WONDERS OF THE SEA.

Its Great Depth, Deceptive Waves and Power of Evaporation.

The sea occupies three-fifths of the surface of the earth. At the depth of about 3,500 feet waves are not felt. The temperature is the same, varying only a trifle from the ice of the pole to the sun of the equator. A mile down the water has a pressure of over a ton to the square inch. If a box of six feet deep was filled with sea water and allowed to evaporate under the sun, there would two inches of salt left on the bottom. Taking the average depth of the ocean to be three miles, there would be a layer of pure salt 230 feet thick on the bed of the Atlantic. The water is colder at the bottom than at the surface. In the many bays on the coast of Norway the water often freezes at the bottom before it does above.

Waves are very deceptive. To look at them in a storm one would think the water traveled. The water stays in the same place but the motion goes on. Sometimes in storms these waves are forty feet high and travel fifty miles an hour—more than twice as fast as the swiftest steamer. The distance from valley to valley is generally fifteen times the height, hence a wave five feet high will extend over seventy-five feet of water. The force of the dashing on Bell Rock is said to be seventeen tons for each square yard. Evaporation is a wonderful power in drawing the water from the sea. Every year a layer of the entire sea fourteen feet thick is taken up into the clouds.

The winds bear their burden into the land, and the water comes down in rain upon the fields, to flow back at last through rivers. The depth of the sea presents an interesting problem. If the Atlantic was lowered 6,554 feet, the distance from shore to shore would be half as great, or 1,500 miles. If lowered a little more than three miles, say 18,689 feet, there would be a road of dry land from Newfoundland to Ireland. This is the plane on which the great Atlantic cables were laid. The Mediterranean is comparatively shallow. The drying up of 660 feet would leave three different seas, and Africa would be joined with Italy. The British Channel is more like a pond, which accounts for its choppy waves.

It has been found difficult to get the correct sounding of the Atlantic. A midshipman of the navy overcame the difficulty, and shot weighing thirty pounds carries down the line. A hole is bored through the sinker, through which a rod of iron is passed, moving easily back and forth. In the end of the bar a cup is dug, and the inside coated with lard. The bar is made fast to the line, and a sling holds the shot on. When the bar, which extends below the ball, touches the earth, the sling unhooks and the shot slides off. The lard in the end of the bar holds some of the sand, or whatever may be on the bottom, and a drop shuts over the cup to keep the water from washing the sand out. When the ground is reached a shock is felt as if an electric current had passed through the line.—*Ocean Wave.*

H. RIDER HAGGARD.

Something About the Author of "She" and "Allan Quartermain."

H. Rider Haggard, who has become a suddenly famous literary man, has youth and energy still to the credit side of his account, for he will not be thirty-two until the 22d of next June, and at last accounts he was healthy and hearty as a man needs to be to turn out pure and unadulterated romance at the rate which he affects. He began writing books in 1882 with a little volume of a political character relating to events then recent in South Africa. He spoke by the book on that subject, for when he was nineteen he had gone to Natal with Sir Henry Bulwer, and during the two succeeding years had served on the staff of Sir Theophilus Shepstone, the Special Commissioner to the Transvaal. He remained in the colonial service until 1879, and then returned to London to marry the only daughter of the late Major Margitson, of Ditchingham House, Norfolk. Because of his wife, or for some other reason, he remained in England and adopted the profession of the law, becoming a practicing barrister of Lincoln's Inn.

It was while still in active practice at the bar that he began to write, and stuck to it, although the political pamphlet with which he first courted fame, attracted little attention. His next book was "Dawn," published in 1884, and a year later came "The Witch's Head," neither of which was much heard of until they were recently republished on the strength of the fame that the author had gained by subsequent works. His first real success was with "King Solomon's Mines," published in 1885, which attracted the mingled condemnation and praise of the critics and won great popularity abroad and to a less extent in this country. Of this story Mr. Haggard has written:

"King Solomon's Mines" was written as an experiment in boys' books. It would be impossible for me to define where fact ends and fiction begins in the work, as the two are very much mixed up together. I may add that its success was quite unexpected by me, as the work, undertaken at haphazard, was carried out at odd hours, for the most part after a long day at chambers.

