

Fate of Wilkes Booth's Body

Captain E. W. Hilliard of Metropolis, Ill., claims to have positive knowledge of the final disposition of the body of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln.

He was shown a story published in a recent issue of a St. Louis paper which stated that Booth's body had been turned over to his relatives in that city and interred in the Booth burial lot in the Greenwood cemetery. At this Mr. Hilliard smiled and remarked that the writer was evidently not acquainted with the facts. He then gave the following account of the final disposition of the body:

"One night during the early part of May, 1865, only a few weeks after the assassination of President Lincoln, I, with four other privates of Sheridan's army, was ordered to report for duty at the old Capitol prison at Washington. Sheridan's army and the Army of

Illinois Soldier Says He Knows the Mystery

ing, but my own choice would be to keep it secret. Had I not thoughtlessly mentioned it to a friend recently the final disposition of the assassin's body would still be hidden in mystery."

Captain Hilliard has been the commander of Tom Smith Post, G. A. R., at Metropolis for six years, an organization composed of sixty veterans in good standing. He will take an active part in the southern Illinois Soldiers and Sailors' reunion, which occurs in Metropolis on Sept. 25, 26 and 27. He is a mechanic by trade and is the inventor and manufacturer of a hand lay press.

Thumbs.

The disparagement of the usefulness and importance of the thumb implied in the expression, "His fingers are all thumbs," seems undeserved in view of the important part of the



the Potomac were stationed at Washington at that time on provost duty and we were members of the former.

"We reported to a corporal of detail and with him reported to a military surgeon at the prison. It was a dark night, and, to the best of my recollection, about midnight. We were all strangers to each other, but on the way I learned that two were from Company I, Forty-third Ohio, and two from Company K. I belonged to Company B of the same regiment. The corporal's identity I did not learn.

Told to Keep It Secret.

"At the prison the surgeon commanded us to keep the incidents of the night a profound secret. We entered and found that a stone slab had been removed from the floor. Under that, in an excavation, lay the body of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin. It was wrapped in a tarpaulin and was smelling from decomposition. We were ordered to lift the body out and lay it on a stretcher. It was a bad job and we complained that it was not in a coffin. The surgeon unwrapped the head and identified the body. I remember distinctly that on one side of the head and face the hair was burned off and the flesh scorched. This had been done when he was captured in the burning barn and shot to death by Boston Corbett.

"We then carried the body on a stretcher to the wharf and on to a gunboat lying in waiting. At this point the surgeon left us and the officer in charge of the boat instructed us to place the body on the forward deck. The boat then quietly dropped down the river, I should judge about ten miles, and slowed up. We were ordered to tie the tarpaulin securely about the body and attach weights to it. It was then placed on a plank and shoved off into the river. This, to my positive knowledge, was the final disposition of the body of Booth, a knowledge possessed only by us five privates, the corporal of detail, the surgeon, and the commanding officer of the gunboat. Of course, the higher authority who gave them orders to dispose of the body knew, but we were the only eyewitnesses.

Hilliard the Only Survivor.

"The two privates from Company I were Philip Lalow and Emer McElwee. The former was killed at Fort Wayne, Ind., nine years ago by a falling tree, and the latter went to Cuba on a filibustering expedition during the ten years' war and was killed. The two privates from Company K I never became acquainted with after the incident. Their names were Dagan and Dougherty, and as they were rather up in years at the time are probably dead now. The surgeon I afterwards learned was a Dr. Porter of Massachusetts.

"I was under Captain J. O. McDonald of Company B, and Colonel Parks was the commanding officer in charge of our regiment—the Forty-third Ohio. The latter part of the summer of the same year we were mustered out of the service at Columbus, O.

"I have never told this until at the present time, as we were bound to secrecy at the time and I have, until now, felt obliged to keep that knowledge to myself. If any of the others ever told it I do not know. At this time, when the recent tragedy enacted at Buffalo is occupying the public mind, this revelation may be interest-

PROFITS IN PUBLIC GAMING.

Big Rush to Get Positions as Croupiers at Monte Carlo.

