

LEAD LONELY LIVES.

MOST DANGEROUS LIGHTSHIP STATION IN THE WORLD.

That Maintained by Uncle Sam On Nantucket, Mass., Is Noted—Hardy Sailors Who Constantly Face Perils in Many Forms.

Probably upon no reef guard station in the world have the lives of brave and bold men been so often hazarded as up on the Nantucket Shoals lightship, which is located forty miles south from Nantucket, Mass. More than half a century has elapsed since the government first stationed a lightship at this dangerous and lonesome spot. Until recently the lightship was a small equipped vessel, but now it is a steam propelled, yet, whether operated by steam or sail the dangers and hardships of the men confined on it are one and the same.

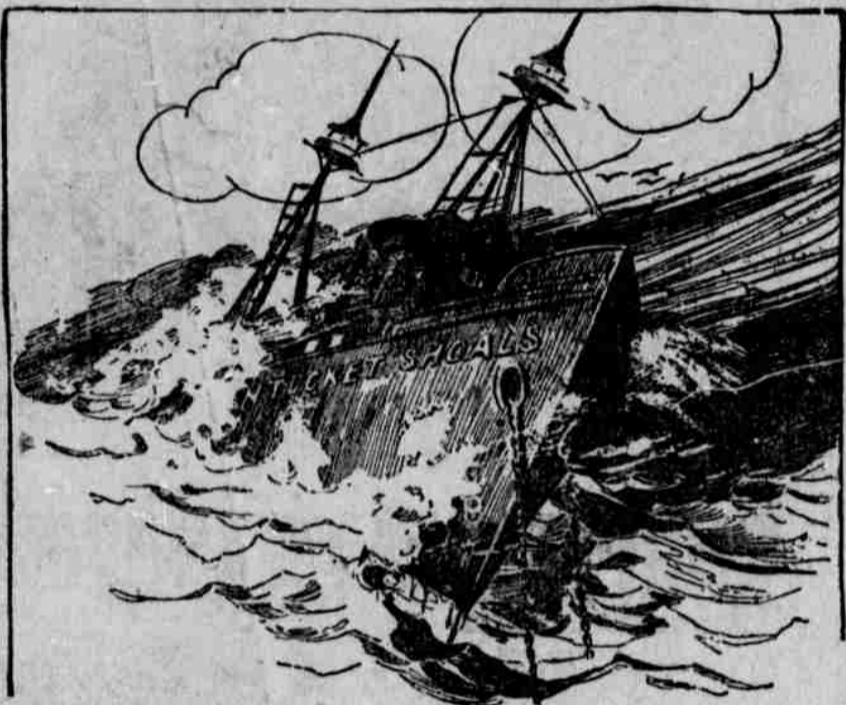
Forty miles out at sea, cooped in the little shell that, day after day and month after month, swings and tugs at its 7,000-pound anchor lying in 18 fathoms of water, the life of the Nantucket lightship sailorman is one of almost complete isolation from the first of November until the opening of the spring months. During the bitterest six months of the year there are no reprieves or shore leave.

Sometimes for two months or more, during the severest periods of the winter, these dozen men are without communication with the shore save the messages sent to them by wireless telegraphy. Often for days their only visible companion is the great red-brown buoy swinging in the sea half a mile from the ship.

Even this object, which is endeared to the heart of every man aboard the lightship, in particularly bad weather breaks adrift from its moorings or is frequently shut out from sight for weeks by the dense fogs which drift in over the ocean like a pall from the southward, and then the melancholy of the loneliness which pervades these men is not lifted until a close passing vessel or the infrequent advent of the winter sunlight comes to chase away the monotony of their existence.

But loneliness is only one of the hardships of the men on the Nantucket Shoals lightship, though it is the one dreaded. There are the days when the fog settles down over the isolated vessel in a thick, damp cloak, completely enshrouding the hull from stem to stern—days when only the far off sound of a passing steamer's ghostly whistle or a sailing vessel's horn, or the systematic roar of the steam fog horn aboard the lightship, is all their world.

