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## ARTIFICIAL EYES.

The Art of Making Them Resemble Their Human Patterns.

MATCH IN SHAPE AND COLOR.

They Fit the Eye Socket Perfectly and May Even Be Worn During Sleeping Hours—Made of Glass, For Which No Substitute Has Yet Been Found.

Germany leads all other countries in the manufacture of artificial eyes. The American consul general at Coburg relates that probably ever since the beginning of the world civilized people have endeavored to hide or remedy any flaw in their appearance, such as the loss of an eye would cause. How this was done by the various nations it is hard to say. Up to the present time no discoveries have been made that would offer enlightenment on this subject. There are, it is true, a few unauthenticated accounts as far back as the middle ages, but the first reliable report is given by the French surgeon Ambrose Pare in 1560.

Two kinds of artificial eyes were known to him, the eklepharos and the hypoblepharos. The eklepharos was made by painting the eye and all surrounding parts as far as the brows on a plate, which was placed in front of the eye socket and held in position by a string tied over the head. The hypoblepharos was used in a manner similar to that of today, being put behind the eyelid, in the eye socket itself, and was composed of a metal shell of copper, silver or gold, covered with enamel and glass fusions.

It was only at the close of the eighteenth century that these artificial eyes really became of practical use, it being then found possible to do away with the metal shell altogether and employ enamel and glass. The material used was a soft lead glass, easily shaped, but also easily destructible, and an eye had to be renewed every three or four months to prevent the socket from becoming affected.

It is known that in the middle of the nineteenth century eyes were made by enamellers in Dresden, Prague, London

and Stockholm, and in Thuringia. The Thuringian makers were not enamellers, but glassblowers working in connection with the porcelain painting industry, whose endless and untiring experiment resulted in the discovery of an ideal material, cryolite glass, the use of which led to a new technique in eye manufacture. Moreover, there can now be produced all the characteristics of the human eye which had been possible in enamel work. The new prosthetic eye received the name "reform eye." To be of value, however, it must be made to exactly fit the eye socket.

Today it is possible to give to the reform eye any form and color desired, and in most cases it can be even worn at night, thereby preventing the lid from sinking into the socket and the lashes from sticking together. At times attempts have been made to replace the breakable glass by vulcanite or celluloid, but such efforts have long since been given up as useless.

In 1852 the method used in France for making eyes was as follows: On the broadly pressed end of a small, colorless, transparent rod of enamel the pupil was first made, and the iris was then formed on this by means of a small, thin pointed, colored enameled rod, the designing of the iris being made possible by melting the point of this rod.

In Paris the good eyes are now so made. A glass tube, closed at one end and of the color of the sclerotic, is next blown into the form of an oval, and in the middle of this a hole is melted, the edges of which are rounded off evenly and pressed a little outward. The iris is then placed in this opening and well melted in. A thick coating of glass remains behind. The eye is rounded off, the projecting rim of the white coat is smoothed with a metal rod, and this coat is thereby joined to the sclerotic. By means of a thin, pointed red rod the blood vessels to be seen on the hard coat of the human eye are then melted in. The superfluous back part of the eyeball is melted off, thereby giving to the eye the desired form. The eye is finally placed on hot sand, where it becomes gradually cooled off.

Glass eyes are made in quite a different manner in Lauscha, the center of this industry in Germany, where their manufacture is altogether a house industry. The eyes are usually made by one member of a family, and

the art is handed down from one generation to another. A gas flame is used for melting the glass. A small drop of white glass is put on the white blown ball from which the sclerotic is to be made and is then blown so as to make a circle about eight millimeters (0.315 inch) in diameter. On this circle the structure of the iris is built by means of variously colored glass rods. A drop of black glass makes the pupil. Over the finished iris crystal glass is melted in order to imitate the cornea. The further manufacture is similar to that given in the first description.

### Flannagan's Way.

Cassidy—Flannagan's thinking of goin' into the haulin' business. He bought a foine new cart today. Casey—But shure he has no horse. Flannagan—No, but he's goin' to buy wan. Casey—Well, that's lolke Flannagan. He always did git the cart befoer the horse.—Philadelphia Ledger.

It is a very great thing for us to do the very best we can do just where and as we are.—Babcock.

### THE SPIRAL NEBULAE.

One of the Terrifying and Mysterious Forces of Space.

The most stupendous manifestations of force of which we have any knowledge are presented by the spiral nebulae, whose mysterious and terrifying forms were first clearly revealed by the Lick observatory photographs made in 1898-1900 by the late Professor James E. Keeler. The heavens are full of them—they exist by thousands—and as astronomical photography is brought to greater perfection their amazing shapes tend more and more to upset all former ideas concerning the processes of creation and destruction going on in the interstellar spaces. They affect in an equal degree all theories about the origin and ultimate fate of our own solar system.

Who would imagine on looking up at the starry heavens some quiet night that the earth is like a person lost in the midst of the whirling wheels and spinning shafts of some enormous mill or machine room, where running bolts, whirling spindles, champing pistons, grinding cogs, gyrating governors, dizzying flywheels and leaping rods confuse the eye and the mind and paralyze the limbs with the terror of impending annihilation? We are not aware of this startling situation because, while we see the stars, we do not see what is among the stars. The spinning machinery of the universe is revealed only in photographs, and as far as our senses are concerned it performs its functions with a silence which to the imagination becomes a part of the horror of space.

These cosmic wheels spin with incalculable velocity, but the span of human life is but a second of time in comparison with their periods. If we could magnify time so that a second would become as a century, then an hour would be equivalent to 360,000 years, and the true aspect of the spiral nebulae would burst upon our astonished senses.—Garrett P. Serviss in New York American.

### Made Napoleon Wait.

On the day when the courier brought news of the signature of the peace of Amlens, Talleyrand thrust the impatiently awaited document in his pocket, went to the emperor and engaged him in current affairs. When these were all disposed of he said: "Now I have good news for you. Read!"

"And you could not tell me this immediately?" exclaimed the astonished Napoleon.

"Certainly not, for then you would listen to nothing else."

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