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SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY

Reported weekly for the Ledger.

Changing Flower Colors—Recent Earthquake Study—A Lake of Blood—Crop Forecasting—Passing of Languages—A Padded Stomach—The Fluid Lens—Aerial Distribution of Power—Automobile Agriculture.

The colors of vegetation are intensified by strong sunlight and a certain degree of coolness, as we see in the redness of northern apples and the deep tints of Alpine plants, and other conditions—such as the composition of the soil—have an influence. A recent attempt to color flowers artificially by chemicals added to the soil has been recorded by Henry Kraemer. Aluminum sulphate and potassium sulphate deepened the color of yellow roses, and tended to streak the petals of the white carnation with red, and ammonium sulphate, aluminum sulphate, iron citrate and citric acid brought out white streaks on scarlet carnations. The effects were too slight, however, to promise commercial importance.

The great earthquake catalogue of Comte de Montessus de Ballore now records 171,494 distinct shocks. The list confirms the already formed conclusions that earthquakes and volcanoes are independent, and that the former are most abundant in recent elevations, where the slopes are steepest and longest. Nine-tenths of the shocks have originated in one or two per cent of the earth's surface. Almost all have been distributed along certain lines, of which the most important are the great girdle of the Pacific, the line running from the Sunda Islands through Aracan, the Himalayas, Caucasus, and Alps to the western Mediterranean, and another running from the Caucasus through Central Asia to Lake Baikal.

Superstitious people formerly regarded with awe the turning red at long intervals of Lake Moret in Switzerland. Botanists have now shown that the phenomenon is due to a plant which propagates every tenth year, and which, though very minute grows so rapidly that the whole lake is soon turned crimson.

Strong evidence of a periodicity in the cereal crops of Eastern England, has been found by Dr. W. N. Shaw, director of the Royal Meteorological office, in the statistics for 1885 to 1905. A good year follows a bad one in very regular alternation, and a maximum average seems to be reached once in eleven years, with a minimum average at an intermediate period. In 1894, 1896 and 1898, for instance, the yield was abundant, while in 1893, 1895 and 1897 it was deficient. A year of greatest average was in 1885 and 1896—eleven years later—was another; and in 1886 and 1897 low points were reached. Dr. Shaw has noticed that there is an intimate relation between the rainfall of the autumn months and the wheat harvest of the following year. From such considerations he computed that the eastern counties of England would produce 31.9 bushels of wheat per acre in 1905, and the returns at the end of the season showed an actual yield of 32 bushels per acre.

Two languages have died out in modern Europe, according to Rev. W. S. Lach-Szyrma. In a recent paper to British archaeologists, he doubted whether anybody could fix the time of place when Prussian disappeared, for the death of a language may be a lingering and obscure one, but Cornish seems to have passed away in its English home in quite recent times. The last Cornish drama bears date of 1611. A considerable Cornish literature is preserved in manuscript and printed works, and the language has left its impression in the names of places and families. A few words, including the numerals, are still used by the miners.

A remarkable hair ball from the stomach of a young girl has been brought to notice by Prof. von Bramann of Halle. She had a habit of swallowing ends bitten from her long hair, forming in a bulky accumulation, though felt only as a slight pressure and when the mass was removed by an operation it was found to have shaped itself to the cavity, like a cast in a mold. Iron tonics had changed the light color to black.

The glass lens has been brought to a diameter of about five feet for astronomical purposes, but when of such size the cost is tens of thousands of dollars and several years of time. The Hungarian chemist who has at last made a successful fluid lens claims that it equals the glass product in performance. It consists of two curved plates of thin and un-squared hard glass, between which is hermetically sealed the fluid substance, and the refractive power and other properties are so adjusted that the usual defects of lenses are overcome. Time and temperature do not affect the fluid, while the contraction and expansion are practically the same as those of the enclosing glass.

A ten-inch lens that has hitherto cost about \$2,000 can be made by the new process for \$40 or less. The saving is even greater with larger sizes, and it is believed that, instead of having reached the highest possible limits, lenses can now be made three times as large as any yet produced. In "Telokino," his new wireless method of transmitting power, Senor Torres Quevedo uses a Brany coherer, which, when struck by the electric

wave, causes and electromagnet to oscillate, and the vibrations affect an escapement which advances one tooth at each vibration. He has not only steered a crewless boat from shore, but has increased and slackened the speed at will. The trials are claimed to have been perfectly successful, and it is urged that the principle should be valuable in life saving apparatus as well as for directing torpedoes.

