

PERILS TO WHICH DIVERS EXPOSE THEMSELVES. HOW SUBMARINE WORK IS CARRIED ON—STEVENSON'S EXPERIENCE IN THE DIVER'S HELMET.

The dangers of the diver's life are little realized by the land until one is killed. Some fifty divers are at work almost every day in the waters of New-York Harbor, yet, as long as they perform their tasks successfully, they remain as obscure as their dim haunts.

hand and propped upon my feet like an intoxicated sparrow. As the wolf differs from the St. Bernard, so the diver of old times contrasts with the professional diver of to-day.

In Whitstable, a maritime town of England, six miles from Canterbury, there still stands a street full of houses called "Dollar Row."

Of the four fundamental elements, earth, fire, air and water, fire is generally regarded as the most terrible. Yet a death in flame has the advantage of a quick deliverance of the tortured soul.

With his leg caught fast in the suction of the blue pipe, which held him a hundred times more tightly than any mere flesh and blood octopus, only sixty feet away from his faithful companions working the air pump on the raft above, yet practically in another corner of the universe, he grapples the hands of divers who come down through the green gloom only to work over him in vain.

When the diver is initiated into the mysteries of the deep he is extremely cautious. Then he becomes accustomed to his strange surroundings the perils of his new life.

As the pressure of the water increases on the diver's suit at about the rate of one pound for every two feet, the apprentice must learn how to manage the air pump.



DIVER COMING OUT OF THE WATER. (Reproduced from "The Wide World" magazine by courtesy of the publishers.)



HANDING A BOARD TO A DIVER WHICH TO STOP A LEAK UNDER THE KEEL OF THE BOAT.

not suffer while still in the water, but after coming to the surface. After a protracted immersion his organs do not react as quickly to the lighter pressure, and the swellings from air pushing out through the tissues do not subside as rapidly.

Another peril which the diver encounters is the "somersault." Because of the great weight of his helmet he is likely to turn turtle despite his leaded boots.

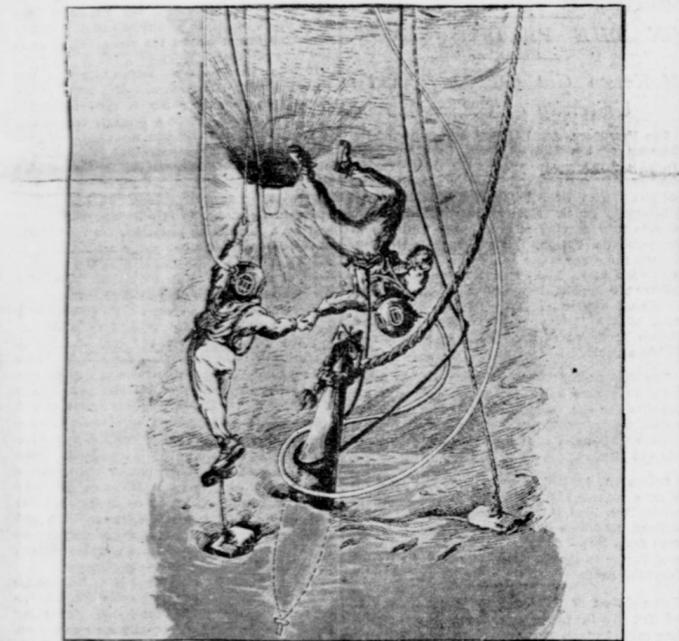


A DIVER IN CUBAN WATERS ATTACKED BY A SHARK. (Reproduced from "Good Words" by courtesy of the publishers.)

Because of the isolated character of his work a few become divers with the idea that it affords a chance to loaf.

But even a telephone will not focus some of them, said one master diver. "I had a man one time who I thought was loafing, and I made him wear a suit with a telephone."

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DIVER IN FULL COSTUME.

THE RESCUE OF A DIVER IN SUDA BAY, CRETE.

He had been sent down to attach a hawser to an unexploded torpedo, but a swift current upset him. He became entangled in the life line and was suspended for several hours head down.

It was gray, harsh, easterly weather, he wrote in describing his experience afterward.

When the father of Robert Louis Stevenson was building the breakwater at Wick, the future author, then only a lad, saw a diver at work, and was overcome with a curiosity to learn how the under-world of water looked.

"Twenty rods below the platform twilight fell, and I found myself in a low green heaven, mottled with washing bits of white. Except for the weekly speck and shafts of the ladder, there was nothing but a green gloom, somewhat opaque, but very restful and delicious."

There were, hand to hand and when it pleased his eye to eye; yet either might have burst himself with shouting and not a whisper come to his companion's hearing.

There are still buried treasure ships whose exact situations are known to mariners, but which are inaccessible because of their great depth.

Within only a day's sail from this city sailors say that \$2,000,000 in gold and silver is submerged. One may take a boat at Bergen Beach and row out to where it is directly over a ship containing a treasure worth \$40,000.

At depths less than sixty feet the ordinary diver can work hour after hour, but below that limit he must take frequent rests. Four hours constitute a day's work at all depths.

rents, in which he will one day work. He learns to be a diver's tender, the man who holds the life line and air tube of a diver, and these are some of the signals with which he becomes familiar:

- One pull of air hose—More air. Two pulls of air hose—Less air. Three pulls of air hose—Pull it up. One pull of life line—Haul up working rope. Two pulls of life line—Lower working rope. Three pulls of life line—Hand up diver.

