

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The process of electric bleaching now used in big paper plants is from forty to seventy per cent. cheaper than the use of chloride of lime.

The Milling World says American flour sells in Europe on its merit, and that eighty-two per cent. of the flour exported hence last year went to England.

A laboratory intended mainly for the study of bacteria in milk is to be established in Berlin. Infant mortality is known to be largely due to unwholesome milk, which can be rendered harmless by destroying the germs.

An English physician has achieved some instructive experiments in the use of the graphophone for recording physical symptoms, such as coughs and pulses. A cough of to-day can always be recorded and compared readily with one of days before.

The saving which will result in substituting electricity for horse-flesh on the street railways of this country is listed at the fact that the operation of one street railway in England by electricity will result in saving \$65,000 per annum over and above the present cost of operating it by horses.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Prof. Tait showed theoretically that water could be compressed to about three-fourths its original bulk. The compressibility of sea water is 1/2 of that of fresh water.

The World of Science says: "An improved composition for use in cleaning cloth and other fabrics has been patented, the object of the invention being to produce a composition which may be used with cold water and be effective without rubbing or attrition. The action of the composition being to dissolve the dirt and free it from the fabric or article to be cleaned."

Aristotle divided matter into four elements; and chemists a few years ago recognized about seventy primary substances as making up the universe. The latter view is now in turn outgrown, for, as Prof. J. P. Cooke states the recent study of the rare earths leaves us in doubt whether we have as definite number of elements, or only one under unnumbered manifestations and spectrum analysis indicates the many of our elements are decomposed in the sun and fixed stars.

Borax, as an anti-cholesterol specific is recommended by an Italian physician, in doses of five or six grammes—about seventy-seven grains—a day. He believes that it destroys the microbes in the intestinal canal and eases in the blood, and grounds his faith on the experience in seven contiguous borax factories in an Italian village during the terrible epidemic of 1864-5. The workmen in these establishments were quite free from the disease, which carried off a third of the inhabitants in and about the village.

Professor Angeli, of Michigan University, furnishes the following as a test of the purity of water for drinking: "Dissolve about half a teaspoonful of the purest white sugar in a pint bottle completely full of the water to be tested and lightly stopped; expose it to daylight and a temperature up to seventy degrees Fahrenheit. After a day or two examine, holding the bottle against something black, for whitish floating specks, which will betray the presence of organic matter in considerable proportion."

MILITARY EXPENDITURES.

An Extract from John Ruskin's Recent Lecture at Bradford, Eng. "Friends, I know not whether the thing be the more ludicrous or the more melancholy, it is quite unspicably both. Suppose, instead of being sent for you, I had been sent for by some private gentleman, living in a suburban house, with his garden separated only by a fruit wall from his next-door neighbor's, and he had called me to consult with him on the furnishing of his drawing-room. I begin looking about me, and find the walls rather bare; I think such and such a paper might be desirable—perhaps a little fresco here and there on the ceiling—a damask curtain or so at the window. 'Ah,' says my employer, 'damask curtains, indeed! That's all very fine, but, you know, I can't afford that kind of thing just now!' 'Yet, the world credits you with a splendid income.' 'Ah, yes,' says my friend, 'but do you know at present I am obliged to spend it nearly all in steel traps?' 'Steel traps! for whom?' 'Why for that fellow on the other side the wall, you know; we're very good friends, capital friends; but we are obliged to keep our traps set on both sides of the wall; we could not possibly keep our friendly terms without them and our spring guns. The worst of it is we are both clever fellows enough and there never a day passes that we don't find out a new trap or a new gun barrel or something; we spend about £15,000,000 a year each in our traps, take it altogether; and I don't see how we're to do with less.' A highly comic state of life for two private gentlemen! but for two nations it seems to me not wholly comic. Evidently were to be comic, perhaps, if there were only one madman in it; and your Christmas pantomime is comic when there is only one clown in it; but when the whole world turns clown and paints itself red with its own blood instead of vermilion, it is something else than a wide world."

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