, and the thigh bones, and the pressure overcomes the natural elasticity of the disks and the growth of these bones. However, a British scientist contends that were man a quadruped, and therefore freed from the downward pressure produced by his weight upon his spinal column, he would continue to grow in height for ten years longer than he does at present, since it has been found that bones not subjected to compression increase up to the fourth decade.

"Jag" Gone in Seven Minutes. Dismissing a "jag" in seven minutes is the record that has been established by the precooling plant recently established at San Benito, in the lower Rio Grande valley.

While a car was being cooled preparatory to loading it with fruits and vegetables, the men having charge of the work found an intoxicated man lying in the gutter. Thinking to play a joke on him, they placed him in the car. He had been lying in the sun, with the temperature playing about him in the neighborhood of 100 degrees, and the sudden change to a temperature only a few degrees above the freezing point was something of a shock.