The motor cultivator of Prof. T. Hudson Beare, a Scottish mechanician, is designed to do all the work of preparing the ground for seed at one operation. It can be driven at three times the speed of the ordinary plow, and each trip covers three times the breadth of the usual furrow and well pulverizes the ground. By a simple attachment the sowing also can be done at the same time.

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Watch and See.
A well known horseman describes a fact in natural history which may not be generally known. It is that all four footed beasts in making the first movement in walking, running or any sort of forward motion always employ the left hind leg as a starter. Even a child if put down on all fours and bidden to advance in that position will make the first move with its left leg, its hands at the time occupying the place of an animal's fore legs.

An Accomplished Fact.
"Grandma, may I take that piece of chocolate you left on the table? I will be so good."
"Yes, you may take it."
The little girl does not move.
"Why don't you go and get it?"
"Oh, grandma, dear, I ate it first!"

Something He Had Forgotten.
Small Boy—Mister, kin you change a ten dollar bill? Mister—No, sonny. That belongs strictly to my wife's share of the domestic duties. I might have been able to change one long ago, but I'm clean out o' practice now.

An Awful Stab.
"And you call this chair unique? Why, it isn't any older than I am!"
"Well, ma'am, that may be, but it's antique, all right!"—Houston Post.

Exaggerated.
A publisher advertises: "The Wives of Henry VIII! Third thousand." Surely there is some exaggeration here.—Punch.

The Congressional Library.
In its fine building the library of congress should be safe against destruction for many centuries. Fire has cost the world many of its greatest collections. It ruined the ancient Alexandrian library of the Ptolemies when the Christians sacked the temple of Serapis in the year 275. It cost the world thousands of ancient manuscripts that were stored in Constantinople when the Crusaders captured the city. Twice the library of congress has suffered by fire—first at the destruction of the capitol by the British in 1814 and again in 1851. In its present housing it is protected by every possible safeguard and directed in its development by the most expert of custodians. And with a sense of pride in which all Americans must share the nation has given to its foremost sculptors and artists the opportunity to enrich its walls with their works. It is a monument to American thought and learning, which must grow in value and significance with each year.—New York World.

His Excuse.
A Scottish parish minister met the laird's gamekeeper one day and said to him, "I say, Davidson, why is it I never see you in church?"
"Well, sir," replied Davidson, "I don't want to hurt the attendance."
"Hurt the attendance? What do you mean?" asked the minister in surprise.
"Well, sir, you see," replied the gamekeeper, "there are about a dozen men in the parish that go to church when I'm not there, and they would go preaching if I went to church."

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Pioneers. (I don't always have been and still I be the best)

THE LEDOUX TRIAL.

Verdict of Murder in First Degree.

The Stockton Record says of the closing argument for the defense by Attorney Fairall.

The bombshell of the Ledoux case was fired off shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon. It was probably the greatest surprise ever witnessed in any trial in this county and unless there has been some mistake in reading the testimony, the prosecution is hopelessly "barreled."

Attorney Fairall exploded the bomb just before he closed his argument. He read from the report of the testimony of the prosecution's witnesses that the defendant was last seen Friday evening at 6:30 o'clock with the deceased in Patterson's pharmacy, and that the deceased was last seen alive that evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Old Kirk saloon, that the defendant was not seen again until the following morning at 10 or 10:30 o'clock in Rosenbaum's when she was buying the trunk. That she went from there to the H. C. Shaw Company's and bought the rope, that she went from there to Breuners, where she remained until 11:30 o'clock, that she went from there to expressman Berry at 11:45; that she was again talking to Berry at 12:15 o'clock, and in the meantime he had got the suit case and delivered it, and the trunk in the hallway at the door of room 97 in the California house. A few minutes after 12:15 o'clock Mrs. Le Doux is in Eckstrom & Smith's, where she remains for an hour. At 12:15 o'clock she is at the Wonder and she remains there about an hour. At 2 o'clock expressman Berry takes the trunk from room 97 to the Southern Pacific depot, where he meets the defendant again.

