

## UNDER THE DEEP SEA

HOW THE HEAVILY LADEN DIVER GOES ABOUT HIS WORK.

His Dress Weighs Nearly Two Hundred Pounds and Is a Very Complicated Affair—The Signalman Holds the Diver's Life in His Hands.

The dress of a fully equipped diver weighs, in round numbers, 170 pounds. Taking off his everyday garb, the diver pulls on his thick underclothing—a white knitted sweater and trousers and a pair of ribbed stockings, also white. Should he intend to work in unusually deep water, he puts on two, sometimes three, sets of underclothing, to relieve the pressure of the water.

The woolen clothing donned, the next garment is the diving dress, measuring for a man of average height 5 feet 5 inches from the collar to the sole of the foot. This dress is made of solid sheet india rubber, covered on both sides with tanned twill. It has a double collar, the inner one to pull up round the neck, and the outer one, of red india rubber, to go over the breastplate and form a water tight joint. The cuffs also are of red india rubber and fit tightly round the wrists, making, when secured by the vulcanized india rubber rings, water tight joints, at the same time leaving the diver's hands free. In the outer collar 12 holes are bored for securing the breastplate. This is made of tinned copper. The outer edge is of brass and has 12 screws firmly fitted to it at intervals and projecting upward. These projections pass through the corresponding holes in the outer collar of the dress.

The hand of the breastplate is in four sections, and the holes in the sections pass over the protecting screws and are secured in place by wing nuts or thumb-screws. A little careful consideration will make it clear that the dress is held in position by its rubber collar, with the aid of the breastplate flange and wing nuts.

The upper edge of the breastplate is fitted with a neck ring and a segmental screw. The use of this we shall presently explain.

The boots are, of stout leather, with leaden soles, and are secured over the instep by buckles and straps. The pair weighs 32 pounds—four pounds over the quarter of a hundredweight. The lead soles are firmly attached by copper rivets. The tongues of the boots are very wide. Boots intended for rough work are fitted with metal toe caps. Thus far—underclothing, dress, breastplate and boots—is our diver arrayed. He has now to be weighted. Lead weights of 40 pounds each, shield or heart shaped, are suspended back and front by means of gun metal clips and studs or tabs and lashings. He has now only to put on his helmet and to affix the air pipe.

The helmet, like the breastplate, is of tinned copper and is fitted with a segment bayonet screw at the neck, corresponding to that mentioned as belonging to the breastplate. The eighth of a turn, and the helmet is firmly secured, being both air and water tight. It has three strong plate glasses in brass frames, protected by guards, two oval at the sides and a round one in front. The front can be unscrewed to enable the diver to give orders without removing any other portion of the dress. An outlet valve is provided at the side or back of the helmet, which the diver can close should he wish to rise to the surface. This valve allows the breathed air to escape, yet prevents the entrance of water.

At the side of the front glass is a mechanical arrangement for getting rid of the excess of air, and it also assists when the back outlet valve is closed in regulating the expansion of the dress in rising to the surface. There is also an inlet valve, and this is constructed so as to allow the air to enter, but not to escape, in case of a break in the air pipe. The air pipe is made in lengths of from 45 to 60 feet, fitted together by means of gun metal joints. Securely connected with the helmet by means of the inlet valve and an elbow tube, the other end of the air pipe is fitted on to the nozzle of the air delivering diving pump.

His leather belt is buckled on, his knife, well sharpened and of strong steel, covered with a metal case to keep it dry and intact, is slung upon it, and after taking a drink, or a little light refreshment, the word is given, "All right," the face glass screwed on, and receiving a tap on the helmet as a signal to descend down he goes by rope or ladder, either of which must be weighted at the bottom.

