

THE MUMMIFICATION OF CATS IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

BY W. S. HARWOOD.

While the Egyptian children no doubt had as great regard for cats as the children of to-day, the parents had a still higher regard, rising into worship. So great was this regard that the cats came to be looked upon as sacred, and cat worship became a part of the religion of the race, while this worship found expression in great temples erected in honor of the cats who died. Shaving the eyebrows on the death of a cat in the family was a favorite means of showing the distress of the household.

So it was but natural to believe that in the future life the cats would live again with their young masters and mistresses, contributing to their happiness in the celestial land. On the death of the tabby, all due ceremony was observed, and with tender care she was embalmed and placed with the mummies of her family. You may see such mummies in the British Museum, wrapped in their cerements, fo'ld upon fo'ld enswathing the body with as great solicitude as though it were the body of the child who had owned the cat for its companion.

The cases in which the cats were placed after embalming were capital representations of the cat in life. Many of them were of carven wood, remarkably lifelike affairs, the form and even the individuality of expression being admirably preserved. Now and then some cat belonging to some more aristocratic family, when it departed for the heavenly cat land, received a case of bronze, beautifully ornamented and in all ways more in keeping with the standing of the family. Some of the cat cases are curiously decorated, and some of the faces are fitted out with queerly made eyes, inlaid with obsidian, or rock crystal; others are done in colored paste, the effect frequently being decidedly grotesque. The object in giving eyes to the case was that the spirit cat might have an opportunity to look out. An opening down the center of the case divided it into halves, so that the cat, when embalmed and ready for her last long journey to the land of the blessed, could easily be inclosed.

I found it quite difficult, indeed, impossible, to get a good light upon the darkish corner where the mummied cats were kept, for a London fog was abroad, and London, even at its brightest, is not a photographic paradise; but with some care and patience the cats came out of their sleep of the centuries and consented to show themselves to the camera.

The utmost care was given to these friends of the little children, that their lives might be prolonged to a ripe old age. Their food was prepared so that they might not only receive the most gustatory pleasure possible, but so that they might be richly nourished. One favorite dish was bread soaked in milk and mixed with chopped fish; surely no more tempt-

ing viand could be placed before the most exacting feline. In many cases, cats were kept in and about the temples which were sacred to the many gods of Egypt, and greater care could not have been given to human beings than that which was accorded to the cats. In



MUMMIES OF CATS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

the current SUPPLEMENT the Mummification of Children is described.

A NEW method has been brought out for lighting incandescent gas-burners of the Welsbach type, by which the accidents, due to the use of alcohol or gasoline, are avoided. It has been introduced by the French company which controls the Auer system of burner, and consists essentially of a small metal box in which is placed a plate composed of platinum sponge or platinized asbestos; this has the property of becoming incandescent upon contact with the gas, and is thus utilized for lighting it. The box is fixed upon the end of a metal rod, after the same manner as the gasoline reservoir formerly used; in the case of burners placed upon high posts a long pole is used, containing at the end the usual arrangement for turning on the gas.

UNITED STATES BATTLESHIP "GEORGIA" AND CLASS.