The other day the casino at Monte Carlo found itself in need of ten new croupiers. Six of the vacancies were caused by dismissals—some for fraud—others for excessive frivolity in connection with the fair sex. For ten vacancies no fewer than 1,500 persons applied. Of these 228 were selected for examination, 102 of whom failed to satisfy the doctors. The remaining 126 were then put to an examination as regards education, chiefly arithmetical. Of the ten ultimately successful five were Corsicans, the rest French and other nationalities. The successful applicants will attend "school" for six months before they will be allowed to work at the public tables—a "professor" teaching the whole art and mystery of crouping. While at school they receive 150 francs per month, which is increased to 200 francs on promotion to the tables. After that the annual increases are considerable, to say nothing of various additional advantages, such as free medical attendance and respectable pensions. A croupier, in fact, not only starts very well, but with a capital vista of promotion and prosperity. Many of the most prosperous tradesmen and business people at Monte Carlo are, or have been, croupiers—starting in business with the savings from their salaries. Lord Salisbury's agent at Beaulieu, for instance, is an inspector at the Casino and one of the ablest and most courteous business men on the whole Riviera.—Paris Messenger.

BIRDS WITH RARE TALENT.

Many of Them Learn to Talk as Well as Imitate Others' Peculiar Notes.

The parrot, the magpie and the raven are not the only birds capable of learning human speech. In them the faculty of imitation is more highly developed than among the other members of the feathered world. There are a score of species that are able to imitate sounds made by other animals. Bluejays, caught early and properly trained, can be taught to speak as well as most parrots, and the same thing can be accomplished with a crow if he is caught young and his tongue slit. M. H. Coupin, a well known naturalist, tells some curious stories regarding the imitative powers of certain birds which are generally supposed to lack such attainments. He tells of a sparrow which learned to imitate the strident noise made by a grasshopper. The cage containing the sparrow was hung during one spring next to a cage in which were grasshoppers. At that time the sparrow took no notice of the noises made by his neighbors, but the next spring when he found himself again in the company of grasshoppers, he seemed to consider that it was "up to him" to take part in their daily serenades. He made several attempts to sing after the manner of his neighbors and was moderately successful. For the rest of his life, long after the grasshoppers were dead, he would every now and then give vent to his feelings in a strain composed partly of the notes of the grasshoppers and partly of the notes of other birds.

Gambling in Switzerland.

A very large amount of gambling goes on in Switzerland. At Geneva, Lucerne, Berne, Interlaken, and various other places, licensed gaming tables are permitted, the game of "little horse" being in vogue. Nominally the maximum stake is five francs, but a higher stake is never refused. At Geneva there is a licensed baccarat club, where very large sums of money are lost each evening. English and American tourists forming the greater part of the losers. Lausanne possesses a cafe which has a room separately set apart for poker, baccarat and other games of chance, and although in the canton of Vaud public gaming is against the law, the police take no notice of this nightly scene of riot.—Geneva letter.

Columbus Doors of Capitol.

The beautiful bronze doors at the east entrance to the rotunda of the National Capitol, which swung open to receive the body of Mr. McKinley in September, are popularly called the "Columbus doors." They represent in bronze scenes in the life of the Spanish admiral. They were designed and modeled in Rome in 1858 by Randolph Rogers, a young American, and were cast in Munich in 1860. The artistic inspiration for the doors undoubtedly came from the bronze doors of Ghiberti at the gates of the Baptistery in Florence. The doors are eighteen feet high, nine feet wide, weigh ten tons, and cost the government \$30,000.

An Idea of Siberia's Size.

In discussing Siberia, statements of dimension and distance confuse and bewilder rather than enlighten. It is of small advantage to dwell upon its area of over 4,900,000 square miles. If the forty-five states which compose the American Union were taken up and planted bodily in the midst of Siberia, they would be included in every direction by a wide border of land. In this border territory all the countries of Europe except Russia could be planted bodily, and there would still remain unoccupied 300,000 square miles, an area twice the size of Imperial Germany.—National Geographic Magazine.

Use your gifts faithfully, and they shall be enlarged; practice what you know, and you shall attain to higher knowledge.—Thomas Arnold.

NOTES ON SCIENCE.

CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY AND INVENTION.

Mexico's Stone Idols—Found Only in Remains of Cities Destroyed Centuries Ago—Another Invention For us in Case of Fire—A Magic Ball.

