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Curious Experiments with Campbor and the Phenomenon of the Surface Tension of Liquids—Toy Boat Propelled by

If we place a plece of camphor upon a clear surface of water, says M. Devaux, in La Nature, it will begin to move about in various directions, without any apparent cause, and continue this motion for a long while. By gently blowing upon it, the motion may be increased; and, singularly enough, the camphor will move against the current of air, being apparently attracted towards its source. The same phenomenon may be observed when the camphor is placed upon a clean surface of pure mercury, previously slightly warmed. The particles dart about in a most curious manner, resembling the novements of little tadpoles swimming in water (Fig. 1). If a drop of water or any greasy substance is added to the water in which the camphor is moving, it immedi-

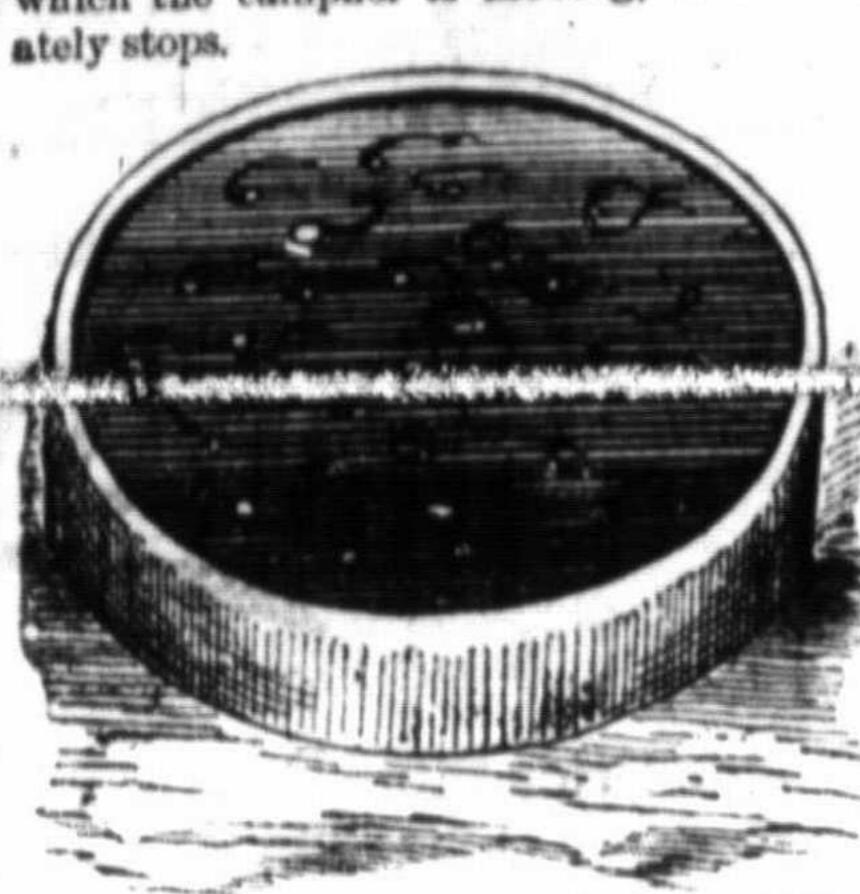


FIG. 1-SURFACE TENSION OF LIQUIDS. A curious toy depending upon this phenomenon may be made by bending a piece of tin into the shape of a small boat, which may be provided with a mast and flag (Fig. 2). A piece of camphor is fastened to the stern, and furnishes a motive power which causes the miniature ship to sail round in a most mysterious manner. The explanation of this phenomenon is rather difficult, and, in fact, is not perfectly understood by any one; but it is undoubtedly due to what is known as the surface tension of liquids.



FIG. 2-SURFACE TENSION OF LIQUIDS. We know that the surface of all liquids is in a state of tension, like a piece of stretched india rubber cloth. This surface tension varies with different liquids, and is greatest in the case of water. If we spread a film of oil, alcohol, or even vapor of camphor, over the water, these films displace the water film and reduce the surface tension of the whole to that possessed by themselves alone.

A Whistling Language.

