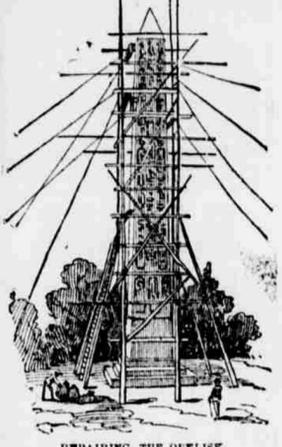


SCIENCE & PROGRESS

Counting Cleopatra's Needle.

The climate of America is very trying both to animate and inanimate objects. The extremes of heat and cold successively expand and contract all mineral substances to such an extent that unless constantly watched and kept in repair they are finally disintegrated. The drenching rains are also very trying.



REPAIRING THE OELISE.

The beautiful obelisk presented a few years ago by the khedive of Egypt to New York, and set upon its base in Central Park, was rapidly going to destruction. It was chipping off and crumbling away.

Many suggestions were made for its preservation, among others the barbarous one of painting it. At length a mixture of paraffine, crocoite and turpentine was decided on. This is called a water proofing mixture, and has been applied to buildings to a considerable extent.

The coating was applied to the heated stone. The manner of putting it on was interesting. The obelisk is also called a "monolith," a word signifying that it is one stone. The column is covered to its top with figures and hieroglyphics. Into the crevices of these the heated coating had to be driven with an alcohol blowpipe. The operation was successfully accomplished, and the stone is as imposing as before, the only difference being that it is slightly darker in color. It was a lofty and slender that great care had to be exercised in erecting the scaffolding around it. The glaze-like coating brought out the carved figures in fine relief.

Rana Catesbeiana.

This is the largest name of the common bullfrog. Common as it is, it is safe to say that not one in a thousand of those who see it every year know its habits or how long it lives.



BULLFROG AND BELTLE.

First the frog is hatched into a polliwig, commonly called tadpoles. When it comes to that age of its life, it is safe to say that not one in a thousand of those who see it every year know its habits or how long it lives.

By the middle or later part of that month it will undoubtedly become visible to the naked eye. Its maximum brightness, over 600 times as bright as when it was discovered, will be reached about May 1, when it will be situated in the sky, not far from Barnard's comet; and by the end of May it will have passed south of the equator, becoming again a telescopic object. Another favorable circumstance is noted in the fact that when the comet is at its brightest, the earth will be no moon to detract from its splendor. Dr. Weiss points out the possibility that on April 26 or 27 the comet may be between us and the sun, and may consequently be projected on the sun's disk.

Statistics of Suicide.

The English journals contain an abstract of an interesting paper read before the Statistical Society, by Dr. W. Ogden, on "Suicides in England and Wales in Relation to Age, Sex, Season and Occupation." The proportion of suicides is 72 annually per 1,000,000 persons living. The suicide rate increases rapidly until after middle life, but, in the more advanced age periods, again diminishes. The maximum rate is in the 55-65 years period, when it reaches 251 per 1,000,000. The male rate is far higher than the female, with the exception of the period between 15 and 20 years of age, when the female rate is slightly in advance. The occupations in which suicide rates are lowest are those which imply rough manual labor, carried on mostly out of doors. The occupations with the highest suicide rates are those which are sedentary, like the learned professions, and also such as notoriously lead to intemperance. As regards farmers, suicides nearly doubled in the two years 1879-80, when agricultural distress was most acute; and simultaneously with this rise in their suicide rate there was a corresponding rise in their registered bankruptcies. The amount of suicides varies with the seasons, forming a regular annual curve, of which the minimum is in December and the maximum in June. The commonest method of suicide is hanging; then follow in order drowning, cutting or stabbing, poisoning, shooting. Women, however, select drowning before hanging, and poisoning before cutting or stabbing. Women take any poison indifferently; men choose painless and sure preparations. The choice of method is also affected by age, the young showing a comparative preference for drowning, poisoning and shooting; by occupation, men preferring the instruments of their trade; by season, drowning being avoided in cold months.

