Wichita Eagle

HOW CLIMATES CHANGE.

RECORDS QUOTED TO SHOW THAT THE EARTH'S HEAT INCREASES.

Palestine Was a Land of Snow and Ice Thirty Centuries Ago—A Time When Italy's Lakes Were Frozen Over—Will the Date Tree Ever Bear in New England?

It is a matter of knowledge to many men and women born in New England that the summers are longer—as measured by the heated term—and the winters warmer than they were a half century ago, and that this result has been reached by slowly but surely operating causes, and this slow but sure change in the climate of the country is one of momentous interest not only to the naturalist, but to the average citizen as well, for should it continue vast changes would follow in the industries and products of the country, as well as in its hygienic conditions.

It would not be an unprecedented experience if the northern half of the American continent was passing through a climatic change of so positive a sort as to become memorable in the history of the globe. For while scientific observation and records are of too recent a period to supply us with adequate data for intelligent judgment as to it, nevertheless literature is filled with evidence bearing directly upon the point, and so implicit in its nature and so emphatic in its iteration as to be unimpeachable. As most Americans are too busy to know much of the past, it may be interesting to the readers of The Herald should we recall a few of the passages in ancient writings which might be quoted in enforcement of our suggestion or surmise.

IN PALESTINE AND ITALY.

The land of Palestine is certainly not today a wintry country. But thirty or more centuries ago an ancient poet wrote: "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? Or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail? Out of whose womb came the ice and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? The waters are hidden as with a solid rock, and the face of the deep is frozen." Such, evidently, was the degree and effect of the cold in the land of the Midianites thirty centuries ago. And David, writing several centuries later, gives the following description of intense winter weather: "He giveth snow like wool. He scatteth the hoar frost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels. Who can stand before his cold?" Such is the account of the climate in the land of Palestine twenty-eight and thirty centuries ago.

But instead of snow, hail, ice with the solidity of rock, and frozen sea, the inhabitants of that country today live in a hot, sultry climate, in which snow and ice are never seen.

The climate of Italy, as it was of old time, and the great change which has come to it, are not beyond the student's knowledge. Virgil was both a poet and a skilled agriculturist. And in his "Georgics" he often gives directions for the security of young cattle against the dangerous effects of ice and snow and periods of intensely cold weather. His directions were for the neighborhood of Mantua and Naples, and when speaking of Calabria, the most southern and hottest part of Italy, he alludes to the freezing of the larger rivers and streams as a thing to be annually expected.

Nor does he stand alone in his witness as to this matter, for Pliny, Juvenal and other authors of their time speak of ice and snow as prevalent in all parts of Italy, while Ælian, if we remember correctly, devotes a whole chapter to the giving of specific directions of how to fish for eels when the rivers are covered with ice. These descriptions of Italian climate apply to it as it was eighteen centuries ago.

Ovid can be quoted in this connection also. We are writing from memory and with less fullness than we might could we turn to the author's books, but should any classicist be interested to follow us he will find that our recollection is essentially correct. This poet was banished from Italy to Tomas by the emperor. This place is near the coast of the Euxine sea, and climatically includes the region round about Constantinople. He spent seven years in exile in this region, and he tells us that he saw the Euxine, or Black, sea covered with ice; that this ice was not only strong enough to support men, but oxen and heavy sleds loaded with products. He states, moreover, that the wine of the country was often frozen, and that the snow in many places in the forests was never fully melted during the entire summer. It is a well established fact that in the year 401 the Euxine sea was frozen over for twenty days together. This is certainly a most extraordinary picture to one who has lived in this century in Constantinople or has knowledge of its climate.

CHANGES IN GERMANY'S CLIMATE.

The Alps and Appennes are the highest of European mountains. History has no stranger tale to tell than the march of Hannibal's army over these lofty ranges. It was one of the wonders of antiquity. Livy and Polybius both bear repeated testimony to the sufferings of his troops from the terrible cold they encountered and the awful obstacles of the snow and ice. But these mountains are easily passed today, for the old time conditions connected with the severity of the climate do not now exist.