STONE IDOLS OF MEXICO.

These idols are of very distinct types, each locality having its own characteristic forms. The material naturally varies with the class of stone found in the vicinity; some are of granite, some of marble, and the largest number are of volcanic rock, some of hard lava, and others, including the largest, of the soft tufa which is found so extensively in the volcanic regions, and is most easily worked. One small idol, in human form, is of material so light that it will float on the surface of water. They vary greatly in size, the largest being over five feet in height, while the smaller ones do not exceed a finger's length. The great majority are crude representations of human figures, but there are also images of quadrupeds of various kinds, and also of birds. The largest specimen of this ancient sculpture is that known as the "Stone Lions of Coahuila," in which the animals are each six feet long and surrounded by an absolutely circular wall, like some of the Druidical remains in England; but they are carved from the solid rock, and while a most important and interesting relic of ancient fetish worship in connection with the chase, yet they are immovable and cannot be classed among household goods.

As previously suggested, none of these idols are ever found in the ruins of the large number of Pueblo towns destroyed or deserted about the time of the revolution of 1680, and which are those most accessible and usually visited. They only exist in the ruins of cities destroyed centuries ago, while the aboriginal religion was universal and before any destruction or hiding of idols had occurred as a consequence of the introduction of Christianity. It is possible, therefore, says a writer in Leslie's Weekly, with certainty to fix the age of every such stone idol at not less than 300 years, and many of them are, no doubt, very much older. Their varied types not only represent different localities, but different phases of advance in art in the same locality. No more interesting relics of the ancient civilization of America have ever been discovered within the limits of the United States.

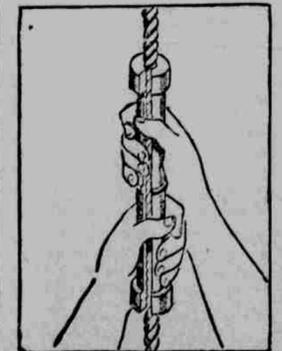
PLANTS MUST HAVE SLEEP.

All forms of vegetable life must, at regular intervals, be allowed to relax into a condition of repose or some radical change will result in the form of the plant. A geranium cannot be out all night with the larkspur and look bright and fresh the next morning. Neither can the fir tree neglect its proper sleep to sit up all night with the ash without ruining its health and growing to look a demoralized and disreputable old tree long before its time. In the country the trees and the flowers go to bed with the chickens, but in the city the most moral and well intentioned shrub, the most circumspect and staid tree, will be kept awake by a variety of causes, while an immoral hollyhock or a dissipated elm tree has a short life and a merry one in the great city.

Of the causes which keep the trees and flowers awake nights the botanist says that, in the first place, there is the matter of noise in all its forms and the vibration which goes with the constant activity of city life. Plants and flowers of all kinds sleep best away from the glare, so the lights of a city, must contribute to this interference with vegetable sleep. Electricity, independent of its use for lighting purposes, has a bad effect upon plant life, seeming to make trees and flowers irritable and nervous and to break up their constitution. But, above all, a plant must have sleep; so don't wake the geraniums or disturb the slumbers of the sunflower.—San Francisco Bulletin.

POCKET FIRE-ESCAPE.

If you ever have attempted to slide down a rope with your bare hands you can realize that it is a difficult feat unless one is well versed in the manner in which it should be performed. The novice who has tried this form of descent will have a meas-



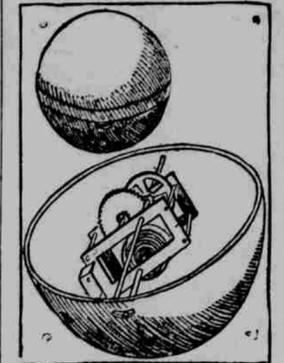
FRICION GRIP TO ENGAGE THE ROPE.

ure of appreciation for the "pocket fire-escape" which the picture illustrates, it having been recently patented by Arthur Oakley of Massachusetts. While nearly every hotel is now protected with ropes, they are practically of little value as fire-escapes without some sort of braking device which will aid the person descending in regulating his speed so as to land gently at the bottom, and this grip is intended

for this purpose. It comprises a split tube of rubber or other flexible material and is adapted to partially surround the rope, the re-enforced ends aiding in securing a firmer grip on the rope. By tightening the fingers around the sleeve it increases the internal friction until the desired rate of speed is attained. It is an easy matter to insert the rope through the split in the sleeve, and when not in use the grip is not too large to be carried about the person or in the satchel of the traveler.