Mr. Haggard's fame was confirmed abroad and made in this country by his next work, "She." "Jess," that followed, and "Allan Quartermain," that is now current, have maintained American interest in the author.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—A negro cook on board of a Scotch schooner is the author of a novel way of killing a shark. He heated a firebrick red hot, wrapped it up in a greasy cloth, and threw it overboard, when the voracious shark darted after it and swallowed it. The shark's fury was soon subdued and he floated to the surface dead.

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL.

Cultivating Corn and Cotton.

A Louisiana correspondent's opinion is thus given as to the proper preparation of land and the best mode of cultivating cotton and corn, which are the same:

The best land for cotton, I think, is a quality with a clay subsoil, say from twelve to fourteen inches below the surface, broke to the subsoil by using small turn plows that will cut from six to eight inches. Follow in the same furrow with one size smaller plow; a harrow should be passed over the land for a good seed bed; the rows should be not less than four feet wide on hill land, opened with a Spanish plow, if planted by hand, and let stand from seven to nine inches in the drill, one stack in a hill. (Mr. Dickson's system advocates six inches in the drill, two stalks in hill.) I think that by leaving it any closer in the drill would cause the bolls to rot in this country, as we have so much rain here. Cotton should not lock between the rows. Cotton in well-broken soil, wide rows, close in the drill, and cultivated shallow (not exceeding one inch), will not grow so large; it will make fruit in place of leaves; it will, by being thick in the drill, mature quick and hold fruit by the roots penetrating the deep broken soil. Shallow cultivation will cause the moisture to rise to that pulverized surface; the roots must not be cut unless you can cause rain to fall on the ground every six days. The roots want water, not the weeds. If we could keep it from raining on the stalk we would make more cotton than twice the number of laborers could gather. Cotton is a sun plant, and for that reason, the rows should be wide, so the foliage will not meet.

As for corn, I think the same mode of cultivation should be practiced as for cotton; also the same preparation. Light sandy land for corn should be laid off in rows from six to six and a half feet wide and eighteen to twenty-four inches in the drill; in rich bottom land it may be only fifteen inches in the drill, the distance of rows the same. I do not believe in dirting corn or cotton except just enough to keep the land from baking between the hills. Throwing a bed to corn forces the roots to the surface and will want more rain than corn kept on the level. A well will go dry quicker on a hill than it will on level land. I think the best way to plant corn is on a level, as such land, if drained, will not hold water in puddles as land thrown up in ridges. Plant cotton on a small ridge or bed and cultivate to a level for summer. I use in cultivating, principally, the Dickson sweep, twenty to twenty-four inches. I live six miles south of the city of Natchitoches, on old Red river. The lands in Natchitoches Parish are very productive, and we raise as fine corn and cotton as any country in the same latitude. We are too far south for either corn or cotton. The citizens of the parish are generous, brave and industrious. But, Mr. Editor, I must close, as I am writing more for advice than any thing else, although seeming to give it. I have been trying to farm for about fifteen years, and it seems almost impossible to learn as I would like to. Last year I gained some valuable new lessons, one of which was the training of hands to do double the amount of work with more ease and less of sweat and muscle. David Dickson, of Georgia, the world-renowned farmer, said that the science of agriculture was soon learned, but nothing to compare with the execution of details. Other farmers may have had as good education agriculturally as he had, but none of us come as near putting it into execution as he did. Some men are born mechanics, some orators and some farmers. David Dickson was born a farmer.—*Southern Cultivator.*

Fall Gardening in the South.

