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SWEATING COINS.

Gold Pieces Cleverly Robbed of Their Precious Metal.

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. It was a mat ter of daily occurrence to find one self in possession of a silver, gold or even nickel coin defaced in this way Sometimes the hole was filled with some baser metal; often it was left open. This system of mutilating coins had the advantage, however, of being perfectly obvious, and no careful person need be deceived.

Nowadays the work of defacing coins is reduced to a fine art. The old, crude method of plugging the coins will not suffice, since the general public and the government are far more intoler ant of the practice than ever before If the precious metal is to be robbed from the coins it must be done so cleverly that even the expert will be deceived. It no longer pays to mutilate nickel or even silver coins, so, except in exceptional cases, it is only the gold coins which are mutilated This practice, commonly known as "sweating," requires considerable skill. and the ingenuity displayed is often amazing.

The "swenting" must be done in such a way that the coin will appear perfect, even to the closest observer. The federal government will not per mit any gold coin to circulate the weight of which is below the point of legal tolerance, which is fixed at onebalf of 1 per cent. If a coin is found to be lighter than this it is stamped with a large L, to indicate its lightness, and is returned to the bank or the individual who last handled it. The only redress of the owner is to have the coins sent to Washington to be reminted. The owner must stand the loss in weight, which is often considerable. In cases where the colu has been "sweated" an investigation may follow, with criminal prose ution

One of the most insidious methods of "sweating" and perhaps the most difficult of all to detect is the electroplat ing method. The gold coins are placed in a chemical bath, and part of the gold is detached by electricity and de posited on some other object. In this way the gold is removed with perfect evenness from all parts of the coin The letters and general design or the milling may be slightly dulled in the process, but only as it might be from general wear and tear. The lightness of the coin will be defected by the scales at the treasury, but in the meantime such a coin may pass from hand to hand for a long time without arousing suspicion. It is obviously exceedingly difficult to trace the offender. For Stomach Trouble, Sluggish

Another baffling method is to split Liver and Habitual Constipation. It cures by aiding all of the the inner surface. The hole is then by. She makes it by burrowing into digestive organs gently stimu- that the weight will be the same, and is seventy feet or more inland. The lates the liver and regulates the the two sides are then welded together. only way to get her out of a den like owels—the only way that It is possible to take a dollar's worth of that is to take a long steel rod and chronic constipation can be gold or more in this way from a twenty thrust it down the tunnel, which is alcured. Especially recommended fully done it is impossible to detect such a coin by its weight, and the only for women and children. clew will be in some flaw in the milling. Naturally it takes a trained, experienced eye to pick out such a coin. Meanwhile the gold piece has probably efreulated for days or even months, and it is exceedingly difficult

to trace the offender.

One of the commonest methods of "sweating" is to shake up a number of HARRIS'S NEW FEED AND gold coins in a chamois bag and preserve the dust and microscopical particles which have been loosened. The bag is first moistened, so that the gold will adhere to it, and is afterward Everything first-class. Second burned and the gold assayed. The bruises or dents on the coins will appear to have been made in the ordinary handling. The profit from this treatment is small, but many people seem to find profit in it. The question arises if the ingenuity and labor thus expended would not bring a larger return if devoted to some legitimate

> The men who handle the gold be come marvelously expert in detecting the "sweated" coins. In handling millions of dollars' worth of gold a defaced coin will rarely get past them. The coins are spread out in trays before them and turned over and the light coins picked out. A slight flaw in the milling, a dulled appearance of the lettering or a suspicious nick on the surface will be quickly identified. As a final test the scales, which will weigh a single hair, are resorted to. Eva. and if the slightest discrepancy can be found every coin is examined separately until the faulty one has been discovered.-New York Times.

"Thanks fer de biscuit, mum." re-marked Dusty Rhodes, "but you mistake me errand in dis community."

"What d'ye mean?" "I'm studying social conditions, not geology."-Pittsburg Post.

He Got His. Mr. Flubb - This affair is borribly dull. I guess I'll go bome. Miss Clip -That would remove some of the dull-

ness, Mr. Flubb.-Boston Transcript.

AN ALL AROUND ORDEAL

tend a Banquet.

Papa was going to a banquet. 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 collision, but no rear of inrushing the once quiet and orderly house was much upset

"Run on out," said mamma, "and don't the puzzled crew of the other vessel bother your father while he's dress rub their eyes in terrified amazement. Papa was shaving and at the same time committing a speech to the vessel that saw the phantom ship memory in case he should be called upon for something impromptu.