Once for twelve consecutive nights



NANTUCKET SHOALS LIGHTSHIP.

and days the bell which was used aboard the old ship there was kept ringing at two-minute intervals, with the result that when the fog had lifted and the noise ceased, the men were unable to sleep for the first night on account of the unaccustomed silence.

But there is still another danger besides that of being run down. When the winter storms of the Atlantic sweep across the shoals, tossing the lightship like a shuttlecock and burying her athwartships, these men aboard, clinging in their bunks between decks or standing watch through the bitter cold hours of the night in the lee of the oak bulwarks, indifferently sheltered from the icy sheet and spray, know not at what moment the great anchor chain may part under the lunges of the rolling vessel and set them adrift in the inky darkness in a battle for life.

Twenty-four times the Nantucket lightship has parted her chains, usually in the heart of the bitterest winter gales, and been swept to sea. Only a year ago vessel and crew thus adrift from moorings were given up for lost. Once during the period of the old sailing lightship's maintenance the vessel was fourteen days in plying her way back to port after having been driven far to sea.

Pots and kettles in the cook's room are always lashed to the stove and the walls to prevent them from flying about under the stress of the rolling ship. Each member of the crew when he sits down to the little mess table below decks has his coffee cup and his tin plate securely held in place by a number of pegs set in the table. Sometimes even then the coffee goes flying into the plumduff of the scow's (made of "salt horse," potatoes and parsnips) and the pork jumps into the molasses.

Because during heavy gales water washes over decks in a clean sweep, the portholes of the berth deck and cabins which are below decks are never opened.

Sometimes the rolling of the ship is such as to fender seamen even those tried old lightship salts, many of whom have spent years whaling and grown accustomed to the "crow's nest," a masthead lookout, where the pitching and rolling of a ship is most noticeable. In fact, mal de mer is very common on board the lightship.

ENGLAND'S MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.



LADY BEATRICE POLE-CAREW.

Lady Beatrice Pole-Carew has by popular vote been declared the most beautiful woman in England. Her plurality in the contest conducted by a London evening newspaper was overwhelming. It is said that four-fifths of London voted. Princess Henry of Prussia was second, and the Duchess of Sutherland third. Two American beauties, Edna May and Camille Clifford, were well down the list.

Of all the perils that overhang the Nantucket Shoals lightship's crew, however, the direst is that of acting as life savers in a case where a vessel has gone on the shoals or foundered in the sea within sight. But it's a peril which these brave seamen never flinch from.

The lives of these men aboard this particular lightship are considered by Uncle Sam to be of such importance that the crew is not obliged to leave the vessel, even in order to save life, but it has never happened that these men have allowed a shipwrecked sailor or crew to go unaided.

Without the two great octagonal copper framed lights, each weighing a ton, which every night of the year during fair weather and storms cast their beacon-like rays from the masts of this lightship for the benefit of the thousands of vessels sailing outside Nantucket Island, this part of the coast would be avoided as were the Scylla and Charybdis of old.

As it is, 500 vessels have been

EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE KAISER.

He is an Early Riser and His Meals Are Simple.

The everyday life of the German emperor is rather severely systematized, says Wolf von Schierbrand in Lippincott's. He plunges into his day's work with cheerful and vigorous alacrity. He is an early riser—in the summer often at 5 and in the winter rarely after 7. During the hunting season he gets up even before those hours. He regularly braces himself with a shower bath and then he slips into his undress uniform (for, as William I. used to say, "dressing gowns are not worn by the Hohenzollerns") and goes straight to breakfast.

