THE DEEPEST WATER.

It Is in the North Pacific Ocean and Goes Down 5,269 Fathoms.

The ocean has been sounded in nearly all directions with modern appliances, and these soundings show that the floor of the ocean consists of vast undulating plains lying at an average depth of about two and one-half miles beneath the surface of the waves. In some places huge ridges and conical rises from these submerged plains rise within a few hundred fathoms of the sea surface, or they may rise above the surface as volcanic islands and coral atolls.

The greatest depth ever recorded is in the Challenger deep in the north Pacific, 5,269 fathoms. If Mount Everett were placed in this deep 2,000 feet of water would roll over the peak of this the highest mountain in the world.

The greatest depth in the Atlantic is in the Nares deep, between the West Indies and Bermuda—4,662 fathoms. The greatest depth in the Indian ocean is in the Wharton deep, between Christmas island and the coast of Java. We now know fifty-six of these deeps where the depth exceeds three geographical miles, ten areas where the depth exceeds four miles and four places where it exceeds five miles.

The sea is subject where strong winds blow across the surface—as, for instance, in the trade wind regions and in the Mediterranean and the Red sea. It is less salt, says Harper's Magazine, toward the poles and in the deeper layers of the ocean. It has long been known that the very salt water of the Mediterranean does not go as an undercurrent outward through the strait of Gibraltar and thus affects the salinity of the bluer waters of the Atlantic over a wide area.

Although the amount of salt in sea water varies, the composition of sea salts remains very constant. Slight differences have, however, been noticed along the continental coasts, in the polar regions and in the open sea in direct contact with deep sea ice.

The temperature of ocean water varies at the surface from 93 degrees Fahrenheit in the polar regions to over 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the tropics. The temperature decreases toward the poles but not in an exact ratio of loss of heat. Below the surface it may increase or decrease at any one place in a manner of the tropics. There is an annual variation of 10 degrees Fahrenheit in nearly enclosed seas, especially in the region of land ice and icebergs. Between the surface and a small annual variation is felt in bays surrounding the tropics. Below the annual variation is greater and may exceed 40 degrees to 50 degrees Fahrenheit in any one spot.

Plenty of Reasons.

An old [illegible] was seen sitting on a small barrel [illegible] in the street one day [illegible] and cry and groan. "Young man, [illegible] you not at the bar—and [illegible]? Some day when you grow old [illegible] regret all this wasted time."

"Well, I'll [illegible]," said the sharp, with a long drawn sigh. "My mother's [illegible] my father broke his arm yesterday, and baby's cutting teeth, and the oldest sister's getting married, and, besides, there isn't [illegible] today. It's [illegible] day, and that's the reason I wasn't school today."—Moody's National Monthly.

A Chinese Cup of Tea.

In the best establishments of the Chinese quarter of San Francisco tea is never made in a teapot, but each cup is brewed separately. The cup itself is a small [illegible] set with a strainer and a [illegible] bundle of long tea leaves is placed in a strainer, and [illegible] water is poured over, the first [illegible] being thrown away as [illegible] This hot, quick steeping causes the leaves to swell, and a second boiling water is again poured in the tea ready to drink [illegible] through.

Admitted His Error.

One of the neatest of parliamentary apologies, says a writer in the London Chronicle, was that of an irate member of the house who described another as "not having even the manners of a pig."

At the cry of "Withdraw!" he did so. "I withdraw and apologize and beg to say that the honorable member has the manners of a pig."

Whistling For Health.

Whistling is a good thing for the lungs. It is said that whistling boys are seldom troubled with bronchitis or pneumonia.

Many medical men sometimes urge patients with weak lungs to whistle as often and as much as they possibly can.—Science Siftings.

MOVING PICTURES.

And the Shilling That Sir John Herschel Set Spinning.

