USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

MEAGRE FLORA.—The Island of St. Paul, in the Indian Ocean, has probably the most meagre flora of any locality in the world. It is limited to nine species of flowery plants. Six of these are grasses, and only two appear to be indigenous to the island.

A PLANT DESTRUCTIVE TO BEES.—The large-podded milk weed almost invariably causes the death of every bee alighting upon it. The bee either adheres to the plant or else bears away a small scale sticking to his feet, and cripples itself fatally in attempting to remove the annoyance.

TO MAKE BLACKING FOR MOROCCO SHOES.—Pound some sealing wax, and put in a bottle with half a pint of alcohol; shake it frequently, and when it is dissolved, you may rub it on morocco shoes when they are scaled or defaced, and they will look almost like new; dry it on in the sun.

BLACKBERRY JELLY.—Pat the fruit into a jar, tie paper over it, and stew in a saucepan of boiling water, or by putting the jar into the oven; strain off the liquor, and to every pint of juice, add a pound off loaf sugar; put all into a preserving-pan, simmer and skim it. When it will jelly upon a plate, it is fit to be put into jars for use.

POULTRY LICE.—A correspondent of the Ohio Farm rhas been very successful in keeping lice out of his poultry house, and hens' nests, by the free use of air-slacked lime in fine powder. We have implicit faith in the free use of fresh whitewash, applied while warm. Another writer says that if the boxes and roosts are made of sassafras wood, there will be no trouble with lice.

LIBERTY'S LEANINGS.—The expansion and contraction of metals by alternate heat and cold are neatly illustrated by the unsettled demeanor of Crawford's statue of Liberty on the iron dome of the capitol at Washington. In the forepart of the day, when the sun is upon the eastern surface of the do me, expanding it, the colossal figure inclines four and a half inches towards the west, and in the afternoon, with the heat from the west, the inclination is as much to the east.

ARCTIC FLOWERING PLANTS.—Dr. J. D. Hooker states, in a recent number of Nature, that four flowering plants were collected by Dr. Bessels, of Hall's artic expedition, from the east side of Smith's Sound, in latitude 82 deg. N. They were *Draba Alpina* (a member of the mustard family), *Cerastium Alpinum* (a kind of chickweed), *Taraxicum dens leonis* (the common dandelion), and *Poa flexuosa* (a grass). Flowering plants have never before been found in a region so near the north pole.

CUMBUSTION OF OILS.—If cotton which has been soaked in boiled linseed oil be raised to a temperature of 170 deg. Fahr., it will commence to generate heat, and in the course of an hour will rise to 350 deg. Fahr., shortly after which it will burst into flame. Raw linseed-oil requires boiling about five hours, rape-oil ten hours, olive-oil six hours, seal-oil two hours, and castor-oil slight charring for two days, to cause spontaneous combustion. A knowledge of these facts suffices to explain the origin of many mysterious fires.

PICTORIAL GLASS.—Long continued sunlight is known to have a certain changing chemical effect upon the hues of colored glass. To utilize this, pictorially and indelibly, any required figures are marked upon the surface with common paint, and the glass is left exposed to the sun for two years. Where the paint does not extend the glass gradually bleaches, as it were, but the surface under the pigment retains its original color, in which appear, of course, when the paint is removed, the designs or letterings formerly painted upon it.

THE HOG.—Plutarch says: "The eyes of the hog are so formed and disposed of in the head, that it is always looking upon the lowest objects, and can in no manner contemplate things elevated and lofty. It cannot look upward unless thrown back with its feet upward. Although the animal is addicted to the most discordant squealing and grunting, yet as soon as it is laid on its back it is immediately silent, so great is its astonishment at the heavens, to the sight of which it is unaccustomed, and which causes such fear that it is unable to cry."

CERULEAN CEREMONY.—The matter from which indigo comes is supplied by the blossoms of the original plant in India; and when these shoots have reached exactly the proper growth they must be gathered in the night; as another day's sunlight would deprive them of their peculiar virtue. After being cut, accordingly, at midnight by large forces of field-laborers, they are placed in stone troughs of water, which the next day exposed to the sun. Thus exposed the infused liquid ferments, turning first blue and nearly black, and then blue again. After evaporating for two or three days, it is heated in metallic vats by steam, and this final evaporation results in a precipitate of the pure indigo of commerce.

A NEW NEEDLE.—A lady of San Francisco has invented a new needle, the improvement consisting in making a needle of any size without an eye for the thread, but with, instead, a hole bored longitudinally into the head or larger end thereof to the depth of a quarter of an inch or thereabouts, which hole is arranged with a screw-thread. The needle, it is claimed, will carry any kind of thread, and can be used for every purpose. It is thought that it will be valuable, also, as a surgical needle, as it will require but one thread, the advantage of which will be that a smaller hole will be made in passing the needle through any substance than would have to be made by the partially doubled thread of the ordinary eyed needle.