Nor have the changes in the climate of Germany been less remarkable. A Latin historian records that in Cæsar's time the Rhine and the Danube were not only frequently frozen, but so deeply frozen that the ice was able to uphold, without cracking, the heaviest of weights. He says that the barbarians—the native Germans—chose the winter season for their campaigns, because they could then transport their armies, cavalry and heavy wagons along these rivers over a solid bridge of ice. And this is precisely the state of things which, until recently, the New England people have been accustomed to see—the picture of frozen rivers and lakes used as the highways of pleasure and the heaviest transportation.

We might easily continue these quotations from the ancient authors in witness that the climate of both Asia and Europe has undergone a vast change in the last 2,000 or 3,000 years; a change so profound that it has affected both the character and habits of the people and the products of these countries; a change which amounts to one degree for each hundred years; but we have suggested enough to give direction to the popular thought touching a probable change of the climate in our own country. May it not be that the same causes which operated to modify the climate of the east are now at work changing that of this western hemisphere, and that within 1,000 or 2,000 years the palm and the date tree will be growing in the valleys of the Connecticut and the Merrimac, and the pomegranate blossom on the shores of Lake Champlain, while the Adirondacks and the White Mountains shall be covered with the olive. May it not be that the American of the future shall spend his summers under the orange groves of New Hampshire, and the habitants of Quebec shall ship us our tea as they pick it in the slopes of the Laurentian hills? Verily, who may foretell the changes that may come to New England and North America if the world will only go on getting hotter and hotter?—W. H. H. Murray in Boston Globe.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

Hypnotism Not to Be Trifled With—Unpleasant Results Caused by It.

At Nuremburg a case of some public interest was tried in the police court. A commercial traveler while in a restaurant told the waitress to look steadily at the white of his eye, and hypnotized her. On a second occasion he repeated the experiment; but this time the sleep was so profound that a medical man had to be called, who had the utmost difficulty in rousing the girl. The commercial traveler was accordingly summoned to appear before the magistrates, and the severe sentence of eight days' imprisonment was passed on him, which will probably be efficient in checking similar performances in that region. In France the practice of hypnotizing people for amusement seems to be very common, and unpleasant consequences are frequently reported.

At a supper party in Paris one of the company hypnotized a girl, and was unable to rouse her. She was consequently taken to the house of a medical man, and after a time she recovered consciousness. The whole party were taken into custody by the police, and were not released until next day. Even when hypnotism has been practiced by competent medical men for remedial purposes, unpleasant accidents and ulterior consequences have again and again occurred; so much so that an order has been issued by the French government prohibiting surgeons in the army and navy from practicing it. The London Lancet, which notes the foregoing instances, says that it ought to be distinctly understood, both by the profession and the public, that hypnotism is not devoid of danger at the time, and not infrequently has permanently impaired the moral and emotional control of patients. A medical man is bound, before recommending hypnotism for a patient, to weigh the question as carefully as he would that of the advisability of administering an anæsthetic.

Scarlet Fever Transmission.

To The Boston Post is accredited the story of a remarkable case of transmission of scarlet fever. In 1846 a boy 8 years old was taken down with scarlet fever and died. One of the principal amusements of his illness had been looking over a large picture book. After his death, this, with several other useful playthings, was packed away in a trunk. Twenty-six years later, in 1872, the trunk was taken to England. The trunk was opened the second day after its arrival, and the picture book was taken out and presented to a boy 2 years old. During the next fortnight the little fellow was attacked with scarlet fever. It was a wonder to the doctors who were called in consultation how the disease had been contracted, as there had been no scarlet fever in the town for years. At last it was suggested that the picture book might have transmitted the disease; and the medical men in attendance, on being told the facts connected with it, agreed that it had retained the poison for twenty-six years, and then communicated it to the child.

A Novel Preventive of Sore Throat.

People who are subject to inconvenient throat trouble, caused by a proneness to catch cold on slight exposure, are advised by a recent writer to place a few threads of Berlin wool around the neck and wear them continuously. From ten to twenty threads are enough for the purpose. They should only be removed for making ablutions, and should be left off gradually by discarding daily one thread at a time. The remedy probably acts by keeping up a belt of skin action, thus acting mildly and continuously as a slight counter-irritant.

A Heart Tonic.

