



SCIENCE AND INVENTION

Oxygen in Surgery. Remarkable results are reported to have been obtained in England by treating wounds with oxygen gas.

The Earliest Men. Dr. Ranke, of the German Anthropological Society, recently undertook to describe the physical characteristics of the earliest men, as ascertained from the examination of prehistoric graves.

Strawberries as Food. In an address on "Horticulture and Health," before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. W. R. Lazenby discussed the nutritive value of various fruits.

Strange Things on Mars. The planet Mars has recently (December 11) been again in opposition to the sun and consequently favorably situated for telescopic observation.

The Lost Arts. If Wendell Phillips were living to-day he would find many fresh illustrations of ancient ingenuity for his celebrated lecture on the "Lost Arts."

The Death of Willie Lincoln. In the St. Nicholas Mrs. Julia Taft Bayne gives an interesting glimpse of "Willie and Tad Lincoln," who were playmates of her brother, "Budd."

Worn by the Sea. Astonishing effects are sometimes produced by storm billows tearing away beaches and bluffs on the seacoast.

Freaks of Two Cats. In a Philadelphia store there is a cat known as Jim. The other day a young woman entered the store for the purpose of paying a bill.

Remarkable Achievement by Two Australian Divers. The perils of a submarine diver are freshly brought to mind by the recent remarkable achievement of two Australians named Arthur Briggs and Michael May.

"Mrs. Lincoln's Zouaves." Julia Taft Bayne, in St. Nicholas, describes the pranks of "Willie and Tad Lincoln" in the White House.

The Demagogue's Bill of Fare. A certain candidate for a city office—so the story goes—made it a rule that callers should be admitted to see him at any moment, even if he were at table.

A Classic River. The Ilissus is a small Greek river with a great name. The story is told that the late President Felton, of Harvard, declared that on his first reaching Athens he made his way to the banks of the Ilissus, stopped down, and drank it all up.

The Star Boarder. The sedate man—I'm afraid you are about to be dethroned. The star boarder—Why?

Case of His Death. "What shall we put on his tombstone?" asked the man who dealt in such things.

Old Father Time's Adornments. "Well," said the Casual Caller, reflectively, "trains and people may be late frequently, but there are some things always on time."

A Knotty Problem. Found Wife—What are you worrying about this evening? Husband (a young lawyer)—An important case I have on hand.

A woman knows as little about a man as she knows about a horse.

RECOVERING SUNKEN TREASURE

Remarkable Achievement by Two Australian Divers. The perils of a submarine diver are freshly brought to mind by the recent remarkable achievement of two Australians named Arthur Briggs and Michael May.

Equipped in diving-suits specially made to bear an extraordinary strain, the two men took turns in descending. Their first act was to carry a guide-line from their steamer, moored directly overhead, to the wreck.

To descend to the wreck, hand over hand, down the guide-line, took from six to ten minutes. If the slightest "sea" was running, the line swayed so violently with the motion of the steamer that it was almost impossible to maintain one's hold.

A big shark had taken up his home on the steamer's deck. He was neither vicious nor timid. Unfortunately, though, he was curious, and Briggs says that he often had to kick the great fish to make him move out of the way!

As soon as Briggs came to the surface May went down, and succeeded in getting the largest box, which contained 5,000 sovereigns, so that it could be drawn up. On the following day, Briggs sent up four more of the boxes of gold.

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The sedate man—I'm afraid you are about to be dethroned. The star boarder—Why? The sedate man—Bingle had poached eggs on toast this morning and I noticed that you had to eat hash with the rest of us.

Case of His Death. "What shall we put on his tombstone?" asked the man who dealt in such things. "Well," said the head of the typographical union, thoughtfully, "it looks all that is necessary under the circumstances is a simple announcement that he let the 'd' drop out of the word 'rebel' and failed to correct it in the proof."

Found Wife—What are you worrying about this evening? Husband (a young lawyer)—An important case I have on hand. My client is charged with murder and I can't make up my mind whether to try to prove that the deceased was killed by some other man or is still alive.

REFORMING BAD BOYS.

French Government Does This by a New System of Isolation. An effort along new lines is to be made by the French Government in the direction of remodelling vicious tendencies in boys.

Two hundred cells at the Institute Le Peletier at Montesson, in the department of the Seine, youngsters who have already become criminals will not be treated, the design being to restrain and tone down parents have found them to be unmanageable.



THE BOYS WEAR MASKS.

Weakness and inclinations being taken into careful consideration. Only one boy is admitted into a cell, and under no circumstances are the inmates allowed to converse unless in the presence of an official of the institute.

The four cities of London, New York, Liverpool and Hamburg stand at the head of the ports of the world, but there are others at which a very large mercantile business is done—some decreasing, but a larger number failing to keep up with the rate of growth in mercantile business.

MOHSIN KHAN.

Recently Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs for Persia. Mohsin Khan, the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs for the empire of Persia, is an able statesman, who was highly valued by the late Shah Nasir-uddin.