TO MAKE WATER COLD IN THE SUMMER.—The following is a simple mode of rendering water almost as cold as ice: Let the jar, pitcher, or vessel used for water be surrounded with one or more folds of coarse cotton kept constantly wet. The evaporation of the water will carry off the heat from the inside and reduce it to freezing point. In India and other tropical regions where ice cannot be procured, this is common. Let every mechanic or laborer have at his place of employment two pitchers thus provided with lids and covers, the one to contain water for drinking, the other for evaporation, and he can always have a supply of cold water in warm weather. Any person can test this by dipping a finger in water, and holding it in the air of a warm day; after doing this three or four times, he will find his finger uncomfortably cold.

CARE OF CHILDREN.—American men and women are nervous, and naturally have nervous children, of slender physique, and easily excited into precocious intelligence, which is considered genius. Instead of letting the little creature suck its fists and grow fat it is jumped, and danced, and confused, and made to repeat like a parrot. The English method of placing young children in the hands of experienced nurses and making them responsible is much better. A large, airy nursery at the top of the house; a good, clean, wholesome Belgian, Swiss, or Swedish woman to take charge of it; breakfast of oatmeal porridge and milk; dinners of roast or boiled beef or mutton, and rice pudding; tea of bread and butter, milk or fruit, with no confectionery or "pieces" between meals, and no late visits or rides with mamma. In such a quiet, uneventful atmosphere the baby grows and thrives best, the child is subject to less excitement, and with healthy and regular habits lays the foundation of an excellent constitution, while the mother is not worn out by its constant presence, or made nervous by being constantly harassed with giving directions to ignorant and inexperienced nurses.

—A young man at San Jose, Cal., bet that he could get a billiard ball into his mouth. He succeeded, and hereafter will get the ball in quite easily. The doctor had to rip his mouth a little to get it out.

THE MOUNTAIN-SHADOW.

When, down the drowsy Summer-sky,
The sun through western haze wheels,
O'er rocks, and stream, and wood, and town,
The shadow of the mountain steals;
And, feeling up with cool, gray hand,
It quenches all the golden fires
That grow upon the rambling roofs,
And burn upon the village spires.

And on the restless mountain-fields,
The gloome grow purple in the skies;
And damp, dull breathings rise and float
From out the laurel's dusky fens;
And on, and on, it comes and steals,
With soundless, slow, but certain feet,
And gathers in the woods and fields,
And overwhelms the valley sweet.

A mellow charm is over all;
The rocks upon yon mountain's ledge
Have lost their frown, as though some hand
Had gently soothed each rugged edge.
The fretful pines their harshness lose;
And rills where winds in many keys,
In jarring notes run, through and through,
Are stilled to gentle, hazy seas.

I stand within the mountain shade—
My sun is fading down the west—
My birds have circled to their homes—
My hills have lost their golden crest.
The shadow wraps the road I've come;
And slowly, slowly, up the spire,
It lifts its solemn, steady hand,
To quench my soul's last, feeble fire.

O tender, death-pressing shade!
The rude and rough of vanished days,
The bitter wrongs, the vexing hates,
Are mellowed in thy dimming haze.
O lift thy shadow to mine eyes,
That, drifting out to dimmer seas,
All blind to life's harsh, jarring scenes,
This soul may go in perfect ease.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Confirmation of the New Secretary of the Treasury—Cheap Transportation, etc.

At an executive session of the senate on the 2d, a unanimous report was made from the committee on finances, recommending the confirmation of Gen. Bristow to be secretary of the treasury in place of Richardson, resigned. The senate, without hesitation, unanimously confirmed the nomination. Not so, however, with regard to the nomination of Richardson to be judge of the court of claims, which was not reported back unanimously from the committee on judiciary. During forty minutes' session views were interchanged by senators rather in a conversational way than by debate, the democrats openly basing their opposition to the nomination on the report of the committee on ways and means, and the accompanying testimony in the Sanborn case in reference to him. With this exception the question arose as to his fitness for the judgeship. Little was said on the republican side, certainly no formal defense of his conduct of the Sanborn contracts. Finally, when the question was taken on advising and consenting to the nomination, a number of republican senators in their seats declined to vote. A sufficient number of them, however, did so to carry the nomination by a small majority. If those who opposed the nomination by failing to respond to their names had voted in the negative, the nomination would have been rejected. The senate had been canvassed by a senatorial friend of Richardson a week before the nomination was transmitted to the senate, when it appeared the nomination could be secured, though by a small majority. Massachusetts has two judges on the bench of the court of claims, Loring and Richardson.

By invitation of the postmaster general a number of the representatives of western states and territories assembled at the department on the 2d, to aid him in determining the insufficiency of bonds tendered by successful bidders for mail service under the last letting. Generally the sureties were considered by the representatives present to be adequate, but in some cases bondsmen were unknown to the representatives, and therefore no assurance concerning them could be given. A very small portion of the accepted bidders failed to furnish bonds for the execution of their contracts. The result is attributed to the working of the 5 per cent. deposit system. It is considered that many bonds now furnished will prove worthless, and the department favors still further amendments, so as to exact heavy penalties against the postmasters who certify that straw bonds are good and which prove insufficient.

