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Lost Secrets.

The maxim which states that silence is golden has cost the world some of the greatest discoveries of modern times, for not a few of the inventors whose names would have been handed down to posterity as public benefactors have been killed by their secrets before they would consent to divulge them to their fellow-beings.

In 1895 all Europe (says an exchange) was startled by the discovery of a new explosive called fulminate, which it was believed would revolutionize modern warfare. It was the invention of an Exeter scientist named Sawbridge, and samples of the explosive which were tested by the Government revealed the fact that its power was three times greater than that of cordite, and in consequence it would treble the range of a rifle bullet. The German Government offered Sawbridge £20,000 for his invention, which he patriotically refused until the home authorities had had the first option of purchase. But, just as the latter were about to seal a contract with him, the news came that his laboratory had been blown up and himself with it. Unfortunately, he left no records whatever, and although some of the leading experts of the day minutely examined the debris, they failed to discover the secret, which is probably lost forever.

Forty-two years ago an Italian priest named Luigi Taranti discovered a method of making stained glass, the coloring of which was declared equal to that made by the ancients, whose secret has been lost. Taranti immediately set to work to execute the hundreds of commissions he received in the secrecy of his workshop at Ostia, near Rome. The finest stained-glass windows in Italy were made by him and he guarded his secret well, for when a year later he was found dead of blood poisoning set up by the pigments he employed, it was realised that he had carried his secret with him. The cleverest workmen were called to examine the ingredients, but they one and all failed to penetrate the dead man's secret.

The person who could make composition billiard balls equal to those of ivory would quickly qualify as a millionaire, and it is not an impossible task, for it has already been done. Less than a decade ago a Scotch manufacturer put composition billiard balls on the market which were as good as but only a third of the price of those already in use. He refrained from patenting his invention, and made all the balls himself, even his family being prohibited from sharing his secret. But, just as he was beginning to taste the fruits of his experiments, he was one day mortally wounded by an accident in his workshop and died before he could make any statement. Experts were given specimens of the balls to analyse, but, in spite of the fact that they succeeded in tracing the materials used, they have long since given up all hopes of being able to discover how they were put together.

The only man who has yet been successful in taking photographs in color was a martyr to his discovery, the secret of which is lost. Some years ago Dr. Herbert Franklin, of Chicago, submitted a number of colored photographs—of a somewhat crude nature it is true—to the leading American scientific institutions, and the encouragement he received was such that he built himself a laboratory, proof against the wiles of spies, at a cost of 12,000 dollars, wherein to perfect his invention. In the preparation of his plates he used a charcoal fire, and one day when at work he omitted to open the ventilators and was found asphyxiated. He had refrained from divulging his secret to anyone, and, in consequence, although some partially finished plates that hid the secret remained, the way they were prepared is a problem that has baffled scientists to this day.

Another victim to his secret was Adams, the inventor of tellium, the greatest discovery in the metals of the age. Adams was confident that a metal could be produced which, although as hard as steel, was only half its weight and price, and after five years' experimenting with an electrical process, tellium was the result. The invention was taken up throughout America, and orders for thousands of tons of the metal began to pour in from the leading railway companies.

But it was too late. The enormous mental strain he had undergone, coupled with the sensation of finding millions within his grasp, took away his reason, and he

was confined in an asylum. He left no records to explain the process, and no amount of persuasion drew the secret from him, which perished locked up in his brain when two years later he died a hopeless lunatic.

In a secluded hollow at the top of the smiling and well cultivated valley of Glenlivet, in Banffshire, there still stands, almost as it stood over 100 years ago, the old Catholic Ecclesiastical College of Scalán, the first to be erected in Scotland after the Reformation for the education of boys destined to serve as priests on the Scottish mission. It was built by Bishop Gordon in 1712, and continued to exist as a seminary until 1799, when it was discontinued and the students transferred to Aquhorties, in Aberdeenshire. The college was visited by Cumberland's soldiers after Culloden, who burned down the house and disposed of its inmates. Many eminent ecclesiastics received their training within its walls. The yet venerated Bishop Hay was consecrated here, and presided over the establishment as its Superior for many years, and also did his coadjutor, the saintly Bishop Geddes. Bishop Aneas McDonald, of the Highland Vicariate, was also consecrated at Scalán College. Bishop Hay wrote a considerable part of his learned theological works at Scalán. The building when entire formed a square. The college proper which is a two-storied building, with attics, and slated, is 50 feet in length by 16 feet in breadth, and is flanked on the right-hand side by the chapel and on the left by the college kitchens. The main entrance to the building was by a gate which led into the centre of the little paved courtyard. Each successive year tourists from many climes and of all denominations come to visit this ancient seat of learning, which seems almost to defy the ravages of time and climate.

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KOZIE TEA CASH BONUSES. Results of first distribution closed 21st May, 1903:—

1st Bonus, £10, cash, goes to Convent of Mercy, Hokitika; 2nd, £5, Mrs. W. Simpson Jun., Arno; 3rd, £3, Miss Fitzgerald, Wainihinihi; 4th, £2, Mrs. W. Lockhart, Milton; 5th, £1, Mrs. A. Hewitson Jun., Milton; 6th, 10s, Miss McMurtrie, Milton; 7th, 10s, Miss G. Paulin, Opoho; 8th, 10s, Miss M. Hunter, Caversham; 9th, 10s, Mrs. Gunn, Chatto Creek; 10th, 5s, Miss Ida Mills, Dunback; 11th, 5s, Miss Myrtle Curtis, Westport; 12th, 5s, Miss M. Hay, Invercargill; 13th, 5s, Mr. A. Singer, Hokitika; 14th, 5s, Miss E. Shipman, Balfour; 15th, 5s, Mr. Regie Harper, Poverty Bay; 16th, 5s, Mr. J. Feely, Timaru; 17th, 5s, Mrs. Johnstone, Nelson. The next distribution closes on the 30th November, and coupons must be sent in not later than 7th December. Remember the first three bonuses are £5 each, and the tea is the best and most economical in the world, retailed at 1s 6d, 1s 9d, and 2s per lb. Golden Tipped Kozie, a specially fine high grown tea, at 2s 6d, is superb. Notice change in the distribution of bonuses.—So as to give all a good chance of securing a substantial cash bonus, we have decided to withdraw the first and second bonuses of £10 and £5 and to substitute three bonuses of £5 each to go to the consumers sending in coupons representing the three largest quantities of Kozie Tea. The other bonuses will remain unchanged. We have checked the coupons returned to Messrs. W. Scoular and Co. for first Kozie Tea distribution of cash bonuses, and certify that the above is a correct list of the winners.—(Signed) Barr, Leary, and Co., Auditors, Dunedin, June 10th, 1903.—**

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