

SOME NEW INVENTIONS

Go Find Lost Ships.

Finding lost ships at sea is a tedious piece of work, even when the position of the vessel is partially known, and our illustration shows a device intended to facilitate the search as much as possible. With its aid the search can be thoroughly made over the ocean bed, either one ship or two being used for the work. If only one ship is at hand the cable is anchored at one end and the ship sweeps around the buoy above the anchor with the free end of the cable; or if two ships are in use the cable is swept across the ocean bed in parallel lines. Near the wreck in the picture the cable is shown divided for the insertion of a reel, on which a portion of the cable is wound. The tension of the cable is not sufficient



APPARATUS FOR LOCATING SUNKEN VESSELS.

to unwind the portion on the reel when dragging freely along, but as soon as an obstruction is met the unwinding of the cable from the reel prevents the sudden alteration of the vessel's course until the source of the obstruction can be determined. If it is other than the lost ship the vessels can continue in their line of search without neglecting any of the ground, as might be the case if the course was suddenly altered by the tightening of a single length of cable.

Electric Farming.

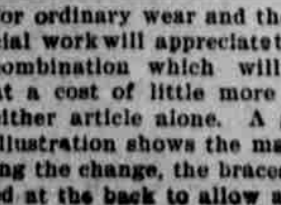
The up-to-date farmers with a large acreage find it slow work to plow his fields with the old single plows of the past, and so he utilizes the electric current and multiplies the number of plowshares to suit himself. In the West this is practically a necessity, on account of the large size of the fields and the cost of labor and teams. Our illustration shows a convenient form of motor plow which has been designed by an inventor in Friedrichsburg, Germany. It consists of two electric motors operating winding drums on separate carriages, which may be placed at any required distance apart, only one motor being connected with the main feed wire. To supply power to the second motor a feed cable lying parallel with the traction cable is readjusted at every trip of the plow to follow the latter down the



field. The mechanism is so adjusted that when once set in motion the apparatus practically operates itself, moving the carriages forward at the beginning of each trip to bring the plowshares in position for the next row of furrows.

Combined Belt and Brace.

From far-off New Zealand comes the combination shown in the illustration, that a pair of suspenders which can be quickly altered to a belt when the wearer desires to change from one to the other. The inventor states that the device is particularly adapted for use by athletes, cricketers, boatmen and football players, and also for workmen who use a belt while at work. Any of these persons who prefer the suspender



for ordinary wear and the belt for special work will appreciate the merits of a combination which will supply both at a cost of little more than that of either article alone. A glance at the illustration shows the manner of making the change, the braces being pivoted at the back to allow alignment.

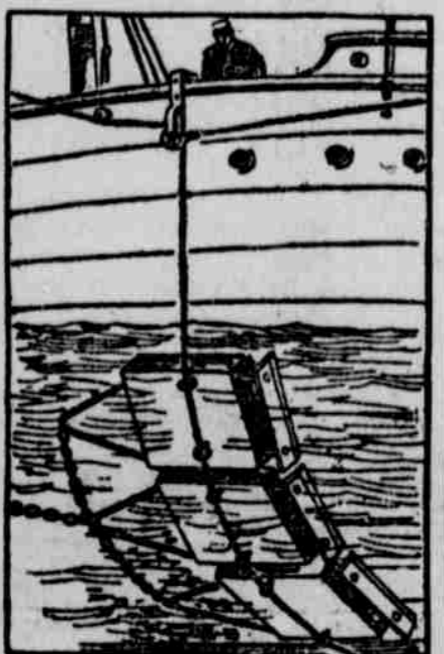
Adjustable Curtain Support.

Two views are shown in the illustration of a neat curtain support recently patented. The ordinary manner of attaching the lace curtain does not permit them to be adjusted readily when it becomes necessary to clean the window or to push the curtains back to allow more light to enter the room. Then, too, they soon become soiled from frequent handling while being adjusted, which also tends to wear them out more rapidly. All these objections seem to be overcome by the lazy-tongs arrangement in this invention, the frame being shown in the upper portion of the cut and the mounted curtains below. The disc carrying each frame is mounted on the vertical shank of a bracket, which is screwed to the window frame, allowing the curtain to be swung out from the window or around against the wall when desired. A pull on one of the cords concealed behind the curtain opens or closes the frame to adjust the curtain across the window or fold it back against the side, it being unnecessary to touch the curtain with the hand to move it in either direction.



No Dry Dock Needed.

