

### NICKNAMES ON THE OCEAN

Tradition Governs Them Among American and English Sailors and They Never Alter.

In the American and English navies, as well as in the merchant marines, are found nicknames that have been in use since before men dreamed that there was land on the other side of the western ocean. Tradition, most inflexible of all rules, governs them, and they never alter, whether the ship clears from the Golden Gate or from London Docks. Some of the nicknames are of obvious origin; others seem to gain force by their apparent lack of reason.

For instance, why should all men named Wright be called "Shiner"? Clark is invariably "Nobby"; Green is "Jimmy"; and a White is a "Knocker." "Spud" Murphy explains itself, as does "Dusty" Miller. "Lofty" and "Shorty" do not need to present cards to their mates when they sign on, and it is not worth while for the brunette sailor to resent it when a friendly chap calls him as "Nigger"—he can't whip the entire crew, one after the other.

The rigid forms of the quarterdeck do not hold during the watch below, and the captain is the "Skipper," and the first lieutenant is familiarly "Jimmy the One." On fighting ships the gunnery lieutenant is "Gunnery Jack," or more briefly "Guns"; the torpedo lieutenant, "Torpedo Jack" or "Sparks"; and the navigating officer, "The Navy."

Even a landlubber would know that "Tommy Pipes" was the boatswain, "Chips" the carpenter, "Jimmy Bung" the cooper, and "Sails" the sailmaker.—The Sunday Magazine.

### HE LENDS MONEY ON ANIMALS

Dr. Martin Potter Takes Strange Pledge—How One of Them Ruined Him.

Not even the author of the "Club of Strange Trades" conceived of an odder means of livelihood than that of Dr. Martin Potter, says the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Times-Star. He runs an animal pawnshop. If you have a lion that you don't need as badly as you need the money, or want to soak a trained bear for a few weeks, or put up an elephant until you hear from home, go around to Dr. Potter. He'll loan you the money against your live stock and he will not charge you any interest. But you'll have to pay the board of your pledge. "I just drifted into the business," said Dr. Potter. "I started out to furnish trained animals to shows. I've rented everything to showmen from a troupe of thoroughbred horses to a red-eyed Numidian lion. By and by I found that I had to lend money now and then to my patrons and take their stock in pledge. It was a necessity of the business, but now I like it."

His stables contain elephants and camels—if you're a regular showman you'll say camel—and monkeys and a dozen sorts of dogs and all varieties of the cat-tribe and the deuce knows what. And his proudest boast is that he was never stuck but once. "Fellow borrowed \$20 from me on a trick dog," said he. "Finest dog I ever saw. I'd have loaned \$100 on him as easy. But I wasn't shown all that dog's tricks by his owner. That night I found that he had been trained to unlatch the door and get out—and his owner had not trained him to come back."

### OFFER SHEEP IN SACRIFICE

Animals Killed at Steps of Palace in Constantinople on Feast of Bairam.

The idea of animal sacrifice seems strange in modern Europe. But it must not be forgotten that Constantinople is Turkish, in spite of the numerous desires on the part of other nations to possess it—or rather because those are so numerous.

The new regime in Turkey is up to date in many things. It is establishing schools, planning railroads and hoping to take its place by right, and not by suzerainty, among the nations of the world. But the favor of the devout Mussulman is sought by strict observance of religious festivals.

The second feast of Bairam is the occasion of sacrifice. Its date is variable, since the Turkish year is lunar, and not solar. Last year came in December and it lasts four days.

In anticipation of this festival, droves of fat sheep were taken to the city from Roumelia and Asia Minor. The price varied from \$4 to \$5. In all the rich and even well-to-do houses these sheep were sacrificed, and the flesh in most cases given to the poor.

Naturally the most elaborate ceremony was at the royal palace of Dolma Bagtche. The sheep, picked for their whiteness and plumpness, were solemnly led to the palace. At the hour fixed the sultan, surrounded by his staff, descended the steps and read a prayer, while the first of the victims was led to the marble step that became the sacrificial altar.

The sultan made the motions of killing the sheep, but actually handed the knife to an officer, who waited until the sultan had withdrawn before completing the sacrifice.

In the last three years the custom has grown up that the skins and wool of all the sheep killed in Turkey that day belong to the sailors.

One of the old rites of Bairam was to consign all Christians to massacre. This is now omitted in Constantinople. But it can be imagined that in the oasis of Tripoli this part of the ceremonies is carried out with emphasis.

### USING X-RAY ON PRINCESS

Suspicion of British Museum's Officials Regarding Egyptian Mummy Are Allayed.

A distinguished scientist attached to one of the government bureaus at Washington suggests that there may be such a thing as using the X-rays too much and too often, especially, he contends, when the rays are made the medium to pry into the antecedents of a young woman of royal lineage, resting for the moment under unjust suspicions.