Those who want a good supply of winter vegetables must be making preparations now; have the land well manured and dug up in time. Turnips should be sown by the middle of August, so that they may attain their growth before the cold weather comes on to check them. If the season is favorable, so they get a good start, they will become fine, but there is always the risk in the South that they will be injured by drouth and the hot sun when very young. Still, if they are not planted early they will not do much, and the farmer has to take the risk. The same remarks apply to carrots. Both of these vegetables are good, not only for household consumption, but are very valuable for stock food, and should be planted largely by all farmers. Spinach should be sown in September, but is then also liable to be killed by the sun and injured by the worms. If these two difficulties are escaped it will do finely and remain through our winters uninjured, except in some very unusually protracted spell of intensely cold weather. Lettuce should be sown also in September. This is a half-hardy plant in the South, and like spinach will stand our ordinary winters without protection. The cabbage is the hardiest vegetable; if planted under grass it is greatly improved for the table, becoming more tender, crisp and bleached. Parsnips should also be planted in August, and if they have a good start will attain their growth by December, may remain in the ground uninjured all winter, and be pulled only as wanted. Spinach and lettuce, like all leaf plants, require a great deal of well rotted manure to stimulate their growth and give tender leaves. It is quite useless to try to make a success of either of these unless there is an abundance of manure provided.—*Farm and Fireside.*

Why Lightning Strikes Barns.

Lightning is simply a powerful electric spark, or rather a current of electricity passing from a positively to a negatively electrically charged cloud and part of the earth's surface. Electricity follows the shortest and most favorable course or the best conductors. Water is a most favorable conducting substance, and a stream or body of heated moist air affords an easy course for the passage of the electricity to the earth from the clouds or to the clouds from the earth. A barn with new hay or grain gives off a considerable quantity of moist, warm air, which, rising, forms a column sometimes several hundred feet high. This leads the lightning into the barn, which is, of course, set on fire. Barns with ventilating cupolas are most often thus burned, because the warm, moist air ascends in a compact stream. When the ventilation is through several openings there is less risk. A lightning rod is not capable of carrying a discharge of electricity such as comes in the form of lightning, and hence is no protection under these circumstances; it is effective as a safeguard only when it leads the electricity from the clouds or atmosphere silently and slowly in a continuous current to the ground. Sometimes a current of warm, moist air will conduct the electricity safely in this way, but if a break occurs in it a flash is produced, which will set the resisting substance on fire. Stacks of hay are thus not so frequently burned in this way as barns are. Trees, which continually give off moisture from their leaves into the air, in like manner, are often struck by lightning, while dry, dead trees escape.—*Farmer's Home Journal.*

Fattening Hogs.

We have often stressed the importance of constant attention to the hogs. From now on is the time to push the fattening process. The weather is now mild, and but little food is necessary to keep up the animal heat and carry on the vital processes in the animal economy. After a while, when the weather grows cooler, and especially in November and December, a very large part of the food consumed by animals will be utilized for the purpose of keeping the body warm. An ear of corn, or its equivalent of other food, fed during the pleasant fall weather, will go further than two ears fed in December or January.

HERE AND THERE.

—Florida fruit-growers are organizing for the co-operative sale of fruits. This is the best news we have heard from Florida in a long time.—*American Garden.*

—The new dwarf velvet okra, introduced by Henderson, is really dwarf, judging from the few plants we have seen, and the fruits are double the size of the older varieties.—*American Garden.*

—Don't forget to keep swine that are running on grass well salted. They must have it to keep up health and thrift. Mix it with ashes or charcoal, and place it where they can get it as needed.—*The Hog.*

—The cultivation of the bamboo for fencing material has begun in California. It is said that an acre will produce pickets enough each year to make six miles of fence.

—The North Mississippi Poultry and Pet Stock Show will hold its second annual exhibition at Grenada, Miss., Nov. 29 to Dec. 3. The secretary, J. F. Hurley, of Grenada, says the show is sure to be a grand success, and invites every body to come and bring their stock.

