ANTARTIC MYSTERIES.

A Region Where Summer Never Smiles and No Explorer Goes.

The Antartic is a region of eternal winter and of unmelting snow, where—so far as is known—not a single plant finds life within the circle and where never a living creature roams. The zoologist is not drawn to the southern circle as he is to the northern, and yet the attractions for him are great, because they have all the charms of the unknown. It is believed that only a few of the hardiest birds build in a few of the sheltered corners of the Antartic, but who knows?

Who can say that deep within those awful solitudes may not be revealed the mystery of the life of the fur seal when he vanishes from the waters of the north Pacific? Or that on some Antartic continent or island may not be found the priceless remnant of the great auk tribe? We know not, at any rate, what riches or poverty may be there until we go to see. And nobody has yet gone to see—beyond the fringe.

It is a curious fact that no one has ever wintered within the Antartic, many as have been the expedianions and ships, companies which, compulsorily or voluntarily, have wintered in the Arctic. There has been no need to do so, for there has been no possible goal beyond, such as India, which first led our mariners into the Arctic; no scientific romance such as has characterized the quest for the northern pole.

And yet another thing differentiates the Arctic from the Antarctic. In the north there is—unless Dr. Nansen is grievously mistaken—a pole surrounded by water. In the south there is a pole surrounded by land—a polar basin as opposed to apolar continent. While the books and essays, the theories and journals, which have been published concerning the Arctic region, would fill a library, a handful of volumes contains all that has ever been printed of records of the Antarctic.

THE SQUIRREL HUNTERS.

A Strange People Who Live in the Mississippi Pine Woods.

"I have been among the squirrel hunters," said the gentleman who had just returned from his vacation. "The squirrel hunters are a peculiar people inhabiting the southwestern counties of Missisippi and adjoining Louisiana parishes. They have been living there for generations and preserve the primitive customs and habits of their forefathers. The squirrel hunter is doubtless a descendant of Kentucky settlers, for they are all tall stately people, and great lovers of the hunt.

"But there is now little large game to be found, and so they spend their time hunting the squirrel, which is also scarce. The squirrel hunters are farmers, but raise little except corn. The pine hill region where they live is not penetrated by railroads, and there are hundreds of such people who have never seen a steam engine. I saw a great many of the oldest squirrel hunters of the country, and found them to be very strange looking people. They all wear long hair, which often reaches down to their belts.

"They wear homespun pantaloons and homemade shoes. Their shirts are oftentimes made from the skins of squirrels, which they wear in the winter, while in the summer they wear an open blouse shirt, also of home make. Their houses are made of pine logs, between which mud is placed as a plastering. These houses are covered with pine boards split from the woods. There are never any inclosures about their homes, their yards opening out into the pine forest. These squirrel hunters, while they have no churches, are a very religous people, though a great deal of superstition is connected with their worship. Their churches are made of boughs of pine, placed upon scaffolding, to keep out the sun. Now and then a country revival is held in these arbor houses, but this is seldom."

A Typewriter for Book-Keeping.

A new typewriter is announced that differs from the standard instruments in being available for use on books of record, insurance policies and other large documents of varying sizes. It will receive a book of any required width or thickness; will write a line long or short; and is so devised that the distance between lines may be scaled to suit the amount of space at hand or the fancy of the operator. While it is essentially a book-keeping machine, it can be employed for every description of work done by the ordinary typewriter, and it is as effective on a single sheet of note paper as on a double-entry ledger. Its construction is simple and compact, and it weighs but 10 pounds. It is provided with ribbons of various colors, and one of which can be instantly inserted or replaced. It has an excellent arrangement for manifolding; a platen of brass can be quickly substituted for the hard, rubber platen used for single copies, and a hard, unyielding surface is thus provided for the type to strike against, and as a consequence the last copy of a dozen or fifteen duplicates is as distinct as the first.

Three Suns and an Inverted Rainbow.

The following is taken literally word for word from a rare copy of the Brighton (England) Advertiser of Juno 8, 1797: "A rare phenomenon is reported from St. Malo. Recently during the afternoon, between the hours of 4 and 5, three perfect suns were seen all in a row above the western horizon. The sky was very clear at the time, and there was no one who saw the unusual sight that believes it to have been a mirage or other atmospheric illusions. The central sun seemed more brilliant than his two luminous attendants, and between the three there seemed to be a communication in the shapes of waves of light composed of all the prismatic colors. At about the same time a rain bow made its appearance at a short distance above the central sun, upside down; that is to say, the two ends pointed toward the zenith and the bow's neck toward the horizon."

