

## THE MYSTERY OF THE MARIE CELESTE

Among all the tales of the sea, in fact or fiction, the mystery of the Marie Celeste remains unique. The main facts of the case, often repeated, have been speculated upon for forty years without reaching a satisfactory solution.

It will be recalled that the ship was found off the Azores in 1872 deserted by all her crew and apparently in perfect condition. All that is known of this baffling case may be quickly told.

She had sailed from New York on November 7, commanded by Capt. Benjamin S. Briggs. The captain's wife and one small child were aboard.

The ship carried a cargo of petroleum, and that was found to be intact when the deserted big was boarded. She was only twenty-eight days out of New York when discovered across the Atlantic had been prosperous.

The obvious theory that the ship had been deserted in a storm would not seem tenable because the rigging did not indicate rough weather, and everything about the boat was found to be remarkably shipshape. In the cabin a sewing machine, used by the captain's wife, was found with a piece of sewing still held beneath the needle.

The toys which the captain's child had been playing with were scattered about the floor. The captain's gold watch hung beside the cabin clock.

Had there been mutiny the appearance of the cabin would have been different. A careful examination of the vessel failed to reveal any bloodstains or signs of violence of any kind, so that the theory of pirates could not be sustained.

Although the early history of the Marie Celeste has been so widely published and discussed, the second chapter of her remarkable career, which is no less dramatic, is almost unknown. On a subsequent trip the ship was loaded with a variety of merchandise, billed at exaggerated prices and deliberately run ashore and wrecked in the Caribbean sea in order to collect the insurance.

This remarkable sea mystery was discovered and proved in court by Arthur N. Putman, a New York appraiser, who is a veritable Sherlock Holmes in ferreting out sea mysteries. Mr. Putman conceived his suspicions from some letters relative to the insurance which passed through his hands.

Although the case was so rare as to seem improbable, Mr. Putman made the trip to the scene of the alleged shipwreck under very trying circumstances, donned a diving outfit and explored the wreck himself, and secured valuable evidence by interviewing natives and local officials in this remote section who had been in any way connected with the crime. From these investigations Mr. Putman prepared his case, returned to New York and started a search for the original crew, then widely scattered. Through indefatigable efforts the captain and crew were finally rounded up and tried.

It was a clear case of barratry, as developed in the trial. The Marie Celeste had been loaded with a remarkable variety of worthless stores. There were many barrels of fish spoiled long past eating. There were cases of wine which had been long discarded.

The ship was piled up on a reef some distance off shore on a perfectly clear day, with the sea unusually calm. It was shown in court that the mate, who was at the wheel, reported to the captain several times that they were off their course. The captain told him to obey orders and keep quiet.

When the ship finally struck the captain ordered the crew to cut away the mast to lend dramatic effect to the shipwreck story, while grog was handed out freely to all on board. Thereupon the crew quietly rowed ashore and reported the loss to the authorities.

The scene of the shipwreck was well chosen. It was extremely remote, and necessitated a journey by horseback of several days from the nearest port. Mr. Putman made the trip, nevertheless, in running down his clues, and by very skillful detective as well as legal work perfected his case. In the end the jury disagreed because one man could not see his way to imposing the death sentence upon the captain.

As to the original mystery of the Marie Celeste, no one is perhaps better prepared than Mr. Putman, from his long experience and ingenuity in seafaring matters, to draw conclusions from this very baffling evidence.

He discards the theory of mutiny.

pirates or storm. He lays special stress upon the fact that a single boat was missing from the deserted boat, and this was one which the captain and crew would probably have used in abandoning the boat. Mr. Putman has discovered that the rope of this boat was cut, not untied, indicating that when the boat was abandoned it was done with the greatest possible haste.

Still another bit of evidence generally overlooked is that the log of the ship several times, reports ominous rumbling and small explosions from the hold.

He concludes that the crew had been terrified by a series of small explosions in the petroleum cargo. Such a cargo naturally gives off explosive gas, and such rumblings and explosions are not uncommon. This terror is indicated in the entries in the ship's log.

It is supposed that one day, probably in good weather, there was an especially violent explosion. A sailor may have gone below with a light on a burning cigar and set off the accumulated fumes.

This explosion was violent enough to blow off the covering of the hatch, which was found in an unusual position. So great was the terror of the captain and his crew that they at once piled into the lifeboat, cut the rope and put to sea.

### JOLLY TIMES AT WELLESLEY

Wellesley college is a girls' town.

At any rate, everywhere are girls, nothing but girls.

Over the grassy slopes of the campus, in and out among the winding paths they roam, blurs of white with an occasional dot made by a senior's cap and gown.

For what do girls go there?

To see them wandering about over the hills and through the little valleys dim from overhanging branches that have seen so many girls come and go, to hear them laugh whoe-heartedly, you would say that many of them had come there for fun. A great many of the girls are there for study—witness the piles of books in their arms! And some are there for both, and some because dad wanted them to go, and some because it is the thing to do, and so on, just as in any college in the world.

What are girls at Wellesley wearing?

Sensible girlish dresses! No hotbed skirts for them, no plumed hats with lace undercaps. To be sure they may have hobble gowns by the score hanging limply in their closets, or elaborate hats carefully tucked under their couches in the milliner's box, but you don't see any of them on the campus.

