

SCINTILLATIONS OF SCIENCE.

Curiosities and Discoveries in the World of Progress.

Dr. Laujorrois recommends potassium dichromate for disinfecting cesspools, sewage, dissecting rooms, &c., and considers it likely to be of great use in diseases due to microbes.

Lieutenant Massenat, who lately finished a scientific mission in Bograra, discovered a Roman city in the southern part of Dj-rba. The circuit of the ruins is stated to be about three kilometers.

A canoe, partly imbedded under the River Arun, has been found in the Parish of Pulborough, Sussex, England. It is fifteen feet long by four feet broad, and had been cut out of a single massive oak tree in the stone age.

The Nature reports an extraordinary case of subsidence near Bona. Naiba, an isolated mountain, more than 2,500 feet high, is slowly sinking into the bosom of the earth. A deep gulf has been made all around the engulfed mass.

Speaking about bearings and friction, the Scientific American says: "In all cases the journal should give space enough for a film of oil, especially for high speeds, under which it may become heated and slightly expanded. Many journals and boxes are injured by binding, the consequence of a too finical fit."

A very successful endless chain towing system has been tried on that most difficult of navigable rivers, the Rhone, and described by M. Dupuy de Lome before the Academy of Sciences, Paris. Two endless lateral chains are employed, worked with independent machinery by a single hand, serving at the same time to direct the course of the vessel.

Herr Krupp's great establishment at Essen has its own water and gas works. It contains 25,000 gas burners in addition to the electric lamps. It has its own chemical laboratory, photographic and lithographic establishments and printing and binding shops. There are about fifty miles of telegraph wires and thirty-five stations belonging to the works.

Fishes now living in the Suez Canal have formed the subject of a paper by Dr. C. Keller. Up to the beginning of the present year eleven species from the Mediterranean have penetrated the canal as far as Suez. The Red Sea, on the other hand, gave no fewer than twenty-five species, which, however, have only for the most part scarcely reached half way toward the northern entrance.

Marriage, as practiced among the negroes of Senegambia, has been written upon in a very entertaining way by M. Berenger Feraud. As in other parts of Africa, the parental tie is slight, divorce is a matter of every-day occurrence; women are to all intents and purposes slaves, and the marriages are attended with elaborate ceremonies, simply as pretexts for amusements and intemperance.

It is said that a Hamburg manufacturer, conversing with his store-room manager by telephone, received a reply which annoyed him, and replied in an insulting manner. The manager pretended not to have heard the remark, and asked to have it repeated, at the same time inducing a colleague to take his place and receive the second edition. In this manner he secured a witness, and is now proceeding against his employer for libel.

M. Vieusse, principal medical officer of the medical hospital at Oran, states that excessive sweating at the feet, under whatever form it appears, can be quickly cured by carefully conducted friction with the subnitrate of bismuth, and even in the few cases where this suppresses the abundant sweating only temporarily it still removes the severe pain and the fidity which often accompany the secretion. Dr. Vieusse has never found any ill consequences to follow the suppression of the sweating.

A paper of value to dyers has been read by M. Horace Kœhlin, of the Industrial Society of Mulhouse. It relates to the fixation of colors by means of gelatine rendered insoluble by means of potassium dichromate. Mineral colors and certain aniline colors are thickened with gelatine and printed upon cloth prepared with sodium hyposulphite and then passed through

potassium dichromate. The colors bear soaping at boiling heat, and sustain the action of sunlight without alteration.

The so called "Mave," or May Queen of Provence, a festival by which the return of the month of May is celebrated in Southern France, has been traced back by Dr. Berenger Feraud to the ancient cult of Maia, the mother of Mercury, among the founders and Greek colonists of Marseilles. In modern times he holds that the worship of the Pagan Maia has been transferred to the Virgin Mary, in whose name alms are solicited for the little girl-child who, veiled and nearly buried in flowers, is supposed to represent the much venerated "Notre Dame du Maia" of Provence.

Dr. David Young, in the Practitioner, sums up his experience in administering quinine: 1. Never give quinine in antipyretic doses when there is constipation or scanty secretion. 2. In cases where it is being administered, and an increase of dose is desirable, this may be safely done if the skin, bowels and kidneys maintain their normal functional activity. 3. In many cases of remittent and intermittent fevers the combination of the drug with chloride of ammonium or a salt of potash or soda is likely to be more easily tolerated as well as more useful than if it be administered in a pure form. 4. During the administration of quinine should a headache come on or increase in intensity, the case requires the most careful attention.

