Gazette Supplement, Dec. 17, 1884.

Miscellaneous.

"Where were you last Sunday, Robbie?" asked the teacher of one of the brightest scholars in her Sunday school class. "My mother kept me at home." "Now, Robbie, do you know where the little boys go when they play truant from Sunday school?" "Yes, ma'am." "Where?" "They go fishin'!" exclaimed the boy.

The musical composition known as the oratorio gets its name from St. Peter Neri. He, a devout priest, in the full tide of the Renaissance period, with the aim of attracting young people and keeping them out of mischief, more especially on Sunday, gave at his oratory performances of original sacred music, to which he gave the name of oratorios. Many of these early oratorios still exist.

The thimble was formerly called "thumble," from thumb and bell, being worn originally on the thumb. It is a Dutch invention, and was brought to England in 1795 by John Lofting, who manufactured them near London. Originally they were made of brass and iron only, but of late years silver, gold, pearl and ivory are used.

The new glass invented in Vienna seems to have proved a success in the qualities claimed for it—that is, it is transparent and more brilliant than common crystal, can be cut and polished, and when fused, adheres to iron, bronze and zinc. Singular enough, the glass differs from all others, new or old, in that its composition includes none of the usual ingredients—silex, potash, soda, lime or borax.

The first attempts to introduce gas as an illuminator in the United States were made in Baltimore between 1816 and 1820. They failed, but it was successfully introduced into Boston in 1822. The next year the first gaslight company was formed in New York, the "New York Gaslight Company." They began operations with a capital of $1,000,000. But the people were so slow to adopt the new illuminator that the company was not in full operation till 1827 when the population was about 160,000.

The two tiny satellites of Mars, which were discovered by Prof. Assph Hall in 1877, have diameters of less than ten miles each, and are the smallest celestial bodies known. The nearer one—12,000 miles from the planet—completes a revolution in its orbit in about thirty hours in a direction from west to east, and the inner moon—about 3,500 miles from the planet—goes round in the same way in about seven hours and a half. Mars turns on its axis in twenty-four and a half hours from west to east. One moon therefore travels slower, than Mars, and rises for him in the east, while the other outruns him and comes up in the west.

A statistician, Dr. Ferr, we believe it was, recently stated that if one could watch the march of 1,000,000 people through life, the following would be observable: Nearly 150,000 would die the first year, 53,000 the second year, 28,000 the third year, and less than 4,000 in the thirteenth. At the end of forty-five years 500,000 have died. At the end of sixty years 370,000 would be still living; at the end of eighty years, 97,000, at the eighty-five, 31-000; and at ninety-five years there would be 223; at the end of 108 years there will be one survivor.

"My attention was attracted by a woman some 40 years of age, who was gorgeously attired, and seemed in her manner to feel that she was somebody and anxious to impress others with that fact. She was tall, well set up, with England's limestone formation in the way of bones, well covered with adipose, rather coarse in tissue, garnished with light blue eyes and an abundance of yellow hair. There was something vulgar in this woman's appearance when quiet, and it be came oppressive when she moved and that was nearly all the time. She seemed to court observation and at the same time despise it. I was not surprised when a friend told me that this bumptious person was none other than Ouida, the well-known novelist."

The sugar trade question is occupying as much attention in Paris as in London, only under a different form. While meeting of London working men are protesting against the French sugar bounties that ruin the English refiners, mass meetings of French politicians are suggesting, in addition to the sugar bounties, an extra tax on English sugar and an import duty on beet root, each being equivalent to a further premium of 20,000,000 francs for the French manufacturers. One thing is very obvious; however dead the English sugar trade may be, the French are determined to kill it again, regardless of expense.

A PERFECT MAN.—Huxley gives the following table of what a full-grown man should weight and how this weight should be divided: Weight, 154 pounds. Made up this: Muscles and their appurtenances, 68 pounds; skeleton, 24 pounds; skin, 10½ pounds; fat, 28 pounds; brain, 3 pounds; thoracic viscera, 5½ pounds; abdominal viscera, 11 pounds; blood which would drain from body, 7 pounds. This man ought to consume per diem: Lean beefsteak, 5,000 grains; bread, 6,000 grains; milk, 7,000 grains; potatoes, 3,000 grains; butter, 600 grains, and water, 22,900 grains. His heart should beat 75 times a minute, and he should breath 15 times a minute. In twenty-four hours he would vitiate 1,750 cubic feet of pure air to the extent of 1 per cent; a man, therefore, of the weight mentioned ought to have 600 feet of well-ventilated space. He would throw off by the skin 18 ounces of water, 300 grains of solid matter, and 400 grains of carbonic acid every twenty-four hours and his total loss during the twenty-four hours would be 6 pounds of water, and a little above 2 pounds of other matter.

ENGLAND'S PATENT IRONCLAD.—The latest English first-class armored vessel, the *Rodney*, is named after the noted Admiral who seized the Dutch American possessions in revenge for the relations of the republic with the United States in 1781. The *Rodney* is 9,470 tons burden, and though but three-fifths as long as the new Cunard steamer *Umbria*, has seven feet more beam. Built entirely of steel, with armor 18 inches on the sides and 16 inches at the ends, she carries four 63 ton breechloading barbette guns, six six inch breechloaders, twelve six-pounder quick-firing shell guns, eight Nordenfelt and two Gardner guns, and is provided with twelve Whitehead torpedoes. With her twin-screw vertical compound engines, supplied by eight boilers, she is expected to attain a speed of sixteen knots an hour.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR MATCHES.—The *Grocers' Advocate* has the following account of an ingenious contrivance to take the place of matches and which it says is now used by the watchmen of Paris in all the magazines where explosive or inflammable materials are kept. Take an oblong vial of the whitest and clearest glass, and put into it a piece of phosphorus about the size of a pea. Pour some olive oil heated to the boiling point upon the phosphorus, fill the vial about one-third full and then cork it tightly. To use the novel light remove the cork, allow the air to enter the vial and then recork it. This empty space in the vial will become luminous, and the light obtained is equal to that of a lamp. When the light becomes dim its power can be increased by taking out the cork and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter the vial.

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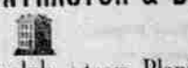

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