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Improvement in Marine Staterooms and Furniture.

A life on the ocean wave is a fine thing in poetry, but in practice to those whose stomachs are sensitive to the motion of vessels, it is often a very sorry experience. Many various remedies, and as many prophylactics as remedies, have been proposed, among which the most efficacious is to stay at home, but the latter, unfortunately, cannot always be done. The inventor of the device illustrated in the engravings has, however, undertaken the task of providing a remedy for the sufferings of sea sickness. If successful in operation, as would seem probable from the principles involved, the discomforts of a sea voyage to many will be overcome.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the invention, and Fig. 2 a plan view. It consists in providing the staterooms, cabins, saloons, etc., of vessels with couches, sofas, and the like, suspended in such a way as always to maintain a horizontal position, no matter how much the vessel may pitch or roll.

The couches, A, Fig. 1, are preferably made in a circular form, as shown in Fig. 1, and suspended on oscillating hangers, C, the hangers being adjusted on the principle in which the mariner's compass is suspended to keep it constantly level.

Doors B, to which steps placed in the corner of the apartment lead, admit the occupants, and the hanging couch may contain a center table, and other small articles of furniture.

Leaves D, Fig. 2, serve to enlarge the surface when it is desired to recline, and they may be turned down out of the way, when only a seat is required.

The corners of the room may be utilized as closets, presses, etc., a wash stand occupying one corner, E, Fig. 2.

Patented April 5, 1870, through the Scientific American Patent Agency, by Lorenzo D. Newell, 514 Broadway, New York.

Presence of Mind.

The following introduction to some stories of great presence of mind, in the last number of *Chambers' Journal*, contains a fine analysis of an obscure mental faculty.

Now, then, throw yourself over; you'll be dashed to atoms; but what matter? Away you go. You feel that unless you speedily retreat, you must obey the dread command; and you turn your head away from gazing down the horrid abyss. You ask yourself: What if I were so placed that I could not withdraw, should I obey the whispering demon? Perhaps you reason with yourself: Nonsense! it is only a feeling, a sensation; impossible! Try again. Yes, there it is again; you dare not remain. What can it be? you ask. Is it the demon of suicide? Can it be anything in my brain? There, you have hit it! It is no demon of suicide that urges you on—it is only something in your brain. Let us try and find out what it is.

From a pair of scissors to the imperial parliament, and upwards still to the System of the Universe, every agency, moral or physical, seems to be compounded of two antagonistic forces, controllable and performing correctly the duties assigned to them as long as they work in unison; but uncontrollable, and prone to run into excess of their functions, if separated from each other.

Take away the force of gravity, and centrifugal force uncontrolled would scatter us in fine dust through space. Abolish one of the constituent parts of any well-organized government, and the result, in a moral sense, would probably be pretty much the same. Even the blade of a pair of scissors won't work without its fellow. Nor is the brain an exception to this rule. An eminent philosopher (Dr. Richardson), still living, in experimenting recently, on animals, with the object of testing the comparative value of various anesthetics, discovered that at least two antagonistic forces reside in the brain: one having its abode in the anterior and upper portion (the cerebrum), the other in the lower and posterior part (the cerebellum). In his experiments, he observed that if the cerebrum of an animal be rendered insensible, and its powers thus temporarily destroyed, the animal is immediately

impelled to rush forward; on the other hand, the cerebellum being paralyzed, retrograde movement is the result. Thus he accounts for that impulse which many people feel to precipitate themselves from a height; the cerebrum, which contains the thinking and directing faculties, under such circumstances becoming paralyzed—dizzy—and so the control which it normally exercises over the cerebellum being partially removed, the influence of the latter declares itself.

The learned professor having opened the gate for us, we may walk in and observe for ourselves. Many things come

nonsense when he should hold his tongue; the awkward man, who only is awkward because he is nervous—the directing power of his brain is in abeyance—and the passionate man whose words and actions are uncontrolled by his reasoning powers. In a word, we can trace half our foolish words and actions to a want of equilibrium between these two forces that inhabit our brains, and it is only when the balance is correct that we are fit to govern ourselves.

Presence of mind is the popular term to express this mental equilibrium.