Philadelphia Culture.

Philadelphia Call.

"Mother, who is this Martin Luther that the papers are talking so much about?" said a fashionable New York young lady.

"Martin Luther—Luther," mused the mother. "the name sounds familiar enough. What has he been doing?"

"I can't exactly make out, but it must have been something very nice. They are celebrating his birthday."

"Is he a foreigner?" asked the mother.

"He must be, or the people in this country wouldn't make such a fuss over him."

"Luther—Luther," continued the mother: "I met a Mr. Luther in Paris last year—that delightful gentleman, you remember, who took us to drive, and who afterward borrowed \$100 of your father and for it to return it, but I don't think his first name was Martin. This gentleman is probably some celebrated Englishman, who is coming to this country to lecture. You must speak to your father about tickets for the opening night."

Southern and Northern Belles.

Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

The average southern girl marries by the time she is twenty. In the north the average is older. Quite a different treatment is accorded debutantes in the two sections. In the south when a pretty girl steps on the carpet she becomes a belle at once, but her popularity falls in a season if she does not sustain herself. In the north a girl has a hard time on her entrance into society. She has to win her way and prove that she can hold her own among the established belles. It is said that western and southern girls are fearful of being thought old, while the eastern girls are anxious not to be thought young and fresh.

At a recent temperance meeting in Boston a thrifty old lady observed that she knew something of the evils of rum. "I have buried three husbands, and all were hard drinkers. But I am glad to say," she continued, "that I didn't fight with them. As soon as I found they would drink I got them to insure their lives heavily and let them go ahead. Ah, me! each one of them died from the effects of liquor, but thanks to a kind Providence, each death netted me a clear \$10,000."

JUDGE HOADLY has received notice from Mrs. Kate Chase that she will be present at his inauguration, at Columbus, on the 14th of January. It was from her father, Salmon P. Chase, that Judge Hoadly imbibed some of his earliest lessons in the law.

Binn's First Hanging.

Henry Powell, aged 25, a bricklayer, convicted at the last session of the London central court of the murder of the son of his employer, was executed the other day within the walls of the Wandsworth prison. James Cole was ordered for execution at the same time, but he was reprieved on the ground of insanity. Binns, the newly-appointed hangman, acted for the first time. The prisoner Powell was a confirmed atheist, and he appeared to have held the same views down to the last moment, although he listened with respect to what was said to him by the chaplain of the prison. He has been visited on two or three occasions by his wife and has all along exhibited a composed and firm demeanor, never once alluding to the crime for which he was to suffer or expressing any regret at having committed it. A few minutes before 9 o'clock the prisoner was brought out of his cell, and a procession, headed by two wardens, led the way to the scaffold, the prisoner being accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Gilbert, and Capt. Colwell and the under sheriff following in the rear. Binns set about the task of pinning the prisoner with great alacrity, a slight smile being observed upon his face during the whole time. He appeared to pull the straps rather tightly, and the prisoner said something to him in a low tone. The prisoner walked with a firm step to the scaffold. The cap having been placed over his face, the hangman speedily adjusted the rope, and after a steady look at the culprit, as if to see that all was right, he loosed the drop and the condemned man fell about seven feet. A good many persons assembled outside the prison and waited for the elevation of the black flag.

Typhoid Fever Spread by Milk.

Dr. N. D. Rankin gives in The Pittsburgh Medical Journal for October a brief account of an epidemic of typhoid fever recently prevalent in Allegheny City, which is of considerable interest as illustrating a mode of causation of this disease which has rarely been identified in this country. There were in all forty cases scattered through three different wards. The physicians were at first disposed to attribute the cause of the disease to foul emanations from dumping-grounds in the vicinity, but it was finally suggested that every family in which typhoid fever had occurred was supplied by the same milkman. When this fact was made known to the physician of the board of health of the city, he at once inspected the premises of the milkman, and found the following state of affairs: The dwelling and stable were situated on the side of a hill, the well from which the water for his family as well as for his cows was obtained being about fifty feet from the privy vault, which is higher up the hill than the well. The privy vault was full. There was at the time of the investigation, and had been for several weeks a case of typhoid fever in the house. Examination of the well water showed that it was contaminated with organic matter of animal origin and many living organisms. There would seem to be little doubt, therefore, that the typhoid infection was spread by the milk.

