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IT LOOKS BEHIND.

A Telescope Which is Said to Double the Usefulness of Ordinary Glasses.

Mankind once had an extra eye in the back of his head. Scientists say that they can still find traces of this eye in a certain irregular formation of the skull at the point where the ancient eye-socket used to be, says the New York World. These irregular places are called rudimentary eyes, but they are not to be found in all people. In fact, a man who can boast of a rudimentary eye is quite a superior person. Of course, these rudimentary eyes are of no real use to anybody, not even to the owner of them, but they serve to show us that at a certain stage in our career nature thought it was a wise thing to enable us to keep a watch in the rear. A foreign firm of opticians have very considerably endeavored to supply, as far as may be done by mechanical means, the loss of this rear-view eye. They have constructed a telescope which enables the user to look around a corner. By its means you may see and remain unseen, a circumstance which possesses obvious advantages. They call the invention the stereo-telescope. Stereo comes from a Greek word meaning solid, and in this connection it is used as indicating that the image, as seen through the stereo-telescope seems an exact counterpart of the object and not a mere picture of it. The two tubes that extend horizontally carry an object glass at either end. The eye pieces are placed on an axis at right angles to that of the objecting or oblong tubes. When the observer looks through the small peep-holes he sees a different field with each eye. The rays of light from the objects that lie in the field of vision are reflected by means of prisms, so that they turn the corner of the right angle. Thus you may leisurely study an object while under cover, the head being in such a position as not to admit of its being seen. When the tubes are thus extended, the observer may stand behind a tree or a wall and reconnoiter from his concealed position. There are also open points in favor of the instrument. The field of vision is enormously extended. You may study objects at opposite points of the compass with no more trouble than the winking of your eye. The stereo-telescope may be folded up, in which position, being held with the tubes upward, it enables the observer to look above an object obstructing his view, such as a hedge, wall or crowd of people.

Aluminum Coffins.

Aluminum coffins are the latest and the New York, Pittsburg and St. Louis undertakers carry them in stock. They are made of uniform width, square ends and vertical sides and ends, such being the accepted shape of the modern burial casket. They are finished with a heavy molding around the bottom and at the upper edge, and with pilasters at the corners and with a round molded top. They are provided with extension bar handles. Aluminum caskets are not covered, but finished with a metal surface burnished. They are lined in the same manner. The non-corrosive qualities of aluminum as well as the lightness of the caskets recommend them. A six-foot aluminum coffin weighs but 100 pounds, an oak casket of the same size 130 pounds, a cloth casket with metal lining about 175 pounds. Other metallic caskets weigh from 450 to 500 pounds. Aluminum coffins are not likely to become popular among the poor, as their cost ranges from \$400 to \$750.—New York World.

Choosing a Novel.

A writer lets out a secret regarding the way in which young women read novels. It was in the tram-car, that place in which the experiences are varied enough to make a man cosmopolitan if he will study them. Two girls are talking of what they read. "Oh, I choose a novel easily enough," one said. "I go to the circulating library and look at the last chapters. If I find the rain softly and sadly drooping over one or two lonely graves, I don't take it, but if the morning sun is glimmering over bridal robes of white satin, I know it is all right, and take it, and start to buy sweets to eat while I read it."—London Standard.

The Price of Slaves.

It is very curious to read in an old Roman history of the prices paid for slaves in the palmy days of the empire. As a general thing, a laborer could be bought for about 16 of our money, but after a province had been conquered or a great victory won, hundreds would sometimes be bought for 1 to 2 each. After the siege of Jerusalem by Titus, the price of slaves fell to 16s. Skilled laborers and artisans brought more. A gardener was worth about 50, a blacksmith 140, a good cook often brought 500, an actor or actress 1,000, and a physician 2,000.—English Paper.

Oil in Northern Indiana.

The oil excitement is spreading rapidly in the northern part of the state and many persons are becoming convinced that oil will be found all through the upper Wabash valley. Indiana is rich in mineral resources and no one need be surprised at valuable finds of any kind.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Winter Sunshine in London.

The meteorological office states in some new statistics that, taking the past twenty-five years into consideration, the average duration of sunshine in London for the whole of the month of January is only twenty-six hours.—American Amateur Photographer.

The Saloon.

The saloon is the personification of selfishness, misery and eternal ruin. It stands only for selfishness, to the sacrifice of every other interest. It is Satan's great ally in crime.—Rev. J. A. Davis.