MAGIC BALL FOR THE CHILDREN.

If the toy ball shown by the illustration does not succeed in mystifying the children and even older people it will be strange, for the device is intended to roll uphill and down with-



MOTOR INSIDE THE SPHERE.

out any visible means of propulsion. The gist of the invention is to mount a motor within the hollow body, as shown, in such a manner that its weight will overcome the force of the spring which, as will readily be understood, will cause the ball to revolve instead of the motor. The latter is pivoted on a spindle extending from wall to wall inside the ball, the spindle being rigidly attached to the sphere. A winding shaft projects in line with the small slot beside the spindle, and when the key is inserted in the slot and the ball held tightly in the hand the spindle and shank of the key prevent the motor from turning and permit the spring to be wound. When the ball is under way the slot is invisible, and as the mechanism is almost noiseless there is nothing to indicate that the ball is not bewitched, causing much amusement to those unacquainted with the interior mechanism.

SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.

An exposition dealing with the prevention of seasickness is being held at Ostend, Belgium, and a large variety of appliances and remedies are exhibited.

In St. Louis the nut-cracking industry gives employment to a considerable number of persons, there being three plants in the city. The nut-crackers are driven by electricity, each nut being fed individually into the crusher. After the shells are cracked the nuts are winnowed by an air blast and the meat is picked from the crushed shells by hand, women and girls being employed for this part of the work.

A new process of preparing wood for building is in use in Austria. Green wood is placed in a large wooden trough whose bottom is covered with a lead plate. This is connected with the positive pole of a battery. Covering the wood is a second lead plate which forms the negative pole. The wood is then subjected to a bath in a solution composed of 10 per cent resin and 75 per cent soda. Under the influence of the electric current the sap is drawn out of the wood and rises to the surface, the solution being absorbed by the wood. The operation requires from five to eight hours. The treated wood is allowed to dry for about two weeks, when it is ready for use. The drying can be hastened artificially if desired.

HOW THE SEA RETAINS LIFE.

One of the reasons formerly urged against the existence of living creatures in the abysses of the ocean was the supposed absence of oxygen there. It was deemed impossible that any considerable quantity of oxygen could exist at great depths. But recent discoveries have shown that there is no lack of oxygen even at the greatest depths. The explanation is that the cold water of the polar regions, charged with oxygen from the atmosphere, creeps along the bottom toward the equator, from both poles, and thus carries a supply of oxygen over the whole vast floor of the oceans. The surface water moves toward the poles, and so a great system of circulation exists. "Were it not for the world circulation," says Prof. C. C. Nutting, "it is altogether probable that the ocean would in time become too foul to sustain animal life, at least in its higher manifestations, and the sea, the mother of life, would itself be dead."

GUARDING A TUNNEL.

Should Italy and Switzerland fall out what would happen to Simplon tunnel? The opening on either side will look like the great doors of some medieval fortress. And they will be fortresses in all reality. Suppose these two belligerents should fall out. They would rush like a whooping plague through that tunnel and invade each other? Indeed they would not. In the little fortress at each end there will be a man and a button. The man will press the button and bring down the mountain. When the smoke lifts there will not be any tunnel any more. Some 5,000 or 6,000 men will have worked night and day for five years and a half at a cost of 70,000,000 francs—and destruction!—Everybody's Magazine.

THE PRESIDENT'S CHILDREN.

They Are Like Their Father in Having Strong Characteristics.

