

**SINGULAR ACCIDENT TO A STEAMER AT SEA.**

The steamship *Elrie* left St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, December 27, 1892, for this port. When in the Gulf Stream at 3 A. M., January 11, Captain Creeden was startled by a tremendous pounding between decks under after hatch No. 3. Upon investigation he found that the spare propeller had broken loose from its lashings, and was rolling from side to side, striking the sides of the vessel with great force, breaking two of its blades close to the hub. Striking the starboard with greater force than usual, it made a hole about six feet square, in which it stuck. The captain with his men quickly threw chains around it, and secured it there. In the mean time the propeller shaft threatened to break its lashings to the side of the vessel. Captain Creeden seized a scantling, and using it as a lever, held the shaft in place while his men lashed it firmly. Attention was then given to the broken blades, which were flying around like cannon balls. With difficulty they were lassoed with chains. When all was secured the holes in the sides of the vessel were stuffed with dunnage, and the vessel proceeded on her way to this port, which she reached January 17, 1893.

Propeller weighs about 12,000 pounds; width of blade, 3 feet 6 inches; length of blade, 7 feet; hub, 2 feet 8 inches thick; diameter of shaft, 16 inches.

Our illustrations are from photographs taken from the ship after her arrival at New York. One of our views shows the exterior of the side of the ship with the propeller projecting partly through the side of the vessel. The other is an interior view, between decks, showing the propeller as finally secured.

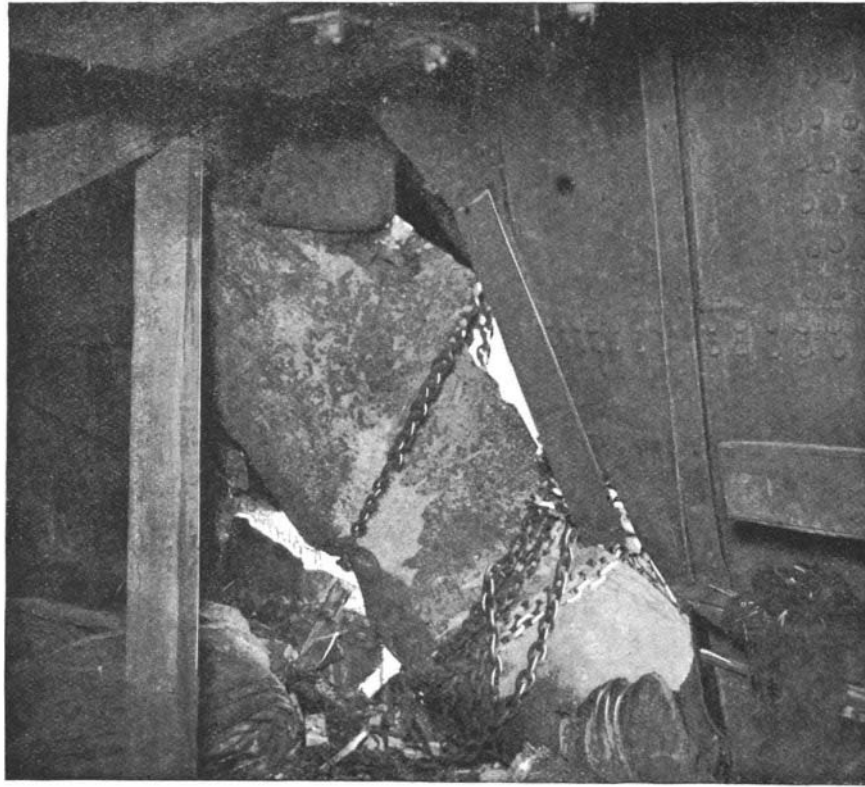
**Colorado Climates.**

At the annual meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society, held recently in London, Dr. C. Theodore Williams, president, delivered an address on "The High Altitudes of Colorado and their Climates," which was illustrated by a number of lantern slides.

Dr. Williams first noticed the geography of the plateaux of these regions, culminating step by step in the heights of the Rocky Mountains, and described the lofty peaks, the great parks, the rugged and grand canyons, and the rolling prairie, dividing them into four classes of elevations between 5,000 feet and 14,500 feet above sea level. He then dwelt on the meteorology of each of these divisions, giving the rainfall and relative humidity, and accounting for its very small percentage by the moisture being condensed on the mountain ranges of the Sierras lying to the west of the Rockies, also noticing the amount of sunshine and of cloudless weather, the maxima and minima temperatures, the wind force, and the barometric pressure.