Green Oysters.

The green color which sometimes affects American as well as European oysters has formed the subject of a late special investigation by a microscopist at the Smithsonian Institution. He finds that it is the minute blood cells which become tinged with green, and that these tend to lodge in the heart and the gills in numbers great enough to give a green appearance. The coloring matter, which may be vegetable or an abnormal product of digestion, is entirely harmless, and in no wise due to a copper tincture, as is popularly supposed.

Facts of Interest.

The government tea farms are to be abandoned.

Diphtheria is three times as fatal to black children as to white ones.

The average change of temperature in California the year round is only 9 degrees.

The national herbarium at Washington now contains over 25,000 specimens.

A new route to southwest China is projected. It is to run through Siam from the British possessions.

Milwaukee has decreased in 1885 to the amount of 9,000 barrels. This looks as though the temperance people were getting in their work.

The largest steel rifle ever made in this country has just been finished at the Washington navy yard. It is of 8-inch bore, 50 feet long, and throws a ball weighing 150 pounds with 175 pounds of powder.

THE FASHIONS

We have here a graceful and becoming bonnet for an elderly woman. It is stylish, which old ladies' bonnets ought to be. It is quite a mistake that as a woman becomes advanced in years she should pay less attention to her dress. On the contrary, she should pay more, because then is the time when she needs dress to set her off. She need not wear pink and blue and a gipsy hat, but her clothes, though subdued in color, should be of handsome material and very carefully and fashionably made. A woman should be pleasing in appearance to the latest day of her life.

The illustration shows a black lace bonnet which has a puffed crown of piece lace and a coronet of bronze beads, consisting of a drop trimming of beads headed by beaded leaves. A similar trimming of leaves and drops is at the back. A lace scarf, seven inches wide, extends across the front behind the coronet, and forms the strings. A large rosette of the same lace, with beaded leaves at the center, forms the trimming for the front.

Green, Pink and Blue Dinners.

A green dinner is one given to the girl who is to come out next winter. The table is decorated with emerald and green leaves; all the names are inscribed on green ribbons, which extend from the center of the table, radiating to each guest, with the name of the person to whom it is addressed written, in gold, on the ribbon.

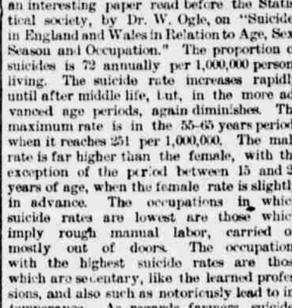
At one elegant dinner table all the glass was of that pale green that which looks so cool, and china with a green edge was used. There were bouquets of green leaves of different tints, and a few buds still in their green sheath. All the varieties of green vegetables, asparagus, spinach, and lettuce, were freely experimented upon, and a salmon with a green sauce was of course in order.

At a pink dinner for a rosette the whole table was covered in rose, glass, china and table cloth were all of a rosette complexion. The pink lamp shades and pink roses, the ribbons and pink damask cloth, made for once a pretty novelty. Pink fans, of course, accompanied this pink dinner. This was given to a debutante as the first dinner of her coming-out winter. In this one can see the influence of Wagner, who uses the diapason of color so freely in his operas—a quality much spoken of by Mr. Hewitt. Thus every one remembers the whiteness of "Lehrerin," the swan being the keynote, and the redness of "Mephistopheles," and the appropriateness of his stage setting, as to color, was always noticed at Dresden.

BOYS & GIRLS

A Queer Collector.

You see his picture here. Is he not an odd money gatherer? There was an association of locomotive engineers employed upon the London and Great Western railway. It was formed for mutual help in case of accident, sickness and adversity. A noble dog, which belonged to a comrade who died in the line of his duty, became the pet and protégé of the society, and was made useful in collecting for the widows and orphans. In the way shown by the engraving, he was allowed to travel upon all trains along the line, was everywhere welcome, and a favorite.

