

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Contributed weekly for the UNITED OPINION

M. Brame has tested the preservative property of hydrocyanic acid, with the result of finding the bodies of animals poisoned with it to successfully resist decay for a year, although at times exposed to a heat of one hundred degrees Fahrenheit.

Observations by Herr Penner show that the sun shone at Vienna last year 1676.3 hours out of a possible 4472 hours, or only thirty-seven per cent. During the winter the greatest duration of sunshine was at mid-day, but in the summer it was in the forenoon; in the winter there was more sunshine in the afternoon than in the forenoon. The clearest month was July and the cloudiest was October. The observations were made by means of the Campbell-stokes sunshine recorder.

Measurements by Herren Hammer and Helland of the movement of a large glacier in North Greenland, show its progress at the middle to be about fifty feet in twenty-four hours, the rate being apparently about the same in winter as in summer.

The abundance of remains of the mammoth in Siberia is remarkable. From the fact that at least a hundred repairs of tusks are annually put upon the market, Nordenskiold infers that during the time that has elapsed since the conquest of Siberia useful tusks from more than 20,000 of these animals have been collected.

Recent "finds" are thought to throw a new light on the history of the Swiss lake-wheel with an iron rim, iron swords and many human bones.

The inventor of the "fusing disc," Mr. Jacob Reese, is credited with having expressed the belief that if it were possible to produce a flameless combustion the intensity and quantity of heat obtained from a given amount of fuel would be very greatly increased thereby. Mr. Thomas Fletcher, of Warrington, England, has succeeded in producing a combustion without flame, and lately gave at Owens College a striking practical illustration of the new theory. He directed the flame of a simple gas blowpipe upon a three-inch ball of iron wire for a few seconds and then blew out the flame. The heat rapidly increased and the iron quickly melted and ran into drops. He even succeeded in fusing refractory fire-clay, the intensity of heat being much greater than even before obtained with the fuel used. Even in the dark the burning of the gas was shown to be entirely invisible. It appears that flame really indicates an imperfect combustion.

Three kinds of light are produced during thunder-storms, and known as forked lightning, sheet lightning and ball lightning. Mr. B. G. Jenkins, F. R. S., contends that only the first of these is true electricity—thunder-storms, according to his view, being manifestations of chemical rather than electrical energy. He believes that hydrogen exists in the earth's upper atmosphere and under certain conditions is drawn into the mixture of nitrogen and oxygen about us, the chemical union of the hydrogen and oxygen causing the second form of lightning, which appears to be almost wholly flame among the clouds, and is the form most frequently seen. The thunder is not so much the noise of electric discharge as the report of gas explosions. Ball lightning is probably not electricity, but gas in intense ignition. The harmlessness of the last two seems to indicate their non-electric character.

It is stated that in the volcanic districts of Italy an unusually high barometer is regarded as an indication of the approach of an earthquake. If this belief is shown by scientific investigation to be well-founded a new field of usefulness will be opened to the weather service in countries liable to violent earthquakes.

The size of the rose-bush at Hildesheim, Hanover, believed to be more than a thousand years old, was erroneously stated. Its height is about thirty-eight feet, and its branches extend to a width of about thirty-four feet.

The velocity of the wind is much greater at high altitudes than on the earth, due probably to the resistance of the uneven surface of the earth. Part of a recent balloon trip across the English Channel by Mr. Simmons was accomplished at the rate of 130 miles an hour.

"Oxygenized water," or hydrogen dioxide is attracting attention in various ways, a cheap process for manufacturing it having been announced. This substance is an oily liquid, having a bitter taste, and differing from water in composition only in containing twice as much oxygen. It is a powerful oxidizing agent, and is the only bleaching substance known which does not injure textile fabrics. Attempts have been made to utilize it on a large scale for bleaching purpose but the difficulty of preparing it has made it so expensive that it has been but little known. If it can be made cheaply it will doubtless be applied to many purposes. Messrs. Bert and Regnard have suggested its use in treating wounds, as it possesses ad-

vantages over carbolic acid in the absence of danger of poisoning and freedom from bad smell.

CHRONIC HONESTY.

Jim Webster is one of the most upright negroes in Austin, and yet he is peculiar. Not long since, he brought a large package of coffee to the store of a white neighbor and said:

"I bought dis coffee at de store of Mr. Hotchkiss, an' I jes knows he has cheated me outen more than a whole pound in de weight. I jes kin feel de lightness. Dar should be ten pounds, an' I see sho dor's not more than eight pounds. He fixed his scales to cheat poor cullud folks what hain't got no sense."

The white neighbor took the package, and after weighing it carefully on his scales, said:

"You are mistaken, Jim. He has given you a pound and a half too much. There are 1 1/2 pounds in the package instead of 10."