Every one knows that spurious mummies have been placed off upon the public. Recently a doubt arose in a London museum as to the validity of one daughter of the Pharaohs in the collection. It occurred to the museum officials that, in view of the general hollowness of life, the young woman in question might have been manufactured in some up-to-date town. So the officials at once turned the Roentgen rays upon her, with the result that they immediately perceived through her many-folded wraps the amulets which the Egyptians placed upon the bosoms of their dead. So the suspicions of the museum officials were allayed. One of them remarked: "It does seem a little hard that after the lapse of several thousands of years a lady should be suspected of imposture."

### An Early Insurance Scheme.

A very early scheme of insurance for the laborer took heed of the woman worker. In 1786 the leaping of the poor rates gave birth to the proposal of a "Universal Benefit Society." Mr. Hackwood summarizes the scheme in his "Good Old Times." "Every laborer between the ages of twenty and thirty years," he notes, "earning 10d a day should contribute to a national fund 2d a week, and every woman earning £3 a year 1½d weekly, and when sick or disabled should receive benefit at the rate of 4s a week, with 1s a week added for each child. There were, of course, many other details, but the chief interest lies in the fact that this was perhaps the earliest proposal for the national insurance of the laborer against invalidity."

### Will Try to Outlive All Others.

The oldest member of Parliament in the world, the Hungarian deputy, M. Joseph Madarasz, who is now in his ninety-ninth year, issues a denial of the statement that he is about to retire into private life. M. Madarasz says that he means to retain his mandate till he has completed his one hundredth year, if not longer. He carries a list of all the centenarians in the world constantly with him, and marks them off as they die. He is determined to outlive them all, and some day to have the distinction of being the oldest man in the world.

### One Excuse for Chewing Gum.

After all the sarcastic comments on the chewing-gum habit, it is interesting to note, in the recent issue of "American Medicine," a good word in its favor. Dr. La Grand Kerr writes that one of the most trying problems in infectious diseases of children is to keep the mouth clean; and that many of the secondary infections which occur as a result of infectious diseases in childhood occur because the mouth has not been kept clean. The use of gum is the best relief, because attractive to a child.

### OLD HOMES ARE GOING FAST

"Before the War" Mansions of the South, With Their Romance, Are Disappearing.

The grand old "before the war" homes, steeped in romance and dear to the heart of the children of the old south, are fast going. Set in a grove of oaks, the big house with its imposing columns, ample verandas and its air of hospitality and cheer, soon will be no more. Some of these old mansions have fallen into wreck and ruin; hundreds have been burned. The surviving ones are relics of an age that is past.

For several years there has been a movement in the south for smaller farms. This movement has been constantly accelerated. And it means much for the welfare of this section: The old plantations were manageable only when labor could be relied upon—and when one person was willing to pass his life in the employment of another.

The south is becoming more utilitarian. Descendants of those cavaliers who charged with Rupert and melted their plate to support the tottering throne of an unworthy Stuart have scanned their lessons well. Life is activity, hurry and turmoil. It still would be an elysian existence forever to loiter in the shade and yell to Pompey for another julep—but it is no longer practicable.

This month will see two of the fine old plantation homes of Barbour county go under the hammer. Historic Roseland and the splendid Pugh estate alike are to be sold. Some of these days when the south gets enormously wealthy again the grand old times may be revived.—Birmingham (Ala.) News.

### STRANGE CRATER IN ARIZONA

Geologists Have Offered Several Theories to Account for This Singular Phenomenon.

About forty miles from Flagstaff, Ariz., in the midst of a great plain, there is a saucer-shaped hollow about three-quarters of a mile across and 600 feet deep. The rim of this strange crater rises between 150 and 200 feet above the surrounding plain. Rocky fragments are scattered for several miles around the crater. Among these rocks many fragments of meteoric iron, some containing minute black diamonds, have been found. The inner walls show that the crust of the earth was broken when the crater was formed; yet no volcanic rocks exist there. Geologists have offered several theories to account for this singular phenomenon. One is that an immense meteorite made the hole, and that the meteoric fragments just mentioned are remnants of the falling star. Another theory ascribes the origin of the crater to a tremendous explosion of steam in the rocks beneath, and a third combines the first two by suggesting that the blow of a falling meteor, striking the earth's crust at a point where subterranean water had accumulated in the neighborhood of heated rocks, was the cause of the explosion.

### First Woman on English Stage.

January 3 is an important anniversary in the development of the British drama, for upon this date in 1661 Pepys went to the Clare Market theater, saw the "Beggars Bush" well performed and records, "the first time that I ever saw women come upon the stage." Previously all female parts had been taken by boys or young men. The change was probably suggested by Charles II. from his continental experience, and arose from an amusing episode. The king had gone to the theater "before his time," and finding the actors not ready, asked for an explanation, whereupon he was gravely informed that "the queen has not shaved yet!" As the Merry Monarch loved to laugh at a jest as well as to make one, the excuse was accepted and a reform initiated.

