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## Nose Dive Not Serious With Enough Altitude

What is known as a "nose dive" is the evolution an obsolete plane makes when out of control, when it has lost flying speed. This is not always done intentionally by the pilot, although it is a favorite stunt performance of exhibition pilots. In a nose dive a plane is falling out of control because the elevators, ailerons and rudder are in such a position with respect to the slip-stream that they are inoperative.

This condition, however, is easily overcome, provided the pilot has sufficient altitude, for with ease he can regain a renewed grip of his controls on the slip-stream and regain his normal flying position. However, with obsolete planes the pilot is often forgetful near the ground, or his controls are not as sensitive as they should be, and he unfortunately fails to recognize the fact that he is losing his vitesse. A plane stalls at the beginning of a nose dive and hits the ground before the pilot is able to recover. Most accidents, as you have probably observed, are what might be termed "100-foot accidents," and in almost every case where the pilot had an altitude of over 300 feet, he would recover before hitting the ground, perhaps lighting with only minor breakages, if any.—Maj. W. G. Schaeffler, in Advertising Magazine.

## Commercial Wax Obtained From Numerous Sources

The list of things for which wax is used is long and constantly increasing. In the main, commercial wax is obtained from plants, from mineral oils, such as petroleum, and from bees. But there are some other sources. Many plants have a thin film of waxy material that covers the leaves and seems to protect them from too rapid evaporation.

The paraffin of commerce, so widely used, is obtained from petroleum, shale oil and lignite, says the Detroit News. Today petroleum is the chief source, although only certain kinds of oil produce marketable quantities.

In obtaining paraffin from petroleum a freezing mixture is applied, which reduces the temperature of the oil sufficiently to separate it into crystals. Ozocerite is an interesting wax, found in a solid state in beds of coal or associated bituminous deposits. It is related to paraffin and when pure is of similar color and texture.

Beeswax is a wax of very high quality. The comb is carefully saved and shipped by the beekeepers to the market. Spermaceti is a white wax of crystalline structure obtained as a solid precipitate from the head oil of the sperm and bottlenose whales, and to a lesser degree from sharks and dolphins.

## Not What She Thought

Little Tommy Truffle had made a discovery and, being of a very generous disposition, was eager to share it with others.

"I is—" he began.

Teacher swooped down at once, that superior smile, so irritating to the sensitive mind of youth, upon her lips.

"I am," not "I is," she corrected. Tommy looked a little pained; almost, perhaps, a little doubtful. But he was an obedient little boy.

"I am the ninth letter of the alphabet," he announced.

## New Use for Cigarettes

Mexicans working in a lead mine in Chihuahua have found a new use for cigarettes. The mine consists of a series of caves along the sides and bottoms of which lead and silver ore in paying quantities is found. The miners have noticed that smoke from their cigarettes is sucked through cracks in the rocks at certain points. By drilling in the wake of the smoke, they break through into another cave. This method of tracing ore has been followed through a series of caves and still the smoke passes out at the end of the last cave discovered, indicating that there are other caves ahead.

## Lights to Test the Dye

Of foreign origin a new machine called a fadeometer is used for testing the fastness of dyes. Violet carbon arc lights are used, 40 samples being tested at one time if necessary. Half the sample is exposed to the light, and the other half protected by a metal shade, so that after test an exact comparison can be made. Special carbon rods, impregnated with a secret chemical formula, give the light of this arc fading qualities exactly similar to daylight, although greatly intensified.

## Has Odd Leap-Year Watch

John J. Kingsley of Boston, a jeweler, has what is known as a leap-year watch. It contains a wheel, very tiny in proportions, that makes a complete circuit only once in four years, although it is "running" constantly. This leap-year wheel is one of more than 3,000 parts in the rare timepiece. At midnight on the 28th day of every leap year, February, the figures "29" flash on the dial. This watch also strikes the hour regularly. The cost of making it was \$10,000.