His meals, as a rule, are simple rather than otherwise. His breakfast is of the "English kind," consisting of coffee or tea, toast, eggs, beefsteak or a cutlet. Luncheon is served at 2, and he partakes of soup, one meat dish with greens, one roast and several entremets. Dinner at 6 is a more elaborate meal. Kaiser and the kaiserin both insist on carefully and wholesomely prepared food, and, although she never cooks dishes for her husband or family as has been erroneously stated so often—she does frequently supervise the preparing of this or the other special course. The kaiser is fond of baked meats and pot roasts and likewise of fish, oysters, macaroni, rice, force-meat balls and of what is commonly called hamburger steak. Usually, unless pressure of business prevents, he plans with his wife at breakfast the menu of the day.

NEW IDEA OF CONSUMPTION.

London Doctor Says the Disease is Primarily Derived From Cattle. A London physician, Dr. W. Picket Turner, who has made a first-hand study of the disease for many years, advances the theory that the medical world is attacking the problem of consumption by an utterly false route.

His view, briefly stated, is that tuberculosis is an animal disease primarily derived, in all cases, from cattle. It belongs, he says, to the mycotic group of diseases, diseases in which the original source of infection is a plant. Bovine cattle derive tuberculosis from Timothy and other allied grasses by natural affinity.

Man acquires the disease by ingestion or inoculation, never by inhalation. It is not hereditary; neither is there any predisposition to it in the individual. The bacillus in a state of nature is saprophytic, feeding on decay of the vegetable world. But the bacillus becomes pathogenic—capable of causing disease—in cattle when they are deprived of actinism or the property of the chemical rays in sunlight. It would, if all this be true, become reasonable to assume that by restoring actinism to cattle the bacillus would again become a saprophyte, in which case consumption would be extirpated.—Current Literature.

Crocodiles and the Cure.

One does not usually connect crocodiles with a health resort—rather the reverse—but the creatures are quite a feature of the Indian bathing place of Manghapur, about nine miles from Karachi. This town is a place of pilgrimage for pious Hindus, but it is chiefly famous for the value of its waters in the cure of the dread scourge of leprosy. The waters are hot, and more than 60 per cent of the sufferers who bathe there annually, it is said, are cured. The crocodiles are rather noteworthy in that they live in the hot water, apparently suffering no inconvenience from its temperature or medicinal qualities.—Wide World Magazine.

The Old Maid Aunts.

If you want to be interested, visit a family where there is but one baby and two or three old maid aunts. Sisters always love each other in a way to attract admiration, and an old maid loves her sister's baby almost as much as the mother. And away down deep in her heart an old maid thinks the baby loves her as much as it loves its mother. If we could have our wish we would wish to be a baby in a family where there are two or three old maid aunts; then we would receive attention.—Atholton Globe.



MRS. EMMA SHIRLEY.

cent of steady cash she possessed—to endow tible work in Japan. Most of the money was saved 10 cents at a time. The rest of the amount was raised by keeping boarders during the world's fair of 1904. The interest on this sum will support a bible woman or deaconess in Japan.

A Natural Mystician.

"How on earth does Cholly London choose his clothes? He's totally color blind!"

"That's easy. He goes altogether by ear."—Cleveland Leader.

A jealous woman treats the man she loves the way a cowboy does a broncho he is breaking: Subdues him or kills him.

OUTDOOR GARDENS IN WINTER.

Charm of Rustic Nook Where Plants, Vines and Trees Are Ever Green.

The beauty of the outdoor garden during the winter season is largely a matter of thought rather than that of expense, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

A little ingenuity in the selection and grouping of plants, shrubbery, trees and vines will go further toward producing permanent beauty than any amount of cost and skill in the purchase and the care of the home beautifiers. An evergreen tree, one of the beautiful conifers, a dwarf cedar or a tall pine or hemlock, will prove far more beautiful than the deciduous shade trees for certain positions in the home grounds; and there will be but little difference in the original cost. An evergreen magnolia as an ornamental plant in a small city yard will cost no more than a magnolia that sheds its leaves each autumn, and while the latter will present only bare, straggling branches through the winter, the former will hold up in stately magnificence its thick glossy evergreen leaves—resembling huge leaves of the indoor rubber tree—and give the little outdoor garden an effect of almost tropical greenery through the season of ice and snow.