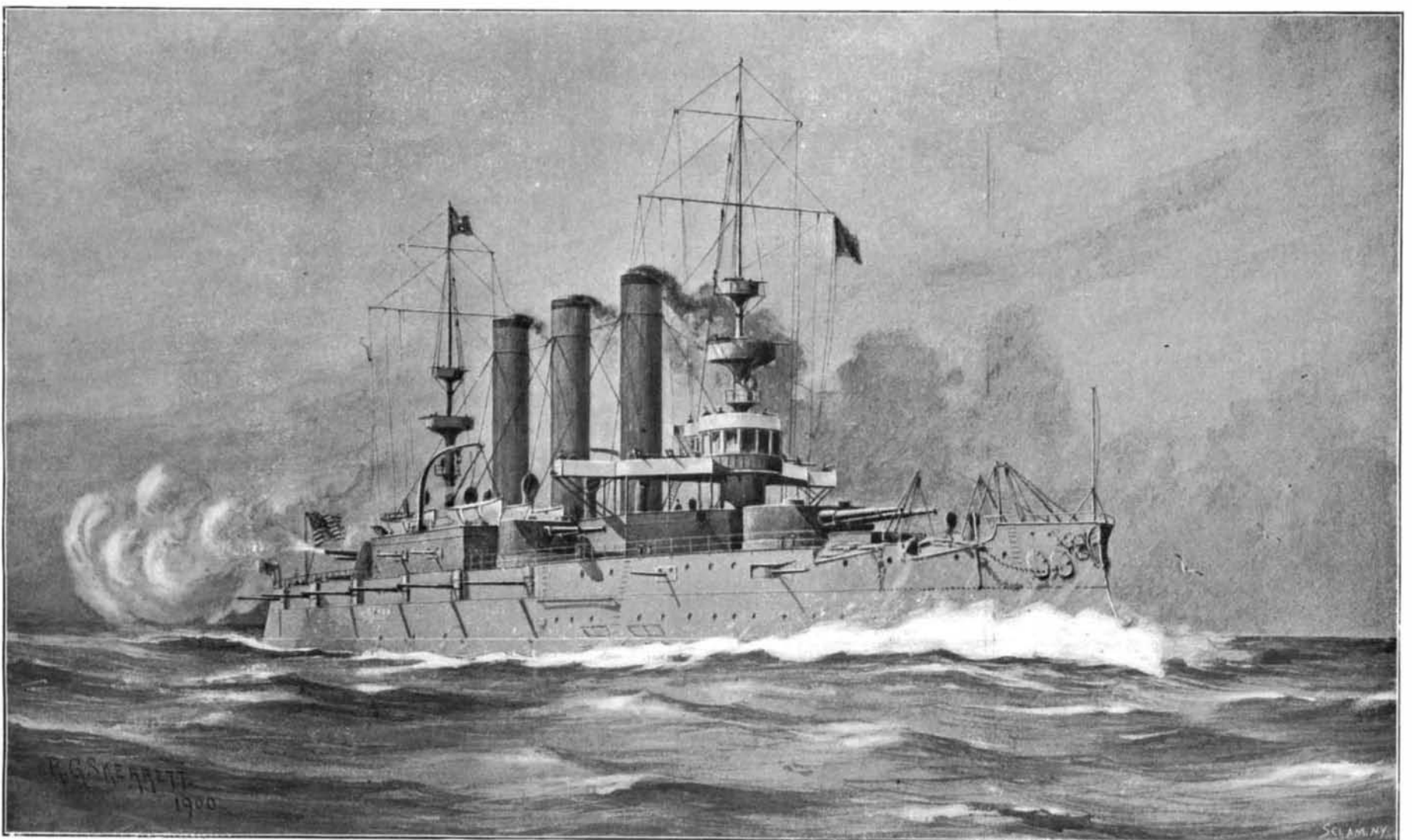
Whatever doubts the public may have had during the past fourteen months as to the character of battle-ships to be turned out under the act of March 3d a year ago, they are now dispelled by the circular recently issued to the various bidders by the Navy Department. From it we learn that the "Georgia" and her classmates, the "Pennsylvania" and "New Jersey," are to be ships of which any nation may well be proud and the fighting peers of any of their class built or building anywhere in the world. The general features and principal dimensions are:

Length on load water line.....	485 feet.
Beam, extreme, at load water line.....	76 "
Trial displacement.....	14,650 tons.
Mean draft at trial displacement.....	24 feet.
Greatest draft, full load, about.....	25 "
Coal carried on trial displacement.....	900 tons.
Coal bunker capacity.....	1,900 "
Maximum indicated horse power.....	19,000 "
Speed, contract, per hour.....	19 knots.
Complement, officers, seamen, and marines.....	708

The ships will have the usual double-bottom and water-tight compartments. All fire mains will be carried below the protective deck, with risers leading therefrom up to the stations on the decks above. Woodwork will be fireproofed and will be limited to the indispensable minimum. The only planked deck will be the main deck, and the planking will be laid over a complete metal deck. The other decks in the living spaces will be covered with linoleum. The freeboard of the ships will be 20 feet, and will extend uniformly from bow to stern, yielding, especially, better accommodations for the officers—allowing their quarters to be placed without the armored region, thus permitting air-ports and natural ventilation in each state-room. The space in the superstructure will also be turned to advantage.

The armor protection to the hull will consist first of a complete water-line belt, which will have a maximum thickness of 11 inches amidships, and will taper to 4 inches at the bow and stern. Above this belt there will be a 3-foot cellulose belt reaching completely around the ships.

Above the main belt, for a distance of 245 feet, the space occupied by the main, broadside and rapid-fire battery of six 6-inch guns, the sides will be guarded by 6 inches of armor, reaching all the way up to the main deck, on which are the turret guns. This upper and lower casemate armor turns inboard diagonally, and terminates against the forward and the after 12-inch barbettes, but the lower course, reaching from the protective up to the gun deck forward, is inclined—forming a stout glacis to oppose an enemy's raking bow fire. There is a continuous protective deck from bow to stern. On the flat, over the engines and boilers, it will be 1½ inches thick, and on the slopes, from



Displacement, 14,650 tons. Speed, 19 knots. Maximum Coal Supply, 1,900 tons. Armor: Belt (continuous), 11 inches to 4 inches; gun positions, 11 inches to 6¼ inches; deck, 1¼ to 3 inches. Armament: Four 12-inch B. L. R.; eight 8-inch B. L. R.; twelve 6-inch rapid-fire guns; twelve 8-inch rapid-fire guns; twelve 8-pounders; eighteen automatic and machine guns. Torpedo Tubes, two (submerged). Complement, 708.

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