As the pressure of the water increases on the diver's suit at about the rate of one pound for every two feet, the apprentice must learn how to manage the air pump.

Table with 4 columns: Depth of diver in feet, Pounds pressure at depth, Depth of diver in feet, Pounds pressure at depth.

A diver may be killed or his life shortened many years if the air is not given him at the right pressure. On the surface of the water the atmosphere presses against all parts of his body about fifteen pounds to the square inch.

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COINS IN CORNERSTONES.

Origin of a Custom Rigidly Observed for Many Centuries Past.

Very terrible in its sinister significance is the custom of putting coins under the foundation stone of a building about to be erected.

And in it not a few out of the way parts of the world, whose inhabitants stand peculiarly about where we did twenty centuries ago, the original custom still prevails in all its primitive hideousness.

One would think that unabridged dictionaries would be safe in a crowded library, yet not long since an enterprising thief was caught in the act of carrying one out.

Early in the year word came to the librarian that the Ottendorfer Branch was suffering heavily from a mysterious thief.

At the Lenox Library the thieves are of a higher order of intelligence and greater skill must be used in watching for them. This is due to the higher class of books kept at the Lenox.

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FIVE THOUSAND BOOKS STOLEN WITHIN A YEAR. NEW-YORK'S FREE LIBRARIES ARE HEAVY SUFFERERS AT THE HANDS OF SNEAK THIEVES.

In pronouncing sentence on a public library thief who had been convicted in his court, a judge once said: "Why did you steal them?" asked the library official.

"Stealing books from the libraries of the public is one of the unpeppery crimes—like stealing coins from the eyes of dead men or robbing the poor box that hangs in the church entrance. I take pleasure in sentencing you to the full penalty prescribed by the law. I am sorry I can give you no greater punishment."

In a few days another judge will probably have the privilege of pronouncing sentence on one of a gang of library thieves, which is believed to have robbed the Astor and Lenox Libraries of a number of choice volumes.

"We have undoubtedly been the victims of a well organized gang, of which this fellow Gomborg is probably the leader. Their method was simple and well calculated to throw off suspicion.

"This is not the first gang that has worked the libraries on one system or other, though it is the first we have been able to detect. The New-York libraries have never suffered any very serious thefts at any one time, and the thieves have disposed of their booty with such skill and care that we seldom get track of them.

"The libraries of the United States have never suffered from wholesale robberies, as have the libraries of Europe. Count Libri, an official of the French Government, holds the title of king of library thieves, since his operations in the middle of the last century.

"In this country the libraries suffer from the petty thief, who is satisfied if he gets away with a volume or two a month, and the poor book lover who steals that he may have his favorite volumes around him.

"A couple of hundred dollars a year would cover the loss on books stolen from the Astor Library, and a slightly larger amount the Lenox losses. But in the circulation department the loss is more serious.

"The reason for the heavy loss from circulating libraries is due to the fact that the public has free access to the stacks. From 1880 to 1888, when there was restricted access, the loss was from two to twenty volumes a year.

"An act yet through with Burns. Please renew book for two weeks, and oblige."

"A letter was written explaining that the volume was not for circulation, and asking that it be returned at once. There came another postal card from New-Jersey:

"I am not yet through with Burns. Please renew book for two weeks, and oblige."

of missing books under the fellow's bed. Nearly all were poetical works. "Why did you steal them?" asked the library official.

"I love poetry," the young German declared. "I must have it around me. I took the books to read and read them."

"Not to sell," scoffed the library man. "Oh, you wrong me, sir. I am poor, but not dishonorable. I love poetry. Indeed, I am a poet."

"The art galleries at the Lenox need constant watching. At the noon hour a few months ago some thief tore from his wires a small painting by Sir David Wilkie. He succeeded in selling it, but when the dealer read of the library's loss he promptly returned the painting.

"Newspaper files are mutilated continually. It is so much easier to clip a desired article than to copy it. The damage done in this way cannot be repaired, for after the files are a few years old it is impossible to secure duplicates at any price.

"The man who has charge of the patent records has to keep a particularly sharp lookout. Patent attorneys send their clerks to steal design plates and drawings which none but an experienced draughtsman could copy. It is much cheaper, unless they are caught, and there is a fine to pay. Many are willing to take the risk.

"A writer for one of the encyclopedias issued not long ago got into trouble by trying to save himself some work. He was caught cutting a desired chapter out of a valuable book.

"New-York is not the only place where the libraries suffer. Letters are often received from libraries in various parts of the country, asking for suggestions in the way of protection from thieves.

"An attempt is now being made in England to establish free access in the circulating libraries. The great loss which the New-York libraries suffer each year is being dwelt upon by opponents of the measure.

A NEW ALLOY.

A Valuable Discovery by a German Physicist. Invar, an alloy which, when heated, contracts instead of expanding, has recently been invented by Dr. Guillaume, the physicist. It consists of nickel and steel, therefore of two metals which each for itself expands rather considerably in heat.