Short skirt and sailor blouse, with tie knotted at the throat—this is the most popular costume. If it gets cold, slip on a sweater, or if it rains put on a rubber coat and pull an oilskin sweater down over the face, and there you are.

All the girls go hatless. A hat on the campus is a rarity, as are elaborate coiffures. They do up their hair thickly not to be late at lectures and although you may see empire puffs once in a while the majority of them are satisfied with simple coils or braids.

Perhaps you wonder how much it costs to go to Wellesley.

We'll, it costs \$175 for tuition and \$275 for living. There are no more expensive suites reserved for the richest girls. Money cannot purchase partiality. The seniors have the first choice of rooms and the other classes in order. Miss Millionaire finds that her father's checks cannot secure for her a better view than Miss Little-money, who happens to be one class in advance.

There is no '400' at Wellesley, no 'upper ten.' Of course, there are some girls who have a great deal of money, who run their own automobiles and all, and there are some who live more simply, yet represent twice as much wealth at home. But in the college world the girls are accepted for their own value, not the value of papa's check book.—Boston Traveler.

### HER CASE

"I don't very well see" said the lawyer, "how you can sue your husband for a divorce on the score of desertion when on your own account he has been living quietly at home all the time."

"You don't, eh?" retorted the indignant would-be plaintiff. "Well, if it isn't desertion for a man to take a taxicab to the club and deny that he is related to her, just because his wife has been arrested on the dock for smuggling, I don't know what desertion is."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

### THE EYE

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What is astigmatism? It is an unequal curvature of the cornea of the eye.

The perfect eye is a perfect sphere, one in which all of the parallel rays of light come to a common focus. In astigmatism the parallel rays of light do not come to a common focus, one ray may focus on the retina and the other back of it, or one ray may focus before the retina and the other one on or even back of the retina, making what we call mixed astigmatism. In some cases the eye is a sphere, and both rays come to a common focus either before or back of the retina.

The eye can be compared to a photographic instrument. Every photographer knows that he will not get a clear picture unless he gets the proper focus on his camera. The reason glasses cost more to grind in some cases than others is because there are more errors of refraction in some eyes than others; otherwise everyone could buy on the street glasses that would fit them.

Science says that there is no such thing as the perfect eye, as every eye has some astigmatism. Only about 2 per cent of people have such a little amount that it is not necessary to take into account in grinding the lenses; 98 per cent have enough astigmatism to require special ground lenses before they get absolute comfort and relief from eye strain and headaches. If astigmatism was regular in every eye in the same meridian it would be possible to keep in stock lenses already ground for every condition, but the astigmatism may be near sighted or far sighted in the parallel meridian or horizontal meridian, or it may be oblique at the sixtieth or hundred and fiftieth meridian, or any other. If it was not for astigmatism any tyro could fit glasses perfectly with a few hours' practice. Some people have been wearing jewelry store opticians' glasses all their lives and do not realize how much satisfaction they could get by having a lens ground to fit by an expert oculist.

Nervous exhaustion is often caused by errors of refraction and statistics and even in my own practice I have seen night sweats of early consumption, diabetes, kidney and stomach trouble cured by wearing proper-fitting glasses.

### THE TURKISH BATH

This method of opening the pores has in the past been found a very useful therapeutic agent for relieving the system of impurities which the kidneys and other eliminative organs were unable to accomplish without the aid of the skin.

The Turkish bath must be administered to the patient in a temperature of from 150 degrees to 170 degrees Fahrenheit, and therein lies its principal objection, which is, that the patient is compelled to inhale this steaming, heated air which is very liable to produce disagreeable effects.

The electric light cabinet has largely superseded the old style method of inducing perspiration commonly known as the Turkish bath. Its principal advantage lies in the fact that while a high temperature is applied to the nude body of the patient his head remains outside of the cabinet, thereby being enabled to breathe atmosphere of the ordinary room temperature. However, the high price and expense of operating will not permit the ordinary family to own one of these cabinets.

The application of the electric current for therapeutic requirements has, within the last few years, made very rapid strides. In no one article is this more evident than in its application to pads and blankets, thereby produc-

ing heat in varying degrees for application direct to the body. These pads are now made in various styles and sizes to answer every requirement. Instead of using the cumbersome old style water bottle an electric pad, wired to give the requisite amount of heat, is very much more convenient and serviceable and is always ready for instant use, as it attaches to any electric lighting socket. Blankets are also made of a sufficient size to cover the patient from neck to feet, thus leaving the head exposed. By this method copious perspiration is rapidly induced and there is no better method for eliminating impurities from the system. Such diseases as rheumatism, gout, lumbago, neuritis, la grippe, colds, etc., are always benefited and in many instances cured. Thus we have a comfortable, safe and modern method of obtaining benefits of the Turkish bath in the home at a cost within the reach of every family.

### '—THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH'

Millionaire Father—I'll pay all your debts just once more, sir! Make me out the sum total of what you owe!

His Son—"Deah old pater! Er—would you—ah—kindly fill up this—ah—ink stand?"—Puck.

The packers may yet have use for the squeal.—St. Louis Times.

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