ARTISTIC DECORATIONS.

Some Handsome Designs Made by the Drapery Club.

The Drapery club originated in the studio of a "smart" New England girl, whose artistic designs and very unique work brought her fame and money, says an exchange. The handsome winter studio in the big city was filled with the summer's rare collections from beaches, marshes and rocky fern lands. From Maine to Florida she had gathered shells, mosses, grasses and curios. The club met once a week. After studio class, office and school work was done in the large dining room of a friend's house, and on the big square table they laid their plans, drawings and latest designs. A specialty was hangings for the new and pretty boudoirs or the Moorish corners, the lovely window seats and corners curtained away from drawing-rooms and libraries.

Designs of old French work, as seen in palaces, relics of Louis XIV, Florentine designs or Kensington, cloth, silk, lace and ribbon effects, all manner of artistic decoration in water color and oils. Many orders were filled for fashionable homes and uptown studios, but the very latest and most unique of all was the "golden net portiere." The first one completed and hung was in the artist's studio. The device was perfect. Between the fitting and work rooms was a filmy golden and oriental curtain, so beautiful and delicate we stood amazed. But it proved strong, durable and practical. The foundation was of fish net of the finest mesh and best quality, upon which was fastened in rows about six inches apart each way the golden shells of our northern shores. Hundreds and hundreds were sewed to the net with linen thread, the exact color of the fisherman's twines. The shells are small, transparent and of many shades of gold, from pale cream to deep orange. They must be carefully arranged on the net, regardless of size or tint, like stars in the sky, of all magnitudes. A hole is easily made in each shell for the needle, with a small awl or heated hat pin.

A PATENT GOAT

Boon to Secret Societies Who Haven't Place for a Real "Billy."

A patented "goat" is the latest patented curiosity. The inventors are Edward and Ulisses S. De Moulou of Greenville, Ill. The invention will be hailed by all secret society members, who are sometimes at a loss as to how to give the candidate a sufficiently exciting equestrian experience on the lodge "William G." The device is patented under the name of "initiation apparatus for secret societies." In general appearance it is a simple, harmless little carpet covered and fringed platform about three feet square. The possibilities that lurk in that little box are but dimly set forth in the description given by the inventors. The platform is so arranged that when the candidate steps upon it he may be suddenly precipitated to the bottom by the falling away of the flooring. As he will be blindfolded, the effect upon him will be sufficiently terrifying for the purpose. An alarm is set off by the falling of the platform, and this is intended further to add to his general unhappy condition. There are other devices for ringing bells, discharging cartridges, and "lipping" or "precipitating" the candidate.—Ex.

Exonerated by a Chimney.

A Liverpool chimney sweep recently found a bag containing coins worth \$200 in a flue which he was cleaning in a house. When the lady who had employed him learned of the discovery she burst into tears. The money had been saved by her hard work and self-denial. Some time ago her son, who was not a steady youth, left her house, vowing never to return. Having forgotten where she had hidden the money she had accused him of stealing it.

As time went by she had grown constantly more certain that the charge she had made against her boy was well founded. The sudden discovery that she had done him a horrible injustice filled her with bitter remorse. She is now living in the hope that he will hear of his vindication and return to her.—New York World.

Hard to Please.

Some people are never satisfied. An umbrella maker in Paris has been interviewed on the subject of a sudden change in the weather. "Well," remarked the interlocutor, "things are looking well for you. I suppose you are selling enormous numbers of umbrellas?" "Very likely," was the trader's surly reply; "but what about my sunshades?"

Infidelity.

Infidelity is not distinguished for its modesty. Stone throwing is its pastime. Its occupation is the undermining and overthrowing of cherished beliefs and institutions. Its stock in trade is epithet and ridicule; it reveres no sanctity; it blishes at no vice; it follows virtue afar off; it engages itself unhesitatingly to destroy what has required years for construction.—Rev. A. Z. Conrad.

Elijah and Elisha.

An examiner asked the bible lesson class to tell him what the chief difference between Elisha and Elijah, and after a pause one little lad held up his hand and said: "Please, sir, Elisha walked with God, but the carriage was sent for Elijah!"

A Mutual Fondness.

"Harold," said Mrs. Pulsiver, "when you talk in your sleep about the kitty it always wakes baby up. She just dots on a kitty." "So do I," answered Mr. P., grateful for his escape.—Detroit Free Press.

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