

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

A QUEER EXPERIMENT.

Photographing the Splash of a Drop of Mercury.

Prof. Worthington has been studying a curious phenomenon for twenty years says Knowledge. The splash of a drop occurs in the twinkling of an eye yet it is an exquisitely regulated phenomenon and one that very happily illustrates some of the fundamental properties of the fluid. The problem that Prof. Worthington has succeeded in solving is to let a drop of definite size fall from a fixed light in comparative darkness onto a surface and to illuminate it by a flash of exceedingly short duration at any desired stage, so as to exclude all the stages previous and subsequent to those thus selected. The many illustrations in this volume testify to the accuracy and beauty of his work. The curious results of a splash of a drop of mercury from a height of three inches upon a smooth glass plate are particularly interesting. Very soon after the first moment of impact minute rays are shot out in all directions on the surface with marvelous regularity. From the ends of the rays droplets of liquid split off. The liquid subsides in the middle and soon afterward flows into a ring. The ring then divides in such a manner as to join up the rays in pairs. Thereafter the whole contracts till the liquid rises in the center, so as to form the beginning of the rebound of the drop from the plate. Immediately the drops at the central mass rises in a column, which just falls, itself to break into drops. He photographed no fewer than thirty successive stages of the splash within the twentieth of a second, so that the average interval between them was about the six-hundredth of a second. Remarkable are the splashes of water drops falling about sixteen inches into milk, but more beautiful are the dome forms when the height is fifty-two inches.

BY A TURN OF THE HEAD.

Missed His Wife and the Theater but Got His Dinner.

A city official, who supposes the episode is a close family secret, arranged with his wife to meet her at the office last Friday night at 7 o'clock, says the New York Herald. They were then to have dinner at a hotel, and attend the theater. He was prompt, but his wife had not yet arrived, so he patiently waited on the sidewalk with his eyes on the door that she might not come without his knowledge. He paced back and forth, reading the bulletins, observing the direction of the wind and looking at the clock as it marked the passing minutes; but he saw all who entered the building. He heard a loud clanging of gongs, as a fire engine dashed down 6th avenue, and turned his head for not more than five seconds to look after it. His wife was only a few minutes late, as she hurried from a Broadway car and rushed into the office, during the five seconds his head was turned. She had not seen him, and was pleased to think that he would be the one to be blamed for being late, as she sat down to wait his coming. He continued to wait and pace, as the clock ticked off the minutes. Eight o'clock was near and he became very impatient, as he realized that it meant to either miss dinner or the first act of the play. When 8 o'clock was passed he saw another act slip away. In a few minutes more he had given up the theater, and feared for the dinner. In another ten minutes all of the lights were changed, and he determined to go home. She was also discouraged and hurried to the street to take a northbound cable car. They met, and well; the theater was given up, but they had a dinner and each promised to say nothing about it.

OFFICE BOY'S "CHANCE."

A Scheme That Might Make Him a Napoleon of Cigarettes.

One of the big stock brokers downtown has an office boy who promises to become a genuine Napoleon of finance when he grows up, says the New York Mail and Express. Wall street office boys are about as shrewd and wide-awake youngsters as can be found, but for the moment the one in question bears the palm. He has discovered how to get something, and lots of it, for nothing.

A package came through the mail for his employer this morning. The broker, after opening it, tossed it to the boy. It proved to be an advertisement from a cigarette company and contained a package of five cigarettes, samples of a new brand, and a postal card addressed to the company. The accompanying circular stated that the company had decided to introduce the brand in this way and requested the recipient to write on the back of the postal card the names and addresses of five friends who smoked cigarettes and mail it. Cigarettes would be sent to them and it didn't take the boy long to guess that each of the five recipients would be asked to send in five new names. This was an endless chain scheme with a vengeance, the youth decided, and offered up a most brilliant prospect for him.

He promptly grasped the opportunity. First, he filled in his own name with the office address; next another name with his own home address in Brooklyn, and then three names he managed to invent with the same street number address as his firm's. This done, he mailed the card and left word with the janitor that if any letters or packages came addressed to the three individuals for whom he had invented names they were to be delivered to him in the office.