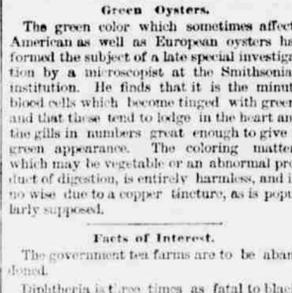


THE SOCIETY'S AGENT.

He knew where to go, and the best trains to take when the little treasure box became uncomfortably heavy. He knew, too, how to guard his treasure, and to whom he could rightfully apply for relief from his burden. So the fund grew under his collectorship. He was indeed the watch dog of the treasury, and there is no record of his having been molested in his journeyings, though he often carried a tempting load of shillings, pence and pennies, and everybody knew he was faithful to his charge, and that he would be vigorous in his defense.

A Strawberry Bed.

This new fashioned strawberry bed is very pretty and useful too. It is simply made. Get an old barrel of any kind and bore auger holes up and down in every stave. Make them large enough to set strawberry plants into without crowding or pinching them.



Barrel Strawberry Bed.

Set some plants in the earth at the top of the barrel, and one in each of the holes. Roll the barrel into a sunny spot, and your strawberry bed is made. It can be turned around once in a while, so that all sides can get the sun equally. Two or three barrels of plants like this would supply a small family with berries. They will be novel and ornamental and useful in small yards where there is not room for a large bed upon the ground. An other advantage of this plan is that the berries cannot be soiled by contact with the earth or by having it splashed upon them by the rain. Try a barrel bed this spring; you will grow and do beautifully next spring. The barrel will need occasional watering, to keep the plants from drying out. The strawberry plants should be fifteen inches apart.

Boys Who Learned to Work.

Governor Palmer, of Illinois, was a country blacksmith once, and began his political career as a constable in Macoupin county. A circuit judge in the central part of Illinois was once a tailor. Thomas Givens, a rich and eminent lawyer of Illinois, was once a bookbinder. Ernesta Corning, of New York, was too lame to do hard labor, and commenced as a shop boy in Albany. When he applied for employment first he was asked: "Why, my boy, what can you do?" "Can do what I am bid," was the answer that secured him a place. Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, was a shoemaker. Thurston Weed was a canal boat driver. Ex-Governor Stone, of Iowa, was a cabinet maker, who traded the late Stephen A. Douglas, who worked at it in his youth. Large numbers of men of prominence now living have risen from humble life by dint of industry, with out which labor is as useless as gold upon a barren plain. Work alone makes men bright, and it does not alone depend on the kind of work you have to do whether you rise or not. It depends on how you do it. It is just as good for girls as for boys, too.

Incomplete Sentences.

Fill the second blank with the word of the first blank completed.

1. Annie had to hunt for her ——— so she went to school ———.
2. They had very fine in their ———, especially as they passed under the raised of flowers and flags.
3. We bought a ——— of fruit, and we found it first ———.
4. Before we reached the ——— there was a driving ———.
5. We enjoyed our tricycle jaunt, traveling over a ———.

The first sentence is as follows: "Annie had to hunt for her date, so she went to school." You will know from this how to fill the other blanks.

The Eggs That Never Hatch.

There's a young man on the corner, Filled with his and strength and hope, Looking far beyond the present, With the whole world in his scope. He is grasping at to-morrow, That phantom none can catch, To-day is lost, he's waiting For the eggs that never hatch.

There's a World of Men and Women.

There's a world of men and women, With their lives work yet undone, Who are waiting, standing, moving, Beneath the same great sun, Ever eager for the future, But not content to snatch The present. They are waiting For the eggs that never hatch.

French Dressmakers.

French dressmakers have made a change in their way of cutting waists. They now dispense with all darts, even for stout figures, and the waists sit like a glove. These waists are usually open over a plastron. There is a small side piece under the arm, and then a front piece cut bias and fastened to the plastron by a seam which extends from the neck down to the bust, and gives shape to the waist. The seam is indispensable, as it replaces the darts. Striped fabrics are particularly well suited to this kind of waist, because the front is cut bias and sewed to a plastron, which is straight. The plastron may be of the same goods, but it is better to have it of striped or ribbed material, for the contrast between the straight and bias goods is more marked. Waists for young ladies are very low in the neck, but they have small gimpes underneath of tulle lace placed on the shoulder and draped on the back of the waist. There are also "corsets," which are taken under the arm, but these also have gimpes of tulle or crepe lace.