The expense of docking ships in order to remove foreign growths from the hulls is considerable, besides the



APPARATUS FOR CLEANING HULLS OF VESSELS.

time necessary to go from a station to the dock and back again, and to remove the barnacles and other substances without the necessity of docking is the purpose of the scraping apparatus illustrated in the cut. It has been patented by Major A. and Asa L. Stump, of Normantown, W. Va. The apparatus consists of several scrapers of the pattern shown, suspended on cables from the rail of the vessel by means of rolling hangers. Provision is made for taking up the slack of the suspension cable as the leannars are pulled lengthwise of the hull by the main cable, which is wound up on a drum located on the deck of the vessel. The scrapers comprise heavy wooden blocks, with steel abrading blades at the rear, and the inventors claim that these blades will remove the barnacles as well when the ship is afloat as can be done in dry dock, without the loss of time necessary by the latter method, the ship maintaining her course throughout the operation.

Improved Fruit Jar.

This invention is intended to provide a fruit jar which can be sealed so tightly that the danger of fermentation is reduced to a minimum and at the same time make it a comparatively easy task to open the jar when the contents are wanted. It is a woman's invention, the patent having lately been granted. The jar proper is similar to those now in use, except that it has a series of studs or projections arranged around the edge of the top, and the outer edge of the fastening ring is provided with a similar row of studs. Two wrenches of band steel, of small cost, are also provided.



Life Saving Buoy.

A novel and extremely simple life-saving device has been invented by M. George Broussel. It is a sort of automatic folding buoy, and is formed merely of two boards of wood, which are joined together in the center. In ordinary weather it can be used as a seat on board a vessel, and when there is danger of shipwreck it can be instantaneously turned into a life-saving buoy. Many experiments have already been made with it and they show that it can do effective work as well in a storm as in a calm sea.

FACTS AND OPINIONS

The Colombo Affair.

That the German government will in any way resent the arrest of Abel Murillo on board the German steamer Allegheny at Cartagena, Colombia, is extremely improbable. The Colombians may have erred in refusing the Allegheny clearance merely because her captain refused voluntarily to deliver Murillo to them. But their right to remove Murillo from the ship is unquestionable. The German consul's reported protest against his removal had no legal basis. Murillo's theatrical performance in wrapping the German flag about his body in no way altered the situation.

The Allegheny was in a Colombian port and while there was subject to that country's laws. A merchant vessel so situated cannot afford a refuge to persons of her own nationality, much less to subjects of the country in whose waters she is. Great Britain has sometimes attempted to establish the principle that British ships are British territory wherever they are, but the United States settled that point with her in the war of 1812. The United States has always maintained the right to do precisely what the Colombians did. American police have often searched English and other foreign ships in our ports and arrested persons thereon, and have always been sustained by Washington.

The uproar about Murillo's arrest proceeds from his fellow passengers. One of these, and apparently the writer of the statement they gave to the press is an Englishman. His animus is disclosed by the last sentence of the statement, declaring it "safer to take a steamship covered by the ever-respected union jack." Anxiety to make a point against Germany and in favor of England appears to have inspired this Briton's effort to convince the public that the German flag was "insulted" by Murillo's arrest.

The Murillo incident would probably have attracted no special attention were not the impression somewhat general that Germany greatly desires to obtain some political foothold in South America, and hence is likely to seize upon almost any small pretext to make such an attempt. Whatever may be the German government's desires in that direction is not material. The Monroe doctrine is a barrier to any such aims, and both the interests and the safety of the United States demand that the Monroe doctrine be strictly enforced. It will be enforced, against Germany or any other power attempting to violate it.

Danger in Stockings.

It has been decided by high medical authority that there is danger in wearing some of the beautiful tinted silk stockings one sees in the shop windows, and this is the reason:

In producing certain delicate colors in silk chloride of tin is used as a mordant, and it is said that unless great care is taken a large proportion of it remains in the completed fabric. In the case of stockings or any garment next the skin the perspiration may dissolve the tin and it is then absorbed by the skin. A case is reported from Vienna of a woman who suffered from attacks of paralysis in the lower extremities, with numbness, a sense of coldness, and a peculiar jerkiness of the legs in walking. She noticed that whenever these symptoms were the worst her feet were colored yellow, and it was found that this staining was caused by light yellow silk stockings which she wore. They were analyzed and considerable quantities of tin found.

Exiled Ladybugs.

All bugland is up in arms over the announcement that 20,000 ladybugs are to be captured in the Berkshire hills, placed in cases, and given first-class passage to Cape Colony, where they will do patrol duty in driving out some other bugs and insects which are not so desirable. William Beutenmuller of the Museum of Natural History declared that it was a shame to take the ladybugs away, because we cannot spare 20,000 of them. Besides, he thinks the trip will prove too long for them, and that before they arrive there the greater part will have died. The Boers have great faith in the ladybugs, and think if they once get started they will end the Boer war, oust Cecil Rhodes, and probably determine who struck Billy Patterson. Mr. Beutenmuller says the United States borrowed a bunch of them from Australia a few years ago, which were turned loose in California, and were largely responsible for the development of that glorious state.—Chicago Journal.