Between 11 o'clock and noon that same day janitor Dohrmann of the California house goes into room 97 and cleans it. He sees no trunk and no person or body. He finds the room deserted. The prosecution's expert witnesses testify that McVicar died a lingering death, consuming several hours.

Then, where was McVicar and where was the trunk when Dohrmann was in the room? Mrs. Le Doux was out of the room and the hotel for an hour before the trunk was delivered that morning until the expressman took it with McVicar's body in it from the room at 2 o'clock that afternoon. When did she give him the morphine and where? When was he put into the trunk and where?

With these questions attorney Fairall finished his address to the jury. Then he turned to district attorney Norton and defied him to explain the mystery to the jury, and then he sat down.

Saturday morning district attorney Norton, like a clever baseball player, sacrificed one of his bases to gain a point. Theodore Dohrmann, the janitor of the California house was the man whose evidence was discredited. District attorney Norton said he was honestly mistaken as to the time he was in the room, and that instead of being in there between 11 and 12 o'clock, when he saw neither accused nor deceased, he did go in closer to 3, at which time the bed was made. According to the prosecutor there were at least two witnesses who testified that the bed was unmade up to 3 o'clock.

He read and reviewed the testimony of Hermann Englehardt, who was in the room about 12 o'clock and found the trunk there at that time. The testimony of Dohrmann was condemned by the district attorney throughout as mistaken in his evidence.

The proposition presented by the defense that McVicar died through the administration of a quick poison, and was dead when put in the trunk was taken up fully and ably by the speaker. "He attempted to pool by the trunk itself that the pool of blood had formed while it was not in a position as to allow the blood to flow from a ruptured vessel by gravitation. The evidence and experiments of the experts were here called upon in the effort to show the truth of the assertions. Many of the propositions presented by the defense were taken up in like manner and unerringly argued by the attorney.

During his argument district attorney Norton as is usual with any speaker, many times partook of water to lessen any irritation of the throat. On the table near him were setting three glasses one containing a solution of carbolic acid and water, another carbolic acid and whiskey and the third clear water. While still speaking he reached for the glass of water but instead found the glass containing carbolic acid and water. The mistake was noticed in time to prevent either a tragedy or serious illness.

While discussing the "dull thud" heard by Mrs. Van Landingham near noon of Saturday, March 24th, district attorney Norton opened the stained trunk and holding the suitcase some distance above it, let it drop that the jury might have some conception of what Mrs. Van Landingham meant when she referred to the "dull thud" which the prosecution claims was the body of McVicar falling into the trunk under the guidance of the hands of Mrs. Le Doux. The subtle cunning of Mrs. Le Doux was often referred to during the argument. It was claimed that she was a worldly woman—smooth, cool and calculating.

The jury, composed of August C. Ritter, W. C. Schuler, Thomas Hughes, L. C. Hunting, Thomas R. Robbins, John B. Sprenger, Andrew J. Lued, J. A. Drape, O. C. Dustin,

Charles M. Carlson, B. F. Pope and W. H. Locke, was placed in the custody of the deputy sheriffs at 2:23 yesterday afternoon, at which time Judge Nutter had concluded his brief recital of law, and instructed the jury the case was then in its hands for determination. Three hours rolled by and still the room remained filled. At about 5:45 Judge Nutter announced that a recess would be taken until 7 o'clock and that until then no verdict would be received.

Shortly after 7 o'clock the courtroom was again opened and in a few moments speedily filled with anxious spectators determined to hear the final outcome, if there was one. Many believed that there would be a disagreement by reason of the fact that the jurors had remained silent so long. Few, hardly a person, could be found who would countenance the judgment of a possible verdict of a tenor as to allow hanging.

About 9:15 o'clock, as the defendant, pale faced and haggard, sat beside her attorneys, who had made such a brilliant and clever fight for her life, a sudden and boisterous noise, as if of applause, broke from the direction of the jury room. No person in the court surmised that some of the jurors held out for life imprisonment during the entire six hours of deliberation and finally had switched to the death penalty and were being applauded for their act by fellow jurors. The applause was so uncontrolled and of such duration that it was heard by all, even the busy populace passing on the streets below.