## Movies of Undersea Ruins

Motion pictures of undersea ruins of dead cities along the north African coast were recently taken by archaeologists in airplanes. The films have been declared to be more satisfactory than anything that could have been obtained from the surface of the sea. By this means the course of a sea wall submerged to a depth of 5,000 fathoms was accurately traced.

## Locate Ships at Sea by New Radio Method

A description of a means of locating the position of a ship at sea by the emission of a radio "dash" simultaneously with the firing of a small charge in the sea is contained in the "Proceedings" of the Physical Society, says the Scientific American. A station on shore records the arrival of the radio signal and also of the explosion wave at a number of hydrophones suitably disposed in known positions on the sea bed. The times of travel of the explosion wave, and hence the distance from the charge to each hydrophone, are indicated by an Elnthoven galvanometer photographic recorder. Although great accuracy is attainable, for navigational purposes it is sacrificed to speed—it being possible to give a ship her location within a radius of half a mile inside ten minutes from receiving her request for a position. This method has been thoroughly tested under service conditions and has been found absolutely reliable.

A nine-ounce charge can be located at a distance of 40 miles. In hydrographic survey work the method has been tested successfully in fixing accurately the positions of certain buoys and light vessels. The possibility of screening and distortion effects produced by sand banks has also been investigated.

## Synthetic Food Would Put End to Farming

Now we know what's to become of the farmer. The word is passed along that J. B. S. Haldane, an English scientist, predicts chemical synthesis of foods within 120 years to a degree that will rate agriculture a luxury, and mankind will be completely urbanized. A hard fate for the agriculturist and a hard living for poets and artists if such there be in that distant day, says the Nation's Business. And what of the gardens filled by suburbanites and commuters? Ill fares the day when no seed catalogue may proclaim man's kinship with the soil.

Chemistry thou art afoot, Take thou what course thou wilt.

But invitation to choice is only empty fealty to courtesy when meals hold a single course. If the doctor had his crystal in good kelter the folk who are up and about when this forecast falls due may as well take their calories from a needle. And who is to take old Judge Palate's place? "Dame Science," you say? Well, well, so it goes, so it goes. Poor old fellow, he made mistakes, but no one can hope to please all tastes.

## "Good Old Days" Club

The good old days. The feverish round of daily existence leaves us but little time to reflect upon them. And 'tis pity.

At all events a little group of Viennese appears to hold this opinion, for a club has just been founded there which does not lack originality, if we may judge by its name, the Club of the Good Old Days.

There are two main qualifications for admission to this club. First, the applicant must be not less than sixty years of age. Second, he is formally forbidden, under pain of expulsion, to speak of anything that has happened since August 1, 1914.

The Viennese are trying to forget. Of course, we French have not quite the same reasons for wishing to forget as the Viennese.—Le Petit Parisien.

## Electric Power Development

Interest in projected super-power development in the northeastern states, with high tension electric transmission lines running from immense power plants at the coal mines to the great industrial centers, has overshadowed the real progress toward super-power development which has been made in other parts of the country. There are now only four gaps with a total of twenty-five miles in a continuous electric power system along the Pacific coast from British Columbia to Mexico, a distance of 1,400 miles. Five of the southeastern states are included in another super-power development which furnishes hundreds of thousands of horse power, and extensions are projected into neighboring states.

## Liberal Tip, If Found

A mean man ate a good meal at a restaurant and then, when he had finished, dropped a half crown on the floor.

"Walter," he said, as he paid his bill, "I just dropped two half crowns. Find them for me, will you?"

The waiter disappeared under the table and in a short time emerged very red in the face.

"I've found one of them, sir," he said.

"Thanks," said the man as he pocketed the coin and rose. "When you find the other keep it for yourself—tip, you know."

## Contradicting a Proverb

"You can't get something for nothing," remarked the ready-made philosopher.

"Maybe not," answered Mr. Dustin Stux, "but I'll say the man who took my good money in exchange for forged masterpieces came very near it."

## Force of Habit

Tibbs—That barber is a rare bird. Jetts—Why throw the spotlight on him?

Tibbs—Whenever he shaves himself, he can't stop until he talks himself into a haircut and a shampoo.

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