"Yer don't say so, boss. I was so sartin dat he was gibben me light weight dat, unbekowst to him, jess to get eben, I lifted off de shelf a pair ob fine boots, wuff six dollars, to balance de account."

"Well, now you see that he hasn't cheated you, I suppose you will do what is right."

"You pet I will, boss. I see gwine right back ter dat store ter do what am right."

"Are you going to return the boots?"

"No, boss; I can't afford to make any such sacrifices as dat. I see a poor nigger, if I is honest. I can't afford to make anybody a present of such a high-priced pair ob boots; but I'm gwine to gib him back dat extra pound and a half of coffee. I admires liberality, I does, and from now on I see gwine ter do all my tradin' with him, now that he has worked hisself into my confidence. He shan't lose nuthin by my honesty ef I kin help it."

MAKING A PASSENGER "GIT."

A justice of the peace in the interior of Michigan had a case before him some days ago in which the defendant, who had been arrested as a suspicious character, and pleaded guilty to vagrancy, was sent to the Detroit house of correction for six months. A constable took him in charge to deliver him there, taking him aboard the train; and as the man seemed rather pleased at the idea of securing board and lodging for six months he was not handcuffed. As the train was about ready to go the constable moved across the aisle to talk politics with a friend, and pretty soon they were having it hot and heavy. When the conductor came in for tickets he held out his hand to the prisoner and the latter shook his head and replied:

"I don't pay fare."

"Aha! You don't, eh? Well, now, you pay or git!"

"I won't pay!"

"Then you'll git! When we slow up at the crossing you jump off. If I find you on the train after we pass there I'll give you a bounce that you won't forget!"

In two minutes the train began to slow, and the prisoner walked to the door, picked a soft spot and dropped off. When the train had made another mile the conductor held out his hand to the constable and received two tickets.

"Who is the extra one for?" he asked.

"For the prisoner over there."

"What prisoner?"

"Why, that fel—"

ing of teeth and hurrying up and down, but it was no use.

"Sorry," said the conductor, as he passed along, but when a passenger says he won't pay fare on my train I give him the drop. The only thing that surprised me was to see how willing he obeyed orders."

GATHERINGS.

There is considerable difference between lawyers and doctors handling a case. The more lawyers there are in a case the longer the case will last, but the more doctors there are in a case the shorter work they make of it.

The eleventh congressional district of Texas is so large that when a candidate travels through it the suffragans at one end have got sober before he has been able to enthuse those at the other end. This makes it a very difficult district for one man to canvass properly.

Said a Fonda teacher to one of his highest pupils: "If your father gave you a basket of peaches to divide between yourself and your little brother, and there were forty peaches in the basket, after you had taken your share what would be left?" "My little brother would be left."

"Jim, lemme a quarter till Saturday night." "By George, Bill, I can't do it, with things lookin' as they are in de east. Egyptian troubles and de interference with de navigation of de Suez canal is shakin' de confidence in all classes of securities. I see, an' I aint goin' to make no more investments until this war cloud blows over an' de crop prospects are lookin' a little better. An' don't you go to

bor'yn' anything just now when money's away up still agoin'. You retrench and do a business inside of your liabilities, or ye'll drop on yourself, Bill; sure as suakes, ye will."

"I hear dey's bumbardin' Alexandria," said old Cato, the ashes-gatherer, excitedly. "Yes, the fun's begun," replied the reporter. "It ain't no fun, sah; I fell rale dignant ober it. I used ter lib in dat town, and I has a great deal ob feelin' for it, and furdur dan dat, sah, if my mem'ry serves me rite, I see got a family of 'lutions residin' dar now. What business has dem English boats got to cum up de Potomack ribber and fling der bumsells inter dat town, anyhow?" "You are slightly mixed, Uucle," rejoined the reporter; "they are bombardin' Alexandria, Egypt, not Virginia." "Nebber mind 'bout takin' on dem Greek words. The Critic sez dey is bumbardin' Alexandria and I feel highly demoralized ober it. I tell you dem English is too fresh, an' I'm one ob de boys dat's a-goin' down on de ferry-boat to de bumbardin' grounds to help salt 'em away. Now you hear me a-talkin'."

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Fifty fall Overcoats to close at \$4.00 and \$5.00, worth ten. Two hundred

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One line of strictly all wool over coats at \$6.00 that would be cheap at \$10.00.

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Youths and Boys clothing in large stock and will be sold at closing out prices.

Ladies Gossamer circulars and Gents Gossamer coats at wholesale prices.

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H. K. WILSON. West Newbury, Vt., September 8th, 1882.



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Bradford, Aug 15, 1882. 41

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