### Mourn Saleswoman's Death.

There is mourning in one of the large department stores because of the death of a saleswoman who was probably as well known in New York as any one of the great sisterhood. "Little Ellen," as every one called her because she always retained the name by which she was known when she became an employe of the house thirty-five years ago, was for many years at the head of the glove selling department and had customers by the hundred, who would be served only by her. She knew the sizes of gloves they wore and had many friends among her patrons, for whom she selected gloves when they were small children. At holiday times she was always liberally remembered by them, and her death is regretted as much by them as by her associates and employers.

### Sword 3,400 Years Old.

Among several relics of ancient times, including temple reliefs from Abydos and a mummy from Meir, dated about 100 A. D., J. Pierpont Morgan has given the Metropolitan Museum of Art an Assyrian sword, believed to be 3,400 years old. It was found by Colonel Hanbury, an English explorer, about 1875 at Nardin and is said to be the earliest example known. Frederick Remington's large painting, "A Cavalry Charge on the Southern Plains," has been presented to the museum by several donors, including former Park Commissioner Henry Smith, George A. Hearn, William T. Evans and Augustus Thomas.

### PYTHON DONE UP IN SPLINTS

Interesting Surgical Operation Performed on a Reptile at the Zoo in London.

A second operation has just been performed on the great python at the Zoological Gardens, who fractured his jaw while swallowing a goat a few weeks ago.

After the jaw and head had been enveloped in a rigid casing for a couple of weeks he began to shed his skin. It was impossible for the patient to complete the shedding while the head was bound up, and the bandage was therefore removed. The bones of the jaw, it was found, had partly reunited.

With his head free again the python was obviously in the best of spirits, and celebrated the occasion by swallowing a duck. The skin of the head was then shed, including the transparent outer lenses of the eye. Afterward it was decided to replace the plaster of paris.

Awaiting a moment when the giant reptile was colled in his tank, six heavy keepers crawled into his cage, each carrying a stout board. These were quickly slid over the top of the tank while the operators sought for the injured head through an opening between two of the boards. Once the neck was seized the six heavy keepers sprang on the boards and were ordered to sit tight, thus forming a living room. As the powerful coils heaved inside the tank the heavy keepers were lifted up bodily, but their combined weight was too much for the heavy python, and the splint and bandages were rapidly replaced.

It will be some weeks before the bandages are removed and meantime the python will not be able to eat or see. When I visited him in his cage during the week-end he seemed rather sorry for himself.—London Mail.

### QUEER TOWN IS IRONSPORT

Nobody in Ohio Village Writes Letters, Gets Arrested or Stays Out Late.

The most remarkable town in America, in some respects at least, is to be found among the hills of southern Ohio. It is Ironsport, with 700 inhabitants, ten miles east of Zanesville.

The Ironsport postoffice was closed October 31, because Joseph Barney, the postmaster, said he had not sold a single stamp in five weeks nor had he received any incoming or outgoing mails. The people explain that they have no friends to write to and that they are all too busy to write anyhow.

There has not been an idle man in Ironsport since 1909. The mines are running full time and every miner owns his own home. Some time ago the police department disbanded, the chief declaring there had been no arrests made within six months and that it is only a waste of public money to keep salaried policemen.

The village records one fire in two years and the damage then was \$200. A recent census showed that the population is composed of 637 Irishmen, 11 Welshmen and 52 Germans. Until October, 1911, there were only 11 men and women in Ironsport who had "no church." A Zanesville priest recently reported that he had succeeded in converting these 11 persons.

The school teachers of Ironsport, four in number, declare that Ironsport children are unusually bright, owing to the moral influence of the town. Not since a circus visited Ironsport three years ago has there been a person seen on the streets so late as midnight.—The Rosary.

### Friendly Tip to an Architect.

Ollie James, who is soon to be the new senator from Kentucky, is well known for two reasons in Washington. One is his perfectly, artistically and entirely bald head. The other is the admiration and esteem in which he is held by Handsome Tom Heflin, a member of congress from Alabama. "I tell you," said Heflin, one evening to a crowd, "Ollie is a fine fellow. What's more, he's self-made, and he deserves a lot of credit for that. Think of it! He started out with nothing but his brains, and now he's about to be made a senator. A self-made senator!" "Well," drawled Harry Maynard, a member of the group, "if he made himself, and did such a thundering fine job of it, why didn't he put some hair on the top of his head?"—Twice-a-Month Popular Magazine.

### American Students of Singing.

Sig. Randegger, the famous singing master, whose death has just been announced, had a great partiality for American pupils. "Not," he once said, "that I think that their voices are better in themselves. But Americans have so much more 'go'—as pupils they are so much more enthusiastic; they understand and act upon everything one tells them with greater eagerness and intelligence. There are plenty of good voices among the English people, but as pupils I find them, with a few exceptions, more or less cold and self-conscious."

### Not Up on the Style Card.

The new proofer, in the performance of his duties, came upon this sentence: "An electrical cow milking device is to be exhibited," etc. "Goah!" he muttered; "something's wrong about this. What is an electrical cow, anyway? And how could an electrical cow milk a device. Or am I going crazy!"

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Exact Definition.  
A gentleman is a gentleman. A party is a man who gets his hair cut on Saturday night.—Topeka Capital.

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