At a meeting of the Berlin Anthropological society a German officer who has lived on Gomero Island, one of the Canary group, described a whistling language which is used by the inhabitants. The language does not consist of any arbitrary series of signals or sounds. It is described as ordinary speech translated into articulate whistling, each syllable having its own appropriate tone. The Gomero uses both fingers and lips when whistling, and Lieut. Quedenfelt asserts that he can carry on a conversation with a neighbor a mile off, who perfectly understands all he is saying. The practice is confined to Gomero Island, and it is quite unknown to the other islands of the archipelago. The adoption of the whistling language is said to be due to the peculiar geographical construction " Gomero Island. It is traversed by nume ous gullies and deep ravines, running out in all directions from the central plateau. As they are not bridged they can only be crossed with great difficulty; hence a man living within a stone's throw of another in a straight line has often to go many miles when he wishes to see and speak to his neighbor. This, it is conjectured, led to the adoption of whistling as a useful means of communication, which has gradually assumed the pro-

Genuine Mecha Coffee.

The fellowing from The Journal of Commerce may surprise some of our readers: "The genuine Mocha coffee comes only from the province of Yemen, a province of Arabia, of which Mocha is the principal place on the sea coast. No coffee is grown in Mocha. Something over 10,000 tons of coffee are annually exported from Mocha, but no small part of it is not the product of Yemen, but is grown in the East Indies and sent to Mocha, whence it is reshipped either as received or mixed with the Arabian product. Of the coffee sold under the name of Mocha, both in England and the United States, very little is grown in Yemen. Some comes from the East Indies, and other portions come from Africa, and even from Brazil. A British writer declares that not a kernel of the best Mocha coffee ever gets further west than Constantinople. All the best grains are picked out for use nearer home, and only the pale, shriveled and broken seeds are left to reach any foreign shore.

Oil Rockets. An improved method of distributing oil on the waters consists of a rocket to which is attached a cylinder filled with oil. It is said that the rocket can be fired with accuracy from the ship, and that when it explodes the oil is scattered just where it is wanted. Several interesting experiments have recently been made between Bremen and New York. In one, says Scientific American, the rocket was fired to a distance of 1,500 feet and less distances. By the explosion of five rockets at a distance of from 1,200 to 1,500 feet from the ship, a space of from 1,500 to 2,000 square feet of water was covered with oil, and the waves were at once smoothed. The rocket was fired 900 feet against a gale. The importance of the invention to deep water sailors consists in the certainty of explosion of the rocket at a sufficient distance to leave the vessel in calm water during a gale. The invention is said to have been purchased by the North German Lloyd.

The Lightning Rod.

"The uselessness of the lightning rod," says The Electrical Review, "is becoming so generally understood that the agents find their vocation a trying one. Fewer and fewer rods are manufactured each year, and the day will come when a lightning rod on a house will be regarded in the same light as a borseshos over a man's door."

STEAM YACHTING.

Stranger, Winner of the Commodore's Cup-International Challenge Cup.

Whether or no steam yacht racing can be made popular is a problem yet to be decided, says The Forest and Stream. Thus far the desired end. The success of the steam yacht is an established fact; it fills a decided want and it is bound to increase in numbers and in quality every year; but, at the same time, the very nature of the sport is such that the steam yachtsman is independent of clubs and club houses to a far greater extent than his sailing brother; his yacht, from its size and appointments, offers every accommodation for his guests as well as his family, and he has no need to seek companionship on shore at a club house. Thanks to the added speed and certainty of steam, he cruises over a far wider range, and is much less tied down to any one spot than the sailing man; his yacht drops him at some city pich in the morning and picks him up in the afternoon for a night affoat.

THE STRANGER. The prizes offered this year were the Atalanta's cup, presented last October by Mr. Jay Gould, open to any sea going yacht over 100 feet l. w. l. belonging to an organized yacht club of the United States, to be given for the fastest time over the course, and to be won by the same yacht for two successive years, irrespective of ownership, before becoming the permanent property of the yacht. The race must be made at a speed of sixteen knots in order to take the cup. The Commodore's cup was offered for the fastest time over the course, with no restrictions.

The race was won by George L. Scott's Stranger, which went over the course in 5h. 3m. 50s. The Stranger is the largest boat of the fleet, being 173 feet 5 inches in length on water line.

