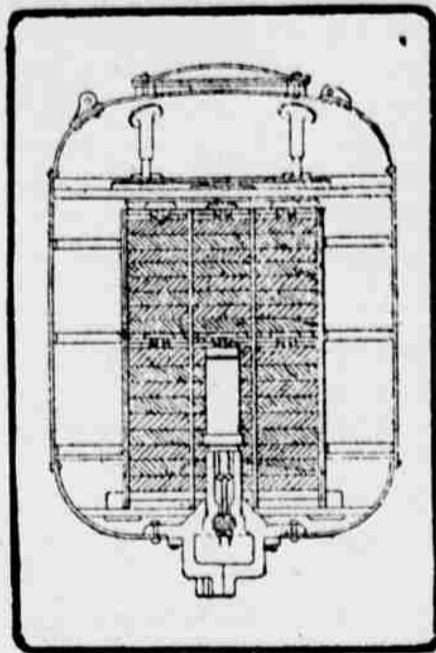


MINE OF DEADLY QUALITY.

Bursting Charge of from 500 to 1,000 Pounds of Guncotton.

The observation mine is a large structure of cylindrical shape, and carries a bursting charge of from 500 to 1,000 pounds of guncotton—the quantity varying in accordance with the depth of water in which it is to work. As shown in the cut, the guncotton is jacked in layers in copper tanks or cases having holes in them to permit the admission of water for wetting. The lower central case has a hole for the reception of the primer of dry guncotton and fulminate of



OBSERVATION MINE

mercury. The rest of the mine space is left for the sake of buoyancy, the sum of which is equal to a tendency to rise of 10 pounds' pressure. This 500-pound mine has an effective or destructive area equal to a circle 60 feet in diameter. These mines are generally planted in series of from six to ten, again, radiating like the ribs of a palm-leaf fan, each with a separate cable about 180 feet long.—Boston Herald.

Model Made by Convicts.

There is a remarkable model at South Kensington, England. Made to a scale of twenty feet to the inch, it shows a part of the additions to the dockyard at Chatham—a great feat of engineering skill accomplished by convict labor. In fourteen years the penal prisoners excavated the docks, made 102,000,000 bricks for the retaining walls, and did an enormous amount of masonry and other work. Altogether the enlargement is one of the greatest feats that can be put to the credit of convicts. In the model which commemorates it there are the figures of 295 prisoners, forty superintendents and other officers and fourteen free men.

His Mascot.



Athletics Enlarge Girls' Hands.
A No. 6 glove to-day is larger than the same size five years ago. The girls play golf and are athletic and their hands have grown.

FLOWERS THAT TELL TIME.

Punctual to the Minute in Closing Their Petals.

There are flowers that act as time-keepers for those who have by observation studied their ways and habits, and so punctual are they that laboring men in some countries tell from them when the hour for dinner and leaving work has come; while in certain districts the school children are said to be dismissed when the goat's-beard closes, which it does punctually at the same time every day. The gardener to a millionaire has provided a flower-clock in the shape of a circular flower bed, with twelve divisions. Each of the divisions, from one to twelve, contains flowers which open or close at the corresponding hour. Thus the two space is occupied by a lily, made of hawkweed, which closes at 2 p. m., precisely, and so on. He had no difficulty in finding flowers to suit the several hours, and in some cases the figure has been made of more than one flower. Amongst the flowers used are the snow thistle, blue chicory, pimpernel, marigold, Star of Bethlehem, and evening Primrose. The Yellowstone park contains the most unique greenhouse for flower cultivation in the world, the heat being obtained from one of the natural hot springs, or geysers, the water of which issues from the earth at a temperature near boiling point. The shortest-lived flowers are the dew flowers of the Death Valley in California. Heavy dews are wafted by the winds from the mountains over the parched plain, and an hour or two before sunrise the moist sand, with its under-current of warmth, gives life to the dew flower. When the light begins to glow in the east, myriads of tiny pink flowers burst into bloom, hugging the sand for the few minutes they are destined to live. The sun's rays come slanting across the surface, and, as though a touch of fire had passed over them, the dew flowers wither and disappear.—Montreal Herald.

A Rubber Neck.

The effect of opium in reducing the body to a mere skeleton has many illustrations among the Chinese of



American cities. A striking example of the effects of the drug is illustrated herewith. The Chinaman in question weighs only eighty-seven pounds, although he is over five feet in height and was originally a man of normal size. The skin of the face, it will be seen, is stretched tightly over the skull, while the bones of the neck are painfully prominent. The proportions of the neck add a curious mixture of comedy to this tragic figure.—New York Herald.

