

EXHAUSTION OF PETROLEUM.

What Scientific Men Have to Say on the Subject—Unmistakable Signs.

It can hardly be doubted, I fear, that the supply both of oil and gas has now been so largely drawn upon that within less than a score of years scarcely any will be left which can be brought at reasonable cost into the market.

The stored petroleum in this region has then been very nearly exhausted. In less than a generation a small part of the population of this continent alone has used up nearly all the valuable stores of energy which had been accumulated during millions of years of the geologic past.

More recent inquiries confirm the conclusions of Professor Lesley and Mr. Carl. The signs of exhaustion in the oil producing regions can now be clearly recognized. During the last four years there has been a steady diminution in the output, accompanied by an increase in the price per barrel, which nevertheless does not even maintain the nominal annual value of the supply.

The expense of bringing the oil to the surface grows greater year by year, and threatens soon to become so great that the profit of working the oil stores will be evanescent. So soon as that state of things is approached, we may be sure that the oil men's occupation in Pennsylvania and western New York will be gone.

The Derby's Itinerant Photographer. The wandering photographer is also a feature of the Derby. All of those happy luncheon parties welcome the photographer. Those who are on the coaches are generally people to whom the Derby is a novelty, and as a necessary consequence they are delighted to take home with them some permanent souvenir of their new experience.

Fashion Notes from Far Islands. The island of Johanna, Comoro Islands, has some very peculiar customs. The natives are jet black, but neat and clean. Girls after marriage are not allowed out on the streets at all, and can see no one but their husbands. Rich men are allowed four wives, poor men one. When a poor man gets poorer he can sell a half share in his wife for so much money, formulated by law. A native belle before her marriage makes a fine display on the fashionable streets of Johanna in this rig: A red calico Mother Hubbard gown, printed with a pattern of banana leaves, reaching to her knees; no shoes nor stockings, and for headgear a wide rimmed, blue china teacup, worn with the handle on one side for convenience in taking off.—Boston Journal.

What Hermann Saw in India.

"How does the magic practiced in Europe compare with that of India, professor?"

"European magic is far superior. Exaggerated reports of the wonderful things done in India reach us. The larger part of their tricks are performed in the open market places, with the help of wicker baskets and holes in the ground. I can go out here in Broadway and cut a hole in the sidewalk, and perform tricks which will collect such a crowd that the cars could not pass through, and they would not be difficult tricks, either. Perhaps you have heard of the story that a certain magician in India goes out into the market places and throws a rope into the air. This rope goes up so high that the upper end disappears in the clouds. Then the magic maker climbs up the rope until he also is lost to view. Just about the time you would naturally think he was knocking at St. Peter's gate, down comes one of his legs. The mate follows in a few moments, followed by both arms in succession. Then follows the trunk, and last the head comes eddying down from somewhere out of the infinite. After all the members of the body had reached solid ground, they quickly, and apparently of their own volition, gather themselves together, and the perfect rehabilitated man is the result. Then the magician, like the rag-picker, puts his basket under his arm and silently sneaks away. I kept a bright lookout for that fellow when I was in India, but I never saw him. Perhaps he had gone up the rope and stayed there while I was in India."—Interview with Professor Hermann.

Basque Method of Roasting Eggs.

"There is reason in roasting eggs," says an old English proverb, of which few now understand the meaning. "I think eggs are better roasted than boiled," said the Basque landlady of a country inn to me; "though I often boil them as being less trouble." Whereupon I at once got her to roast me some. A smooth place is swept on the hearth, not too near the fire; on this the eggs are deposited, then gently round them is scraped a little circular wall of hot embers. The cook busied herself about other work, but in a few minutes returned, her thumb and middle finger touch the extreme ends of the eggs, a dexterous twist, and the egg was spinning like a top. That egg was done and was at once put into the folds of a clean, warm, white napkin; another was tried, but that only wobbled ungracefully. "Not cooked yet," was the verdict. The embers (braise) are raked a little closer round it and very soon it spins as well as the other and shares its fate. It looks so easy and the eggs never seem to have the least inclination to move out of their charmed circle; but let a stranger try, especially if he is a foreigner and of the masculine persuasion, and the usual result is that he is hopping about the room blowing his burnt fingers and the egg lies smashed in the middle of the floor. This is why "there is reason in roasting eggs," though it looks the easiest of all possible operations.—London Queen.