Union of Christendom.

Prof. Charles A. Briggs of Union Seminary, one of the American delegates at the ninth jubilee of the University of Glasgow, preached in Belmont Established church in Scotland on a recent Sunday afternoon to a fairly large congregation. His subject was "The Unity of the Christian Church." Dr. Briggs said that he had worshipped recently at St. Peter's in Rome, and more recently still in Durham cathedral, and that day he worshipped in a Scotch Presbyterian church. In all three the worship was whole-hearted and sincere. All the types of the church presupposed unity. The wonderful thing to an American was that the Scotch churches could keep from rushing into each other's arms.

OFF FOR THE POLE

Evelyn B. Baldwin, the American explorer, has sailed from Christiana and hopes to plant the flag of our country at the north pole before this time next year.

The explorer expressed confidence that the American energy and money enlisted in the enterprise and the novel methods brought to its aid would bring success to the efforts of himself and his associates. Three vessels, well provisioned, a large company of scientists and everything in the way of equipment that experience could suggest make up the expedition, and all are now on the seas bound northward.

Mr. Baldwin, on the steamer America, the flagship, will go first to Archangel, where he will take on 425 dogs, fifteen Siberian ponies and six Siberian dog trainers. Forty-two men in all accompany him on the America. This



EVELYN B. BALDWIN

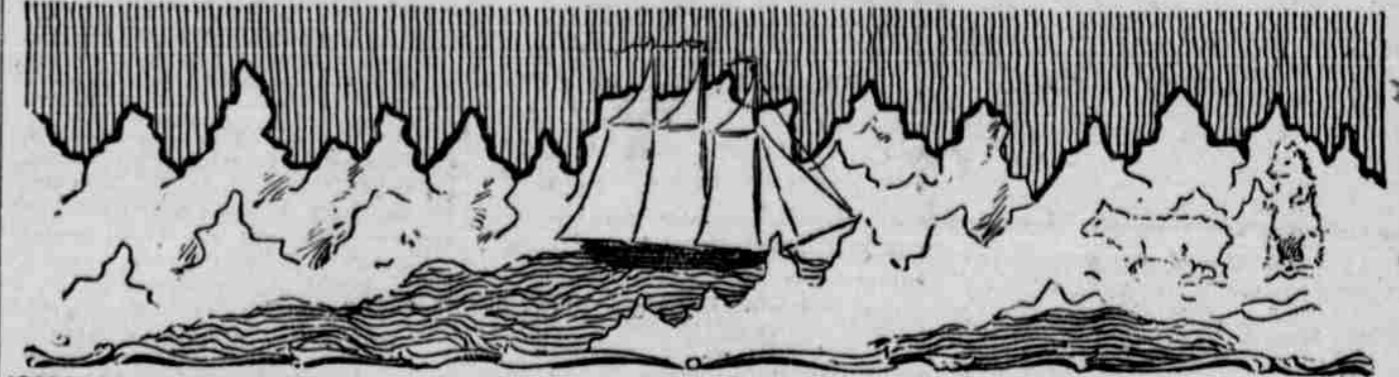
is the first time that Siberian ponies have been used in arctic exploration,

and the voyagers expect important results from the experiment.

The America was preceded northward by the two other vessels of the expedition, the Frithjof and the Belgica. The America and Frithjof, which sailed together from Christiana, parted company at Honingsvaag, the Frithjof sailing direct for Franz Joseph Land. The Belgica sailed for the east coast of Greenland to establish supply stations.

From Archangel Mr. Baldwin expects to skirt the northern coast of Norway to Vardoe, from where he will start within a few days to begin in earnest his dash for a new farthest north.

Chekib Bey, the new Turkish minister to this country, is a keen-going sportsman and extensive breeder of thoroughbred horses, in which he takes a great interest.



California's Natural Sphinx.

One of the greatest freaks of nature has recently been discovered close to the immense tunnel that is nearing completion on the line of the Southern Pacific running along the boundary line of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, says the San Francisco Call. Some workmen employed by the company discovered an immense rock that is a perfect image of a man's head. A photograph was taken of this freak of nature by one of the workmen who had a camera in his possession, and it was sent to Chief Engineer Hood, of the Southern Pacific. A reproduc-

tion of the Northern Presbyterians to go into war politics as a denomination. Forty years have elapsed since the war broke out, and at last the Northern and Southern Presbyterians are beginning—only beginning—to get together. They are consolidating their denominational colleges and theological seminaries in Kentucky, which was one of the border states of the secession struggle.

Principle of National Churches.