The steamboats of the world now have a rare and beautiful trophy to compete for. It is the international challenge cup offered by the American Yacht club to the steam yachts of the world. It is entirely of silver, stands three feet nine inches in height and weighs upward of a thousand ounces. Its design is altogether original, and in its broad sense suggests steam, speed and victory upon

At the base are represented fire and water, typified by figures representing Pluto and Neptune, who with hands clasped unite in producing steam, which is seen rising from the lower part of the body of the piece. Around the center are etched a number of typical steam yachts in racing form. Below them, in bold relief, is a border composed of shields, upon which will be worked from time to time inscriptions commemorative of the races by which the possession of the prize is to be determined. The handles, decorated with seaweed and other plants of the water, appear to be growing on the sides of the vase, and turning gracefully towards the neck, they terminate with the young and pleasing heads which represent the children of Æolus. The vase springs from a bold, shell like basin, upon



INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE CUP.

which is represented the ocean, among whose waves are seen in idealized form a propeller and other devices especially appropriate to steam yachts. It is surmounted by a beautiful female figure, which holds in one hand a shield bearing the wheel and flag, which form a distinguishing device of the American Yacht club, and in the other the laurel wreath of victory. The cup is to be maintained as a perpetual challenge cup for the steam yachts of all nations. The conditions under which it is to be sailed for will be similar in principle to those which govern the contests for the famous Amerca's cup, with such modifications as the necessity of steam yachting may require. The utility of steam yachting, though formerly questioned, has been fully demonstrated at the annual regattas of the American Yacht club by a succession of races under conditions so widely varying as to embrace every class of steam pleasure vessels, from the open launch to the ocean going steamship, and it is confidently anticipated that this superb work of art will in due time become as much coveted a tropby as any known to the yachting world.

International Sailing Race.

There will be an international sailing race in New York bay about the middle of September for the New York Canoe club's international challenge cup. Kirk Munroe, commodore of the New York Canoe club, club, of England. The New York Cance club cup is of silver, cost \$300 and was wen by C. B. Vaux, of the New York Caroe club, two years ago. At that time he defeated W. B. Powel and W. Stewart, of the Royal Canoe club, who came over to contest for it.

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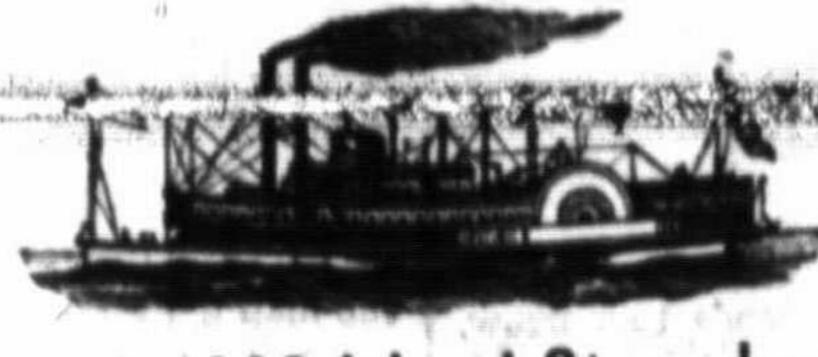
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great success, but the American Yacht Club is at least determined to make a fair trial and to neglect nothing that may contribute to the desired end. The success of the steam yacht REDUCED PRICES

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## Baggage Checked Ihrough. Steamers leave Folger's Wharf, foot of Brock Street, daily, (Sundays excepted) for Cape Vincent at 6 a.m. and 3 p.m.; for Gananoque at 4 p.m. For information pertaining to rates and routes, to any point, apply to

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### SPECIAL CASH SALE.

We want money and also to get rid of all summer goods and are going to sell them this week regardless of cost. Embroidered Dresses for \$1.75, worth \$3. Embroidered Dresses for \$2, worth \$3.56. Embroidered Dresses for \$2.35, worth \$4. One handsome Dress for \$9 and one slightly soiled for \$7.50 each, worth \$13. All Prints, Muslins and Light Weight Dress Goods reduced. Short ends in every department at less than cost. In spite of the hot weather we are selling Blankets every day -reason-they are less than cost. See them!

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#### CHEAP SALE OF BLACK SILKS AT WALDRON'S.

\$1 Black Surah Silks, only 80c. \$1.25 Black Surah Silks, only \$1. \$1.50 and \$1.60 Black Surah Silks, only \$1.25. Black Trecoline Silks reduced to 80c, 90c, \$1. Black Foil Francaise Silks reduced to \$1.10. Black Foil Francaise Silks reduced to \$1.35. Colored Surah Silks reduced to 75c, 80c, 90c. Colored Foil Francais Silks, only \$1.25, \$1.35. All Summer Dress Goods at reduced prices.

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