Petticoats in Paris.

It may, perhaps, not be amiss to devote a few lines to the subject of petticoats—upper petticoats that are worn immediately under the dress. For dark colors they are made of black or dark colored silk; they are trimmed with a thick pile of fur of the same color, pinked at the edges, or perhaps, with several narrow stripes of black lace, which is very pretty, but not so serviceable. For the spring they are being made petticoats of moiré or varied stuff in all colors. They are adapted to the dress with which they are to be worn, a dark petticoat being worn with a dark dress and a cream or mastic petticoat with a light dress. The moiré of which they are made is a cotton stuff, which keeps its stiffness, and there are steel springs in the petticoats to form the tournure. Except for indoor toiles in the summer, white petticoats are no longer worn directly under the dress.—Harper's Bazar.

Men's Spring Collars and Scarfs.

The plain round collar for gentlemen is rapidly going out, and pity, too, for it is the most becoming neckwear man ever wore. But it is doomed, and its place is being taken by the pointed styles shown in the illustration. The points run from small to large and sharp, to meet the taste of wearers, who then they are content to be being moderately in the fashion or desire the extreme of it.

The Furnishing Gazette shows new patterns of neck scarf and ties.

The one which has the effect of being a tie scarf is not really so; but is a made-up scarf to imitate the knotted one. It is called the Larchmont.



NECK SCARVES.

It is now the proper thing for gentlemen to have a large variety of scarves of various shapes to wear on different occasions. Bright red ones variously striped and checked are considerably worn. In trimmings are getting to be as good of their many neck scarves as women are of their old laces.

FASHIONLETS.

All sorts of straws will be worn in hats and bonnets this spring.

The latest novelty in fancy slippers are those embroidered with garnet beads.

The latest fancy in splashes are large fans spread against the wall behind the washstand.

Borders for entire skirts for side and back panels and for parts of frocks are the feature in spring styles.

The brims of new spring hats are neither wide nor eccentric. They are narrower in the back than in front.

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JESSE R. REGER, J. W. EHRBOLD, RUGGER & REBERSON, Attorneys & Counsellors at Law, Office in Foster's Block, east of Court House. Feb 25-6

S. RICHMOND, W. OSTLERMAN, J. C. FINCH, RICHMOND, GENTLEMAN & FINCH, Attorneys and Counsellors at Law. Will practice law in the counties of La Salle and adjoining counties. Office west of Court House, Ottawa, Ill. Feb 25-6

E. C. SWIFT, Attorney at Law, Attorney Block, Ottawa, Ill. Special attention given to probate matters. Feb 25-6

J. W. DENMAN, A. J. O'CONNOR, DUNCAN & O'CONNOR, Attorneys at Law, Office in Foster's & Metzger's Block, east of Court House, Ottawa, Illinois. Feb 25-6

F. P. FULL, LESTER H. STRAWN, A. W. BOWEN, FULL, STRAWN & RUGGER, Attorneys and Counsellors at Law, Office over City Hall, corner of La Salle and Madison Streets, OTTAWA, ILL. Feb 25-6

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C. B. CHAMBERLAIN, Attorney and Counselor at Law, Office with Dr. McLaughlin, Ottawa, Ill. Feb 25-6

M. N. ARMSTRONG, Attorney and Counselor at Law, Office in Foster's Block, Ottawa, Ill. Feb 25-6

JOHN R. RICE, Attorney at Law, Redfield's Block, City of Ottawa. Will practice law in La Salle and adjoining counties, and in the Appellate and Supreme Courts. Feb 25-6

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D. McDOUGALL, Attorney at Law, Ottawa, Ill. Office in Godley's Block. Feb 25-6

B. E. LINCOLN, Attorney at Law, Office over No. 9 La Salle street, west side of the Court House, Ottawa, Ill. Feb 25-6

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