DEATH ABOARD SHIP.

HOW BURIALS AT SEA FROM OCEAN LINERS ARE MANAGED.

Little Ceremony and Hasty Funerals the Rule When Sailors or Steerage Passengers Are the Victims—Efforts to Cheat the Sharks.

There is no place where death is more unwelcome than on board a passenger steamer, and between the death and burial of a sea traveler the melancholy influence of the event extends to every one on board. The limitations of space are very likely responsible in part for this, for there is the feeling that until the body has been cast into the arms of the sea there is no getting away from it. So spake a man who has crossed the Atlantic ocean many times and who on more than one occasion had been a passenger on one of the big liners when death had claimed a victim from among those on board.

Sailors dread a death on board their vessel as much as anything, and when one occurs they are all anxiety to render the body the last service, and this fact is often responsible for the haste and scant consideration with which burials at sea are too often conducted. But the days of such ceremonies are fast dying, and efforts are now being made which will permit of the body being carried for the remainder of the journey after death and properly buried on land.

Even now it is generally only sailors and steerage passengers who are buried at sea, and frequently these are cast to the waves without so much as the vessel being slowed down and within an hour or two of their death.

Often enough a death occurs in a vessel without the fact becoming known to more than one or two of the crew or steerage passengers. Every effort is made to keep the event secret, and in the stillness of night, when better class passengers are comfortably curled up in their bunks, a little band of men, moving like shadows across the deck, bear a body from below, and, while the vessel is plowing the sea, the mortal remains wrapped in canvas or inclosed in a crudely made box, are quietly slipped over the ship's side into the mysterious deep.

The presence of a dead body on board has sometimes not even been suspected by the passengers until some one has noticed the sharks that are following, for it is no mere sailor's story that sharks know when a ship contains a corpse. A vessel carrying a dead body and passing through waters frequented by sharks is almost sure to be followed by one or more of those fishes, if it does not outspeed them.

Rather than bury a corpse while sharks are following a vessel the captain will sometimes have the body placed in the ice chamber and full steam put on the engines until the hungry fishes have dropped astern completely.

In one case at least a body was actually cremated on board by the captain's orders because of the sharks. But sharks are not often obstacles to prompt burial, and, generally speaking, when a death occurs at sea, the body is slipped into the water at night with none to witness the proceeding but a couple of the crew and the captain, who reads an abridgment of the service from the prayer book.

The manner of burial of course depends greatly upon the captain's own feelings in respect to the dead, and it must be acknowledged that these feelings are in some cases all that they should be. Some captains have the greatest objection to "dumping" a dead body into the sea and, when it is unavoidable, will do their uttermost to conduct the ceremony with all possible reverence and respect.

For all that, there is always the feeling of the ship's crew and the melancholy effect of the presence of a corpse to be reckoned with, and the argument that more consideration is due to the living than the dead often prompts a captain to "dump" a steerage passenger in the dead of night without mentioning the event to more than a couple of hands.

Thus it often happens that while a concert or a private theatrical performance is going on in the saloon the captain is engaged making arrangements for the burial of some unfortunate creature.

The "Change of Air" Cure.

"There is no sense," said a New York physician, who has passed the days when he must practice even if he does not wish to, "in the haphazard way in which a patient is sent away from home to exhaust his strength and spend his money in the hope that a change of air will do him good. There is no use in sending a person away to die.

"Many physicians are not at all considerate about this sort of thing. There are some cases in which the influence of climate is a potent factor in the treatment of certain diseases, but not half so many of them as is generally supposed. Quiet and rest at home, plenty of sunshine, good food and pure air are worth far more than a change of climate, that is so often recommended as a cure all."—New York Herald.

Condensed.

"Do you buy condensed milk, madam?"

"I presume that we must, but I never thought of it before. I always order two quarts and pay for two quarts, but it never measures more than three pints."—Detroit Free Press.

Reckless Extravagance.

Senator Hoar is not a stingy man, but he looks out for the pennies. He was riding on a street car one day, relates a Washington correspondent, and had just completed a transaction with the conductor involving the payment of a quarter of a dollar for six car tickets—4 1-6 cents a ticket—when an acquaintance got on board and took the seat next to him. The acquaintance handed the conductor a nickel and turned to open up a conversation with the Massachusetts senator. The senator fidgeted in his seat a minute and then broke in with the remark, "I am glad to see that you are prosperous."