M. Germain See recently expressed the opinion, before the Academy of Medicine, that iodide of potassium is found the real cardiac drug; that so far from being a depressant it is really a cardiac tonic, of almost equal value to digitalis or strophanthus in certain cases, in which it enables the heart to recover its power, and affords also better facilities for the coronary circulation, thus improving the nutrition of the heart muscle.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

The Silver Wedding Anniversary and Ways in Which It Is Celebrated.

The fact of the Prince and Princess of Wales and other notable personages having celebrated their silver weddings has brought this interesting custom into greater notice. To celebrate twenty-five years of married life, and to call it a "silver wedding," is essentially a German custom, and is followed throughout Germany, both in castle and cottage, from royalty downwards. Few reach fifty years of married life in comparison with those who arrive at twenty-five years, and even when they do, are hardly equal to celebrating the event in a joyous manner as befits a golden wedding. Not so with regard to a silver wedding; the bride and bridegroom have presumably but reached the meridian of life, and are capable of taking part in any festivities consequent upon the occasion; but whether silver weddings will ever become popular in general society is very problematical, for many reasons.

Royal personages and prominent people can afford to celebrate publicly this interesting epoch of their lives; again, married people of the well to do classes, and who lead quiet domestic lives in their own small circles, are pleased thus to remind their friends that they have enjoyed twenty-five years of married life, that they have reached a certain age, and that their sons and daughters are marriageable, or even married; but these are precisely the facts that men and women in gèneral and in fashionable society are not too anxious to impress upon their friends.

When a silver wedding is to be celebrated invitations may be issued in the united names of host and hostess on at home cards printed in silver, whether the invitations be to a dinner, dance or an at home. Each guest may send a present in silver, trifling or costly, according to inclination, but silver it must be; and so many pretty, useful and ornamental things are made in silver that there is little difficulty in choosing something suitable.

A favorite manner of celebrating a silver wedding is to give a dinner, followed by a reception or a dance, the immediate relatives and most intimate friends being invited to the dinner, and acquaintances to the reception or dance. The dinner table or supper table is decorated with white flowers and silver leaves, the center piece being a large wedding cake decorated with silver and cut at dessert. The bride and bridegroom of twenty-five years standing receive their guests and their congratulations side by side. They open the dance or ball by dancing the first dance together, and together lead the way into the supper room.

When an afternoon reception is given from 4 to 7 in place of either of the foregoing entertainments, the same etiquette is observed, and husband and wife lead the way into the tea room, followed by their guests, and the wedding cake is cut by the wife and handed to the company by the servants in attendance.

Irish Wit.

The proverbial wit of the Irish jarvey is oftentimes mixed with an undercurrent of stern reality that is as touching as it is eloquent. Driving through Sackville street, Dublin, one day on an outside car, the wretched appearance of the horse suddenly struck a visitor.

He said, "Pat, you ought to be taken up for cruelty to animals, driving such an old scrow as that."

"Begor, sur," was the quick reply, "if I didn't dhrive that I'd be taken up for cruelty to a wife and six children."—Exchange.

CLOTHING FOR INFANTS.

WHAT BABIES SHOULD WEAR IN ORDER TO BE COMFORTABLE.

Fine Flannel Should Be Worn During the First Few Months—Then Fine Knit Wool Should Constitute the Apparel. Short Dresses on a Child.

"The fashions change in infants' clothing," said the woman in charge of the children's department at the Lilliputian Bazar. "But it is most important, of course, that their clothing shall be of a style to make them happy and comfortable; style and comfort should be united above all things in the case of infants."

"Will you give me some ideas of how a child should be dressed until it is at least a year old?" was asked.

"Begin with the first thing needed—that is, a fine flannel band, which should, in three or four months, be replaced by one knit of Saxony wool. These bands are knit like the top of an enormous stocking. They should be large enough to slip over the child, but should, when unstretched, cling closely to the body, and then they will give what little support is needed to the abdomen. These knitted bands should be worn both winter and summer, and are quite a preventive against the bowel troubles so prevalent among young children. Many mothers keep them on their children until they are 3 or 4 years old.