It was soon learned that a verdict had been reached. The jury filed solemnly into the courtroom and adjourned itself in the box. The spectators leaned forward as if in the effort to read from the faces of the jurors the verdict. The least concerned, in fact the calmest person in the room, was the convicted murderer, Mrs. Emma Le Doux. She was "cool—a most remarkable person."

District Attorney Norton, with his assistant, George F. McNoble, being present, and the court ready to transact business, Judge Nutter asked the jury if it had arrived upon a verdict. W. H. Locke, as foreman, answered that it had, and passed the verdict to clerk Comstock. It was examined by Judge Nutter before reading and then delivered again to the clerk.

Silence was profound—the smallest fraction of a second seemed like an hour. With drooped eyes, yet anxious expression, Mrs. Le Doux remained unmoved. Clerk Comstock, standing before his desk, faced the jury, and in a slow voice read the terrible verdict to the jurors. "We, the jury in the above entitled case, find the defendant, Mrs. Emma Le Doux, guilty of murder in the first degree."

Mrs. Le Doux held up bravely under the strain and the only action or sound to mar the calmness was a spasmodic "Ugh," followed by the black gloved hand placing the white handkerchief to the face as she straightened her head and threw back her shoulders as if in challenge to the verdict and its makers.

Mrs. Charles Crocker, who has been Mrs. Le Doux's companion while in court during the trial, leaned over and placing her arm around the dark clothed little woman, kissed her many times, telling her to be brave, that the fight for her life had just begun. The attorneys in the case, particularly attorneys Fairall and Crocker, never changed a muscle of the face nor showed by the slightest quiver of the eye any feeling of disappointment they might have had in the verdict. As they fought for the life of the woman against every and overwhelming odds, gentlemanly and calmly, so they received the verdict.

"Is this your verdict, gentlemen?" answer. Judge Nutter then directed the clerk to record the same in the presence of the jury. After comparing the original with the record it was again read to the jury as it stood upon the record. Mrs. Le Doux was herself again. She raised her veil and smiled as attorney Crocker approached her. Attorney Fairall came later and the convicted woman extended her hand to him as she thanked him, and as he encouraged her and told her that the battle for life had just commenced.

The convicted woman still remained in her seat, her breast heaving noticeably, while her attorneys remained about her. Two newspaper men approached her and asked if she did not desire to make some statement regarding the outcome of the case. With a placid smile, still calm, sitting in her chair as it mistress of all she surveyed, she dropped her eyes in meditation for an instant and then brightening showing a row of rather strong white teeth, answered with a sigh: "I—I think I'd rather not say. I have nothing to say." The interrogators withdrew in silence, not pressing their issue for an interview.

After the time for passing sentence was fixed for Monday, July 9th at 10 o'clock, Mrs. Le Doux, a convicted murderer, arose from her chair unassisted and in charge of deputy sheriff Mark Smith, left the room in which the record of her past career was reproduced before her, and a mighty throng with its terrible surroundings, culminating in the verdict which means that her life must atone for the murder of A. N. McVicar. She walked from the room unflatteringly, apparently less concerned than at any time before.

Attorneys Fairall and Crocker, who have contested every step of the great and far-famed trial, announced last night that before the day for passing sentence they would move the court for a new trial, alleging many grounds

of merit. Be their motion denied they will appeal from it, reinforcing themselves with the bill of exceptions as it appears of record. Attorney Fairall claims he has a good chance to obtain a reversal of the verdict before the supreme court and will fight every step until there is nothing more to fight for.

He claims that the verdict of the jury, impliedly demanding the life of the frail woman, is one of the strongest points in his favor. Hanging is the penalty only in most grievous cases and where the doubt is abolished beyond all uncertainty. It cannot be recalled that a woman was ever hanged in the state of California. It is asked, will Emma Le Doux be the first?

Quaint School Answers.

Here are some assertions from compositions by American schoolboys: "Franklin's father was a tallow chandler." "The climate of North America is very embracing." "This song is in the key of B flat." "There are five bowels, a, e, i, o, and u." "The snow is painting the town white." "He lived in Cambridge-pork." "Man is in the muscular gender, because it denotes a mate." Question: "What is geography?" Answer: "Geography is round like a ball."

ORIENTAL COURTESY.

