

Science and Industry

INJECTING pure oxygen gas into the blood of airmen and mountain climbers, as an auxiliary supply to that inhaled into the lungs, is a remarkable means proposed for the prevention of the so-called mountain sickness, which is due to the rarity of air at high altitudes. The preventive treatment, which was described together with the experiment's confirming its efficiency at a recent session of the French Academy of Sciences, consists simply in the subcutaneous injection of small quantities of pure oxygen gas, the effect of which is claimed to persist for several days.

In South Africa there is found a plant of the genus *Mesembryanthemum* growing on stony ground, which so closely resembles a pebble that it is invariably taken by the stranger to be a stone. Another species of the same plant growing on the hills round the Karoo produces two leaves about as large as ducks' eggs, having a surface resembling weathered stone of brownish gray color, tinged with green. These plants look like stones; but for a short time they put forth bright yellow flowers. Still another species of the same plant resembles the quartz among which it grows.

The new system of preventing collisions at sea proposed by Sir Hiram Maxim is based on a theory of the bat's sixth sense. A century ago Abbe Spallanzani proved that bats could pursue and catch insects without seeing them. The vibrations or waves from a bat's wings, though of too low frequency to produce sound, are reflected back from obstacles they strike, and it is supposed that the bat is able to detect the reflections and thus to guide its flight. Soundings for similar echoes could be made on shipboard. With a wave generator of 200 or 300 horse power, vibrations could be sent out of about the same frequency as those of a bat, and it is be-

lieved that they would be reflected from five miles away sufficiently strong to be detected. A trial apparatus has been made by Sir Hiram.

Only three persons out of 10,000 in Germany are unable to read or write, while the proportion of illiteracy in Great Britain is 150 per 10,000, as against 770 per 10,000 in the United States. These figures are based on a comparison of illiteracy among some of the leading nations which has just been made and issued by the United States bureau of education. The American figures include the entire population over 10 years of age, while the German figures cover only the army recruits, and the British statistics are based on data drawn wholly from official marriage registers. Hence the German and British statistics deal only with adults, and generally speaking with physically and mentally normal adults, while the United States census includes without discrimination every one above the 10 year age limit, even colored folk.

The discovery that the Eiffel tower in Paris varies in height according to the temperature of the air elicits a still more remarkable piece of information of the same sort. It appears that Mount Everest, still believed to be the highest mountain in the world, varies in altitude from time to time as much as 800 feet. During the daytime the snows will often melt to that extent on the summit of the mountain between sunrise and sunset. On the other hand, often between sunset and sunrise, the mountain will regain 300 feet in a single night. Therefore the figure given in the geographies of 29,002 feet for Everest's altitude is a mere rough average. Col. Burrard, who has made a study of the subject, says that the officers of the Indian survey place the mountain somewhere between 28,700 and 29,150 feet in height, and decline to guess any closer.

That there is a chance that the



Zoe Barnett, with "The Red Rose," Salt Lake Theatre, Dec. 30, 31, Jan. 1.

wreck of the Titanic may some time be recovered, either by government searchers or by a private expedition, is the opinion of the Nautical Gazette. This is based on the theory that the giant liner did not run into an iceberg, but ran on to the point of a rock. It is pointed out that no one has set forth any specific reason or brought out any proof that a rock does not exist at this particular spot in the ocean. The possibility of a peak of rock existing at this place in the ocean becomes apparent to any one who studies the contour of mountains on land, says the Gazette. Peaks rise abruptly to vast heights and are surrounded by contrastingly deep valleys. It is not unnatural, when one views the geography of North America, to suppose the existence of a chain of occasional peaks rising from the ocean's bottom about as far off shore as the longitude of the Titanic wreck.

Straitjackets and other violent measures are being abolished at the great hospital of Ste. Anne, on the recommendation of Dr. Mangin, a noted alienist. He says it is a mistake to use force in the treatment of crazy people, even though they be of a disposition to provoke violence. He advocates doing away with male nurses, holding that persons of unsound mind should be cared for by women,

on account of their greater kindness towards patients. Dr. Mangin has put his theories into practice in his own wards in Ste. Anne, where 4,000 persons a year are treated for madness. Instead of straitjackets and solitary confinement the alienist advocates and is putting into practice what he calls "the bed cure"—that is, long hours in bed, with every opportunity for repose. Gentleness and patience, according to Dr. Mangin, have already proved at Ste. Anne's their superiority over harshness, particularly in curing cases of acute delirium in maniacs and fever sufferers, as well as melancholia and delirium tremens cases.

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