The tiny trickles of blood down bis chin showed where the speech was getting the better part of his attention. On the bed lay a clean white shirt, and across a chair hung papa's Satanita. The Satanita was a fine and dress clothes. He hadn't worn the dress clothes for two years and was considerably stouter now.

After awhile the children, crouching interestedly at the door, heard entertaining things.

"Confound the shirt!" howled papa. neckband's all dirty." Mamma's voice scotched him.

Through the keyhole the children saw papa struggle into his coat. The stiff shirt rose almost to his ears, and a high collar nearly sawed them off. "Doggone it!" wailed papa. "The

short.' Then his shoes hurt him; he couldn't get his tie fixed right; his handkerchief was hopelessly massing, and finally he stood miserably in the middle of

His face was red, the perspiration boured down his nose, his thin hair stood up, and he was about the most uncomfortable looking person the chil-

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

"Oh, yes," papa snarled, "I look nice, I don't think." Then he found his hat and a light coat and stalked stiffly and uncomfortably out. The children, hiding behind the stair railing, saw him depart.

"Gee," said the little boy, "when I get big I won't go to any dinners. They can bring mine."

"You'll have to," said his sister wise-"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 alligators' 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. Around the nest a pile of grass is laid, sometimes as high as six feet, and from a distance resembles a stack of hay. the coin and remove the gold from The mother gator has her den near filled up with some baser metal, so a bank of soft mud, and sometimes it ways slanting. When the gator feels the prodding she will come out to see what the trouble is.

"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 mother alligator will sometimes have four or five dens, and she takes her brood from one to another, repeat ing the swishing process in each one until the young ones have had a full meal."-Harriet Quimby in Leslie's.

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." "And did he then forget?"

"I found everything in the house about ruined. He said he couldn't bear to play the phonograph in my absence; it reminded him so of me and made him lonely."-Boston Herald.

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

"Yes, dear," answered her mother "They are all written and mailed." "And how soon will the acceptions and deceptions begin to come in?"-Chicago News.

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

tassel. "But not when he is selling spring chickens."-Washington Star.

Another Difference. "I don't see any difference between you and a trained nurse except the uniform," said her sick husband. "And the salary," she added thought-

Reckless haste is the direct road to

fully.-Harper's Bazar.

DEMON SHIPS.

When Papa Was Getting Ready to At- 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 Portheurno 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 water. At the moment of contact the ghost ship vanishes into thin air, and

To any one who knows the legend is, however, doomed. Before the next New Year's day she will be sunk in collision with another vessel or a rock. One wonders whether the original of this phantom at all resembled that notable and appropriately named vacht very powerful cutter, which originally

ward to Sir Maurice Fitzgerald. 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 "I know I washed my hands, but the demoniacal possession than anything else, and even with four men hanging on her belm she would sometimes take charge and rush right up into the

belonged to Mr. C. D. Clarke and after-

wind. She was the cause of several serious accidents, the worst of which happened at the Mudbook club's regatta sleeves of this coat are a mile too in 1894. On that occasion she was behaving in the most perfect fashion when suddenly and without the slightest warning she flung all control, and, just as a race horse will sometimes "savage an opponent, she dashed in a mad fury at Valkyrie II. and sank her like a stone. Well was the Satanita called the "demon" yacht.

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 Kiuklang harbor and dropped anchor in single Presently a steamer which had been discharging her cargo unanchored and began to steam out.

She was just abreast of the warships when she suddenly made straight for the Pique. The warship's officers and men saw the man at the steamer's wheel doing all he knew to keep her off, but she flatly refused to answer her belm and went crashing into the Pique, smashing her boats and davits.

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

Instead of making for the beach the Poplar made a sudden rush in a great circle out into the river, smashing into everything she came across. Then, as if filled with a spirit of revenge, she made for the vessel which had so terribly damaged ber.

The Cordilleras tried in vain to get out of the way, but the Poplar sma ed 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.

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. Thus they lose the power to imbibe necessary oxygen, and the circulation of their blood stops. The painful gasping of a fish out of water is nature's effort to free the passage through the filaments.

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 Tele-

Right on the Job. A pupil had been naughty all day. and the teacher sent him a note or dering him to stay after achool. The boy wrote an answer on his slate saying: "Dere Teacher-Except the oner with pleasure. Always keep mi engagements with the ladies. Will be at the tristing place at 4 p. m."-Argo-

It is of no use to walt for our ship to come in unless we have sent one out .- Anon.

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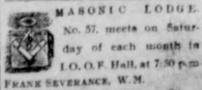
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