Dr. Williams quoted some striking examples of electrical phenomena witnessed on Pike's Peak (14,147 feet) by the observer of the United States Weather Bureau, when, during a violent thunderstorm, flashes of fire and loud reports, with heavy showers of sleet, surrounded the summit in all directions, and brilliant jets of flame of a rose-white color jumped from point to point on the electric wire, while the cups of the anemometer, which were revolving rapidly, appeared as one solid ring of fire, from which issued a loud rushing and hissing sound. During another storm the observer was lifted off his feet by the electric fluid, while the wristband of his woolen shirt, as soon as it became damp, formed a fiery ring around his arm. The climate of the parks is, however, Dr. Williams considered, of more practical interest, and in these magnificent basins of park like country interspersed with pines, and backed by gigantic mountains, are resorts replete with interest for the artist, the sportsman, the man of science, and the seeker for health. Most of them lie at heights of from 7,000 feet to 9,000 feet, and so good is the shelter that usually snow does not long remain on the ground; while Herefordshire cattle in excellent condition are able to fatten on the good herbage, and to lie out all the winter without shed or stable. Dr. Williams predicted for these parks

a great future as high altitude sanatoria for the American continent, especially as several of them have been brought within easy distance of Denver, the Queen City of the Plains, by various lines of railway. The resorts on the foothills and on the prairie plains, at elevations of 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet, include, besides Denver, Colorado Springs, Manitou, Boulder, Golden, and

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other health stations, which can be inhabited all the year round, and where most of the comforts and luxuries of American civilization are attainable in a climate where not more than half a day a week in winter is clouded over, where the rainfall is only about 14 inches annually, most of which falls during summer thunder storms, where the sun shines brightly for 330 days each year, and where the air is so transparent that objects 20 miles off appear close at hand, and high peaks are calculated to be visible at a distance of 120 miles. Dr. Williams summed up thus: The chief features of the climate of Colorado appear to be: 1. Diminished barometric pressure, owing to altitude, which throughout

sphere, producing an increase in the difference of sun and shade temperatures varying with the elevation in the proportion of 1 degree for every rise of 235 feet. 6. Considerable air movement, even in the middle of summer, which promotes evaporation and tempers the solar heat. 7. The presence of a large amount of atmospheric electricity. Thus the climate of this State

is dry and sunny, with bracing and energizing qualities, permitting outdoor exercise all the year round, the favorable results of which may be seen in the large number of former consumptives whom it has rescued from the life of invalidism and converted into healthy, active workers, and its stimulating and exhilarating influence may also be traced in the wonderful enterprise and unceasing labor which the Colorado people have shown in developing the riches, agricultural and mineral, of their country.

**Commitment of Lunatics.**

Dr. Carlos F. Macdonald, State Commissioner in Lunacy, points out some popular errors in a recent letter to the *New York Times* bearing upon the commitment of an insane person to the Hudson River State Hospital, on an alleged false representation. He says among other things:

