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The effect of oil in calming the surface of a stormy sea, the original discovery of which was accidental, has of late been the subject of scientific investigation, and it is now possible to choose such oils as are best suited for the purpose, and also to point out the source of their peculiar power over the waves. The statistics collected at the hydrographic office of the bureau of navigation show, by the reports of sea captains themselves, that many a vessel has been saved not only from serious injury, but from foundering, by the use of a few gallons of oil slowly trickled into the sea. The influence of the oil is frequently described in such reports as wonderful, magical and almost incredi-

It is not difficult to see upon what this calming effect of oil depends, although the complete explanation of it involves a mathematical process of demonstration. The oil acts like a thin skin drawn over the water, resisting the tendency of the latter to break into spray under the force of the wind. The danger to a ship from storm waves arises from the breaking of the waves. As long as their surfaces are smooth and their crests unbroken the vessel rides them easily and safely. But when they break, and secondary waves are formed, it is quite otherwise. Then the ship plunges into the feaming walls upreared around it, with frame racking shocks; immense masses of water thunder down upon its deck, sweeping everything clean, and sometimes even the strongest hulls and the best seamaiship are unable to prevail in the contest. This is the danger that the spreading of oil over the waves

At first sight it seems almost impossible that a thin oily film resting on the tremendous sea waves could exercise a controlling influence over them. The display of resistless energy made by the breaking waves is so imposing and terrific that one might well believe no power less gigantic than their own could withstand them. The effect- of the oil resembles that of the apparently insignificant force of chemical combination holding in restraint the explosive

energy of gunpowder. It is to German investigators that we owe the discovery of the active agent which enables oil to exercise its calming effect upon the sea. This agent is oleic acid, an ingredient found in lard, olive oil and many other oils. Those oils that possess the largest proportion of oleic acid are the most effective in controlling the waves. It is through its gradual separation from the rest of the oil and its diffusion in the water that oleic acid acts. When a drop of oil rests upon water, the oil flattens out through the effects of its own weight. At the edge of the flattened disk of oil the oleic acid tends most rapidly to dissolve in the water, and the very act of dissolving evolves energy which causes the oil to spread still farther, thus keeping its edges constantly in contact with water that has not yet become charged with oleic acid. This spreading continues with great rapidity until all of the oleic acid has been dissolved. Sometimes the layer, thus formed does not exceed a twelve-millionth of an inch in thickness!

It would not be easy to explain, without entering into technicalities, how the forces involved in the dissolving action just described result in a resistance to the rising of waves. Mathematical considerations prove that such an effect exists, and it has been shown experimentally that oleic acid spreading over water is capable of arresting the progress of floating chips driven by the wind, and even of forcing such chips to move against the direction of the wind,

The power of a wave is made up of Reopened and refitted. Acthe combined energy of all of the partieles of water composing it, but every particle at the surface of the wave is opposed by the force brought into play by the oleic acid, and thus the tendency of the surface of the wave to break is resisted. Of course the formation of the waye as a whole cannot be prevented by this mero surface resistance, but the character of the action going on at the surface is controlled by it, and that in every particular. Every is the important thing so far as the mafety of ships is concerned.

The discovery of the essential part played by oleic acid explains why petroleum has never been found so efficient as other oils—olive oil, for instance, in smoothing waves-for petroleum contains a comparatively small proportion of that ingredient. The German investigators would recommend the use of pure olele neid except for the fact that it freezes at about 18 degrees above zero and consequently is useless in very cold weather. They have found, however, that a mixture of oleic acid and alcohol remains liquid at only h degrees above zero, and they accordingly recommend such a mixture as being the best wave calming means yet discovered. Almost any animal or vegetable oil is better than petroleum. Soap water has been found effective, if a soap containing plenty of oleio acid, which all soaps do not contain, is used.—New York Sun.