At this point he was assured of twenty-five cigarettes, and he began to figure out the method by which he would obtain the 125 cigarettes that would result later from the first batch. When last seen he had not made up his mind whether to make use of some of his office boy friends as consignees. He did not want to give the scheme away, yet he could not exactly see how he could carry on such a wholesale business as promised to result without assistants. He was murmuring: "Five times five is twenty-five—five times twenty-five is 125—five times 125 is 625—five times 625 is—" when the bookkeeper sung out to him to start in and deliver stocks.

Your Passport Needed in Russia.

You cannot enter or leave a city or town in Russia without reporting yourself to the police like a ticket-of-leave man. You are forbidden to extend the hospitality of your roof to your friend or neighbor for a single night without first informing the police of your intentions and sending them your guest's passport. Whether you are a Russian or a foreigner you can no more spend a night in a hotel or change your lodgings even for twenty-four hours without sending them your passport than you can bespeak rooms in the Winter Palace. Nay, whether you are a Russian subject or a foreigner, you cannot possibly subsist a week without a passport, which is such an essential part of your being that Russian lawyers have not inappropriately defined a man as an animal composed of three parts—a body, a soul and a passport. This passport you must have renewed once a year, unless you are a noble or an honorary citizen, and the process is as tedious and painful as moulting is to birds.

PARADISE FOR CRIMINALS.

Live in the Open Air in Comparative Freedom.

A correspondent writing from Italy gives some interesting details of the treatment of prisoners on various Italian islands he visited while on a trip in the Mediterranean, says London Tld-Bits. Each of these islands contains several hundred prisoners, who are locked up every night at sunset, released at daybreak and locked up again from midday until 2 o'clock. During the night no prisoner is allowed to be absent under any circumstances, but at midday those who work on farms at a distance from the prison are allowed to remain out by special permission of the director. During these free hours the prisoners can go anywhere they like on the island and can engage in any work offered them by the townspeople or farmers. Any infraction of the rules of ordinary life around them or of their prison is punished by seclusion in special cells. The government furnishes physicians and medicines, a summer and winter suit of clothes to each prisoner every year and allows him fivepence daily in money for his food and other necessities of life. Danger of escape is prevented by a squad of soldiers—one to every ten criminals—and a swift-sailing felucca, manned by marines. On account of the cheapness of labor the islands are so highly cultivated as to resemble gardens. The correspondent adds: "As for the prisoners, the open air makes them the healthiest of any criminals I have ever seen. There is no sign in their faces and bodies of that prison blight which strikes every visitor to ordinary jails."

Ships Have Ears.

The Gate City, which arrived here on Monday from Savannah, is the first steamer going out of this port to be equipped with an aurophone, the new device for enabling the lookout to determine the direction of sounds at sea. The aurophone was tried on the way up, but little could be told about its utility owing to its being placed in a poor position. It consists of a brass box, which fits over the mast and which has projecting from each end a broad-mouthed funnel. From this box, close to the funnels, two tubes like ordinary speaking tubes lead down the mast and through the main deck to the deck below. Inside of the box there is a complex arrangement of diaphragms and sounding boards so placed that a sound will enter only one of the tubes when it is passing through the funnel on the opposite side of the box. On the lower deck is an arrangement like an engine-room indicator, by which the box above may be turned around the mast, and directly under the indicator is a tell-tale compass. The man below places the tubes to his ears, where they are held in place by a cap. Unless the funnels above are pointing directly toward the sound which he wishes to locate he will hear it only faintly and in one ear, because one of the funnels being turned from the sound the tube opposite does not operate. He then turns the indicator in the direction from which the sound appears to come, and when the funnel is pointing directly at the sound it passes through the funnel and out of the other, putting both tubes in operation, and the operator hears the sound distinctly and in both ears at once. He then glances at the indicator and the point on the tell-tale at which it rests gives the exact bearing of the sound.—Boston Transcript.

Lightning and Trees.

Cedar and fig trees are rarely struck by lightning. The beech, the larch, the fir and the chestnut also seem to be peculiarly obnoxious to the "bolts of Jove." There are trees, however, which appear to attract rather than to repel the lightning flash. The trees generally enumerated in the category of those which the lightning is most apt to strike are the oak, the yew, the elm and the Lombardy poplar.

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