

Science and Discovery.

Professor A. C. Nathorst, the Swedish explorer and scientist, who is now searching for Andree or the relics of the expedition, is a member of the Swedish Royal Academy and of the leading geographical societies of the world.

A long series of experiments has recently been made by Professor H. Griesbach of Basle, upon the relative acuteness of the senses of hearing, touch, taste and smell in the case of the blind and those who possess normal vision. The results are contained in Pfleger's Archiv. The observations were made on those who were otherwise healthy. In the differentiation of tactile impressions no remarkable differences were observed between the seeing and the blind, or if small differences did exist they were in favor of the seeing. In those born blind the tactile sharpness was somewhat less than in the seeing, and in some cases the sensorium generally was equally defective. The blind in particular feel less acutely with the tip of the index finger than do those who see, and in many cases the tactile acuteness of the two index finger tips differs. In the blind, especially in the region of the hand, a stronger impression is required to produce a tactile impression than in those possessed of sight.

In the capability of localizing impressions of sound no difference exists between the blind and the seeing. In both great individual variations occur. As a rule, both in the seeing and the blind the use of the organ of both sides gives better results than the use of one alone. No difference in the acuteness of hearing exists between the blind and those who see. No relation was observed between the acuteness of hearing and the power of localizing sounds in either the seeing or the blind. No difference was observed in the two classes in regard to the acuteness of smell.

In the execution of manual labor the blind become fatigued sooner than do those of equal age who see. The blind are more fatigued with manual than with mental work, which is not the case with the seeing of the same age. If any difference exists in regard to exhaustion after mental labor it is in favor of those of the same age who see. Both among the blind and the seeing there are persons who have many others who have only a few, and others again who have no illusory or erroneous impressions of touch.

These results are in many respects opposed to generally received opinions, for it is usually supposed that deprivation of sight leads to exaltation of the acuteness of the other senses, especially of the touch and hearing.

There is a creature known as the hagfish, which is in the habit of getting inside cod and similar fish and devouring the interior until only the skin and the skeleton are left.

In certain conditions of the atmosphere electricity is so abundant on the top of one of the big volcanoes in Hawaii that an English geologist found that he could trace electric letters with his fingers on his blanket.

Lake Morat, in Switzerland, has the curious property of turning red every ten years, owing to the presence of certain aquatic plants, which are not known in any other lake in the world.

A remarkable dwarf pine from Green Mountain, near Boulder, Colo., is reported by Professor Bessey to be only five inches high and a fifth of an inch through, with only a few leaves, yet to show twenty annual rings.

Milan has a curiosity in a clock which is made entirely of bread. The maker is a native of India, and he has devoted three years of his time to the construction of this curiosity. The clock is of respectable size and goes well.

In Japan most of the horses are shod with straw. Even the clumsiest of cart horses wear straw shoes, which, in their case, are made of the ankle with straw rope, and are made of the ordinary rice straw, braided so as to form a sole for the foot about half an inch thick.

A writer in the German scientific periodical "Prometheus" declares that over-indulgence in tobacco will prove the ruin of South American people. Not only do children of 2 or 3 years smoke all day long, but mothers have been trying to quiet their babies by putting cigars in their mouths.

"Do plants think?" asks a St. Mary's planter. "Have they powers of reason or any way of determining what is going on around them? The questions seem rather fantastic, I admit, but they are prompted by some very curious observations made at my home only a few weeks ago. My daughter, who is very fond of flowers, has a morning glory vine growing in a box on her window ledge.

"While watering it recently she noticed a delicate tendril reaching out toward a nail in the side casing. She marked the position of the tendril in the box on the window and then shifted the nail about an inch lower. Next day the little feeler had deflected itself very noticeably, and was again heading for the nail.

"The marking and shifting were repeated four or five times, always with the same result, and finally one night the tendril, which had been strung a cord around the window sash directly above, was a choice then, between the old love and the new, and as a morning glory always seems to prefer a cord to anything else, it wasn't long in making up its mind. In a very few hours the pale, crisp little tendrils—which, by the way, come, with a surprising suggestion of human fingers—had commenced to lift toward the twine. Next day they reached it and took such a firm grip that I don't believe they could possibly have been disengaged without breaking the fiber. Scientists are no doubt familiar with such phenomena, but if so, I would be very glad to learn whether they have formulated a theory on the subject. To me it seems simply inexplicable."

Copper has risen and aluminum declined until the price of the two metals is almost the same. One pound of aluminum is equivalent to two of copper in carrying electrical energy, and if it were as easy to work and solder would probably displace copper to a considerable extent.

Maryland Medical Journal: The recent statements of Professor Atwater on the amount of alcohol which can be taken in the human system in a healthy condition in twenty-four hours can not but do harm when garbled by a sensational press, anxious to create notice at any cost. The difficult question of the poisonous dose of alcohol in any form has not yet been settled, and the statement that two ounces, more or less, of alcohol or its equivalent may be taken daily with impunity can hardly be accepted at this time without attaching so many conditions that the original statement can hardly be found.