"And it's a good, sensible idea to put woolen shirts on infants, and it's becoming so common now that the poor little frozen baby of a few years ago is fast going out of fashion. The home made knitted ones are always pretty, but the machine made Saxony, or cashmere, are nice for mothers who can't get the time to knit. Then there is the flannel, which is also nowadays considered a necessity for the poorest baby."

"What kind of flannel should be used—must it always be of the finest texture?"

"It need not be extremely fine necessarily, but it must be soft and pleasant to the touch—in fact, only such as is made from the finer quality of wool should come in contact with the baby's sensitive skin, but it need not be of the expensive sort."

"Do you know a good way to wash flannels and knit goods?"

"They should be washed in warm water, into which a tablespoonful of ammonia has been thrown. If soap is used it should be white and dissolved in the water. In case of spots a little soap and a few drops of ammonia may be rubbed on the fabric. It should be remembered though that much rubbing tends to harden the goods. Souse the garments up and down in the water, squeezing and rubbing them gently with the hands; then when they are clean rinse them in clear water of the same temperature as that in which they are washed. Be sure and rinse out all the suds, then pass them through clean water a third time, this also to be of the same degree of heat as the other two—if a blue tone is desired add to this last water a few drops of bluing."

"For an infant's first dresses ordinary little slips of fine English nainsook are more suitable. These are very simply made, and are only trimmed with fine edgings. Six are sufficient, of course. More are sometimes convenient, but that will do. After a few weeks even the most sensible mother is anxious about the baby's appearance. So the little slip which has thus far formed the child's only outer garment is worn only at night or in the early morning, and a little dress takes its place. This is nowadays generally made of fine English goods; at least that is the fashion, though other materials are used. The tiny little yokes and sleeves are composed of hair tucks and feather stitching, while the whole is edged with the daintiest embroideries. But mothers who are not able to afford these more expensive dresses need not feel badly, as the very simple dresses are now made so prettily that an infant may be considered 'well dressed' with but little outlay."

Here were shown two dresses representing the two extremes of fashion, one being a fine nainsook with a small yoke of tucks and feather stitching finished with Valenciennes lace; this was also at the neck, and the whole skirt was nearly composed of the same lace. The other, though but a simple cambric, was charming. The skirt was perfectly plain, but the waist had three box plaits, with lace at the neck, while a cambric sash came from the back and was tied in a bow in front. These dresses were both long, to be worn by the baby until it was four or six months old, when it puts on "short dresses."

"It is well," continued madame, "that a child should not put on its short dresses too soon, though circumstances or the weather must rule here. The exposures a child is subjected to and many other conditions must be taken into consideration."—New York News.

A Mourning Woman.

The woman who puts you into mourning is making herself indispensable. She has long existed in England, but we have only just imported her. A bereaved family sends her a telegram. She appears, take your measures and those of the children. She procures the stuff for the mourning frocks and bonnets and sees to it that they are instantly made. More leisurely she chooses the mourning handkerchiefs and note paper, and, if you carry it so far, the underwear. She tones down to proper decorum the decorations of the drawing room. She adds everywhere the shadows that go to a proper mourning trousseau. By and by her occupation may vanish, like Othello's, for by and by black may cease to be worn by intelligent women.—Cor. Pittsburg Leader.

Mrs. Ella Deitz Clymer, the president of Sorosis, is a firm believer in women's clubs. She says: "I would advise every working girl to belong to a workingwomen's union. Women have been too much alone; they have lost confidence in themselves and are timid. Where women enter professions I would advocate their belonging to clubs, for social intercourse, sympathy and appreciation are necessary to women."

Mrs. Divens, of Lee county, Ga., has an old negro woman who does not know that she is free. When freedom dawned upon the negroes, and they all started to leave, this one, who is deaf and cannot talk well, could not be made to understand it, and she has not found it out to this day, and is still living on the old plantation.

Miss Ella Ewing, living near Rainbow, Mo., 18 years old, is now 7 feet 8 inches high, weighs 225 pounds, wears a No. 15 shoe, which of course she has to have made to order, and her shoemaker had to order a special last. The girl's parents are of about the usual size, the father being possibly a little taller than the average man.