American Short Story Writers.

American authors are now admitted, even in England, to hold the foremost rank as writers of short stories, and, indeed, they seem to deserve the award thus made. Alfred de Musset was a master in this art, and Daudet has proved himself one more recently. But Musset's short stories were almost novelettes in length, compared with the short stories produced in this country; and Daudet's hardly possess the range and depth shown in the tales of Nathaniel Hawthorne, of Bret Harte, H. H. Boyesen, Mrs. W. W. Aldrich and a score of other men and women who contribute to our magazines. We seem to have developed here a condensation and refinement of style, an atmosphere full of delicate shadings and significant outlines, which belong to the finest art. Among English authors of the present day only Robert Louis Stevenson exhibits these peculiarities in the same degree, and it may fairly be said that Stevenson indulges in mannerisms in the use of language of which our native writers are seldom guilty.—New York Star Book Review.

Saluted as Washington.

The other night as I sat in the dim light of the lantern waiting for bed and bedtime to come a solemn figure entered my room, and kneeling before me struck his forehead three times to the floor, resting at each obsequious name "Washington! Washington! Washington!" I was, indeed, taken by surprise, but I recovered in time to reply in the same stately manner, "Nobunaga! Nobunaga! Nobunaga!" much to the evident satisfaction of the figure, which, after surveying me for some time, took leave after again repeating the name.

I was at first inclined to think this apparition of political significance predicting my speedy elevation to the presidential chair at Washington, but the girl who brought my futon (bedding, etc.) told me it was the host's son, who had read a great deal and had come to pay his compliments to me as an American.—Tokio Cor. Sacramento Record.

A Bird's Strange Antics.

The cock of the rock is, next to the crane, the bird of the western hemisphere noted for the strangeness of its evolutions. When the breeding season begins ten or twenty of the birds will form a ring, facing inward. A small bird takes its place in the center and begins to hop about, toss its head, lift its wings, and go through all the strange movements possible, which appear to be watched with great interest by the rest. When the performer is thoroughly exhausted he enters the circle and another bird enters the ring, and so on, until all have been put through their paces, when the pair probably make their selection. Often the birds are so exhausted after the dances that they can hardly fly, lying panting on the rocks.—Chicago News.

A Most Natural Reply.

Suppose you, the reader, were asked if you would accept the presidential nomination if tendered, your most natural answer would be "yes, if there is any prospect that I can be elected." But you never catch a prominent politician giving so plain an answer to a direct question.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

BABY HUMORS

And all Skin and Scalp Diseases Speedily Cured by Cuticura.

Our little son will be four years of age on the 25th inst. In May, 1885, he was attacked with a very painful breaking out of the skin. We called in a physician who treated him for about four weeks. The child received little or no good from the treatment, as the breaking out, supposed by the physician to be hives in an aggravated form, became larger in blotches, and more and more distressing. We were frequently obliged to get up in the night and rub him in soda water, strong liniment, etc. Finally, we called other physicians, until we had six had attempted to cure him, all alike failing, and the child steadily getting worse, until about the 25th of last July, when we began to give him CUTICURA RESOLVENT internally, and the CUTICURA SOAP externally, and by the last of August he was so happy that we gave him only one dose of the RESOLVENT about every second day for about ten days longer, and he has never been troubled since with the horrible malady. In all we used less than one half of a bottle of the CUTICURA RESOLVENT, and a little less than one box of CUTICURA, and only one cake of CUTICURA SOAP.

H. E. RYAN, Cayuga, Livingston Co., Ill. Subscribed and sworn to before me this fourth day of January, 1887. C. N. COE, J. P.

SCROFULOUS HUMORS

Last spring I was very sick being covered with some kind of scrofula. The doctors could not help me. I was advised to try the CUTICURA RESOLVENT. I did so, and in a day grew better and better, until I am as well as ever. I thank you for it very much, and would like to have it told to the public.

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