

THE WORLD OF THE DIVER. JUSTICE OF THE HEARTH.

His One Great Danger Lies in His Utter Helplessness.

Every surrounding, every condition, almost every detail of the submarine diver's work is as if invented by the romancist for a setting to a weird, uncanny tale.

The one great danger to the submarine diver lies in his utter helplessness. No matter how or where he turns in his marvelous world, where even the very laws of nature seem turned topsy-turvy, he is handicapped with odds against the life within him. Groping in the murk of the pitchy darkness of a river bottom or crouching on the sands in the green gray twilight of an ocean bed, he works alone, a monster-headed, awkward, hideous creature, squeezed as if in a vise by the tons upon tons of water surrounding him and clad in a cumbersome, unwieldy armor, stiff as sole leather, which often proves his casket.

From the instant the helmet is screwed down and the "helper" grasps the life line and lowers the diver hand over hand, the "click, click, click," of the pumps bringing fresh air and the hiss of the escape valve carrying away the "used up" air, sound in the diver's ears. The "click, click, click," becomes part of his subconscious self. He is listening for it always, ever; not a "click" escapes him. He starts violently at the slightest irregularity of the sound. He listens for it so intently that to save his soul he cannot count correctly 100 bricks into a bucket, taking them one at a time.—A. W. Rolker in Appleton's.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

When you lay an egg don't cackle too long. Get busy and lay another.

There never was an air castle that was built with any consideration of salary.

Those who never do wrong take a wonderful satisfaction in the saying, "Murder will out."

Looking for business is like looking for four leaf clovers, which somebody else always finds easily enough.

Men in the penitentiary have just enough to eat and think they do not have enough. Free men have too much to eat.

When a man is locked out of his own house how he disturbs the neighbors trying to get in, but how quietly a burglar gets in!

When the bald spot at the back of a man's head shows beneath the rim of his hat somehow it looks as bad as when a woman's skirt slips away from her belt.—Acheson Globe.

Trees Worth Growing.

As ornamental trees the beeches attract attention primarily on account of their dignity of form and peculiarly "clean" appearance; they give ample and spreading shade; the leaves are remarkably free from the insect pests, and they can generally be readily transplanted. They thrive best in a rich, deep, sandy loam, but will grow well in any ordinary soil. The trees attain a height of 80 to 100 feet. In the different seasons the beech presents totally different pictures. In summer it is a broad dome of grateful shade; in winter a glory of dazzling light gray; in spring it floats out its soft velvety gold green leaves, and in autumn it is a rich and mellow mingling of subdued yellow browns and grays.—Garden Magazine.

A Standard That Might Well Be Adopted by All Society.

Over the dinner table a husband was telling his wife of the financial misdealings of one of their social acquaintances, a wealthy and popular man. He had contrived the ruin of a certain company and its subsequent reorganization, a process which had put money into his pocket and taken money from innocent stockholders.

The husband touched the facts lightly, because he thought that a woman could not be interested in them or understand them in detail. This woman's understanding throughout her husband's narrative was occupied with one or two simple questions.

"Is he to be punished?" she asked. "Punished? How? His conscience won't punish him—indeed, he probably thinks he has obeyed the rules of business. The law technically is broad enough to cover his case, but it is hard to get evidence. You see, the district attorney must"—

"Excuse me for interrupting, dear. Explain that to me later. I think we shall not dine there next Wednesday. I will write a note to Mrs. Berry."

"Not dine there? Why not?" "Because he is not a fit man to receive in our house or for us to visit."

"But nonsense! He's just as good a fellow, just as respectable"—

"One minute. By your own words you prove that he is a wicked man, taking what is not his. I listened to your story until there could be no doubt that you yourself condemned him by the facts, which I do not understand. If what you say is true he and I meet no more as equals."

And her judgment stood. Of course her neighbors and friends pursued the usual course of accepting a man in social relations whom their husbands distrusted in business.

But the standard of the hearthstone—shall it not some day be the standard of all society?—Youth's Companion.

"Dead" Leaves Not Dead.

Leaves do not fall from the tree because they are "dead," which we may take as equivalent to saying because they are no longer receiving the constituents of their being from the sap and from the air, but as a consequence of a process of growth which develops just at the junction of the leaf stem with the more permanent portion of the tree, certain corklike cells which have very little adhesion, so that the leaf is very liable to be broken away by influences of wind and changes of temperature and of moisture.

A Lucky Escape.

During the Spanish war, while the battleships were on blockade at Santiago, it was customary to load the six pounder guns every evening to protect against possible torpedo boat attack. While the triggers were being eased down one of the guns on the Massachusetts was accidentally discharged, the shot passing over the quarter deck of the Texas, which was lying next in the blockading line. All the officers of the Texas were on deck smoking and talking when the shot passed a few feet above their heads. Almost before it struck the water a signal was started on the Texas from its commanding officer, Captain Jack Phillips, to the commanding officer of the Massachusetts. The signal was, "Good line, but a trifle high."—Harper's Weekly.

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