The substitute reported by Senator Windom, from the transportation committee, for the house bill to regulate commerce among the several states, provides that every line of railroad extending into or through two or more states, and employed in carrying freight between points in different states, or from any foreign country, whether owned and operated by one or several corporations or persons, shall keep posted in each of its stations and depots, a full classification of freights and charges per mile for every distance for which it receives freight for transportation, and the rates so established it shall charge in every case, except for government transportation and for charitable purposes, so long as said schedules remain unchanged, and thirty days' notice must be given of any intended change of schedule rates. The bill prohibits any discriminations in charges of like services performed for different shippers, or any discriminations in delivery of freight, except according to priority of shipment; also, provided that the railroad company receiving freight for transportafion over the road in addition to its own line, shall be responsible to the shipper for the safe delivery of freight at its destination. Each violation of the foregoing provisions is to be punished by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $5,000.

Announcement is made from Washington that subscriptions to the new 5 per cent. loan continue to be received at the treasury, and a call for $5,000,000 five-twenty bonds may be shortly expected.

The bill passed by the senate to amend the charter of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company provides that within ten days after its enactment the comptroller of the currency shall appoint three commissioners, who, under the jurisdiction and control of the secretary of the treasury, shall take possession of the books and all assets of the bank and its branches, with power to wind up all business of said bank and its branches, and pay into the United States treasury all money realized therefrom. The comptroller of the currency is to declare and pay dividends as the results may justify. The commissioners are to receive a salary of $3,000 per annum, and give bonds of $25,000 each. It is provided, however, that if in the progress of winding up, the commissioners and comptroller of currency shall at any time be of opinion that the bank can resume under its old charter, they may, with the consent of the secretary of the treasury, turn it over to the board of trustees, who shall then resume their present powers.

Last week Mr. Hurlbut, from the committee on railways and canals, called up the bill for the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi river, and proceeded to explain and advocate it. The bill authorizes James B. Eades and associates to proceed in the work of deepening the channel of one of the outlets or passes of the Mississipi river into the Gulf of Mexico, to be selected by himself, by permanent jetties, etc.—the privileges of the bill to be revoked unless within 30 months three feet is secured, and they may subsequently be revoked unless two additional feet of water is secured each year until 26 feet are secured, and two additional feet within two years thereafter, when a channel of 28 feet in depth can be maintained with clear surface—the width to be not less than 600 feet, so that ships drawing 22 feet can be safely navigated, and two ships can pass each other in safety. The government is to pay to Eades or his legal representatives $2,000,000, and for each additional depth of two feet an additional million dollars. The whole sum is not to exceed $5,000,000. Commissioners are to be appointed by the president to examine the work, and the payments are to be made on their report, and when they report that a channel of 28 feet has been permanently established, an additional six millions of dollars is to be paid at yearly intervals.

Secretary Richardson has given notice that principal and incrued interest of the bonds below designated, known as 5 20 bonds, will be paid at the treasury of the United States, in the city of Washington, on and after the 3d of September, 1874, and that the interest on said bonds will cease on that day:

Coupon bonds, known as third series, act of Feb. 25, 1862, dated May 1, 1862, as follows: Coupon bonds, $50, No. 1,061 to No. 12,100, both inclusive; $100, No. 34,001 to 37,400, both inclusive; $500, No. 17,601 to No. 19,300, both inclusive: $1,000, No. 41,001 to No. 46,100, both inclusive. Total, $4,500,000.

Registered bonds: $50, No. 1,411 to No. 1,450, both inclusive; $100, No. 10,561 to 10,680, both inclusive; $500, No. 6,301 to No. 6,390, both inclusive; $1,000, No. 25,651 to No. 26,100, both inclusive; $5,000, No. 8,101 to 8,300, both inclusive; $10,600, No. 10,321 to 10,459, both inclusive. Total, $500,000. Grand total, $5,000,000.

United States securities, forwarded for redemption, should be addressed to the loan division of the secretary's office, and all registered bonds should be assigned to the secretary of the treasury, for redemption.

The house committee on reformation in the civil service have adopted a resolution that they do not recommend any further appropriations, to carry on or experiment in the so called civil service reform, in the manner in which it has been carried on.

The senate committee on commerce has decided to recommend the insertion of an item in the river and harbor appropriation bill of $250,000 for the removal of obstructions from the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers in Georgia.

The reciprocy treaty with Canada has been submitted by the president to the senate. Its main features are the free interchange of mineral and manufactured products, the freedom of the Canadian canals and the St. Lawrence, Lake Michigan being opened to Canadians, and a joint commission to regulate the St. Clair flats.