A simple and quaintly beautiful rustic summer house, suitable for little yards of city homes, or sheltered corners of suburban or country estates may present beautiful as well as durable qualities when formed of irregular cedar branches in rustic design and ornamented with variegated eucalyptus vines trained up the posts and about the seats. The variety known as eucalyptus variegata is a delicate looking beauty, but of exceedingly sturdy growth and perfectly hardy. The masses of small green and white leaves remain on the outdoor vines all winter; and the same desirable characteristics are displayed in the eucalyptus shrubs which will form well-rounded decorative bushes, as beautiful in winter as in summer.

NORTH COUNTRY INDIANS.

One of the most distinctive features of the Hudson Bay Company, says the author of "The North Country," is its cultivation of the Spartan virtue of truth upon the part of its employees in dealing with the Indians. No misrepresentation is permitted for the purpose of effecting sales in that service, or for any other purpose, and any infraction of the rule is promptly met with summary dismissal.

This money-making corporation thoroughly believes, and its long experience fully demonstrates, that the Indian of the north woods is not only industrious, but honest as well.

Upon this theory an Indian comes into a trading-post in August or September without a cent. He has no furs to sell, but he has many needs to supply. He requires flour, tea, sugar, bacon, a new gun, powder, shot and bullets, traps, and many other things to maintain him eight months during the winter. He has no money, but he has honesty and industry and skill; and for the company's trader this is sufficient.

He is furnished with all he desires, and the company extends him credit on its books for supplies aggregating from two hundred to five hundred dollars, and the Indian, with loaded canoe, departs into the forest to his hunting-grounds three hundred or five hundred miles distant.

The trader loses no sleep, for he knows that when June has thawed out the ice of the lakes and streams the canoes will return, bearing their valuable furs, and he will be busy balancing accounts with his former debtors, who have returned to discharge their debts and to receive credit for the additional furs they have brought to the trader.

Last summer a post-trader was asked about the frequency of bad accounts. He replied that he had never had a bad account; that it sometimes happened that the Indian was unable to make full payment, but in such cases the payment was simply postponed until he had a more successful hunt.

The only event which prevents the Indian from paying is his death, and in that case the company cancels the debt.

Measure Light of Stars.

Various attempts have been made to estimate the light of stars. In the northern hemisphere Argelander has registered 324,000 stars down to the 9th magnitude, with the aid of the best photographic data. Agnes M. Clerik's new "System of the Stars" gives the sum of the light of these northern stars as equivalent to 1-440 of full moonlight and the total light of all stars similarly enumerated in both hemispheres to the number of about 900,000 is roughly placed at 1-180 of the lunar brightness.

Editorials Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

EXPERT WITNESSES.

OTH in civil and criminal trials there are frequently circumstances in which the testimony of experts is highly desirable. To determine the equities in a civil suit special knowledge is often necessary, and to determine the degree of responsibility in a criminal case the same is true. It is an unfortunate fact that in the American courts, except perhaps in poisoning cases, where a chemist gives the direct results of his analysis and confines himself to that, such a thing as honest expert testimony is almost unknown.

We have, indeed, a disreputable kind of testimony which masks itself under the name of "expert," and which we hear of entirely too often. It is the testimony given by men hired either by the prosecution or by the defense to help its cause. But this is not expert testimony, unless, indeed, the very skillfulness of the prostitution of knowledge that is sometimes exhibited may itself be called expert.

When an expert takes the stand the first question put to him should come from the judge, and it should be in this form: "Have you accepted, or agreed to accept, any fee from the prosecution or from the defense?" as the case may be. If the answer is yes, or if evidence is produced of the payment of such a fee, there should be a law permitting the prosecution of the witness for bribery.—Chicago Record-Herald.