The same strong individuality which gives President Roosevelt distinctive characteristics dissimilar from other men, is manifest in his children. The Roosevelt traits are particularly exemplified in Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who is now 14 years old. A typical American boy of rare tact and judgment, he is deliberate and determined. Master Theodore is the personification of the trite axiom, "Like father, like son." Whether it be a go with the "skis" in winter or a row on the bay in summer, he goes about it with the same vigor as his father wields an ax or dashes through the woods on his war horse Texas. When young Theodore said, one day last summer, "Mother, I shall walk over and see Grandfather Robert," he clearly demonstrated the grit and pluck that is in him, for to walk over to "Grandfather Robert's" country seat at Sayville meant to walk a distance of forty miles. The lad walked the distance in remarkably short time, making the journey back to Sagamore Hill when his visit with Robert Roosevelt, the President's uncle, had ended. Master Theodore, who is a born naturalist, has one of the most complete museums of any boy in the country. He is a taxidermist of no mean ability, and his stuffed specimens are excellent. Young Theodore began his elementary education in the little schoolhouse near President Roosevelt's residence at Sagamore Hill. Miss Sarah C. Provost, the preceptress, declares with much pride that "Little Theodore was the brightest and most studious scholar I ever had." The two Roosevelt children now getting beyond their A B C's in this humble little country school are Archibald Bullock Roosevelt, 5 years old, and Kermit Carew Roosevelt, 11 years old. Miss Provost points to them as being the brightest and most tractable of any of her scholars. Last winter Kermit tramped to school through snowbanks and in the face of chilling winds. Archie is very quiet, but exceedingly witty. When in his father's study he keeps Mr. Roosevelt in an uproar, and is frequently sent scurrying to the nursery. Ethel, 9 years old, is a demure little miss, but exceedingly bright. Often she is seen seated beside the coachman while he drives about Oyster bay. She is very observing, and nothing escapes her sharp, penetrating eyes. Quentin, aged 3 years, is the "baby." He is vivacious and pert, and very active. With the Roosevelt children it is always "father" and "mother," never "pa" or "ma." The children are allowed perfect freedom, and they have a rough-and-tumble time in the woods or at the water's side. Miss Alice Roosevelt is now a young lady about ready to enter society. She is remarkably handsome and extremely well educated. Happiness and content ever reign supreme in the President's delightfully domestic family circle.—Oyster Bay (N. Y.) Correspondence New York Journal.

INDUSTRY OF A TINY BIRD.

Its Enormous Appetite Keeps the Wren Busy During Its Waking Hours.

One of the most industrious of birds is the wren. Its industry is probably due to its appetite, which is seemingly insatiable. It seems to be always hungry and is ever on the alert for means to satisfy the cravings of its appetite. This is the season of the year when the city man returns from his two weeks' outing in the woods, primed up with more accumulated knowledge than the good old "man with the hoe" has been able to acquire in a lifetime. One of him, who has been spending the vacation time in Virginia, is here with details as to the abnormal craving for food displayed by young wrens. He found a nest and took up a position where he could watch at his leisure. The mother wren made 110 trips to the nest within four hours and a half, and this was the bill of fare which the three baby birds consumed: Twenty green caterpillars, sixteen May flies, twenty-nine unidentified insects, eleven worms, two bugs, ten grasshoppers, seven spiders and a chrysalis or two.

Drying Wood by Electricity.

Coasul Mahin of Reichenberg, Austria, sends the following description of a new method of quickly preparing wood for building and manufacturing purposes. The green wood is placed in a large wooden trough, whose bottom is covered with a lead plate, which is connected with the positive pole of an electric battery. Covering the wood is a second lead plate, which forms the negative pole. The wood is then subjected to a bath in a solution composed of 10 per cent rosin and 75 per cent soda. Under the influence of the electric current the sap is drawn out of the wood and rises to the surface, the solution being absorbed by the wood. The operation requires from five to eight hours. The wood is then allowed to dry for about two weeks, when it is ready for use; or the drying can be done artificially in a much shorter time.

Causes of Alpine Accidents.

Many alpine accidents are due to the eagerness of tourists, as well as natives, to get specimens of edelweiss and other rare flowers that grow in dangerous places. Prof. Karl Odoer, of Pressburg, is one of the latest victims of this folly. With some friends he was making the ascent, from Veldes, of a peak 4,500 feet high, when he saw some edelweiss flowers at the edge of precipice. He stooped to pick them. He slipped, exclaimed "Hopla!" and tried to steady himself. He missed it, however, and fell down 1,500 feet into an abyss.

A bird in the hand is all right if you have no knife and fork.