The President's Message.

A Washington special to the Chicago Times says: It has not yet been decided whether the president's third annual message to congress will be read from manuscript or printed. Of President Arthur's first message but four copies, and these in manuscript, were made. Two were read to the house and senate, and the others given to the Associated Press. Should the message be printed this year the same methods will be employed that were adopted last year. The work of setting up the copy and correcting the proof will be performed entirely by Mr. Rounds, Chief Clerk Taylor, Foreman of printing Bryan, and one or two clerks familiar also with the "art preservative." This will be done to prevent the leakage which usually occurs where it takes its course through the regular channel. Public Printer Rounds is very proud of his cleverness in defeating the well-laid plans of enterprising correspondents to secure a "proof" a year ago, and he promises the president the same precaution will be observed in case the message is again intrusted to his care.

An Increase of Wealth.

Demorest's Monthly for December.

Although there is a great deal of poverty in the civilized world, and millions of human beings are constantly on the verge of starvation, yet the fact seems to be well established that wealth in all civilized countries has increased faster than population. Mr. M. G. Mulhall, an English statistician, has lately published some figures, showing that the English people as a whole are better off than in the time of the Stuarts. In 1660, when England and Wales had 5,500,000 people, the average wealth was about £45 per capita. In 1774 the average was £136 per head. In 1882 the population was 35,000,000, while the total property of England and Wales amounted to £8,720,000,000, or £249 per capita. The same writer points out that this increase of wealth has been real, and largely in excess of the rise in prices which accompanied it. He also claims that the distribution of wealth is becoming more general as it increases. Judging, for instance, by the number of carriages, there are relatively more wealthy people to-day than twenty years ago. In 1840 only 3 per cent of the population had deposits in the savings banks; in 1882, 11 per cent were depositors in those institutions. Henry George, a well-known American writer, has been trying to prove that poverty increases with the advance in civilization, due to the monopolizing and enhancement of the value of land; but these figures, and the improved condition of the mass of our population as well as those of Europe, show that he must be mistaken. Still, the problem of problems is, how to increase the material prosperity of this great mass of mankind. All who love their race look forward to the time when extreme poverty will be unknown, and every man and woman will be decently clad, have comfortable homes, plenty of food, and also a chance to gratify higher wants than those which appertain to our mortal body.

Gen. Sheridan.

Washington Letter.

One of our local papers quotes a tailor as saying that Sheridan has the finest figure of any man he ever fitted. The Sheridan standard of a figure can hardly become a fashionable one. Sheridan is barely five feet six inches in height, while he is nearly as broad as he is long. He has a round bullet head set down between his shoulders without the slightest sign of a neck. His body is long enough for a man six feet in height. This naturally leaves his legs a trifle short. He does not need, however physical beauty to sustain his reputation. It was a strange chance that gave Sheridan his opportunity. A friendless Ohio boy of Scotch-Irish parentage, he had influence and secured an appointment to West Point through the chance favor of Gen. Ritchey, member of congress from Ohio. In the early part of the war Sheridan was a mere quartermaster in Missouri. Early in 1862 he was in Wisconsin, buying horses for the United States. But soon after he got under range of Grant's eye, and he gave him his opportunity, and opportunity was all Sheridan wanted. He did not marry until some time after the war. His wife is a daughter of the recently retired Quartermaster General Rucker.

The Federal Republic of Europe.

Demorest's Monthly for December.

There are indications all over Europe which are ominous for the reigning monarchies. England is a republic in all but name, France is one beyond all peradventure, while in Germany, Italy and Spain, the great body of the populations are republicans in theory. A change will probably come over Europe soon after Kaiser Williams' death. The kingdom of Sweden is even now shaken by a popular democratic agitation. King Oscar, a descendant of the French adventurer Berni lotte, has repeatedly set at defiance the popular will as expressed through the Norway Storting. And as a consequence there is a determination on the part of that nation to assert its rights against autocratic rule. King Oscar may yet lose his crown if not his head, for he has violated the fundamental law, by making the same pretensions which cost Charles I. of England his life. There are stirring times ahead for the peoples of Europe.