MOHSIN KHAN.

Found a Hand Problem. A tired tramp on the Bowery was awaiting the free-lunch course of the Rathes liquor tax bill, when his attention was called to an ornate poster in red and blue ink, on white paper, representing with full regalia and accoutrements an American soldier in the cavalry service and an American infantryman saluting his superior officer.

Three Old Maids. Miss Nancy Oliver died near Stillmore, Ga., last Friday at the ripe old age of 98 and a few months ago she was a family of three old maids, who lived down on Jack's Creek, near the Ochopee river, for over half a century in a small log house of but one room.

THE WORLD'S GREAT PORTS.

European Cities Going Ahead While New York is Standing Still. Some German merchants, bankers and imperial officials have found great encouragement in the fact established by figures that, while during the last ten years the commerce of the city of Liverpool has increased 40 per cent., the tonnage of vessels arriving at or departing from the German port of Hamburg has increased 70 per cent in the same period.

Notwithstanding these great gains the city of London still retains its remarkable distinction of being the greatest port in the world for sea-going vessels, New York following not very far behind, but showing comparatively little increase.

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Locomotive Without a Fire Box. In the city of Marseilles, France, a railroad has recently been completed which possesses the original feature that its motive power consists of steam locomotives without firebox.

Queer Search for a Brother. While unpacking a sample order of chinaware from Germany the other day Frank C. Young, a Second street importer, discovered a blue envelope tucked away in a vase.

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When a man settles down to do his duty, and quits wasting time in idleness, he gets a reputation for being either cross or bigoted.



BOOK REVIEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Cronwright-Schrainer are on their way to England, where they will remain during the year.

Two volumes of Dr. David Masson's edition of De Quincey are ready for the press. There are to be six altogether.

A monument to the brothers Grimm, the popularity of whose fairy tales has eclipsed their philological work, has just been erected at Hanan.

The Rev. Charles Cuthbert Hall, D. D., who has just been called to the Presidency of Union Theological Seminary, New York, is to edit the American edition of the Expositor.

Dr. Nansen is giving all his time to the preparation of his book, intending to finish it before going to London to deliver his promised series of lectures on arctic exploration.

Prof. Georg Ebers has written a historical romance called "Barbara Blomberg." Charles V. plays a prominent part in the story, and the heroine is the mother of Don John of Austria.

According to the St. James' Gazette, Queen Victoria will personally dictate and revise a biography of herself, which will appear in 1897.

The Critic boasts that it reviewed 1,635 books during 1896. The best of it is that the reviews were good ones—none better anywhere.

The newest accession to the Academie Francaise is Anatole France, and his official reception as the successor of Ferdinand de Lesseps was the chief literary event of recent weeks in Paris.

Dr. Conan Doyle tells in the London Strand about a seven-months' cruise that he took in the arctic seas in 1880 as the surgeon of a whaler.

How Muskrats Breathe Under Ice. W. Spoon, the naturalist, asserts that the muskrat when obliged to go beneath the ice from one side to the other of a pond has a curious mode of taking along his air supply.

Marbles. Marbles are manufactured from the material which gives them their name. At the marble quarries the refuse stone is broken by hand into small cubes.

The Sioux Way. Among the Sioux Indians, when one family borrows a kettle from another, it is expected, when the kettle is returned, that a small portion of the food that has been cooked in it will be left in the bottom.

In Bed Rooms. Oil stoves and gas stoves should never be kept burning in a bedroom, for, being burned in the room and having no connection with a chimney, they throw the poisonous products of combustion into the air of the apartment.

A Frightful Blunder. Sultor (seeing flower on the table)—May I take this as a token of your friendship? Fashionable Miss—Good gracious, no, sir! Why, that's my new bonnet.—Spare Moments.

X Rays on a Mummy. The genuineness of an Egyptian mummy having been questioned its British owner subjected one of its hands to the X rays, when the perfect outline of the human bones was shown.

IN A JOSS-HOUSE.

The Chinese Celebration of New Year's in San Francisco. Theodore Wores, the artist, has a story of Chinese life in San Francisco in St. Nicholas, under the title of "Ah Gau's New Year's Celebration."

Having bought a supply of these helps to worship, Ah Gau and his family had entered the inner room of the pagan gods. In the presence of these images, with hideous, painted faces, dimly looming out of the darkness and mystery of the incense-laden atmosphere, most American boys of Ah Gau's age would have been terror-stricken.

He, on the contrary, seemed to be quite at ease among these strange things and went near to the uncanny idols with quite an air of familiarity. He boldly walked up to a large drum standing in one corner and, seizing a drumstick, pounded on it with all his might, for the purpose of drawing the attention of the gods to the worshippers.

He then, joined with the family in placing a large number of lighted candles and smoking incense sticks upon the altar, after which they had bent themselves in prayer before the principal images in the temple.

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