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THE BREECHES BUOY.

An Excellent Device for Rescuing the Shipwrecked.

The Appliance is of Great Help to the Daring Life Savers of the New Jersey Coast—How It is Sent to Sinking Ships.

The sturdy surfmen of Long Beach, as they call the ribbon of sand south of Barnegat inlet separating the waters of the bay and the ocean, have made two gallant rescues in the past week with the Lyle gun and the breeches buoy. The opportunity to use these appliances is always welcomed, says the New York Sun, because it means a fight with the elements that stirs the blood and strains the muscle. Whenever the news that a ship is ashore is telephoned from station to station over the beach wires every surfman within twenty miles says anxious things about the lucky patrolmen who are called out to make the rescue. The ordinary routine of the beach patrol is full of hardship and monotony in the extreme. A daring rescue makes talk for the rest of the winter.

Considering the number of vessels which have to pass it, the New Jersey coast is the most dangerous on the continent, and many ships go ashore. On the shelving sands there every winter. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, however, the surf will admit the launching of lifeboats, and the surfmen bring ashore the shipwrecked in this way. It is only when a great storm is raging and the surf is so rough as to baffle the skillful oarsmen that the gun and breeches buoy are resorted to. This does not happen very often.

When the patrol sees a vessel aground or in danger he hurries to the station and gives the alarm. The surfmen are out in a jiffy. They always take all their apparatus, so as to be ready for any emergency. If the lifeboat cannot be launched through the surf, they bring out the Lyle gun. This is a small brass cannon, which has a projectile fitting over the barrel like a sheath over a sword. To the projectile is fastened one end of a stout cord. The gun is aimed to throw the projectile over the ship, and thus bring the cord within the reach of the men on the wreck. It seldom requires more than two shots to land the cord. The sailors then pull it in and get hold of the rope to which it is fastened. When the end of the rope is hauled aboard it is made fast to one of the masts. Meantime the surfmen are burying a sand anchor. This is a great square of planking, whose surface grips the sand in which it is sunk. To it the shore end of the rope is securely fastened.

Then comes the breeches buoy. This consists of a great ungainly pair of canvas trousers hung to a circular life preserver. It is suspended by stout ropes from a pulley, which the surfmen quickly rig upon the rope connecting ship and shore in such a way that it moves freely back and forth. A guy line, one end of which was sent aboard the ship with the rope, is now fastened to the breeches buoy, and the surfmen pull on a line which starts the breeches buoy traveling seaward. As soon as it reaches the ship one of the shipwrecked gets into the pair of canvas breeches, sticking a leg through each capacious hole, and grasping the life preserver, which comes just under his armpits. He does not need to be tied in, for his seat is secure.

All being ready, the surfmen ashore begin to haul in. The breeches buoy rolls rapidly shoreward, suspended from its hearken track. For most of the distance the man in the breeches is dangling above the water. When he reaches the surf, though, he is bound to get a ducking. He holds his breath, takes a fresh hold on the life preserver, and in he goes. The next minute he is on the beach, where a dozen strong hands reach out to pluck him out of his canvas breeches. The buoy is sent straight back for another, and so on until all are rescued. A dozen men have been brought ashore in this way by a single breeches buoy in less than an hour.

It sometimes happens that a woman is aboard the ship. She may be the captain's wife. If the ship is a steamer, there may be women passengers. The idea of getting into this pair of canvas breeches may be repugnant to a woman, but she does not hesitate a second. Pulling her dress up around her, in she steps as unhesitatingly as though she were born to trousers. All she asks at that moment is to get ashore.

There have been many devices for rescuing the shipwrecked, including the life car with which the stations on our coast are provided, but no other appliance is of such tried utility as the breeches buoy.



IN THE BREECHES BUOY.

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

The average weight of the Chinese brain is said to be heavier than the average weight of the brain in any other race.

A BRITISH scientist recently stated that if a man weighing one hundred and forty pounds were placed under a hydraulic press and squeezed flat, the result would be one hundred and five pounds of water and thirty-five pounds of dry residue.

RECENT studies of cancer not only indicate that it is an organic growth, but almost certainly prove that it is itself liable to the attack of another parasite. Better acquaintance with the relations of these parasites may possibly bring the long-sought method of arresting cancer.

DR. FRANCIS DOWLING, of Cincinnati, has published the result of his examination into the effect of tobacco chewing on the eyes. The experiments covered three thousand cases, and showed that ninety-five per cent. suffered with visual troubles, and nearly as many exhibited muscular deterioration.

Persons who are subject to attacks of bilious colic can almost invariably tell, by their feelings, when to expect an attack. If Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is taken as soon as these symptoms appear, they can ward off the disease. Such persons should always keep the Remedy at hand, ready for immediate use when needed. Two or three doses of it at the right time will save them much suffering. For sale by Blakeley and Houghton, druggists.

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We authorize our advertised druggist to sell Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, coughs and colds upon this condition. If you are afflicted with a cough, cold or any lung, throat or chest trouble, and will use this remedy as directed, giving it a fair trial, and experience no benefit, you may return the bottle and have your money refunded. We would not make this offer did we not know that Dr. King's New Discovery could be relied on. It never disappoints. Trial bottles free at Snipes & Kinerly's drug store. Large size 50c and \$1.

SOME NEW IDEAS.

QUILTS made of perforated sheets of white paper sewn together are said to be becoming popular in Europe.

A TRAVELING telephone, which can be taken to any room required in a large office building at a moment's notice, is a recent idea.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Snipes & Kinerly.

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