Rough on the Cashier. Mr. Manygirls-I have discovered that my cashier has rebbed me of \$20,-

Friend-Have you notified the po

Mr. Manygirls-Not yet. I'll give him one more chance to propose to my eldest daughter. If he doesn't do it, then I shall have him locked up. -Texas Siftings,

His Day Off. "Thank heaven," sighed the weekly editor, "for one day's rest in seven!"

"What do you do on Sunday?" "Nothing-only split the word and light the fire and milk the cow and draw the water and whip the children and swear around at leisure!"-Atlanta Constitution.

His Earnest Wish. Oltope—I wish I was a barrel. Hisfriend-Why? Can't you hold

about that. The advantage is that no matter how often the barrel is filled or -Detroit Free Press.

Logical. Effic-Munny, why do they hunt

lions and tigers? Mamma—Because they kill the poor little sheep, Effic. Effic (after a pause)—Then why don't they hunt the butchers, mummy?-

In Sunday School, Sunday School Teacher—The Lord is our best friend, Johnny, Johnny, who

is your best friend? Johnny (who has not been listening) -Jerry Mulligan.-Hallo,

--- HE HET A FRIEND, --

There was a Little Mistake, but it Was s His face beamed with surprise and

oleasure as on entering the great store he saw a friendly figure and features with which he was familiar confront

him just within the door. "I'm right glad to see you," he said, shifting the satchel he carried from his right arm to his left, and he was about to grasp the hand extended to him when a clerk touched him on the shoulder and inquired:

"What department, sir?" "Department?" queried the old man turning around. "Am I in the departments? I reckon it were only in

"This is the dress goods and mantle department," said the clerk blandly. "Well, young man, I ain' lookin for dress goods, and I dunno as we want another mantel, seein as we hev only one clock, and I made a shelf for that myself. I want a pair of suspenders if

so be you keep them. But first I want to speak to my friend here." He turned about and confronted the

smiling face of his friend. "I don't seem able to name you," he said regretfully. "It's kind of queor, too, when I know you by sight as well as I do myself"---"Suspenders this way in the gentle-

men's furnishing department," here interrapted the clerk. "That's all right, young man. I don't keer which way they are there. I know how I want 'em, and I ain't a-goin to change my style of wearin suspenders

at my age. Now, my friend here"---He extended his hand, expecting to grasp that of his friend, but his knuckles struck a cold, bare expanse of looking glass let into the wall. Then he saw the face of the clerk over his shoulder, and he knew he had been fooled and had mistaken the semblance of himself for an old friend. And he meekly followed the clerk, bought a pair of red, white and blue suspenders, and walked out of the "department."

"I guess I'll have a gardeen 'pinted 'fore I come to town agin," he remarked humbly as he left.—Detroit Free Press.

The key to the process of making glass curtains, in connection with knit material, consists in operating particular needles of the machine at the right time and allowing others to remain idle, for which purpose a set of chain bars is used, so arranged as to render it possiblo to command the different needles according t the needs of the process. A chain is made up of bars, links and balls, like those used on the loom for weaving cloth, and there is a lever attached to the shoulder of each needle and extending from the part where the goods circle the needles down to the first bar of the chain, the latter resting in bearings. On the turning of a crank connecting beveled gears motion is imparted through the agency of an upright shaft to the chain cylinder, and every time the yarn is delivered to the needles a revolution is made, the chain bar cylinder presenting a new bar to the levers of the needles, and whenever a ball on the bar contacts on the lever the needle to which it belongs is pushed forward, and a mechanical device causes the needle to operate and form loops, thus knitting. There are, however, blanks on some of the bars, and when these blanks connect with the levers of the needles no movement is made.--Uphol-

