

The man who was curious said that he would like to get a better view of the Lake of Geneva, and suggested that if he went down a little narrow creek of the mountain side he could get a better view.

"It's not safe," I said. "But I want to see ze blue vaves of ze lake."

I fear my reply was short, but expressive. However, he saw "ze blue vaves," together with many stars, which were thrown in as make weight, as he fell some forty feet, spending the next month in bed with a cut face, a broken arm, and water on the knee.

Another specimen of mountaineers is the totally inexperienced amateur, who goes up a small mountain clad in ordinary attire, wearing thin brown boots or tennis shoes, and smoking a strong cigar. He soon gets into difficulties, loses his head, and meets with an accident. Last, but not least, we have the foolhardy climber, whom one can't help but admire for his pluck, who essays well-nigh impossible feats, and perhaps conquers 50 terribly dangerous peaks, and on the fifty-first meets his fate.

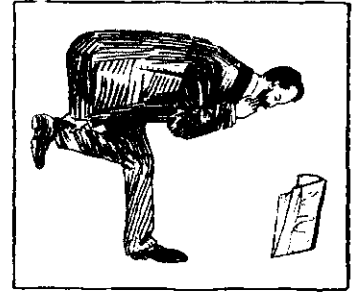
Again, I am sure many accidents happen owing to the injudicious use of stimulants on the mountain side. It does not mean to say that people get intoxicated when climbing, for no one would be such a fool as to do this; but I have frequently come across men who, whenever they felt at all "fagged," immediately took a sip at their brandy flask. The natural consequences followed, the respiratory organs being affected, and when a difficult piece of work came to be encountered they were unable to do it for sheer want of staying power. This is how accidents often happen. I am firmly convinced that spirits should not be used except as a last extremity, when a man is dead beat out, and then only with a sparing hand. Cognac is the best spirit to use, although Kirsch or cherry-water is very useful when a climber is benumbed with cold.

**MOUNTAINEERING EXPENSIVE.**

Mountain climbing is expensive. I speak, of course, of the snow mountains, but not of the smaller ones; for where a trip is undertaken of more than two days the expenses run up to anything from £4 and onwards a day. As an example, a man considers himself lucky if he gets out of his trip up Mont Blanc for less than £12, and so on relatively for most of the Alpine giants. It is a mistaken idea to suppose that Mont Blanc is a

dangerous mountain to climb; it is only fatiguing, and needs nothing more than a well-filled purse, a sound constitution, good guides, and a clear head, to reach the summit successfully. The one danger lies in falling avalanches; but the guides know the mountain so well that they usually manage to steer their party out of the way of these death traps. Perhaps the most difficult well-known mountain to climb is the Cervin, or Matterhorn, the envy of every climber, and the despair of many a stalwart Alpinist.

**Balancing Feat.**



A feat of balance which a dozen may attempt at the same time, requires that the following complicated pose shall be taken up by each competitor. Balancing on the right foot with the right hand grasping the left foot behind the back, and with the left hand grasping the right ear.

In this position, hopping on one leg, the feat consists in making your way towards a newspaper stood on end, or a cork placed on a book, or similar object about six inches from the ground, which is to be picked up in the mouth. On no account must either hand release its hold.

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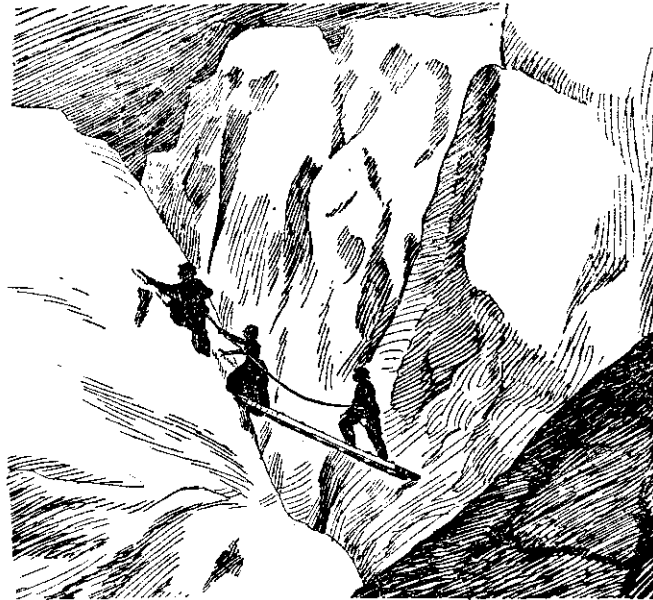
**How to Juggle Fire.**

During the Middle Ages ordeal by fire was one of the methods employed for ascertaining whether a person accused of a grave crime was innocent or guilty. If such a person was able to walk unscathed over hot ploughshares or through a blazing fire he was adjudged innocent; if the heat left any marks on his flesh he was considered guilty.

In performing this trick the person who is holding the coals feels no



pain, simply because he has covered his hands with a mixture of gum, starch and the yolk of an egg. His hands are encased in impenetrable armour, and, consequently, he can toy with the hot coals as safely as he could with marbles.



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