It would appear that the modern "photo play," as the moving picture people may call their output, owes [illegible] to a simple experiment [illegible] in the year 1826, when Sir John Herschel asked his friend Charles Babbage how he would show both sides of a shilling at once. Babbage replied by taking a shilling from his pocket and holding it before a mirror. This did not, however, satisfy Sir John, who set the shilling spinning upon a large table, at the same time pointing out that if the eye were placed on a level with a rotating coin both sides could be seen at once. Babbage was so struck with the experiment that the next day he described it to a friend, Dr. Fitton, who immediately made a working model.

The card in this toy was drawn a bird, on the other side an empty birdcage. When the card was revolved on a string the bird appeared inside the cage. This was enough to show the persistence of vision upon which all moving pictures depend for their effect. The eye retains the image of the object seen for a fraction of a second after the object has been removed. This model was called the thaumatrope.

Next came the zoetrope, or "wheel of life." A cylinder was perforated with a series of slots, and within the cylinder was placed a band of drawings of dancing men. On the apparatus being slowly rotated the figures seen through the slots appeared to be in motion. The first systematic photographs of men and animals taken at regular intervals were made by Edward Muybridge in 1877.—New York Press.

Matthew Arnold's Hair.

Matthew Arnold would have questioned the statement that writers are an infernally ugly race. He had a high opinion of his own good looks and was especially proud of his hair. This trait is dwelt on by Mrs. E. M. Sellar in her "Recollections."

"I first met Arnold in 1880 at the house of T. C. Sandars. The host and several of his guests had been contemporaries of Arnold at Oxford, and their hair was gray while Arnold's was untouched by time. Fancying Sandars was looking at him, he exclaimed: 'Ah Sandars, you are jealous! You think it is a wig! But pull it, Sandars, pull it!' I heard afterward that a friend, meeting him in Bond street, asked where he had been. 'At Douglas', having that perpetual miracle, my hair, cut.'"

A Sensitive Soul.

Daffodils have an inspiring fascination for most English poets, from Shakespeare to Tennyson, but their pensive beauty does not appeal to all. Sir Herbert Maxwell tells a grim story about a late Scottish minister in whose kirkyard was "great store of daffodils," which were "an annual delight to churchgoers." One March Sunday morning the laity were dismayed to find that the flowers had all been mown down just when they were about to burst into bloom and "lay in dismal swathes upon the lawn and among the graves." After the service Sir Herbert, complaining to the minister, received the amazing reply, "Oh, it was done by my orders; my wife dislikes yellow, which she considers a vulgar color."—London Chronicle.

The Dak Bungalow.

The dak bungalow of India is a blessed institution for the weary dak, as the natives call the traveler. He finds these little shelters dotted over many of the out of the way parts of the country, generally not more than one long day's march apart. They mean warmth when one has been chilled to the bone by biting winds or shelter from the driving rain and hail storms, the latter so common in northern India that planters insure their crops against them and so violent that both men and cattle are often killed by them. The bungalows usually consist of two bedrooms and a dining room, with rough outside buildings providing a kitchen and sheds for horses and coolies.—Harper's Magazine.

A "Free" Library.

The daily mail of a member of congress contains many curious requests. Not long ago a certain representative received a letter from a constituent of means and notorious parsimony.

"Won't you please," the note ran, "frank me about fifty government reports for my library? I don't want paper ones—I want those which are well bound. I've got a whole vacant shelf in my new house and think that public documents would look well up there."

Needless to say, his request was not granted.—Youth's Companion.

BOOMED BY MONOPOLIES.

This Country Was Really Colonized by Corporations.

In a sense, though people have forgotten it, almost the country was colonized by corporations, as business men set going monopolies. The colony at Jamestown was chartered in 1607 by the London company, which was a corporation.

The colonists who landed at Plymouth rock were sent there by the Plymouth company, which was a corporation. The pioneers who settled Boston represented the Massachusetts Bay company, which was a corporation. And so on down the list of American colonies.