Titles For Women. Until Oscar Wilde burst upon the world as the apostle of aestheticism the family to which he belonged had hardly peen heard of in this country. Since then occasional paragraphs have appeared in the papers regarding relatives of the divine Oscar, and now attention has been called to his mother, Lady Wilde, because of a novel movement in which she has taken a leading part. This has for its object the securing from the grown of honorific distinction for yomen of the same character as those granted to members of the sterner sex. Lady Henry Somerset is also a leader in tho movement, and the disinterestedness of these two ladies in this crusade seems to need no affirmation when it is remembered that each is already the possessor of a title. The advocates of the new idea declare that while a man be made a baronet or a knight because of a notable deed done no such honor falls o the lot of women, and they urge that litular honors be conferred equally upon the sexes. When it is pointed out to them that Miss Burdett Coutts was made a baroness by way of reward for

oness merely proves the rule.-Ex-

her many public benefactions, the new

crusaders retort that the case of the bar-

In Prohibition Maine. A Journal reporter had a curious experience at a Franklin county hotel a lew nights ago. He arrived at the place after a long stage trip in the night. Every one was asleep but the clerk, and he took the lamp and led the way up stairs, After trying vainly to get into one room and after much ratiling of the keys in the lock he suddenly recollected that the new cook had been located there earlier in the evening. The door of the next room was securely locked, and there was no key. The preprietor was called from his slumbers, but he couldn't appear to locate the key. Then the clerk remembered a box of misfits, and after a series of experiments on the lock get the door open. As he bade us good night and wiped his perspiring brow he said apologetically; "I hope you will excuse me for keeping you waiting so long. But you see I tend bar here, and I'm so busy that I don't find much time to keep posted on the rooms." -Lewiston Journal.

Plant Propagation. Some very curious processes for propagation are practiced at the public gardens. One consists in cutting with a knife a ring around a branch of a plant. One might imagine that the intention was to kill the branch, but such is by no means the object in view. The cut having been made, a piece of wet moss is wrapped and tied around the branch at that point. Beneath this protection the pap exudes from the wound, and little rootlets are developed. After a few days the branch is cut away from the parent stem, being then itself a complete plant, with roots, all ready to put in a pot. Oltope—Yes. There's no trouble This plan is adopted with plants of slow growth, because one plant may thus be matter how often the barrel is filled or split up into half a dozen or more of how full, its head never getsany bigger, good size, instead of waiting for a seedling or little slip to develop. - Wash: ington Star.

> Insulted. An American traveler relates that,

alighting at a hotel in Granada, a man at the door put out his hand toward him. The traveler supposed that the man was the porter of the hotel and offered him his vallee, - The man stepped back, tossed his head and frowned scornfully. "Caramba!" he exclaimed. "Do you take me for a porter? I would have you understand that I am no porter," "Indeed? Then may I ask you, senor, what you are?" "I am a beggar, sir, and asked you for alms,"-San Francisco Argonaut.

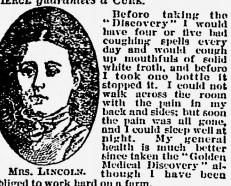
Balado, eno of the elevarest of the PATAPSCO FLOUR. Paris detectives, was one day making his round of the Quartier du Temple when he found himself in a group listening to a man selling silver watches for 5 francs each. Saindo bought one, and having assured himself that it was genuine came to the not unnatural conclusion that these watches could not

have been come by honestly. The vender was, however, a giant, and Saindo is by no means blessed with large proportions. He furthermore argued that there were confederates among the group. In a minute or two he had formed a plan. He asked the man to take a glass of wine, saying that he meant to purchase another watch. The offer was accepted, and a second watch was tendered, which Saindo pretended to examine. He, however, suddenly took to his heels, watch in hand. Thereupon the vender pursued, crying:

"Stop, thief!" When Saindo got him as far as the police station, he turned around, clutch ed the other by the throat, and to the great astonishment of every one led his captive inside.—Paris Journal.

Ammonia and Arsenic. The effects of ammonia upon the complexion are directly opposite to those of arsenic. The first symptom of ammonia poisoning which appears among those who work in ammonia factories in a discoloration of the skin of the nose and forehead. This gradually extends over the face until the complexion has a stained, blotched and unsightly appearance.—Medical Journal.

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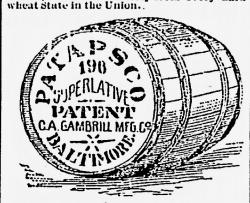


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