Each diver while under water requires a signalman to hold his life line (that is, the line fastened round his waist by which he is hauled up) and the

air pipe, both of which should be kept just taut, so that any movements of the diver may be felt. The signalman is of the utmost importance to the diver. Indeed, to use the words of a diver with whom we recently talked, he is his life. He must exercise the utmost vigilance all the time that the diver is down. Should the attendant give one pull on the life line it signifies, "How are you getting on?" If all is well, the diver gives an answering pull to reassure those above. Two pulls on the air pipe given by the diver mean "more air" (pump faster), and so on throughout the code of signals.

In addition to the signal code modern invention has adapted and utilized the telephone, and a speaking apparatus for men working at a depth of 60 feet or more is frequently used. The electric light also is now employed by divers working at a depth beyond 90 feet.—James Cassidy in St. Nicholas.

### A Remarkable Lake.

The most remarkable body of water in the world lies in the vicinity of the Colorado river, in southern California. In this region of ugly volcanoes, desolate wastes and slimy swamps, the strangest phenomenon of all is what the naturalists call a "lake of ink." No other description fits as well.

The strange black fluid that forms the lake bears no resemblance to water. The pool of ink is situated about half a mile from a volcano. It is about an acre in area. The surface is coated with gray ashes from the volcanoes to the thickness of about six inches, thus concealing its real nature.

Experience has proved that the black fluid of the lake is not poisonous. It acts as a dye, and cotton goods soaked in it keep their color for months, even when exposed to the sun. They also acquire a stiffness similar to that produced by weak starch. The fluid has been analyzed, but its component parts have not been made known. As to the source of the supply of the lake, nothing definite has been ascertained. It is undoubtedly of volcanic origin, but nothing more definite is known.

This is a bad land that has never been traversed. Human beings have tried it, but they never return to tell of their experience or their discoveries.—Louisville Post.

### An Italian Peasant.

The Peletti's little cottage stands in a field and is semidetached. Like many of their class in Italy, they have a great love for and pride in their home. The furniture is well polished, the tools and utensils arranged with an attempt at decoration, and all is clean and neat. It is a two roomed house. On the ground floor is the kitchen, where the boy's bed stands under the stair which leads to the upper room. Here are two large beds, one for the parents, the other for the two girls.

In the kitchen stand a walnut wood table and a sideboard of antique design, an heirloom of the mother's; a walnut chest holds the bed and table linen and another old chest the best clothes; the everyday clothes are kept in a chest up stairs. They try to add something every year to the house linen. Sometimes the mother and daughters beg the use of a little plot of ground, which they sow with flax, and the year following they spin and weave it themselves, borrowing a loom from a farmer. Their stock compares favorably with that of the better off English cottager, to say nothing of the quality of this homemade linen compared to that bought cheap at a country shop.—Fortnightly Review.

### Titles For Sale.

The only state in which the sale of nobiliary honors is open and legal is, strangely enough, a republic—the tiny Italian republic of San Marino, of the existence of which many are unaware. You can get a title in San Marino on application—and payment of the fee, which is not always the same for the individual honor—and the proceeds are used for the support of the national founding asylum. You have the satisfaction of knowing that you have performed an act of charity, but you will get little more than that for your money. San Marino distinctions do not count for anything outside the state and for but little within it.

### Rarest Bird.

To find the rarest bird in existence you must go to the mountains between Anam and Loas, where there is a certain kind of pheasant.

For many years its existence was known only by the fact that its longest and most splendid plume was in much request by mandarins for their head-gear.

A single skin is worth \$400, and the bird living would be priceless, for it soon dies in captivity.—New York Journal.

### Mysteries of Sound.

Many of the manifestations of sound are still a complete mystery to science. One of the best architects in New Orleans remarked the other day that a building with good acoustic properties was always a lucky fluke, and that it was impossible to be absolutely certain in advance. Sometimes a trifling alteration will do the work—the dimensions of an arch are modified by an inch, a corner is made blunt, a slight obstruction removed, and, presto! a whisper becomes audible.