Even after they cut loose from England their Americans created their state government after the pattern of these British corporations. Whoever would understand fully a state and its form of organization must dig up the history of the Massachusetts Bay company and the other corporations that flourished when George III. was king.

But these corporations died out or were bought out as the colonies grew large and independent, and for a time there were practically no corporations at all. In 1790, for instance, there were only three banking companies of any kind in the whole United States.

The first corporations were started in a blaze of patriotism after the war of 1812. At that time the United States was mainly a farming country. It bought its manufactured goods from England. Its clothes, its boots, its books, its tools, its furniture, all came from England.

This was an intolerable situation when the United States and England were at war, and so a tremendous effort was made to secure industrial independence. Stock companies were formed. English goods were boycotted. Factories were built. The first wave of business enterprise swept over the young country and wherever it went up sprang corporations.

Clever Fat Men.

Napoleon was decidedly embonpoint. Dr. Johnson was fleshy even to flabbiness. So was his biographical shadow, Boswell. Balzac, the great French novelist, was so stout that it was a day's exercise to walk around him, and he was encircled with bandages as if he were a hogshead. Rossini, the composer, was a regular Jumbo, since for six years he never saw his knees. Jules Janin, the prince of critics, broke every sofa he ever sat down upon. Lablache, the great singer, was charged three fares when he traveled. Dumas pere was stout, and Sainte-Beuve carried the stomach of a Falstaff, the same as Renan. Eugene Sue had such aversion to his growing corpulency that he drank vinegar to keep it down.

Shaving In Ancient Egypt.

The earliest reference to shaving of the beard is found in Genesis xli, 14, where we read that Joseph on being summoned before the king shaved himself. There are several references as to shaving in Leviticus, and the practice is alluded to in many other parts of the Bible. However, Egypt is the only country mentioned in the Bible where shaving was practiced. In all other countries at that time such an act would have been considered ignominious. Herodotus mentions that the Egyptians allowed their beards to grow when they were in mourning. So particular were they as to shaving at all other times that to have neglected it was to make oneself the butt of coarse and ridiculous jokes.

Not an Anniversary.

A Philadelphia newspaper reporter, trudging dutifully over his district, observed a crowd hanging about a certain corner downtown and approached a policeman.

"What's the row over there?" the reporter asked.

The policeman grinned. "Nothin'," he replied—"nothin' but a wooden weddin'."

"A wooden wedding?" The newspaper man pondered and reached for his pencil. "Who is it?"

"Why, it's a wooden' weddin'," answered the policeman in a matter of fact voice. "It's a couple of Poles gettin' married."—Philadelphia Times.

Orchids.

Orchids are not parasites in the true sense of that term. They grow upon trees without deriving nourishment from them, as is the case with the real parasite. They are provided with large, solid swellings of the stem, in the tissue of which water and nutritive material are stored. Generally, too, they have aerial "roots," covered with a thick, spongy investment by which they are able to absorb watery vapor and perhaps actual water. The varieties of orchids run up in the thousands.

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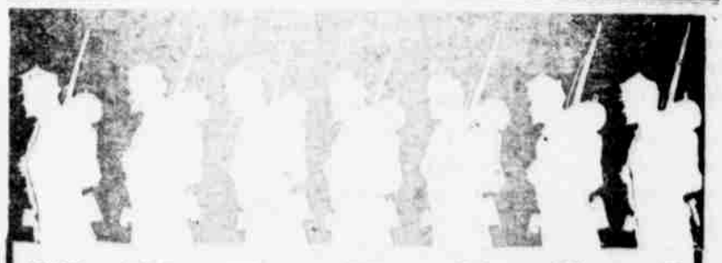

Who Was There That *You* Knew?

IN the shadowy [illegible] to defeat or death or victory fifty years ago in the [illegible] that convulsed this great nation, is there father or grandfather [illegible] Would you like to see a photograph of him in that [illegible] that he never knew was taken? Perhaps [illegible] we can tell you a story, stranger [illegible] photographs that were lost and are [illegible]

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