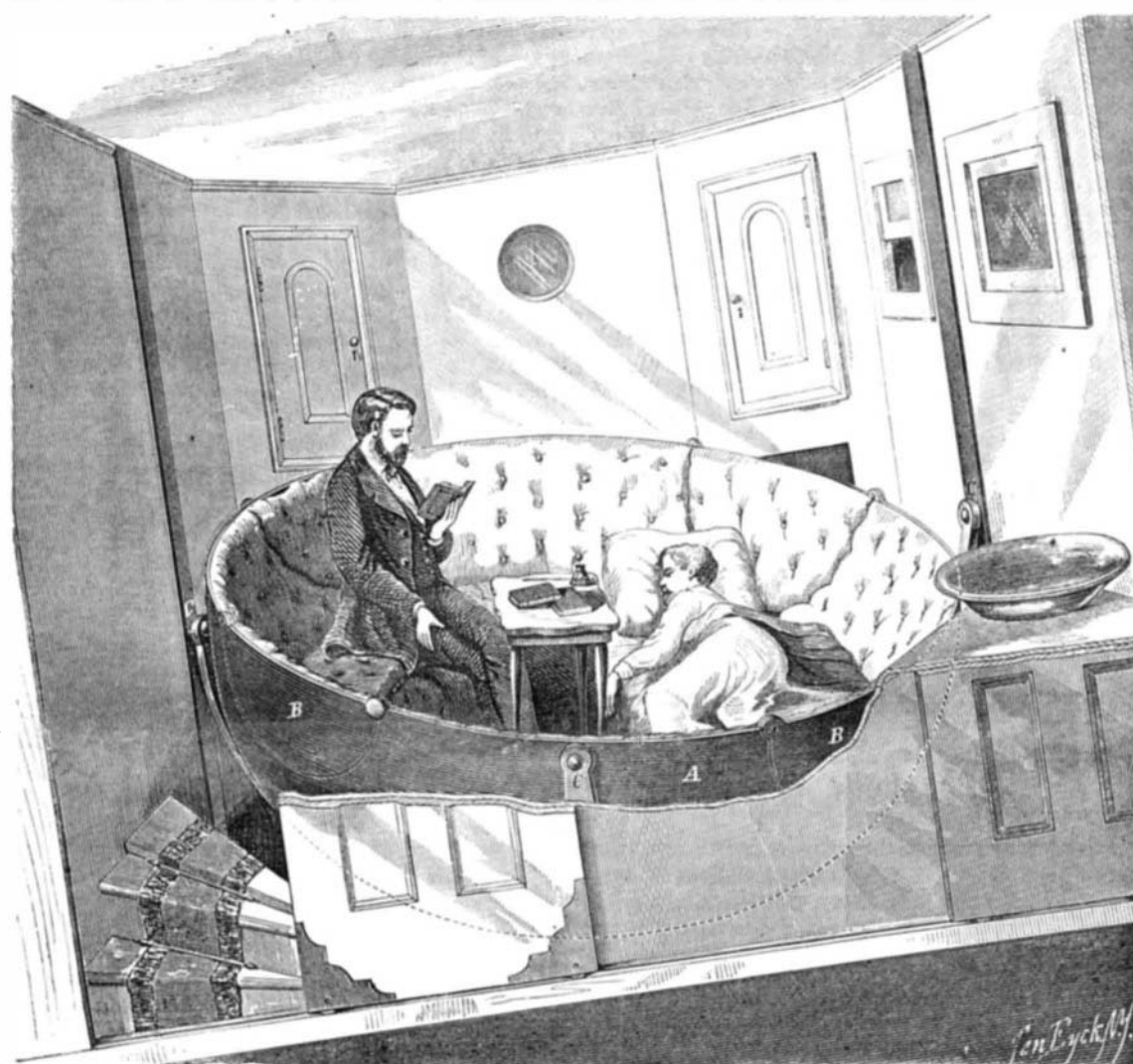
The question has been frequently discussed in social circles, whether men or women are most prone to lose their presence of mind. Lucy, just seventeen, says: "Oh, men, to be sure. Why, self-possession is an attribute almost peculiar to women; a young girl entering society is quite at her ease, while a young man is sure to be awkward and nervous. See how we get out of a scrape; never at a loss for an answer. A man would stutter and mutter, and get deeper into the mire." "Yes, but," says Tom, who is just home from school, and not much troubled with nerves—"just look at you girls, how you scream: if your life depended on silence, you'd betray yourselves by a scream." Then the ladies reply "Oh, we don't pretend to be as brave as men." And so the question remains unsettled.