TO MAKE TAXES POPULAR.

TAXES are paid more reluctantly than any other indebtedness. One of the reasons for the reluctance lies in the belief, which prevails widely, that other men are not paying their fair share of the cost of government. There is foundation for this belief, since no taxation system is perfect. In every case it is the result of tinkering with old systems without a comprehensive idea of what should be done to cure the evils.

New York has lately had the benefit of the suggestions of a special commission appointed to recommend an improvement in its system. In that State all the expenses of the State government are paid by special taxes levied on corporations, on liquor-selling, on stock transfers and on inheritance, so that there is no levy upon the general taxpayer for State purposes. Consequently the tax which has to be paid to the local collector is for local purposes alone. This tax is levied on real estate and personal property.

The commission has recommended that the personal property tax be abolished, and that a real estate tax and a tax on the rental value of the house a man occupies be practically the only taxes the citizen has to pay. This is to be supplemented with a revised inheritance tax, the proceeds of which shall be divided between the State and the community in which the property is situated, as the excise tax is now divided.

Attention is called to this report, because it is a valuable contribution to the discussion of the taxation ques-

"ED" WAS BARRED.

Under the close scrutiny of his wife and sister, Mr. Hanson sat unhappily in his chair, drawn up to the cheerful blaze, to be sure, but between the chairs occupied by the feminine members of his household.

"Well, now, what difference does it make whether Letty's husband is well-favored or not?" he demanded, irritably.

"I've told you there weren't any of those folks in that little town of theirs made to look at. Why ain't that enough for you? He's a mighty good fellow, Ed Norton is. Everybody'll tell you he's got the best disposition that ever was, and he's smart, too."

Mrs. Hanson leaned forward and twined her husband's coat by its sleeve.

"Is it true he's the homeliest man in all that part of the country?" she demanded. "If looks don't make any difference to you, why don't you speak up and tell the truth?"

"Long as you've worried it out o' me," said Mr. Hanson, reluctantly, "I'll tell you. There's a game they play, young an' old, when they have one o' their gatherings in the little hall they've built. If anybody's made doughnuts that day—I mean whoever's made 'em, or cookies or what not—instead o' handing 'em round with the rest of the food, they do 'em up separate, all in papers and boxes and tied with strings in hard knots, and then they'll give 'em to the children to deal out, saying, 'Now that's for the man with the biggest mouth.' That's for the man with the largest ears.' That's for the man with the longest nose.' That's for the man with the biggest hands,' and so on. You see what I mean? They mention what you'd generally call personal defects, I take it."

"Well, it makes considerable sport, and nobody's sensitive. I was there to one of those times, and saw how it worked. But just before they began to play it the man that was kind of master of ceremonies, he stood out in the center of the floor, and said he, 'Before we begin I will ask Ed Norton to step outside,' he said. 'I understand there's a new brand o' cakes on hand to-night, and some o' the rest of us men want to get 'em by rights,' he said, 'and not have to depend on Ed Norton's bounty, as we've done at the last two entertainments.'"

"Now I hope you're satisfied," and Mr. Hanson closed his eyes with the air of one from whom no further information could be dragged.—Youth's Companion.

Consistency of Purpose Only.

Gen. Sir Alfred Horsford, once in authority at Aldershot, believed in an army of unmarried men, and invariably turned a deaf ear to privates who were in love and who wished to take wives. When Horsford was in command of a battalion of the rifle brigade, says Sir Evelyn Wood in his recent entertaining volume, "From Midshipman to Field Marshal," a soldier came up to him for permission to marry.

"No, certainly not," was the curt reply. "Why does a young man like you want a wife?"

"Oh, please, sir," said the soldier. "I have two rings ('good conduct' badges) and five pounds in the savings

DOWN WITH THE BROOM!