"Prosperous!" exclaimed the other man. "Why, I am poor as a church mouse!"

"Excuse me; I thought you must be rich. I am comfortably well off myself, but I have never felt that I could afford to pay 5 cents for a ride in a street car when I could get six rides for a quarter."

How They Made Mummies.

A body might be mummified in three different ways, and the price varied accordingly. In the first and most expensive method the brain was extracted through the nose by means of an iron probe, and the intestines were removed entirely from the body through an incision made in the side with a sharp Ethiopian stone. The intestines were cleansed and washed in palm wine, and, after being covered with powdered aromatic gums, were placed in Canopic jars. The body was then filled up with myrrh and cassia and other fragrant and astringent substances and was laid in natron for 70 days. It was then carefully washed and wrapped up in strips of fine linen smeared with gum. The cost of mummifying a body in this fashion was a talent of silver, or about £240.

In the second method the brain was not removed at all, and the intestines were simply dissolved and removed in a fluid state. The body was also laid in salt or natron, which, it is said, dissolved everything except the skin and bones. The cost of mummifying in this manner was 22 minæ, or nearly $90.

The third method was employed for the poor only. It consisted simply of cleansing the body by injecting some strong astringent and then salting it for 70 days. The cost was very small.—"Budge's Guide to First and Second Egyptian Rooms."

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

Another great discovery has been made, and that too, by a lady in this country. "Disease fastened its clutches upon her for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were underminded and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly, and could not sleep. She finally discovered a way to recovery, by purchasing of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and was so much releived on taking first dose, that she slept all night; and with two bottles, has been absolutely cured. Her named is Mrs Luther Lutz. This writes W. C. Hamnick & Co., of Shelby, N. C. Trial bottles free at Wadsworth Drug Store Regular size 50c and $1.00 Every bottle guaranteed.

A Test of Nerve.

The midshipman had greater freedom under Captain Lyons, who, being a thorough seaman, made that acquirement his first object by placing his young officers in positions of responsibility. He made his midshipmen take charge of the watch night and day. I had then been only four years in the service. One night the weather looked very threatening, and we had royals set, so I went down to the captain and asked whether I should shorten sail. He turned round in his cot and said, "Wait till it comes."

I went on deck, and, knowing what he would say if any spars were lost, I commenced taking in sail. We were struck by a squall so fierce that I had to put the helm up and get the ship before the wind to get the canvas in. When Captain Lyons came on deck and saw what I had done, he gave me great credit, laughed and said he had tried my nerve and sailoring. When I passed for lieutenant, he gave me a certificate which modesty forbids me to publish.—"Life of Vice Admiral Lord Lyons," by Captain Wilmot.

He who would pass his declining years with honor and comfort should, when young, remember that he may one day become old and remember when he is old that he has been once young.—Addison.

GLORIOUS NEWS.

Comes from Dr. D. B. Cargile, of Washita, I. T. He writes: "Four bottles of Electric bitters has cured Mrs Brewer of Scrofula, which had caused her great suffering for years. Terrible sores would break on her head and face, and best doctors could give no help; but here bure is complete, and her health is excellent." This shows what thousands have proved,—that Electric Bitters is the best blood purifier known. It's the supreme remedy for eczema, tetter, salt rheum, ulcers, boils and running sores. It stemulates liver, kidneys and bowels, expels poisons, helps digestion builds up the strength. Only 50c. Sold Alex Wadsworth Druggist. Guaranteed.

He Supports the Proposition.

Mrs. Blickens—The president of our club is going to lecture next Tuesday evening on "Conversation as a Lost Art."

Mr. Blickens (yawning)—That so?

Mrs. Blickens—Well, why don't you go on and make some sarcastic comment about the impossibility of conversation being a lost art while women remain on earth? Of course that is what you think.

Mr. Blickens—No; I agree with your president. Conversation is a lost art. When only one side can be heard, it is merely talk.—Chicago News.

When the Kettle Sings.

The reason why hot water makes a simmering noise is a very simple one. As the water heats, little bubbles of steam are formed at the bottom of the kettle. These rush upward and, being attracted to the sides of the kettle, they make a commotion which sets the metal in vibration, and the kettle "sings."

In the Imperial library at Calcutta more than 100,000 volumes on Indian affairs are brought together and classified.

Man was made to mourn and woman was made to see that he does it.—Chicago Record.

He Fooled the sugeons.

