

# POT-POURRI AGAIN

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we had some very good times ; and a few hopeless men regained their hope and became good decent citizens.

I found in my talks with them, that not many of these men ever really wanted to do anything which was very wrong. Three main reasons accounted for their being in jail. (1) Strong Drink. (2) Gambling. (3) Uncontrolled Tempers. Remember this and fight against these three evils. If you don't, they may crush you.

One young man I knew when he was in jail, had been a very successful newspaper reporter for one of the biggest newspapers in New York City. He drank too much and lost his job. One day, while he was drunk, he stole a typewriter to write a short story to get some money to buy more drink. He was caught and spent two long years in gaol. When he came out he came back to my people who helped him get a job. He was a man again. When I last heard of him he was the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., in one of the biggest cities in America.

Now I'll have to finish off this part of my story. Maybe you didn't like it much. Well, if you didn't, I'm sorry. I'll try to do better next month. There is something you can learn from it, you know. For one thing, you can get a terrible lot of real fun trying to make somebody else's life happier. Just try helping someone who is having trouble of some kind. Don't expect to get paid for it. When you get paid for a job, it becomes a lot harder to do, and it is not nearly so much fun.

Be waiting for me next month. I'll take you to India and Ceylon. On the way, we'll stop over and see New York City.

# Divers Don't Fear

## Deep-sea Monsters

Diving has its perils, but modern divers have concluded that the monsters of the deep so feared in an earlier age are the least of the dangers.

Sharks and barracudas, it has now been reliably established, seldom if ever attack swimmers except when they are near the surface and so appear to be some sort of disabled fish.

Even large octopi retreat from a man moving purposefully over the sea bottom, says the National Geographic Society.

Perhaps the largest octopus yet met beneath the water was one with eyes "the size of saucers" seen by a reputable diver off Piraeus, Greece. The man, courageous as are all inveterate deep divers, admitted he was frightened, but said the animal beat him to the retreat.

A British diver working in Japanese waters said he was annoyed with octopi. Small individuals clustered so thickly on his suit that he could not see through the helmet eyepieces.

There may be huge creatures at the depths to which men have not yet gone that will prove to be dangerous. No diver, for example, has yet met a giant squid (*Architeuthis princeps*) face to face. Weighing up to 30 tons, this carnivorous beast lives normally at depths greater than the 540 feet thus far attained by any suited diver. Like other squid, the giant has ten arms to the eight of its relative, the octopus.

Even without ferocious fauna, divers sometimes have weird and terrifying experiences. Working on the bottom of Sebastopol harbour after the Crimean War, a diver was horrified to encounter a drowned battery of field artillery with skeleton horses still in the traces and skeleton Russian soldiers still in the vicinity. One gunner remained in his saddle, caught by a stirrup. The explanation was simple : British guns had sunk a small boat ferrying the battery across the harbour.

Grisly practical joking lay behind the shattering experience of a diver in the German battleship *Hindenburg*, scuttled at Scapa Flow after World War I. Entering a stateroom, he found a bristle-bearded uniformed figure in a flooded bunk. It was the body of a seal, tucked into the bunk by other divers.

Not the denizens, but the attributes of the sea are the diver's worst enemies. Pressure or its after-effects can kill or cripple him. Air must be efficiently furnished him below lest he suffocate. And even air's ingredients—oxygen and nitrogen—will poison him unless mixed in proportions that differ both from the earth's atmosphere, and for each depth attained.



With all this cold weather about, one would say this picture was obviously taken some time ago.

The hardy swimmers are Dick Archibald of Burnt Bridge with his youngsters, Richard and Helen.