In determining what becomes of X-rays after they have impinged on the body, two writers, say the "Electrical World," the Nuovo Cimento divide all bodies into three classes, first those which simply diffuse the rays, those which transform them into other rays having different properties, and finally those which do both. This is analogous to a white body and a colored body. According to Sagnac there are no bodies corresponding to the white bodies in the case of light, but the present theory points out that Sagnac's theory is formed on the basis of diffusion and there is no reason to assume the existence of "Sagnac rays," they conclude that X-rays can be diffusively reflected as such.

The catfish belongs to an ancient type not yet fully made into fish, and hence the catfish is not a fish at all properly fastened to the head, as his are not, hold him in well-merited scorn. He has no scales and no bright colors. His fins are small, and his head and mouth are large. Around his mouth are eight long "smellers," fleshy feelers, that he pushes out and draws in as he searches for food. He is anything but a piece of tomato can is grateful to him. In each of the fins which reach out from his arms is a long, sharp bone with a shiny surface and a serrated edge. These are fastened by a ball-and-socket joint, and whenever the fish is alarmed the bone is whirled over and set in place. There is another such bone in the fin on the back, and when the fish is alarmed there is no fish that can swallow him.

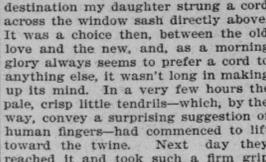
When he takes the hook, which he surely will do if there is any hook to be taken, he will swallow it greedily. As he is drawn out of the water he sets his three spines, and laughs to himself as the boy pricks his fingers trying to get the hook from his stomach. This the boy is sure to do, and because the boy of the Mississippi Valley is always fishing for catfish is the reason why his fingers are always sore. The catfish is careless of the present, and sure of the future. After he is strung on a birch branch and dried in the sun, he is appreciated with dust and has had his stomach dug out to recover the hook, if he falls into the brook he will swim away. He holds no malice, and is ready to bite again at the first thing in sight.—David Starr Jordan, in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly.

Taxation in Italy. Not only is everything taxed in Italy, but the taxes are so arranged that in the words of Signor Giolitti, the poor pay in proportion twice as much as the rich. For in Italy it is the necessities of life—at least, we should consider them as such—the bread, the meat, and the sugar, which pay, while the luxuries, though generally taxed, too, bring in comparatively a small amount. One luxury, indeed, is an exception—the Italian State Lottery, in which all classes of the community, down to the very poorest, who can scrape twenty centimes together, take tickets every week. A brilliant Italian novelist, Matilde Serao, has shown in her admirable "Paese di Cuccagna," and in some of her shorter stories, the far-reaching harm which this system of state encouraged gambling causes, the superstitions which it engenders, and the deprivations which it some times necessitates. But it brings in 60,000,000 lire a year to the government, and all but the smallest places in Italy have their banco lotto, where tickets for Saturday's draw at the eight "wheels" can be taken, and where on Sunday the great winning numbers, with perhaps a yellow and a red rose against those held by local gamblers may be seen. But, after all, the lotto is optional, while the taxes are not.

So the bread and sugar cost about twice what they do in England, the soporifics on railway tickets makes traveling in Italy dearer than anywhere else, while salt is heavily mulcted for revenue purposes. Hence genuine discontent arises though here it is necessary to distinguish. In spite of the assertions of the "Secolo" and other advanced papers, the correct view appears to be that no Milanese ever witnessed of last year's riots inform me that whereas in most other places, and especially in the south, the disturbances were really due to want of food and abject poverty, there, on the contrary, where there was much more flourishing and work, the more plentiful than elsewhere, the agitation was industriously fomented for political ends.—Gentleman's Magazine.

STILL THEY COME

Even the Children Join the Throng and Add Their Testimonials of Confidence and Gratitude.



AVA CATHARINE JORDAN, of Oak Park, near Sacramento. Of this child's severe illness, speedy and complete recovery, Mrs. J. B. Jordan said: "Katie had been suffering from a headache almost constantly for a year or more, caused, as we supposed, by catarrh. During all this time one of her ears gathered and broke great many times; so often, in fact, that the discharge from it became constant, causing her to become very hard of hearing. She grew thin of flesh, her complexion became sallow, her appetite poor, she was easily fatigued, and she could not play, even at play, was weak and seemed to have lost all interest in anything. There was some swelling of the glands about the throat and severe catarrh of the throat and nasal passages. Her cough became very distressing, especially at night, causing her to haw and spit a great deal during the day.

"We became alarmed about our child's condition, and took her to the Neagle Medical Institute. "We were told that her case was one of catarrh and bronchitis complicated with a slight scrofulous habit. At the end of two months' treatment she was perfectly well. MRS. L. R. JORDAN."

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TO LET OR RENT.

GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL, 322 1/2 K street, for cool rooms. \$1 week up.

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FIVE ROOMS AND BATH, NEWLY papered; gas and electric light. No. 505 J street, up stairs; rent reasonable. Apply A. J. POMMER, Ninth and J.

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AUCTION SALES. On Thursday, August 24th, at 10 a. m., on the premises, No. 121 Twenty-fourth street, Sacramento, California, will be sold by public auction, under the supervision of the undersigned, the following real estate: A two-story brick building with all modern conveniences; lot 40x80; cement walk; fruit trees; 7 miles from city. Balance same as rent. This is the best balance to buy a modern home offered this year. HAWLEY & PHILLIPS, Agents. D. J. Simmons, Auctioneer. aul-2t.

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