All doctors told Renick Hamilton, of West Jefferson, O., after suffering 18 months from Rectal Fistular, he would die unless a costly operation was performed; but he cured himself with five boxes of Bucklens Arnica Salve, the surest Pile cure on Earth, and the best Salve in the World. 25 cents a box. Sold by Alex Wadsworth Druggist.

A custom peculiar to Buddhists is that of wandering about the country with hammer and chisel and carving holy symbols upon rocks by the wayside.

The term "filthy lucre" originated in Scotland and referred in the first place to the dirty worn £1 notes of that country.

JAPANESE CUSTOMS.

Peculiar Practice of Formal Dinners. Guests Carry Away Scraps.

At the close of formal dinners in Japan the guests are presented with any portion of the meal they may fail to eat. However great or small the amount they may fail to eat, it is carefully wrapped up for them and they are expected to take it home with them. The unique custom was followed at official dinners until a short time ago, when it was discontinued, but the withdrawal of government example has not materially affected the practice. The plan has been followed for many years and it is difficult to place its origin.

Peculiar as the custom is, it is not without its attractive features. The husband who stays out late at night can pave the way to wifely pardon with the neat and tempting parcel under his arm. The impecunious or temporarily embarrassed can hold out enough to tide them over several hungry days. The indulgent father or mother can pass the sweets and carry them home to their children. Half a dozen satisfactory combinations can be worked on the plan.

There may be all kinds of elaborate courses at a dinner that one does not care for, but the mental struggle of saying no is not half so hard when you know you will get a chance to carry the food off and either give it to your children, feed it to your dogs and cats or distribute it among your friends. The Japanese practice is all that could be expected. Each kind of food is kept in a separate parcel, and at the close of the dinner the share of each guest is made up in a neat and artistic bundle.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Sample Carriers.

The Philadelphia Record says: "A peculiar trade followed by a number of men who haunt the big hotels is that of sample carrier. The natty drummers who visit the city are far above the work of lugging around their sometimes heavy samples, and so there has arisen a class of men who make a living by hanging around the hotels waiting an opportunity to carry sample cases. Sometimes these cases are very valuable, as when they contain samples of jewelry. It is not an infrequent sight to see a spruce young fellow, followed by a shabby individual carrying two black cases, enter the portals of one of the big hostelries. If the couple were traced farther it would be seen that the big hotel safe was the objective point. Some of these sample carriers have their regular patrons, who look for them on every visit."

Proper Length of the Foot.

A perfectly formed foot should, according to anatomists, be as long as that bone in the forearm which extends from the elbow to the joint of the wrist. This seems to be abnormally long in a tall person, but is the measurement taken by artists. Of course, arms are sometimes out of proportion, being far too short for the general height, but it is rare that an arm is too long for the stature of the person.

About one German woman in every 17 works in a factory.

Archery In a City's Streets.

The military students of Tung-Chou are a conspicuous nuisance. They have a way of using one of the main streets in the city as a convenient spot for practicing archery, and we have been repeatedly obliged to edge up to the extreme edge of the footpath to avoid possible eccentric flights of arrows.

Characteristically it never occurs to them to suspend operations for others' safety or convenience, and minor accidents must not be uncommon.

A lad was brought to the hospital the other day who had been struck by an arrow just below the eye as he was edging along the highway. He was not badly hurt and probably regarded his injury as incidental to the ordinary risks of travel on city streets.—North China Herald.

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A powder to be shaken into the shoes. At this season your feet feel swollen, nervous and hot, and get tired easy. If you have smarting feet or tight shoes, try Allen's Foot-Ease. It cools the feet and makes walking easy. Relieves corns and bunions of all pain and gives rest and comfort. Try it to-day. Sold by all druggists, grocers, shoe stores and general storekeepers everywhere. Price 25c. Trial package FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted LeRoy, N. Y.

Still In the Ways of Sin.

This story was told by a Boston plumber: "Some years ago one of the city missions up home had a job of plumbing done at its meeting house. The work was much more extensive than showed on the surface, and when the bill was presented the minister in charge insisted he was being robbed. He made a frightful kick, and had several redhot interviews with the boss of the shop. After the last and warmest of these confabs he returned to the mission sizzling with wrath and found a well known local character awaiting him. The fellow had been a notorious professional crook, but growing too old and rheumatic for safe cracking he concluded to mend his ways, and the parson had promised to aid him in getting an honest start.

"'Well, James,' said the parson sympathetically, 'have you decided on what you want to do?'

