

**CURIOUS NAVAL ATTACK.**

Some Queer Tasks to Which Warships Have Been Assigned.

Not all the tasks warships are called on to undertake have to do with war and the destruction of human life and property.

A couple of French warships were sent out into the Mediterranean some years ago to wage war against a school of porpoises which were doing an immense amount of damage to the fishing industry in those waters. After three days' hostilities, during which quick firing guns were used with considerable effect, the vessels returned to port triumphant, having practically annihilated the enemy.

A year or two ago a warship of Great Britain's Australian fleet was given the strange job of capturing or destroying a mysterious sea monster which had been reported off the Falkland islands, the scene of the recent German naval defeat.

It is pretty safe to say that the officers, if not the crew, entertained grave doubts of the actual existence of the frightful creature which had been described. It was too terrifying, hideous, gigantic and ferocious.

But shortly after the ship arrived in the waters where the monster was supposed to lie in wait for vessels the officer of the watch described a strange looking beast making toward his ship, and it was immediately guessed that this must be the substance of all the alarming tales. And a pretty good substance it proved too.

An attack was made upon it, and after some hours' fighting with harpoons and quick firers the mysterious monster, which proved to be a sea elephant between thirteen and fourteen yards long, was slaughtered and taken aboard.

Some years ago the Norwegian government sent out a powerful little fleet of warships armed with mines, torpedoes and quick firing guns to exterminate a vast horde of seals which was denuding the sea on the northwest coast of all fish life.

But the government had reckoned upon tens of thousands of seals, whereas there were millions. So unending was their number that the fleet had eventually to admit itself defeated, with the loss of one man and two slightly wounded owing to an accident and to "retire in order," having exhausted its entire supply of ammunition.—New York American.

**The Rose in Ancient Days.**

Old Greek writers extol the rose above all other flowers. The Romans appreciated this flower equally as much as the Greeks, and, according to Athenaeus, Cleopatra had the floor covered with roses a foot and a half thick, and Nero is recorded as having spent some thousands of pounds in roses at one feast alone. Anacreon relates how the breath of roses used to perfume the bow of Olympus, and the Greeks loved to twine themselves together by a band of these queenly flowers.

**Accidental Discharge of a Pun.**

A capital pun may arise by pure accident, as recorded in Bucke's "Book of Table Talk."

"A Mr. Alexander Gun was dismissed from a post in the customs of Edinburgh for circulating some false rumor. The dismissal is said to have been thus noted in the customs book at the time, 'A. Gun discharged for making a false report.'"

**Lady Hazard.**

Jack Hazard, the comedian, has a letter from a friend in Boston which he treasures. The letter contains a bona fide account of an answer made by a grammar school pupil in Boston during the course of an examination in English.

The youngster, a boy, was called on to spell and define the word hazardous. This was his reply:

"H-a-z-a-r-d-e-s-s—a female hazard."—Saturday Evening Post.

**Snapping Turtle Eggs.**

A snapping turtle lays about two dozen eggs. These are placed in damp sand in a hollow scooped out by the turtle. The mother turtle almost or wholly buries herself in the sand. Then in crawling out she lets the sand over her shell fall upon the eggs, thus covering them. The eggs are white and almost perfectly round and have a very thin, hard shell.—St. Nicholas.

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**THE STORY OF CYPRUS.**

An Island With an Amazing Career of Romance and Change.

Checked and romantic has been the story of Cyprus since the days when King Richard Coeur de Lion conquered the island from the Emperor Isaac of Constantinople, who had behaved discourteously to the Lady Berengaria of Navarre, whom the king subsequently married in the chapel of the castle at Limasol. These things happened more than seven centuries ago.

King Richard sold the island to the Templars. They could not pay the full price, and so Cyprus came back to King Richard, who gave it to Guy of Lusignan, the dispossessed king of Jerusalem. Thus Cyprus, the island of Aphrodite Anadyomene and of St. Barnabas, became an outpost of Latin civilization in the Levant and one of the most important trading centers of the middle ages.

The story of the island from 1799 to 1878 is one of the most extravagant pages of history. The wealth and pride of the nobles coupled with a delicious climate and lovely surroundings, promoted a fabulous luxury and an amazing feudal insolence. The kings who for centuries clung to the shadowy title of the lost Jerusalem were twice crowned, once in Nicosia for Cyprus and once in Famagusta for Jerusalem. Their court was crowded by the bearers of picturesque titles dating from the crusades—princes of Galilee and Antioch, counts of Jaffa and Edessa; their tempers were hot and their moral loose, but they erected splendid buildings—great cathedrals, the Abbey of Bolla-Paise and well placed castles—and during the days of the Lusignans Cyprus was more important in the eyes of the world than ever it was before or since. This exotic royalty failed at last, and the island fell into the hands of Venice.

The Venetians starved the island of its revenues and dismantled its castles. Finally in 1570 it was conquered by Sultan Selim the Sot for the sake of its rich wine, and the gallant Venetian, Marcantonio Bragadino, who held Famagusta valiantly for 81, Mark, was betrayed after an honorable surrender to Lala Mustafa. His skin, stuffed with straw, was for a time used as a masthead ensign by his cruel conquerors and was finally sold to his family.

The Ottoman finished what the Venetians had begun. He closed Famagusta to commerce and built Larnaca in its stead, but to all intents and purposes Cyprus was neglected and oppressed until the British made themselves responsible for its proper administration in 1878.—London Standard.

**Cured.**

The following is a Chinese joke: In a certain house there was a baby that annoyed every one by its continual squalling. At last a physician was called in. He administered a bolus of the soothing virtues of which he had a high opinion and offered to pass the night in the house to observe the effects of his remedy. After a few hours, hearing no noise, he exclaimed: "Good! The child is cured!" "Yes," replied the attendant, "the child has indeed stopped crying, but the mother has begun to mourn."

**Zeno's Paradox.**

Many persons will recall the famous paradox of Zeno by which he sought to prove that all motion is impossible.

"A body," he argued, "must move either in a place where it is or in a place where it is not. Now, a body in the place where it is stationary and cannot be in motion, nor, obviously, can it be in motion in the place where it is not; therefore it cannot move at all."

Bodies do move, however, and that is a sufficient answer to the ingenious philosopher.

**The Spectroscope.**

Originally the spectroscope was applied only to chemistry and in that limited field proved itself an invaluable aid in accurate analysis. By holding in a Bunsen flame a platinum wire moistened by contact with the skin the presence of a few grains of salt swallowed a few minutes previously can be detected with the spectroscope. Indeed, so wonderfully refined is the work of the spectroscope chemist that he can discover in a substance the presence of one three-millionth of a grain of metal.

**Railroad Time Table**

**Arrival and Departure of Passenger Trains**

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WEST SCIO

North . . . . . 7:55 a m  
South . . . . . 5:31 p m

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