The committee on elections, by a vote of 6 to 5, have agreed not to refer the resolution of Hazelton, reciting that Cannon had proved to be a polygamist and had married one of his wives since the passage of the anti-polygamy law of 1862, and, therefore, should be expelled. The committee also voted down a resolution postponing all action in the case, but it is generally believed that further consideration of the question will be postponed until next session.

The senate committee on military affairs have decided to postpone till next session the house bill for the reorganization and reduction of the army.

The board of peace commissioners consists of ten members. Six of the ten only have resigned. The remaining four have been called together for the purpose of reorganizing the board. The vacancies will be filled by the president.

The conference committee have agreed upon a new currency bill in the shape substantially as heretofore reported. It provides for free banking; the abolition of reserves on circulation, except 5 per cent. to be kept at the treasury; the retirement of greenbacks at the rate of 3½ per cent. of the national bank notes issued, and redemption in gold of 5 per cent. bonds on Jan. 1, 1878. The report recommending the passage of the bill is signed by Messrs. Morton, Sherman and Merrimon, members of the conference, on the part of the senate, and by Messrs. Maynard and Farwell, on the part of the house. The report is not signed by Mr. Clymer, the remaining member of the conference.

The District of Columbia investigating committee report a bill authorizing the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to appoint a commission of three persons who will exercise all powers of government now vested in the governor or board of public works, which are abolished, together with the legislative assembly and delegate in congress.

The president has nominated J. C. Bancroft Davis, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to the German Empire.

The senate committee on claims has concluded the consideration of house bill appropriating some $7,000,000 to pay the awards of the southern claims commissioners in favor of about 1,000 unionists throughout the south. The committee agreed to report the bill to the senate with amendments, among which is one proposing to send back to the commissioners the claim of Bailey, of Louisiana, on the ground that he sold certain cotton to the confederate government, and thereby committed an act of disloyalty which should negative any and all proof of loyalty to the United States upon which the commissioners passed his claim.

Representative Hurlbut, from the committee on railroads and canals, has made a favorable report on the bill of representative Hawley, of Illinois, to provide for the construction of a canal connecting the waters of Lake Michigan and the Illinois, Mississippi and Rock rivers. The bill authorizes and directs the secretary of war to lay out and construct from a point at or near Hennepin by the most practicable and feasible route to the Mississippi river, with a branch canal or feeder from Rock river, at the city of Dixon, connecting with the main line of canal near the town of Sheffield. The length of the canal is to be 102 miles, and is estimated to cost a little over four and one-half millions. The bill appropriates one million towards its commencement.

The Naples Aquarium.

In the smaller tanks the delicate "pelagic" forms, those perfectly transparent glass-like animals which swim on the surface of the sea, are daily renewed when weather permits; and at present there are some really lovely things of this kind to be seen here which could nowhere else be exhibited, since the Naples aquarium is the only one which can draw supplies from a warm sea. The Cestum Veneris is one of the most striking of these transparent organisms, being a band of perfectly glass-like consistency nearly a yard in length, undulating like a snake, and slowly moving through the water by means of two rows of large vibrating fringes, which glisten with all the colors of the rainbow. Some of these are brought in nearly every day by the fishermen, and hundreds of the long chains of transparent Salpæ, not to speak of Beroes, as big as lemons. Glass shrimps, inhabiting the transparent little tubs known as Doliolum, and sometimes a Leptocephalus, a true vertebrate fish, of which one at first sees only the black eyes, all the rest of its body being absolutely as clear and invisible as a piece of glass, a really ideal ghost of a fish. *E. Ray Lankester.*

Kicking Cows.

A few years ago I had considerable experience with kicking cows, and by far the best remedy out of quite a number that I have tried was the strap or surcingle drawn tightly around the cow just in front of the hips and close to the bag. Tighten it up till she does not attempt to kick. I never knew it to fail. You can gradually loosen it until it will be sufficient simply to lay it on her back. But be cautious and do not loosen or leave it off until she makes no effort to kick with it tight or not. Kick she cannot with the strap tight. The first cow I tried it on was the worst I ever saw. With both hind legs tied together she would kick backward like a horse; and then, in addition, one fore leg was tied up; and she would stand upon the other and kick with both hind legs as soon as an attempt was made to milk her, till she tumbled down; then would get up and kick again until tired out; so the milk was generally left on the stable floor, and it was decided to dry her up and beef her as soon as possible, though an extra cow.—*Country Gentleman.*

Are You Going North?

If you are, you want a copy of "The Northwest Illustrated." It will not cost you anything. Send to W. H. Stennett, General Passenger Agent Chicago and Northwestern railway, Chicago, for a copy. It shows you the great Northwest, and teaches you how to get there, and what to do when you are there.

—Mabel—"Yes! that young man is very fond of kis ing." Mater—"Mabel, who ever told you such nonsense?" Mabel—"I had it from his own lips?"

MORBID IMPULSE.

The Great Doctor who Doesnot Believe in "Emotional" Murder.

