

**The Bottom of the Sea**

Among scientific puzzles has long perplexed geologists, namely, with fossils, signs of life, side by side with the remains of the same period. Why should one be so barren and the other so prolific? There is now an answer to this important question, and readers who take interest in the exploring voyage of the Challenger will be glad to learn that the answer comes from that ship, in a paper written by Dr. Wyville Thomson, chief of the scientific staff on board. This paper was read at a meeting of the Royal Society. It contains the result of deep sea soundings which have revealed the existence of vast areas of barren clay at the bottom of the sea, in depths varying from two thousand two hundred to four thousand fathoms and more. In other parts, the bottom is composed of the so-called globigerina, which live near the surface, and sink to the bottom when dead. There they accumulate, building up chalk for ages to come, when land and sea shall once more change places. But it is remarkable that, at the depth of two thousand two hundred fathoms, the globigerina thin off and disappear, and the grey deposit merges into the barren clay above mentioned. The explanation is that, below two thousand fathoms, the tiny shells of the globigerina are dissolved by some action of the water, and that the minute quantity which they contain of alumina and iron goes to form the areas of barren clay. The extent of these areas is so great that it exceeds all others as yet known at the bottom of the sea, and it is the most devoid of life. In this respect, the red clay now forming resembles the schist which at present occupies so large a part of our earth's surface.

We are all more or less familiar with chalk and with rocks that show no sign of fossils; and to be thus, so to speak, made eye witnesses of the process by which chalk and rock were formed is unusually interesting. An eminent naturalist declares that this paper alone is worth all the cost of the Challenger expedition.—*Chambers' Journal.*

**In Cases of Poisoning.**

If a stomach-pump is not at hand give the patient ground mustard and salt dissolved in water to produce vomiting. We mention this as these articles are almost always on hand in every house. Then give the white of a few eggs. In regard to special antidotes: For acid poisons give as quickly as possible large draughts of chalk, magnesia, or a cream made of soap and water; for alkaline poisons, such as soda, potash, or ammonia, give lemon-juice with water and sugar, and if this cannot be had, give vinegar; olive oil, also, will relieve such cases. For arsenic the hydrated sesquioxide of iron is the special antidote, in doses thirty times larger than the amount of poison taken; for baryta, give sulphate of magnesia or soda; for antimony or tartar emetic, powdered Peruvian bark or the infusion of the same is the specific antidote. For corrosive sublimate the hydrated potassium permanganate is the antidote; if later, give unboiled whites of eggs, then warm water. For salts of copper (verdigris, blue vitriol, etc.) sugar and the whites of eggs.

**WHY THE REV. DR. MUDGE STOPPED HIS PAPER.**—Some years ago, when the writer was a reporter upon an Eastern paper, it devolved on him to write for the same edition an account of the presentation of a gold-headed cane to the Rev. Dr. Mudge, the clergyman of the place, and a description of a new hog-killing machine that had just been in operation at the factory. Now, what made the Rev. Dr. Mudge mad was this: The inconsiderate buccaneer who made up the form got the two metals mixed in a frightful manner, and when we went to press, something like this was the appalling result.

Some of the Rev. Mudge's friends called on him yesterday, and after a brief consultation, the unsuspecting hog was seized by the hind legs and slid along the beam until he reached the hot water tank. His friends explained the object of their visit, and presented him with a handsome gold butcher, who grabbed him by the tail and swung him around, and in less than a minute the carcass was in the water. There upon he came forward and said there were times when the feeling overpowered one, and for that reason he would not do more than attempt to thank those around him for the manner in which so huge an animal was cut in fragments was astonishing. The doctor concluded his remarks, the machine seized him, and in less time than it takes to write it the hog was cut into fragments and worked into delicious sausage. The occasion will be remembered by the doctor's friends as one of the most delightful of their lives. The best pieces can be obtained for five cents per pound, and we are sure those who sat

under his ministry will rejoice to hear that he has been so handsomely treated. Mad! Well, about nine o'clock that morning the office had been abandoned by every man but the advertising clerk, and he ascended to the roof and robed himself in boiler iron, so that he could see the clergymen tearing around down in the street with his congregation all wearing the panoply of war and carrying butcher knives and things. The next day we apologized, but the doctor stopped his subscription.—*Indianapolis Times.*

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