There are old seafaring men in this city who can tell strange stories of fog sirens and bell buoys heard now for an incredible distance and again not heard at all when right at hand. There would be nothing about the air or weather to account for such a variation, but the naked fact was indisputable, and the phenomenon is at the bottom of many an otherwise unaccountable wreck.

Near the center of the city is a clock that strikes the hours on a deep toned bell. Sometimes the note may be heard almost to the suburbs. On other days, or rather other nights, it is inaudible outside a radius of half a dozen blocks. Oddly enough, the bell seems clearest and its tone most penetrating in turbulent weather, irrespective of the direction of the wind.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### Hungarian Gypsy Minstrels.

The gypsy minstrels form a caste by themselves. Their appearance is always more swarthy than that of other Hungarian musicians, their dress is sometimes purposely fantastic, and their manner of life is far more Bohemian than the most liberal minded artist would care to own to. Every hotel and restaurant in Budapest possesses its gypsy band, and the method of payment is as free and easy as the music itself and their life. The hotel keeper is not bound by any contract, but at various intervals throughout the performance one of his gypsies takes a dinner plate and goes round among the various guests in the hall from table to table, receiving in the plate what the latter like to put there. The favorite coin deposited there is the nickel 10 kreutzer piece, answering to our twopence. I have not often seen a florin or a kronen (half a florin). The whole collection is, as a rule, made up of twopences.—Good Words.

The Berbers of Morocco are an interesting blond race dispersed along the Atlas range. In the central Atlas they still call themselves "Berber" (plural Berebber), but the meaning of the word is uncertain. Perhaps it is the source of our word "barbarian."

DR. H. D. HARPER,  
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KINSTON, N. C.

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CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

#### TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

DATED	No. 28, Daily		No. 38, Daily		No. 108, Daily ex. Sunday		No. 41, Daily		No. 49, Daily	
	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1896.										
Leave Weldon	11 50	9 45	12 55	10 50						
Ar. Rocky Mt.										
Leave Tarboro			12 21			6 00				
Lv. Rocky Mt.	1 00	10 30	6 45	5 40	12 52					
Leave Wilson	1 58	11 15	7 10	6 25	3 25					
Leave Selma	2 55	12 01								
Lv. Fayetteville	4 31	1 12								
Ar. Florence	7 28	3 15								
	P. M. A. M.									
Ar. Goldsboro				7 50						
Lv. Goldsboro						7 01	3 16			
Lv. Magnolia						8 05	4 10			
Ar. Wilmington						9 29	5 45			
	P. M. A. M. P. M.				P. M. A. M. P. M.					

#### TRAINS GOING NORTH.

DATED	No. 78, Daily		No. 108, Daily ex. Sunday		No. 38, Daily		No. 40, Daily		No. 48, Daily	
	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1896.										
Lv. Florence	9 5	7 40								
Lv. Fayetteville	12 25	9 45								
Leave Selma	1 10	10 55								
Arrive Wilson	2 35	11 25								
	A. M.		P. M.		A. M.		P. M.		A. M.	
Lv. Wilmington				7 18		9 45				
Lv. Magnolia						8 49	11 19			
Lv. Goldsboro						9 50	12 20			
	P. M.		A. M.		P. M.		P. M.		P. M.	
Leave Wilson	3 35	5 28	11 25	10 48	1 16					
Ar. Rocky Mt.	3 30	6 15	12 07	11 35	1 54					
Arrive Tarboro			8 45							
Leave Tarboro			12 21							
Lv. Rocky Mt.	3 30		12 07							
Ar. Weldon	4 25		12 09							
	P. M.		A. M.		P. M.					

Trains on the Kinston Branch Road leave Weldon 8:30 P. M., Halifax 4:15 P. M., arrive Scotland Neck at 5:30 P. M., Greenville 6:30 P. M., Kinston 7:30 P. M. Returning leaves Kinston 7:50 A. M., Greenville 8:50 A. M., arriving Halifax at 11:15 A. M., Weldon 11:30 A. M., daily except Sunday.

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