Dr. William A. Hammond has delivered a lecture before the New York medical society on a topic of present interest—the morbid impulses which lead to crime, and which are, in certain cases, now urged as a palliation for it. His conclusions are adverse to the criminal:

1. A person aware of the existence of an impulse to commit crime, and which he fears he may not be able to resist, is bound to do everything in his power to render the accomplishment of his propensity impossible. It is his duty to immediately place himself under restraint. If he does not, he is morally and legally in no better position than a ruffian who feels an impulse to acquire other people's property, and accordingly murders the man most convenient for his purpose.

2. The individual who is clearly shown to have yielded to a previously unfelt impulse to commit crime, and who accordingly perpetrates an otherwise motiveless offense, or one which in his normal condition would evidently not have been committed, is too dangerous to society to be allowed to go at large. He ought to be placed under permanent restraint. I say permanent, because experience shows that this form of mental aberration is exceedingly apt to recur. Several of the cases I have cited are illustrations of crime committed after the discharge from confinement, and there are hundreds of similar instances on record.

3. Those morbidly constituted individuals who commit crimes because it is pleasant for them to do so, such as Helen Isgado, Domollard Pomeroy, and others whose cases I have cited, should be treated exactly like other offenders against the laws. The apparent absence of motive is apparent only. The fact that the criminal experiences pleasure from the committal of the act is as strong motive as any other that can be alleged, and is entitled to no more extenuating force than the pleasure of revenge, acquisitiveness, or other passions. "Lord, how I do love thieving!" said a London vagabond; "if I had all the riches of the world I would still be a thief."

4. The fact that a murder has been committed in order that the perpetrator might secure his own execution is not a palliating circumstance. Those who contend that it is—and I am sorry to find Dr. Mandsley among them—seem to be actuated by the erroneous idea that suicide is necessarily the act of an insane person. The desire to be executed may be evidence of a morbid mind, but not necessarily of an insane one, and if we are going to excuse every crime committed by jaundiced and hypochondrical and notoriety-loving people, we might as well close our courts at once.

5. A morbid impulse to crime experienced by an insane person—and by an insane person I mean one who exhibits other evidences of insanity besides the morbid impulse, and who would be considered by competent judges to be insane, even if no such impulse existed—demands continued sequestration.

Hay Seed.

Every town in Walworth county, Wis., has a grange.

Seventeen new granges have been organized in the United States.

The headquarters of Ohio grangers has been established in Xenia.

A grange paper is soon to be started in McPherson county, Kansas.

Neosho county, Kansas, grangers plead their own cases in courts.

Clermont county, Ohio, grangers have been holding social festivals lately.

Kansas grangers are beginning to protest against horse racing at county fairs.

The grangers' warehouse company of Lake City, Minn., with a capital of $50,000, was organized recently.

A plowing bee at the farm of a lady granger near Yuba city, Cal., brought out seventeen gang-plows, and sixty acres of land were turned over.

The national grange at Washington, recently made arrangements for forwarding one hundred barrels of flour and ten thousand pounds of bacon to the suffering members of the order in Louisiana and Arkansas.

The grangers of Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and Barry counties, Michigan, have organized an association called the Battle Creek union council for the purchasing of their commodities. A similar association has headquarters at Marshall.

The grangers of the first congressional district, Kentucky, will meet at Paducah on the fourth Thursday in July next. All farmers, whether they are grangers or not, will be invited to attend. A barbacue and picnic will be held at the fair grounds.

The state granges of Nebraska is putting in machinery, at Plattsmouth, for the manufacture of plows, cultivators, headers, harvesters and other agricultural implements. The building is a two-story brick, 40 by 140 feet. Thirty heads of families are employed to commence with. Steam and blast powder of the necessary quantity will be furnished.

The Feeding of Poultry.

Mr. Edward Thomas Brown, Newcastle, England, has published an interesting pamphlet on this subject, from which the following extract is made:

The keeping and feeding of poultry is generally looked upon by farmers and those who have plenty of chances of keeping them, as an expensive hobby, only to be indulged in by those who can afford to ride it; but the fact that in 1871 we imported from France alone 522,132,720 eggs, (being 17 in the year for every man, woman and child in the country), and several thousand tons of poultry, together amounting to three million pounds sterling, proves that the French make the keeping of poultry pay. In France an enormous trade is done in these products, they being a staple article of food, and it is estimated at £10,000,000 per year. In Paris alone, the trade is reckoned at £1,400,000 per year, and it is said, upon an average, every Parisian eats 160 eggs annually.

The idea that poultry "don't pay" is, undoubtedly, a mistaken one; but, nevertheless, it is generally held. Most assuredly they will not pay, if the fowls are allowed to look after themselves, never taken any care of, and put into an old tumble-down house, that cannot be used for any other purpose, with food, the cheapest rubbish that can be found, thrown down upon the ground in any sort of place. But if a little care is taken, if they are properly tended, fed with a modern quantity of good, food, provided with plenty of fresh water, and kept in an ordinarily comfortable place, they will pay, and well. Last spring we were told by one o our customers, who has only one of our small town yards, that during the previous year (1872) his eggs only cost him one-half penny each all the year round, and this result can be obtained by all who take ordinary care of their birds.