—The egg crop in the South could be made almost as profitable as the early fruits, if the hens received the same attention and care that is given the plants. Any section that can produce eggs in abundance as early as January and fails to make the best of it, is letting a golden opportunity go by.—*Farmer's Home Journal.*

—The Italian Government has been investigating the American citrus trade, and reports that California can supply the American market throughout the year, and that the Florida plantations are not situated on land suitable for the growth of oranges which will be news to Florida orange growers. They regard Louisiana as of little consequence in this department.—*American Garden.*

—A Florida paper speaks highly of Cuban corn as a new variety especially adapted to the South. It says: When matured, the kernel is of such a hard, flinty nature that the weevil, which is so destructive to other corn, can not injure it and hence it should be largely cultivated. Most of the stalks have two ears apiece, and averaged 1,000 grains to the ear, and it will yield at the rate of 80 bushels to the acre.

—"J. I. C.," of Marietta, Ga., writing to the *Rural New Yorker*, says: I feed but little cotton seed; not any to cows giving milk. They contain too much oil to suit me. The hulls are very indigestible. I believe hogs would die if fed on them. Cows fed on seed make butter white and quite hard like tallow. I contract my butter at thirty-five cents per pound the year through. I would rather pay seventy cents for corn than fifteen cents for seed. The latter is worth that price for manure. I use four or five thousand bushels every year for that purpose.

An Indefatigable Rocker.

There is confined in the county jail here, says the Vicksburg *Herald*, a small negro boy not more than ten years of age, named Dave Lunden, who came from Davis Bend, and has been adjudged insane. Little Davie, while perfectly harmless, sits in a corner of the jail hall all day with his hands locked around his knees, and rocks himself to and fro from the moment he is allowed to leave his cell until he is replaced there by his keepers. He never seems to tire, and, gazing straight before him with a wild, idiotic look in his eye, he keeps up his singular motions. This peculiar freak has been watched by Jailer Terrell, and never for a moment does he lose his steady stroke. It is accounted for as one of the freaks of crazy people which, in this instance, makes Davie guilty of perpetual motion. Could not some genius make a discovery from this which would tend to solve the perpetual motion problem.

How to Reduce Your Expenses.

You can do it easily, and you will not have to deprive yourself of a single comfort; on the contrary, you will enjoy life more than ever. How can you accomplish this result? Easily; cut down your doctor's bills. When you lose your appetite, and become bilious and constipated, and therefore low-spirited, don't rush off to the family physician for a prescription, or, on the other hand, wait until you are sick abed before doing anything at all; but just go to the druggist's and for twenty-five cents get a supply of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets. Take them as directed, and our word for it, your unpleasant symptoms will disappear as if by magic, you will have no big doctor's bill to pay, and everybody interested (except the doctor) will feel happy.

MATCH-MAKING mammas going away for the summer months naturally took their daughters to the Grand Union.—*Harper's Bazar.*

Needless Alarm

Is experienced by some fidgety people observant of unusual paleness in their countenances, who experience discomfort in the region of the stomach or liver, or who pass a restless night or two. These are small ailments, capable, indeed, of aggravation by neglect, but easily removable at the start by the fine assistant of digestion, assimilation and sleep, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Use this pure remedy, so admirably adapted to family emergencies. Malaria and kidney complaints are relieved by it.

SOME flashes of lightning are believed to reach a length of ten miles.

She Couldn't Understand It.

"What in the world has happened to you since the last time I saw you?" asked one lady of another when they met on the street the other day; "I can't understand it. Then you were pale, haggard and low-spirited, and I remember you said that you hardly cared whether you lived or died. To-day you look ever so much younger, and it is very evident from your beaming face that your low spirits have taken flight." "Yes, indeed," was the reply; "and shall I tell you what drove them away? It was Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I was a martyr to functional derangement until I began taking the 'Prescription.' Now I am as well as I ever was in my life. No woman who suffers as I did, ought to let an hour pass before procuring this wonderful remedy."

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THERE is sex in fruit; haven't you heard of a mandate?—*Texas Siftings.*

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A NOVEL horror—flies in the soup.—*Hotel Mail.*

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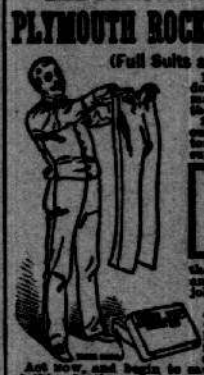

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