It would hardly be proper to say that the murderer who is hanged is treated with great cord-iality.

POINTS ON ADVERTISING.

How It Is Done and How It Pays—Merchants Are Interested in This.

The customers attracted to the store of a merchant who keeps an "ad" running usually keep him running.

The man who never reads the advertisements in the papers doesn't read the editorial or news matter either.

The value of a display ad, like that of a good suit of clothes— or a hen—depends a good deal on the set of it.

Whether the advertisemnts of the future will be read by more design than by accident depends upon the men who writes them.

It has been noticed that the most persistent solicitor of advertising patronage is frequently the newspaper publisher who refuses to make a detailed statement of his circulation.

If the "situation wanted," ads had as many interested readers as those in the "help wanted" columns, the number of men out of employment in all of the large cities would be considerably reduced.

Advertisers who frequently change their mediums and methods should remember that a constant dropping will not wear away the stone, to any appreciable extent, when the drops fall on different parts of it.

When an advertiser who seeks publicity for his goods through the medium of almanacs and pamphlets wants a little complimentary notice printed in regard to the same he does not apply to the publishers of other almanacs and pamphlets, but to the editor of a regular newspaper.

As the newspaper advertising of proprietary medicines is prohibited in Germany any person in that country who happens to be afflicted with a dozen or more diseases is compelled to remain in total ignorance of the fact. —Printers Ink.

NAPOLEON'S READY ANSWER

He Compares His Parchment Thinness to a Fat Woman.

After the thirteenth Vandemaire, when Napoleon Bonaparte was really in the position of Dictator of Paris, he had to contend against a famine that made public distribution of bread necessary. Naturally the scarcity of food was liable to become a serious element in the politics of the time. It was essential to look carefully to the state of feeling in the mob, which had so often proved itself capable of overthrowing an administration. Napoleon was walking along the street with a part of his staff one morning, after the distribution of bread had been insufficient, and tumultous scenes were occurring in front of the doors of the bakers. As the officers passed the crowd jeered at them. One woman, monstrously big and fat, made herself conspicuous by wild gesticulation. "All that crowd of epaulet wearers are making a laughing stock of us!" she exclaimed bitterly. "If they can eat and grow fat it is all the same to them if the poor people are starving."

Napoleon stopped and interrupted her. "My good woman," he said, "look me over carefully and tell me which of us two is the fatter just now."

Napoleon at that time was as thin as a rail. He says himself. "I was like a sheet of parchment." The crowd took in the situation at once and broke into laughter and cheers. The story was told all over Paris, and had avery appreciable influence in calming the irritation of th populace.

Can Idiots be Cured?

Dr. G. E. Shuttleworth writing in an English medical journal, takes a very sanguine view of the effect of systematic training on idiots. In reviewing the statistics of one of the largest training institutions for imbeciles in England, he shows that idiots have been improved, educated and even cured; not one in 1,000 has been entirely refractory to treatment; not one in 100 has not been made more happy and healthy; more than 30 per cent have been taught to conform to social and moral law, and of working like the third of a man; more than 40 per cent have become capable of the ordinary transactions of life under friendly control, of understanding moral and social abstractions, of working like two-thirds of a man; and 25 to 30 per cent have come nearer and nearer the standard of manhood, until some of them have defied the scrutiny of good judges when compared with ordinary young men and women. It was found after systematic inquiry from year to year as to the career of pupils discharged on completion of their seven years' course of training, that 10 per cent were, or had been, earning wages; 5 per cent were remuneratively employed at home, and 3.5 per cent were (in their friends' opinion) capable of earning wages if suitable positions could be found for them. About 22 per cent were reported to be more or less useful to their friends at home, while another 22 per cent were reported as of little or no use; 29 per cent had gravitated to work houses and lunatic asylums, and the remaining 8.5 per cent had died.

Married Jockeys.

Horsemn always hear with evident regret the announcement of tne intended marriage of their jockeys. To be sure, it has a tendency to steady them, but then turfmen claim marriage cowers a good boy. This seems to be the turning point in his career, and no matter how courageous and daring he may have been before, a great change is always noticed after his marriage. Reckless rides around turns and daring rushes through big fields are seldom attempted by married jockeys. They leave the dangerous work to the more experienced youngsters. An owner doesn't like to see his horse pocketed or cut off, and that is why he prefers to have up an unmarried jockey, who is not bothered with wifely warnings before going to the post to be careful, for her sake at least.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Ideal.

Jack—I suppose you had a lovely time in Philadelphia.

Jess—I should say we did; there was scarcely a morning that we didn't go out of town for the day.