Moses in Egypt

Mariette's discoveries thus far have thrown less light upon the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt than many might have expected or wished. We are apt to forget, in the great importance which the Biblical narrative possesses for us, that a small subject race, like the Jews, could only be accidentally mentioned in the annals of such a proud and powerful people. A few strong probabilities, however, are worthy of being noticed. The conjectured period of Joseph's arrival in Egypt corresponds with that of the Hyksos, or Shepherd Kings, who, being strangers themselves, would the more readily confer high authority upon a stranger. Mos s, almost certainly, was educated as an Egyptian priest under the reign of Rameses II., and the Pharaoh of the Exodus was the latter's son, Menephthah, a superb bust of whom is in Mariette's museum. The name Moses is the Egyptian *Mesu*, signifying "child," or "boy." A recently-deciphered papyrus contains a official report concerning a certain "Mesu," who is declared to have much influence over "the foreign people," as the descendants of the Hyksos, the Israelites, and other Semetic tribes settled in the Delta, were collectively designated. Bricks, made with and without straw, are to be found in quantities among the ruins of Bubastis and other Egyptain cities in the Land of Goshen.—*Bayard Taylor, in N. Y. Tribune.*

Ice-Water.

One of the most fruitful causes of dyspepsia,—our national disease,—is, unquestionably, traceable to the excessive drinking of ice-water. We use far more ice in this country than is used in all the world beside. While we are inclined to boast of this as a luxury, we forget that, like many other luxuries, it does a deal of harm. The temperature of the stomach at which digestion takes place, is from ninety-eight to one hundred degrees (Fahrenheit). Consequently, the effect of swallowing ice-water, which must for a while reduce the temperature from thirty to forty degrees at least, cannot fail to be hurtful, and if habitually indulged in, to insure the disorder so widely prevalent and so distressing in character. In cities and large towns we are perpetually drinking ice-water in winter as well as summer. We drink it before our meals, with our meals, after our meals, on going to bed and on getting up. In fact, there is no hour when we are awake that we do not drink it. If you ring the bell at an American hotel, the servant who answers it brings you a pitcher of ice-water, supposing that you want that anyhow, and that you must swallow a certain quantity before you are prepared to make your other wishes known. If you go to breakfast on a bitter cold morning, the first thing the waiter places before you is a goblet of ice-water; and the chief energy he displays is in keeping the goblet full to the rim. Although he may not get you anything you order, you can depend on him for a bounteous supply of the freezing liquid.

Immoderate drinking of any kind is almost entirely due to habit. This is particularly true of ice-water, which, by spontaneous reaction, has the effect of exciting, rather than allaying thirst. The more we take of it, the more we want. The man who begins with a pint a day, will, before a great while, crave half a gallon, and imagine that he cannot do with less.

Meanwhile, his food will have no chance to digest, and temporary indigestion will, in due time, become chronic. His deranged stomach will affect his head, and the indulgence of a foolish habit finally result in unhealthy action of the brain, and possibly disturbance of his mental and moral faculties.

The objection is not to water in any reasonable quantities, but to the ice that is put into it. Water that is allowed to run for a while through pipes, or drawn from a well, is as cool, even in summer, as is consistent with perfect health. After drinking it for a time the palate will not ask for ice. It is advisable to vary water with cold tea, coffee, milk or lemonade, since the interchange of these has a tendency to diminish the amount of liquid wanted; and health generally is better preserved by little than by large drinking of any kind.—*Scribner's.*

The Eucalyptus.

The Blue Gum tree (*Eucalyptus globulus*), which is exciting a good deal of attention among agriculturalists in Europe, is a native of Australia and a member of the Myrtle family (*Myrtaceæ*). It was introduced into Algeria eleven years ago, and, during the last seven years, extensive plantations have been cultivated in that country. It flourishes luxuriantly in this new habitat, and trees of only seven years' growth from the seed have reached an average height of 50 feet, although nourished by very poor soil. It is an evergreen tree, with a straight stem, crowned at the summit with spreading bushes, bearing willow-like leaves. In their native forests these trees often rise to the height of 200 feet, with their shafts clear of branches for from 100 to 150 feet, and resembling so many elegant columns irregularly scattered about, and intercepting the view at the distance of a few hundred yards.

These Eucalyptus trees are especially grateful on the barren plains of Barbary. By their growth marshy lands are drained, and sun-baked spots are shadowed and provided with moisture. Their blossoms are filled with honey, which attracts multitudes of insects; and they in turn invite the birds, who find not only an abundance of food but the warmth of leafy coverts in winter, and shelter from the fierce heat of the sun in summer. The trees exhale a fragrance which is described as delightfully resinous and pungent. They are said to possess also various medicinal virtues.