An Incident in Which Miss Anna Dickinson Figured.
Miss Anna Dickinson traveled everywhere independently and saw human nature in all of its moods. Writing to a woman friend once, she described a reception given by wealthy Chinamen in a restaurant kept by Chi Lung in San Francisco, and she was the guest of honor. She said that she saw a servant coming toward her with a box divided into many compartments, with different kinds of nuts and candies in the smaller trays. She picked out half a dozen or more and laid them on the arm of the chair, which served as a table. As the attendant passed on to others she saw that each took only one bonbon, and she was much embarrassed.

But when the servant approached the chief Chinaman, the one who had originated the reception, he took a large handful, and those after him did the same, and then Miss Dickinson felt relieved. She wrote: "After I learned that I must have shocked all of those educated, cultured Chinamen as much as you or I should have been shocked if we had invited a Chinaman whom we respected to dine with us and he had taken a whole fried chicken and torn it limb from limb at our table. In such an event would you or I have had the tact and courtesy to have taken other chickens and thus dismembered them?"

A SELFISH MAN.

The Prayer He Addressed to the Throne of Mercy.
The following example of a quaint and selfish prayer does not come from the liturgy; it is from "Glimpses of Ancient England." "O Lord, thou knowest that I have nice estates in the city of London and likewise that I have lately purchased an estate in fee simple in the county of Essex. I beseech thee to preserve the two counties of Middlesex and Essex from fire and earthquake, and, as I have a mortgage in Hertfordshire, I beg of thee likewise to have an eye of compassion on that county, and for the rest of the counties thou mayest deal with them as thou art pleased. O Lord, enable the bank to answer all their bills and make all my debtors good men. Give prosperous voyage and return to the Mermaid ship, because I have insured it, and, as thou hast said the days of the wicked are but short, I trust in thee that thou wilt not forget thy promise, as I have purchased an estate in reversion which will be mine on the death of that prodigal young man, Sir J. L. Keep my friends from sinking and preserve me from thieves and housebreakers and make all my servants so honest and faithful that they may attend to my interest and never cheat me out of my property night or day."

An Example of Daring.

During the hottest fighting in the Shiba pass the leading battalion of the Russian General Dragomiroff's division receded before a hailstorm of Turkish bullets. The general was a very stout person and had the appearance of a peaceful German professor. But when he saw his men recoil he dismounted and walked slowly to and fro along a ridge swept by the enemy's bullets. He was a hundred yards in advance of the men, occupying the position they had abandoned. After staying there for awhile without being touched he shouted back to the battalion: "What are you doing, you geese? Did you think there was danger here? I don't find any!" The men responded with a roar of cheers, doubled up to him and charged so fiercely that the Turks were forced to retreat.

Why Hands Help Marching.

All men who have any appreciation of music feel prompted to step in time to a march tune, and music on the march therefore substitutes a new and pleasanter stimulus to exertion for the monotonous and somewhat dreary one of keeping place in the ranks. It is well known that weariness is, as a rule, caused by the advance of the body and that the muscles of the body do not tire half so soon as the nerve centers which move them. Music, by bringing a fresh nerve center into play, will often banish all sense of weariness and will even sometimes afford rest to the usual nerve center, so that when the music ceases the soldier feels fresher than before it began.

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Freaks of Disease.

No medical man needs to be told that even disease has its freaks, and that recovery has occasionally been brought about by means inexplicably trivial. One of the most remarkable of even these unaccountable eccentricities of disease has taken place within the past few days at Halver, in Westphalia, says the London Globe. The case was that of a boy who, as the result of a very heavy fall backwards on his head while skating, had for a year and a half been absolutely deaf and dumb. One morning his brother went to awake him and, finding him sleeping heavily, tapped him lightly on the forehead. To his amazement the deaf and dumb boy awoke with a loud cry. Both speech and hearing had been restored.

Quite Feeble.
"I suppose you're going to Dr. Mason's funeral, grandpa?"
"Oh," snarled the infirm old man, "don't talk to me about other people's funerals. It's as much as I shall be able to do to get to my own."—Exchange.

A Close Father.
She—You must ask father for his consent. He—He won't give it to me. She—Why not? He—He's too close. He never gave anything to anybody in his life.

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