"'Yes, boss,' replied the ex-crook. 'Seeing as how I'm a pretty good mechanic, I thought I might open a bit of a shop.'

"'A shop!' replied his benevolent friend. 'What kind of a shop?'

"'A plumber's shop,' said the burglar.

"'Oh!' exclaimed the minister, rising suddenly and picking up his hat. 'I was under the impression that you wanted to reform.'"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

An Undesirable Distinction.

Mae—Why did you let him kiss you?

Ethel—I didn't want to be the only girl he had never kissed.—New York Journal.

She Was Disengaged.

Afternoon Caller—Is Miss Lippitt disengaged?

Nanette—I'm afraid so, ma'am. I just see her young man hurry down the front steps with the diamond ring she's been wearing.—Boston Traveler.

Big Fees For Doctors.

Sixty thousand dollars and a pension of $2,500 a year was the fee paid to Dr. Thomas Dimsdale, the Hertfordshire physician who, in 1872, was summoned to St. Petersburg to vaccinate the Empress Catherine II. Dr. Butler, who had obtained a great reputation for extraordinary skill in the operation for lithotomy, received a lac of rupees (then equivalent to $50,000) from each of six Indian rajahs for the single operation.

The late czar of Russia paid a fee of $75,000 to Professor Zacherine of Moscow for two days' attendance. A certain Dr. Gale of Bristol, who was blind, for curing a gentleman of a seriously diseased knee by some electric treatment received a check for $250,000. Dr. Gale Yowski, the famous oculist, who attended the son of the shah of Persia, received $35,000 in fees during the three months of his residence in Teheran, while all his expenses of traveling and maintenance were paid.

Sir William Jenner received for four weeks' attendance at Sandringham during the illness of the Prince of Wales a baronetcy and a fee of $50,000, while Sir Morell Mackenzie is reported to have received twice that amount for attending the Emperor Frederick. His royal highness the nawab of Rampur, India, a few years since paid an English army surgeon $50,000 for an occasional attendance in an ordinary attack of rheumatism.

Good Friday In England.

Many quaint and some grotesque observances of Good Friday have prevailed in various localities. In Brighton the custom of skipping the rope on that day led to the use of the term "Long Rope day." Six or eight adults, with a long rope, skipped at one time. In the Sussex villages men and boys play marbles. At St. Bartholomew's church, London, 21 old women appear and before a crowd of curious onlookers bend their stiffened, aged knees to pick up 21 sixpences.

This latter custom had its origin before the great fire, when an eccentric woman left her property to have 21 sixpences laid upon her gravestone in St. Bartholomew's church, which were annually to be picked up by aged widows.

At the Church of All Hallows the youngest boys of the Blue Coat school are enabled, by the will of Peter Symonds, dated 1587, to divide 60 new pennies and 60 packets of raisins among them.

In London and all over England the eating of "hot cross buns" is the special feature of the day. The original home of this English custom is said to be in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. There, wherever the old Roman roads crossed, stood the altar of Diana of the Crossways, to whom the Romans offered their sacred cakes.

The Fascination of Gold Hunting.

Once you have seen a "color" in the bottom of a pan with the black sand following it around like a faithful servant, you can never again be deceived by the false glitter of any other particles. You would know it if you saw it between cobblestones in Broadway or if it were no larger than a pinhead at the bottom of a trout pool.

For the moment the yellow pile makes you feel like seeking a claim of your own and harvesting its treasure for yourself. But when you look at the miry path along the base of the mountain by the creek side and think of following it with a pack on your back until it is no more and a wilderness begins; think of passing on over the mountains until you come to what you consider a likely place and thawing through 30 feet of earth at the rate of a foot a day in the haphazard possibility of finding "pay dirt," you conclude that the poetry of the thing can be better appreciated by sitting on some one else's dump.—Frederick Palmer in Scribner's.

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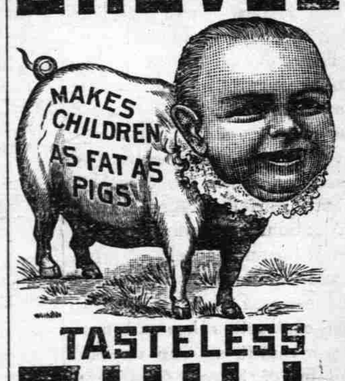

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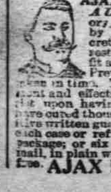

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