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SWEATING COINS.

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THE SYSTEM IS A FINE ART.

Nowadays Chemical Baths, Splitting and Abrasion Take the Place of the Older and Cruder Plugging—Branding the Lightweight Money.

A drilled or "plugged" coin has become something of a curiosity. Every one remembers the inconvenience of these mutilated coins.

Nowadays the work of defacing coins is reduced to a fine art. The old, crude method of plugging the coins will not suffice.

The "sweating" must be done in such a way that the coin will appear perfect, even to the closest observer. The federal government will not permit any gold coin to circulate the weight of which is below the point of legal tolerance.

Another baffling method is to split the coin and remove the gold from the inner surface. The hole is then filled up with some baser metal.

One of the commonest methods of "sweating" is to shake up a number of gold coins in a chamois bag and preserve the dust and microscopic particles which have been loosened.

Tom's Memory. "Before I went away I told Tom just what I wanted him to do about the house from day to day, and to make it doubly sure I talked my orders into our phonograph so he could play the record each night and so remember."

Not So Far Wrong. "Have you written all the invitations to my party, mamma?" queried little Eva.

A Single Exception. "Do you think a memory for dates helps a man?" "Sometimes," replied Farmer Corn-tassel.

AN ALL AROUND ORDEAL

When Papa Was Getting Ready to Attend a Banquet.

Papa was going to a banquet. It was unusual for him to attend banquets—so unusual, in fact, that the children had boasted of it for a week to all who would hear.

Now it was the night of the banquet, and papa was getting ready, and the once quiet and orderly house was much upset.

Through the keyhole the children saw papa struggle into his coat. The stiff shirt rose almost to his ears, and a high collar nearly saved them off.

Then his shoes hurt him; he couldn't get his left foot into them. He stood miserably in the middle of the floor.

"Now, then," said mamma, with a sigh, "you're fixed. You have no idea, dear, how nice you look."

"You'll have to," said his sister wisely. "Men always have to go to dinners. But they dress up funny, don't they?"—Galveston News.

ALLIGATORS' NESTS.

They Resemble Haystacks and Are Natural Incubators.

"An alligator's nest is an interesting thing," said Alligator Joe. "Wild alligators build their nests on the bank of a river or in marshy places. They are made of mud, saw grass and leaves and mold. They are sort of natural incubators, for the eggs, which are laid from thirty-five to eighty in a nest at one time, are hatched out by the steam which comes up through the mud as much as by the sun."

"It takes alligator eggs two months and six days to hatch. When the little ones come out the mother calls them together by a noise which is something between a cluck and a grunt, and they all scramble down from the nest to her den. If it is on the edge of a river the den is filled with minnows. As the mother enters the den she swishes her tail around with terrific force, killing the smallest fish, and when they float the little alligators nab them up."

A Fish Out of Water. Many people think that fish when taken out of the water die because air has a fatal effect on them. The real reason, however, is that their delicate gill filaments or membranes become dry and stick together, so that no air can pass between them.

Right on the Job. A pupil had been naughty all day, and the teacher sent him a note ordering him to stay after school. The boy wrote an answer on his slate saying: "Dear Teacher—Except the one with pleasure. Always keep me engaged with the ladies. Will be at the tripping place at 4 p. m."—Argonaut.

DEMON SHIPS.

Vessels That Seemed to Be Moved by the Spirit of Destruction.

There is an old Cornish legend of a phantom ship which is seen in or off Portlethen harbor and which, unlike most ghosts, has a terrifying habit of pursuing any vessel which it sights. If it catches its victim there is a collision, but no roar of rushing water. At the moment of contact the ghost ship vanishes into thin air, and the puzzled crew of the other vessel rub their eyes in terrified amazement.

The Satanita was a hard weather craft, but let the breeze be the least heavier than she liked and she would be seized with what seemed more like demoniacal possession than anything else, and even with four men hanging on her helm she would sometimes take charge and rush right up into the wind.

But it is not only sailing ships that act at times in a strange and unaccountable fashion. Some years ago the British warships Pique, Mutine, Rosario and Britomart entered Klukwang harbor and dropped anchor in single file. Presently a steamer which had been discharging her cargo unanchored and began to steam out.

After clearing her she went for the Mutine, but luckily did not strike her full. However, she carried the Mutine's bowsprit clear away. Not yet satisfied, she made a rush at the Rosario, but by superhuman efforts on both ships the mad steamer was prevented from doing more than graze the third warship.

Something of the same kind was seen in the Thames a few years ago when the British steamship Poplar, turning to enter her dock, was struck and cut down to the water line by the French vessel Cordilleras. She at once began to fill, and the captain ordered full speed ahead for the purpose of beaching her.

The Cordilleras tried in vain to get out of the way, but the Poplar smashed into her, damaging her so severely that she, too, had to be beached.—Pearson's Weekly.

Styles in Teeth. Pearly teeth are not the fashion everywhere. One firm of artificial teeth manufacturers have to keep in stock molars of every shade of color from white to black. There is a steady demand for black teeth for Siam, Java, Batavia and Burma, where the natives chew the betel nut, which blackens the teeth. For Persia the teeth must be absolutely milk white. Recently an order was received from Bhavnagar, in India, for some bright red and blue artificial teeth. Smokers' teeth are regularly supplied to dentists in shades to match those which have been discolored by nicotine.—Argonaut.

Hop Pillows For Insomnia. George III. derived great benefit from the hop pillow prescribed for him by Dr. Willis after other sedatives and drugs had failed, and a similar remedy was eminently successful in 1871 with his late majesty King Edward VII., then Prince of Wales, who was suffering from typhoid fever.—London Telegraph.

It is of no use to wait for our ship to come in unless we have sent one out.—ABOL.

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