Productive Pumpkin Seed.

From a single seed Jerome Jordan of Webster, Mass., has produced just 466 pounds of pumpkin. From a single seed of the ordinary garden pumpkin variety he has this season produced twenty-three pumpkins on the vine, the largest individual vegetable weighing twenty-seven pounds.

CRACK SHOT WITH REVOLVER.

Dr. Sayre Has Held Championship Many Years.

The revolver championship which Dr. Sayre has held so long is shot at ranges of twenty-five, fifty and seventy-five yards. Twenty-five shots are fired at each range, fifteen seconds being allowed for each string of fives. The contest is open to all comers, whether military or civilian marksmen, the only restriction being that the arm shall be a military weapon. In the contests at Fort Riley, Kan., Dr. Sayre was second among fifty contestants in the revolver match. His



score was 130 to 136 for Sergeant Michael Cary, U. S. A. Most of the competitors were army men. The range was new to Dr. Sayre, and his score is considered excellent. Returning from Fort Riley he went to Sea Girt, with which range he is familiar, and promptly won the squadded revolver match, with a score of 130 at fifty yards. Fourteen national guard organizations took part in this contest.

Amazing Pigeon Story.

When you do a thing do it well. When you do a friend do him well also, and when you tell a story let it be the best of its kind. F. H. S. Morrison tells the most amazing pigeon yarn ever heard. "During the Franco-Prussian war the French caught a homing pigeon which was being sent to transmit information into the besieged city of Paris. The bird was made a prisoner of war and kept in confinement for ten years. When given its liberty it at once returned to its old home." That bird must have been tortured daily in prison to make it hate the place and long always for its cote in Germany.—New York Press.

Real Pleasure.

Her hair of some hue forgotten but beautiful through thickness of its polished coils, a countenance chiseled for a sculptor's ideal. She was clothed in purple. The skiff which she propelled in the Central park lake moved forward like a snail while the prodigious splashing



"Ain't the water nice?"

from her oars drenched the young man who held the tiller ropes.

He dodged what he could and endured the rest cheerfully. He leaned forward eagerly when she spoke.

"Ain't the water nice?" she suggested, chopping off a bucketful perhaps as a sample. "I do so love to row a boat, don't you?"—New York Telegraph.

Crane Was a Monster.

A crane was recently shot in Colrain, Mass., which was five feet tall and measured six feet from tip to tip of wing.

ORIGIN OF MODERN CARTOON.

Began with the Publication of Punch in 1841.

The birth of Punch in 1841 was the beginning of the modern caricature, although these cartoons, now so famous, did not start until 1843. Punch, it is alleged, did far more than merely to change the terminology of caricature; he revolutionized its spirit; he made it possible for Gladstone to say of it that "in his early days when an artist was engaged to produce political satires he nearly always descended to



"GENERAL FEVRIER" TURNED TRAITOR.
—from Punch—

gross personal caricature, and sometimes indecency." To-day the humorous press showed a total absence of vulgarity and a fairer treatment, which made this department of warfare always pleasing. The history of Punch is practically the story of cartooning in modern England. Punch is to England what La Caricature is to France, and something more, for it has the flavor at least of authority.

The death of the Czar Nicholas, who had boasted of his Generals January and February being the officers he most depended upon, which occurred in February, 1855, called forth one of Punch's historical cartoons, entitled "General Fevrier Turned Traitor." As a matter of fact, but not of history, the Czar committed suicide, and his death was not due to pneumonia, as was then stated.

"Leaven" of the Ancients.

The yeast employed by the ancients in making bread was probably of the same kind as the Israelites of the days of the great Pharaoh the oppressor used, calling it "leaven." This was what is known nowadays as a wild yeast, its germs or spores being afloat everywhere in the air. A bit of dough was preserved out of each batch prepared for the ovens, and when this was added to the next dough the yeast contained in it quickly spread through the whole, only a little being required to "leaven the whole lump."

A Marvelous Tunnel.

The Swiam tunnel on the Transcaucasian railroad is located at an altitude of nearly 4,000 feet and is two and a half miles in length. It has been completed in four years. The average advance in twenty-four hours was about eighteen feet.

4,000 Years Old.



This picture of Queen Semiramis was taken from an Assyrian document. Perhaps one should not expect even a queen to live up to a reputation for beauty for 4,000 years.

Crippled in Removing Boot.

Andred J. Curtiss of Bristol, Conn., has been a cripple since last June. Mr. Curtiss wears boots, and while pulling one of them on he dislocated his hip joint.