Monochromatic is the most fashionably descriptive adjective in use. It is applied to a dinner table, an opera toilet, an interior and a wedding. To be monochromatic, to have a spread en monochrome, is the perfection of taste.

Carsolettes of crimson, crinkled tissue are adjusted to the gas burner in such a way that the light streams down through the inverted spade.

Injured Innocence.

Police Magistrate (to tough looking customer)—If you did not steal this watch, as you claim, how does it happen you were found with it hidden in your bootleg?

Prisoner (haughtily)—That's where I always carry my watch, your honor!—Chicago Tribune.

He Was Sorry.

Minister (to small boy)—Sonny, do you chew tobacco?

Small Boy—Sorry, mister; I just put the last in me mouth.—Jester.

LITERARY LIGHTS.

Rudyard Kipling, the new literary light in the London sky, is a young man of 25. His poem, "They're Hanging Danny Deever in the Morning," which has made such a sensation, is a British army lyric.

The late Armand Augustin de Pontmartin was for years the oldest contributor to The Gazette de France, the oldest newspaper in Paris. He had been associated with Sainte-Beuve, Blanche, Balzac, George Sand and Zola.

Marion Crawford has been awarded a prize of 1,000 francs by the French academy as an acknowledgment of the merit of his novels, and especially of two of them, "Zoroaster" and "Marzio's Crucifix," which were written in French as well as in English.

In his new story Count Tolstoi has depicted the conditions of some of the most somber and disquieting problems of married life, and has done so with that vivid, that terribly earnest realism which Matthew Arnold described as like life rather than literature.

Emile Zola figures on the ledger of the Paris publisher Charpentier for 1,031,000 volumes sold up to the end of last year. Zola receives 20,000 francs for each serial reproduction of one of his novels, and this brings him very large sums in a year. The report that he spends more than he earns is absurd. He has carefully saved money for years.

Mr. Flower, editor of The Arena, is a tallish man of strong build and erect and nervous carriage. A well shaped head crowned with a shock of bushy dark hair, a full face illuminated by a pair of brilliant and magnetic brown eyes, a bristly moustache, square chin, and an air indicative of intellectual power are the distinguishing points of his physiognomy.

In a large, roomy, old fashioned house of two stories and a half, with a broad gallery in front, on a beautiful plantation in the suburbs of Tuskaloosa, lives Samuel Minturn Peck, the young poet of Alabama. He is very fond of horticulture and gives much attention to it. Mr. Peck is unmarried and lives alone on this estate, save for the presence of some old family servants.

Benjamin L. Farjeon, the novelist, is a dark faced, piercing eyed, intensely intelligent looking man of genial manner and Jewish extraction. He began life as a journalist in New Zealand, where he became proprietor of a newspaper; but having received a friendly letter of encouragement from Charles Dickens, cast the cares of editorship to the winds, and returned to England, since when he has turned out some twenty novels.

"Etc., & tc."

Some sign painters have hard times with "&c." and "etc." One sign reads "Groceries, Provisions and &c." Another has it "& tc." Still other forms are "and etc," "& soforth," "et & c," and "and et cetera." One man who believes in giving his customers their choice hangs out this comprehensive sign: "Dry Goods, Et Cetera, Etc., &c., and tc., & soforth."—St. Louis Republic.

Cheaper Than Being Shaved.

In Chicago some of the hotels provide with razors those of their guests who prefer to shave themselves. Every morning a number of razors are sent to the office from the hotel barber shop. A tag containing the number of a room is put on each and then they are sent to the guests who ordered them. In the evening the razors are collected and returned to the shop. The next morning a new lot are sent to the rooms. By this means the guest always has a sharp razor. It costs a mere trifle and saves a heap of trouble.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Life Saving Car Rail.

An invention calculated to diminish very largely the casualties among railroaders is a running board for the top of freight cars. The board has a railing and at the end there are projections to span the space between cars. When a train of freight cars is coupled a nice railed walk from end to end will make the brakeman's labor something less than the old sporting with death.—New York Journal.

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During the last few years there has been a great rush of travel to the Pacific coast. It has seemed at times as if the entire population of the eastern and middle states was determined to settle in the broad interior valley of the San Joaquin, or in some of the pretty spots near the ocean, from San Diego northward to San Francisco.

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