The civil war in the Southern states resulted in a Northern and a Southern organization of each one of several religious denominations, notably the Baptists and the Presbyterians. By

the points of interest in California. Americans can now proudly claim that California has a sphinx that is just as imposing as that in far-away Egypt, and that the sphinx of California took a long time to be discovered, but that it is older than the Egyptian sphinx and was not made by man.

Religious dissensions based on differences of opinion about abstract doctrines, or about once practical questions which have ceased to be practical and so become purely historic and speculative, are in a fair way to be healed when those who have been so divided begin to come together and stand shoulder to shoulder in some work that continues to be practical. Education is always a practical question by rights, and the union of Northern and Southern Presbyterians in the management of educational interests is likely to be permanent enough to yield that better acquaintance and mutual liking and respect which are certain in time to bring about a more complete and varied form of co-operation.

Although the famous Father Ryan sang many Confederate war lyrics there was no Northern and Southern division of the Roman Catholic church in America. Indeed, there could hardly have been any such thing in any country since the Council of Trent, when the national church ideal, under the leadership of the French bishops, was overshadowed by Ultramontanism under Spanish and Italian leadership. In the Episcopal church the Bishop of Louisiana became a Confederate lieutenant general; General Lee's chief of artillery was General William N. Pendleton, a prominent Virginia rector, and Bishops Wilmer and Wingfield suffered various things at the hands of stalwart Union generals for refusing to pray for the President of the United States. But the Southern Episcopal church never had any real and effective separate organization, and the Confederate bishops were welcomed to the house of bishops in the first general convention that met after the close of the war.

The oldest person in Lehigh county, Pa., and the oldest practicing physician in the state and probably in the United States, is Dr. Henry Helfrich, who celebrated his ninety-eighth birthday recently. He prescribed for several patients on that day who called at his office. He no longer makes professional calls, but has considerable practice.



tion of the picture accompanies this article. The photograph has been shown to numbers of scientists and globe-trotters, and they all claim that there is no other rock in existence that is such a perfect representation of a man's head. The rock will no doubt be looked upon in the future as one of

rights the Methodist division ought to be accounted for in the same way, though it long antedates the war, for it grew out of the same old difference of opinion on the slavery question, while the Southern Presbyterian organization was the result of a clear-cut protest against an alleged disposi-

End of the World May Result from Heat.

This summer's excessive heat is explained by a Chicago scientist in a way calculated to give both chills and fever to that part of humanity which accepts his explanation. He asserts that the earth in its annual revolution about the sun is approaching nearer and nearer to that orb every summer every winter. The ultimate result, he avers, will be that the inhabitants of this sphere will be alternately baked and frozen until no living being is left.

Professor Ludwig J. Marienburger, Ph. D., a graduate of the University of

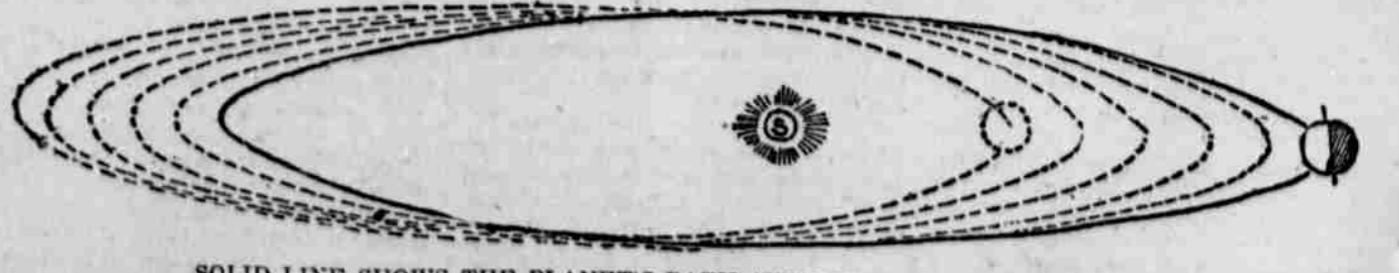
Berlin, who speaks ten languages, is the exponent of this startling theory. Some scientists have argued that eventually this earth would become a frozen mass; others that it would be the course of a few thousand years, be transformed into an orbicular furnace, which in time would consume itself. Professor Marienburger says both of these contingencies are quite probable.

The professor's idea is that this globe, in its orbital revolutions, has "slipped a cog," and that it will continue to slip into ever changing orbits.

He is of the opinion that the earth is approaching old age, becoming somewhat decrepit and "wobbly," and has not the amount of inherent magnetism to maintain itself in its proper channel.

Solstices and the other demonstrations showing that nearness to the sun does not make this mundane sphere hotter or colder do not bother Professor Marienburger. Sun spots and similar phenomena are only incidental and can have little effect.

A Chicago University professor ridicules the theory of Prof. Marienburger.



SOLID LINE SHOWS THE PLANET'S PATH AND DOTS REPUTED VARIATIONS.