HE broom threatens soon to be as obsolete as the old copper warming pan, judging from the number of vacuum dust removers which are being placed upon the market. The change is one which must meet with the unqualified approval of all who know what a breeding ground of disease is the common dust of our houses. Every housewife who is possessed of cleanly instincts should welcome an apparatus which removes dust instead of scattering it in all directions, lost to the senses, so to speak, for a time by its attenuation in air, only sooner or later to settle again on the shelves, pictures, curtains and carpets in a thin film. Moreover, the removal of dust and its collection in a receptacle by means of the vacuum cleaner permits of its absolute destruction by fire.

Bacteriological science can easily demonstrate the existence of disease germs in common household dust, and there is evidence of an eminently practical character that dust is otherwise a source of disease; there could hardly be a more effectual means of spreading the infective and irritating particles than the old-fashioned broom.—London Lancet.

OYSTERS AND TYPHOID.

INVESTIGATION has shown that oysters eaten raw frequently cause typhoid. Not the thin, grayish oysters, fresh from the briny deep, but those which, in consequence of the consumer's demand that the bivalves be good to his sight as well as to his perverted taste, are subjected to a bleaching process which makes them plump as well.

To secure this appearance the salt water product is placed in fresh water, frequently in fresh water streams. This bleaches them, and owing to the fact that nowadays few fresh water streams are pure, and that its digestive functions are retarded by the unnatural conditions, any bacilli in the water absorbed rapidly multiply, thus infecting the oyster.

This infected food, often shipped long distances, becomes a menace to health of whole communities. This practice of bleaching and fattening the oyster certainly should be discouraged by epicureans and consumers in general.—What to Eat.

SKATING IN FRIESLAND.

Ideal Conditions for Enjoyment of This Outdoor Sport in Holland. The lovers of skating in New York would be rejoiced, indeed, if they could make one of the skating tours now so popular on the canals of Holland, says the New York Tribune. Friesland, the northern province, especially, is described as the true paradise of the skater. Its canals, threading the country in every direction, are, in the winter months, converted into miles upon miles of iceclad highways, stretching out in almost every direction as far as the eye can see. The milkman, the butcher, in fact all of the tradespeople and nearly all persons having occasion to travel through the country, use these iceclad canals in going from village to village.

It is only natural that where there are such tempting stretches of ice the natives should be expert skaters, and this is true of the Friesland. The ordinary skater in this country, though he may have his own special footwear for the enjoyment of the sport, always sees to it that the shoes used are good, stout ones.

Not so in Friesland. The expert skater there takes off his shoes and skates in his stocking feet, the only addition to his footwear being another pair of socks. The big wooden sabots ordinarily worn by the Friesland are usually carried under the arm when he is enjoying his skating.

So much do the Friesland think of their iceclad highways that the authorities in each city and village, many clubs and individuals unite in their efforts to keep them in first-class condition and free from snow in the winter months.

One of the best mediums for the transportation of the small kits one taking a skating trip in Friesland needs is the rudely but stoutly constructed Friesland sled, which can be hired at a small outlay. The other expenses can be made equally small. The food served at the little inns along the canals is clean and wholesome, and the prices for meals are reasonable. Then, to add to the pleasure of such a trip, at important crossing points there are refreshment tents where an invigorating drink of hot spiced milk may be had, or, if the travelers prefer, there are many cozy little spots along the line of the canals where they may pause and prepare their own-luncheons on the ice—in short, it is difficult to conceive a winter outing affording more beautiful pleasures than skating through Friesland.

There are many good voices," Mme. Calve said, "that the world will never hear because their owners are too indolent to develop them."

"It is like the story of the farmer, looking up from his magazine the farmer said vehemently to his wife one night: 'Do you know what I'd have done if I had been Napoleon?'"

"Yes," she answered. "You'd have settled down in Corsica and spent your life grubbing about bad luck and hard times."—Kansas City Journal.

Men have a good deal to say about women telling secrets, but mighty few men ever get in on a real ground-floor, and refrain from telling their particular friends "on the quiet."