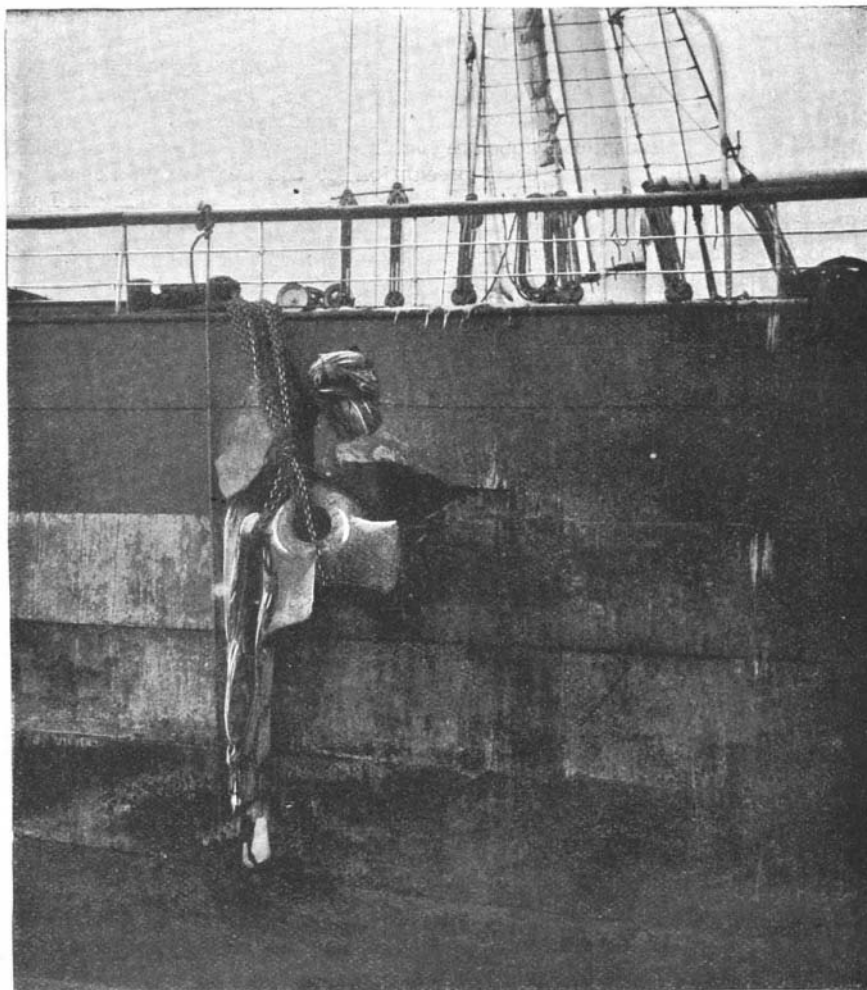
"It will be seen that under the present regulations it is practically impossible to secure the continuous detention in any institution for the insane in this State of any person who is not a fit and proper subject for commitment. Even in the Rappaport case, where it appears that the certifying physicians had failed to qualify with the commission, there was evidently no wrongful intent, the case being a proper one for commitment and the physicians having acted in entire good faith, but in ignorance of the law of 1889. In refutation of the popular delusion respecting the ease and frequency with which sane persons are committed to asylums for the insane, the assertion so often flippantly made that almost any two doctors can be induced for a consideration to certify to the insanity of a sane person, in order to enable his relatives to get him out of the way, does the medical profession a great injustice. During the more than twenty years that I have been professionally connected with hospitals for the insane, also in my official capacity as the medical member of the Commission in Lunacy, I have had occasion to examine thousands of cases in custody—either at the request of others who thought them sane, or frequently at the solicitation of patients themselves—and I have yet to find a single case of whose insanity I had any reasonable doubt, except in certain convalescent patients who were about ready to be discharged as recovered. I have, however, known of cases in which the commitment papers were defective, and also, though very rarely, instances of mistaken diagnosis, in which the delirium of fever, alcohol, etc., has been mistaken for insanity proper, and the case sent to an asylum. But, to the credit and honor of the medical profession be it said, I have yet to find an authenticated instance of a sane person being certified as insane, and incarcerated in an asylum through fraud, corrupt collusion, conspiracy, or wrongful intent on the part of medical men."

**Artificial Maple Sugar.**

Decoctions or extracts of the wood or bark of trees are frequently used for flavoring sirups or sugars. Different extracts differ in taste. The hickory tree it is said yields an extract that will impart the flavor of the maple, and Daily's method of producing artificial maple sirup or sugar is as follows:

Make an extract of hickory bark or wood by allowing water to percolate through the same. The bark or wood may be ground, or sawdust therefrom used. Hot water may be used, or the material boiled in water. The strength of the extract may be increased by

increase of the quantity of the wood or bark. To one gallon of hot or boiling sugar sirup add say three tablespoonfuls of the hickory extract. It is said the effect of the extract is to produce a flavor that renders the sirup indistinguishable from genuine maple sugar. If the sirup is boiled down, a sugar resembling maple sugar in taste is produced.

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the greater part of the State does not fall below 5,000 feet. 2. Great atmospheric dryness, especially in winter and autumn, as shown by the small rainfall and low percentage of relative humidity. 3. Clearness of atmosphere and absence of fog or cloud. 4. Abundant sunshine all the year round, but especially in winter and autumn. 5. Marked diathermancy of atmo-