

Life-Saving Surveyors

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improved conditions call for improved charts—and the Coast and Geodetic Survey today is bending every energy toward producing the sort of chart which will be of the greatest value in connection with improved methods of navigation.

On the Pacific Coast, for instance, vessels now and then run ashore in spite of modern aids to navigation because in darkness and fog they are at the mercy of the changeable currents. The new automatic echo sounding device makes it possible for a ship at full speed to measure the depth of the water. In this way, the mariner can recognize every hill and valley in the bottom though it may be half a mile below him, and if these are correctly placed on the chart he knows as definitely where he is as does the traveller on land when he recognizes familiar land marks. This can only be done, however, if the charts are complete and correct and during the last ten years the Coast and Geodetic Survey has been busily engaged on the Pacific Coast in making charts which will meet this test even out of sight of land.

Think what modern navigational charts mean to the United States. No country is so rich that it can afford out-of-date maps and charts and it is because the United States has probably the finest marine charts of any nation in the world that commerce proceeds safely and passengers and freight are brought into all the great sea ports in greater safety than passengers and freight are brought into any railroad terminal in the world.

It is not merely one kind of ship which benefits from this work but the needs of all are provided for from the great battleship, the swift destroyer, the submarine, the great ocean liner and the coasting steamers, down to yachts, pleasure crafts, and the small motor boats used for fishing.

It would be possible to go on almost indefinitely telling of the achievements of this, the oldest scientific bureau in the United States Government, but to detail 111 years of progress is something hardly possible in a short article. In my office I have a large bookcase filled with about 90 weighty-looking books. Those books give in detail the work of the Survey from the time President Jefferson first authorized its formation in 1807. It is a long story, and one of fascinating interest.



PINNACLE ROCKS, such as this one, were a continual menace to navigation in Alaskan waters until the Coast and Geodetic Survey charted them accurately

but for the present we need only remember that Uncle Sam's Coast and Geodetic Survey is saving lives and saving property worth millions of dollars.

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There are 500 muscles in a man's body.

Nectarines are peaches with a smooth skin.

Humpback whales can travel 30 miles an hour.

Bears will eat practically any edible material.

The cow tree produces a milky sap which may be drunk.

The Welsh language is dying out, according to census reports.

Asoka, an emperor in India in the third century B. C., issued an edict commanding that shade trees be planted.

The town of Hammerfest, Norway, lying 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle, has an average winter temperature warmer than New York.

It is reported that a Swedish engineer has invented a new road pavement which does not become slippery when wet.

A new instrument for testing incandescent lamps records changes of electric current as small as one-tenth of a thousandth of a millionth of an ampere.

First Clothes Flychasers

Primitive man and his wife first took to wearing clothes in order to keep off stinging flies, sharp-billed mosquitoes, cooties, fleas, and other lively pests. This simple answer to the puzzle problem: "How did we come to wear clothes, anyway?" is advanced by Dr. Knight Dunlap, professor of psychology at Johns Hopkins University.

"Crawling and flying pests are with primitive man abundantly and very intimately," Dr. Dunlap points out, in a paper to appear in the first issue of a new scientific publication, the *Journal of General Psychology*.

Skins or cloth might be wrapped tight around the body for protection against stings and bites, but this is confining and in warm climates impossible.

"Much more efficient protection is afforded by hanging strings, leaves, strips of hide, animals' tails, and similar articles so that they will flap with the movements of the wearer," he says. "In other words, the best fly chasers are exactly the garments most characteristic of savages and primitive man. These afford protection without undue warmth or exclusion of ventilation.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Shows Cretan Heaven

The first clue to the heaven pictured by the ancient inhabitants of the island of Crete is found on a gold funeral pendant, just described by Sir Arthur Evans, noted British authority on old civilizations of the Mediterranean. The pendant was discovered twenty years ago in a tomb at Pylos, in Greece, but it was not officially described at the time, although the find was reported as a remarkable one. The jewel was popularly named the "Ring of Nestor" because Pylos was the home of this hero of Homer's *Odyssey*. The ring attached to the pendant is too small, however, to have been worn on the finger.

Sixteen little figures are carved in the oval of the pendant, Sir Arthur states. The picture is divided into four sections by a tree trunk with two cross branches. The upper left section contains a seated goddess and her companion amusing themselves while butterflies flutter about their heads and a young woman nearby welcomes her sweetheart. In the upper right section is a lion at

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First Clothes Flychasers

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"The fly protections we have customarily used on our domestic animals are exactly of the types of primitive human clothing which have baffled the early anthropologists."

Ornaments such as nose rings, leg bands of fur, peculiar haircuts, and designs tattooed in the skin were originally badges of identity, Dr. Dunlap concludes. Ornaments were, and still often are, worn to distinguish an individual as a member of a certain tribe. To the initiated, such regalia shows whether the wearer is a married man or a bachelor, how many men he has killed in battle, and how many cows he owns.

There have been but four theories of the origin of clothing, the psychologist states. These are: First, the modesty theory (covering up the body); second, the immodesty theory (making the body mysterious and alluring); third, the adornment theory; and fourth, the utility or protection theory, with which Dr. Dunlap's explanation fits.

"Clothing itself is not modest, or immodest," he says. "Any degree of clothing including complete nudity, is perfectly modest as soon as we become thoroughly accustomed to it."

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Shows Cretan Heaven

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rest. In the lower half of the oval is a Cretan goddess, with a griffin seated before her and griffin-headed attendants bearing offerings. Other attendants lead the same pair of lovers toward the group. The lover in this scene is assisting his lady to climb over the tree roots toward the goddess. The scenes are interpreted as telling a story of both sides of the grave, showing how the people of this famous civilization regarded the crossing over into a future world.

Although the pendant was found on the mainland of Greece it is considered a work of art from Crete, because the style so closely resembles the frescoes at the famous Palace of Knossos, in Crete.

A number of seals and rings found near the Greek town of Mycenae have also been studied by Sir Arthur, and these tiny carved pictures are cited as valuable evidence of the close connection between the people of Crete and those of the Greek peninsula.

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