Lucy no doubt is correct, nor is Tom less so. Perhaps the fairest arrangement would be to grant the weaker sex pre-eminence in the absence of physical danger; and yet, on the other hand, instances of calm thought and deliberate action of women under trying circumstances are so numerous, that they can scarcely be held as merely exceptions to the rule. Among the tales of shipwrecks are recorded noble instances of presence of mind amongst women in the most appalling danger. What could be more heroic, for instance than the conduct of the women on board the ill-fated *London*? Indeed, it is generally in circumstances of comparatively trifling peril that the balance of the female mind is disturbed—when, as Tom says, they shriek.

New Resources of the Pacific States.

That which we legitimately expected, says the San Francisco *Bulletin*, from the completion of our railroads—that which President Grant in his inaugural denominated "unlocking the strong box of our treasures," seems rapidly coming to pass. New mines are discovered in all directions. Our veteran army of prospectors, experienced in the search, and starting from a hundred new centers of operations and improved bases of supplies, are waging a war upon nature, the results of which are likely to be as productive as our recent civil war was destructive. Not only on the line of the railroad, but in distant Arizona, and in Oregon and Washington, we hear, every day, the old cry, "Eureka!" We have become quite callous to the appeals of gold and silver, or any one of these new discoveries would excite a pursuit like that to which California owed its transformation.

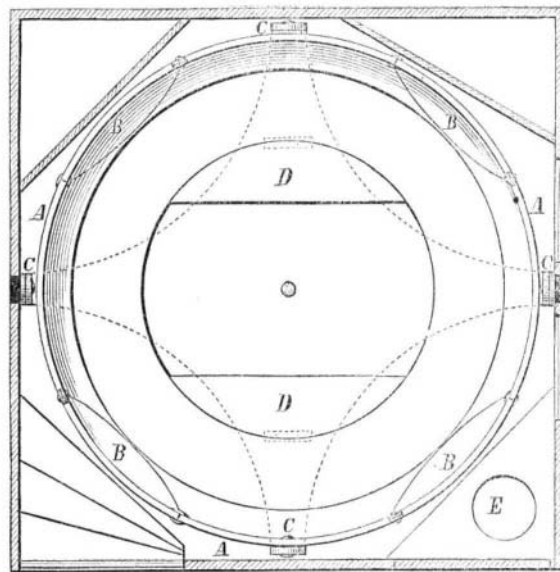
Not less important, perhaps more so, is the reported finding of cannel coal within half a mile of the Union Pacific Railroad in Wyoming, which we chronicle this morning. About three miles from Percy Station, it is said, the first discovery has been made of this species of diamonds—"black diamonds" we may still call them with no disrespect to the fifteenth amendment. Such a discovery is invaluable to the railroad, and through it to all the industries which are to be vivified by it. Cheap fuel is the great desideratum in the barren interior, throughout the treeless West, and for the rapid and cheap development of the lead, iron, copper, silver, and gold mines everywhere. In view of the liberal gifts of nature which are coming to us as treasure trove, the date of our national bankruptcy may as well be postponed. Even specie payments cannot be far off, with another cotton crop worth \$300,000,000 and \$100,000,000 a year of gold and silver production with which to kick the "balance of trade."



NEWELL'S OSCILLATING SOFA, TABLE AND COUCH FOR VESSELS.

to our recollection which we can now account for by this double brain force. We can comprehend why that partridge dashed madly forward after the fatal charge struck him; and why the other, although flying at the same speed, fell back in the air like a tumbler-pigeon, fluttering still backward to

Fig. 2



the ground. If we take up the one, we find a grain of shot has pierced the skull a little above the eyes; and we see the death wound of the other at the back of the head. We can now understand why those overcome with fright so frequently rush into the danger they wish to avoid. Nor need we confine ourselves to examples of a purely physical nature. We may place in the same category the bashful man who talks