Baths in a decoction of the leaves and branches are said to remove rheumatic pains, and neuralgia, and to promote recovery from the debility left by the malaria incidental to the country. There is no doubt that the tree has properties which give it efficiency in cases of fever. Its bark yields tannin, and also an oil which is serviceble in the arts. Attempts have been made to cultivate the tree in England. A plant seven years old, in the gardens of the Royal Botanical Society, has attained a height of 15 feet. But it is thought that, except in the extreme south or west of the island, the tree will not endure the low temperature of the ordinary English winter.

The Eucalyptus is allied to the pomegranate; the Guava tree; the Coryophyllus aromatica, whose dried flower-buds are the cloves of commerce; the Pimento, whose berries are known under the name of allspice; and the Aki, or Lignum-Vitæ, of New Zealand. The entire Myrtle family, numbering about 300 species, are natives of tropical countries, in the kew and the old world.

Twice Married.

M. H. B. writes to the St. Louis Republican: "There are tragical, comical and common-place divorce suits, and the following certainly is as comical as any on record. A young couple ten years ago agreed to disagree, and she of the firm went west to the El Dorado of discontented wives in those days, Chicago. Then she commenced suit, but before it was granted he went on, made up the peace between them, and hand in hand they returned. Before the year was out, however, they quarrelled again, and this time he didn't reach her quick enough; the bill passed, and as a divorced woman she resided in Boston for five years. Then in an idle hour she answered a matrimonial or a personal in a New York paper, corresponded some months, journeyed on to this city to meet the Adolphus of her maturo dreams, and found in him the Ichabod of her early days. They had lied so faithfully in their letters and so unanimously that neither had discovered the other's identity. Whether the deception had cast a new light on the subject, or whether they were convinced that in all the world they couldn't each find a fool like the other, at any rate once more they mated. A second wedding and a second-hand honeymoon ensued. But the husband speedily began to rehearse to his charmer what he considered her folly in answering anonymous advertisements, and, instead of retorting, as she properly could, to the anonymous advertiser, she wept and he bullied, and on time dragged till last summer, when they separated, and this spring a suit for divorce was commenced. The parties are both wealthy; Mrs.—— lives in fine style at an uptown hotel and attends to her law business. Mr.—— steps with a sister in Brooklyn. Four hearings in the suit have taken place before a referee. At the close of the fourth, behold the belligerent pair went to Delmonico's to lunch together. The anxiety and excitement of the lawyers was something dreadful to witness. This case has so much money it it, has already dragged its slow length over so much time, has so many beautiful features, and perhaps that nightmare of the legal profession, reconciliation, may step in and spoil it all.

—As a general rule, it is better to take little notice of foolish or even of malignant gossip. Let it alone. By and by these who go about retailing such stuff will grow weary, if not ashamed; perhaps they will feel disgusted at their own baseness. If they are not noticed they will sink out of sight.

Sowing Blue Grass Seed.

Mr. Fassett, an extensive farmer, in the Prairie Farmer, gives some useful directions upon this subject. He says: The opinions of farmers differ in regard to the time that blue grass should be sown. Some advise sowing it in the spring; others recommend to sow it in the month of August. My own experience is, that the best time to sow any and all kinds of grass-seed is from the middle of February to the middle of March in this latitude; further south it would probably be better to sow some earlier; further north, some later. The seed should be sown before it is done freezing. The spring freezing and thawing of the ground covers the seed to the proper depth to germinate—which is the only way I know of to get it all covered so that it will grow. The spring rains bring the plants to such maturity, they get such a strong hold of the ground before the dry, hot weather of summer comes on, that they are able to stand it; that is where grass seed is sown without any other crop, which, I think, is the only way to insure a good stand.

One-half bushel, or seven pounds of blue grass seed is considered to be the right quantity to sow to the acre to make a good stand. I think it much better to sow timothy and red-top with blue grass. Blue grass makes but a slender growth for the first two or three years after it is sown. The Kentuckians say that blue grass pastures continue to improve thirty or forty years. Timothy does its best right along the first few years, and then begins to fail. Red-top has more of the nature of blue grass, but makes a stronger growth much sooner, and will make about as much pasture, but will wither soon in cold weather. Like blue grass, it spreads from the root, making a perfect sward. The blue grass will eventually run it out as well as the timothy, and take entire possession as it arrives at maturity.

I would recommend to sow four quarts of timothy, six pounds of red top and four pounds of blue grass seed to the acre.

As to seeding soon after timber is deadened, I can not speak from experience, but can see no reason why the three grasses would not do well.

I know it to be a first-rate way to make pasture on new prairie lands that have not had the wild nature killed out of them by cultivation sufficient to grow timothy and clover successfully. I do not know whether blue or any other grass seed will grow well that is two or three years old. I would prefer to sow fresh seed.

As doctors will always disagree in certain cases, a Kentucky correspondent of the Ohio Farmer sends the following criticism upon the above article by Mr. Fassett:

I must beg leave to differ with Mr. Fassett as to the time for sowing blue grass seed. He prefers from the middle of February to the middle of March. That will do in some cases, but the best time is early fall, with wheat or rye. This brings the timothy up before winter, and the blue grass comes up in the spring with sufficient root to withstand the heat and drought of the following summer.

The quantity of seed (seven pounds to the acre) that he sows is not sufficient to make pasture for several years, though if it could be well separated before sowing it would do; but beat and thresh it as you may, it sticks together and distributes badly in sowing The quantity should be two bushels to the acre, carefully sown. It is better to cross-sow after the wind changes.

Keep stock off after you glean the field, until the following June or July, at which time you will have a beautiful pasture.

If you wish to sow in timber, use the same quantity of seed, and "root" it in with hogs. Sow a small piece at first, mixing in some oats, rye or corn, to make the hogs hunt after the grain; then sow another piece in the same way until you have finished the whole field.

Age does not destroy the vitality of the seed, nor of any other grass seed, if kept from heating. I have sown blue grass that was six years old, and had been kept in a bag in a dry cellar. It is almost impossible to heat it. No one should sow seed of any kind that has been kept in bulk during the summer months, as it goes through too much sweating if kept in a heap or granary. If spread on a door where it can get the air all the time there is no danger.

Our Forests.

The committee on public lands in the house, in answer to a memorial from the American Association for the advancement of science, have prepared a bill for the appointment of a commissioner of forestry. There is also a report giving a careful estimate of the percentage of woodlands in the following countries:

	Per cent.		Per cent.
Norway	66	United States	25
Sweden	50	Belgium	18
Russia in Europe	45	Prussia	16
Germany	26	Switzerland	15
Sardinia	12	Denmark	5
Holland	10	Great Britain	5
Spain	5	Portugal	4

In the United States the Southern States come first, with amounts of from 40 to 60 per cent. The Eastern, Middle, and Northwestern states from 20 to 40 per cent. and the Western and Prairie states from 5 to 20 per cent. Illinois is placed at 19, Wisconsin 29, and Iowa 16 per cent. Nevada, Arizona, Dakota, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Wyoming are comparatively treeless. Of pine, the estimate is in feet:

Maine	1,500,000,000
New York	900,000,000
Pennsylvania	7,000,000,000
Michigan	50,000,000,000
Minnesota	18,000,000,000
Wisconsin	16,000,000,000
West Virginia	7,000,000,000
Virginia (yellow pine)	150,000,000
South Carolina	90,000,000
North Carolina	1,600,000,000
Florida	1,700,000,000
Georgia	1,500,000,000
Total east of Rocky Mountains	105,440,000,000
Dominion forests	73,000,000,000
Total east of Rocky Mountains	178,000,000,000
West of Rocky Mountains	70,000,000,000
Total United States and Canada	248,440,000,000

Oriental Riddles.

The poets of eastern nations are fond of exercising their ingenuity in the construction of quaint conceits, which demand patience on their part, and a good deal of study on the part of their readers. For the amusement of the young people we copy two or three riddles in rhyme from Alger's recent collection of "The Poetry of the Orient:"

Between a thick-set hedge of bones,
A small red dog now barks, now moans,
A human tongue—
The answer true—
Nor old nor new—
I read it so soon:
Now, dull nun moon.

A soul above it,
And a soul below,
With leather between,
And swift it doth go.
The answer is a saddle.
On horse with man astraddle.

The first and last are just alike, upon my soul;
But—who my middle reads?—my middle is the whole.

A Rich Old Gentleman Frightens the Treasury Officials.

The house committee on banking and currency have been for some time secretly investigating the source from which the large amount of fractional currency, which was first issued and known as "postal currency," has been put in circulation. The committee were apprised very early in the session, through the treasury officials, that a large amount of this currency of the first issue, unquestionably genuine and quite fresh and new, was in circulation, and was being constantly presented for redemption. The secret service department of the government has been at work on the case for a long time in connection with the committee, and it is now fully established that the entire amount had been put in circulation by a very eccentric and wealthy old gentleman, who, when then this first issue of the fractional currency was made, deposited a large quantity of it in his safe and never had paid it out until very recently. The secretary at first thought of issuing a circular warning the public against taking it. It was afterward thought the original plates had been stolen.

Pasigraphy.

Two centuries ago Cave Beck wrote a book explaining his scheme for an universal language. A publisher ventured to print it, but the work fell still-born from the press. The slow-going world has at last caught up with Beck. "Pasigraphical unions," designed to put his plan into practice, have been formed. They are most numerous in Germany, especially in Bavaria, but they also exist in Hungary, Russia, Italy, England and France. Attempts are now being made to organize unions in Montreal and San Francisco. The plan is as follows: Figures are used for words. Between 4,000 and 5,000 words in common use are written alphabetically and numbered in order. A pasigraphist has but to write the figures