

It is stated that there are 99,000,000 volumes in the public libraries of America, while there are but 21,000,000 in Europe.

Poplar trees are being cut down in Fresno county, California, because they draw too much on the fertility of the soil.

A Hungarian journal quotes a list of fourteen cases of suicide in a single regiment of engineers as proof of the bad treatment of the men by the officers of the Hungarian army.

The difference between the United States and Mexico is strikingly shown, remarks the New York Witness, in the fact that with its 22 per cent. of the entire population are in school; in Mexico, only four per cent.

The statement that 10 per cent. of the population of India are widows is more important than it seems. In former times widows were burned with their dead husbands, and the percentage of survivors was very small indeed.

The American Farmer thinks, "It is not very complimentary to the high character of sheepmen in intellectual and moral worth, but too near the truth, that most of us are tagging along behind the procession. We are hustled in wool by Australia, South America, South Africa, India, Russia, and other countries. We are hustled to find just what we can do profitably that everybody else is not doing. We find a place once in a while, but when we get around again somebody has gotten there too, and hustles us to 'even up.' There is a fight, and we need to find it."

A deputy coroner in Philadelphia the other day was called upon by the agent of an insurance company for a duplicate certificate of death in the case of a child eight months old. It had died of exhaustion caused by feeding. The request was such an unusual one that the deputy coroner asked if there was any insurance upon the infant's life. The agent appeared to be surprised at the ignorance of his questioner, and said: "I'm not at all strange for such a young child to carry insurance on his life. Our company insures infants from the day of birth. In this case the parents have been paying five cents a week since February last."

It has been said privately by way of explanation of the opposition to the automatic coupler, says the Brooklyn Citizen, that on freight cars it could not work well, because a great deal of "slack" is required on a long freight train in order that the engine at starting may overcome the inertia of the cars. But it is easily possible to construct a coupler that will join automatically and still have just as much "slack" as the present link and pin by the use of which so many poor fellows lose either their limbs or lives, getting nothing from the company for themselves or surviving relatives by way of compensation. It is a simple thing.

Says the New York Post: Baltimore is beginning to be enlightened at the loss of trade with the country to the southeast of this far as Tennessee. There was a time when the merchants of the city waxed fat from the profit of this trade, but it has been diverted elsewhere by the extensions of the Norfolk and Western and the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, in which Baltimore more or less holds only an insignificant interest. New cities and new industries are springing up like the prophet's gourd in the territory mentioned, so that for Baltimore not to have its finger in the pie is a serious matter. This conviction came home with humiliating force during the recent celebration of Roanoke recently. Here is a city whose population has increased in ten years from 400 to 25,000. It is full of energetic business men, and one industrial establishment is being added to another as fast as it can be built. Roanoke boasts that in another ten years its population will have risen to 100,000.

Thoughtlessness. Farmer Simpson was an exceedingly middle-aged man, and would find excuses for the shortcomings of his neighbors, for the faults of his horses and in fact for every unpleasant thing that came in his way. He purchased a cow and had the greatest difficulty in keeping her in the pasture. "She's kind of a 'cavin' critter, but she means well," he said, after a walk of several miles in pursuit of her. One morning he was milking the cow, when she began to kick violently, upset the stool, sent the pail flying, and all the milk was spilled. The farmer got up, and contemplating the ruin, said gravely to a witness of the disaster: "Well, now, that's the worst fault this cow has."

Then after a moment's meditation, feeling that perhaps he had been unnecessarily severe, he added, "That is, if you can call it a fault; maybe it's only thoughtlessness."

The mines of New Zealand have turned out \$250,000,000 of gold.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

WHY CATTLE RAY FERTILIZER.

When any animal eat or lick earth it indicates that the food is not sufficiently supplied with lime and potash. To give a handful of fresh wood ashes, with an ounce of salt, once a week, will act as a remedy. This abnormal appetite also indicates indigestion, and a dose of one pint of raw flaxseed oil will remove the trouble in the majority of cases.—[New York Times.

RASPBERRY CROCHER.

There has been no real advance or improvement in the raspberry during the past forty years or more. There are no larger, better flavored, nor prolific varieties in cultivation than formerly, but our apparent advance is merely the result of making a change from the European varieties to the native, there being more honey and with good cultivation yield well at little cost, and as a result our markets are now supplied with this fruit, but not of the best quality. It is good, but not as good as most persons desire.—[New York Sun.

FERTILIZERS FOR APPLE TREES.

As a fertilizer for fruit crops we cannot improve on wood ashes and bone meal. If the ashes are leached and liberally applied, say at the rate of even ten tons per acre, nothing more will be needed in most cases. Should you low foliage and slow growth of wood indicate lack of nitrogen, this can be applied to the form of nitrate of soda, dried blood, ground fish, cotton-seed meal, sulphate of ammonia, etc., whatever is easiest to procure, or cheapest in your particular locality. Bone-meal contains over twenty per cent of phosphoric acid and four per cent of nitrogen, and if added to the un-leached ashes at the rate of 200 or 300 pounds to an acre or two of the ashes per acre, will make a complete and balanced fruit-tree fertilizer. Usually this combination is one of the cheapest, and at the same time most effective, of all manures available for the purposes.—[American Gardener.

BIRDS AND HOMES.

Professor A. J. Cook says that in rural numbers it is not far out of the way to say that, from less weight one pound, and in early summer of fruit has been seen in the colony. When bees are exceptionally cross, and sting upon slight provocation or provocation at all, it may be considered that it is a boundary sign, and the only remedy seems to be to kill the queen bee, and introduce a new queen from a colony that has better dispositions. As the life of the worker bee is short in summer, it will be but a few weeks before there will be an entirely new colony with a less irascible queen.

The beginner in beekeeping will do well not to go in too largely at first, but to have better to start with two or three swarms from as many different yards, and occasionally to introduce a new swarm or a few new queens from other yards, to prevent inbreeding, which may be as bad in bees as in poultry of animals.—[Boston A. Review.

THE SENSITIVE FLY.

There are so many different kinds of flies, each with a charm of its own, that it would be hardly just to single out one and pronounce it more beautiful than all the rest. But certainly it would be hard to name one that excels in good qualities the old-fashioned suspension fly, which has been cultivated probably as long as any other flower known in gardens. The disease which has hitherto for some years past seems to have run its course; at least these flies were never more luxuriant or the flowers more perfect than they have been this year.

A mass of these flowers in full bloom, with some dark green foliage behind them, is a beautiful spectacle, and so is a group of them mixed with the tall blue spikes of the perennial delphiniums. Hardly fly bulbs are usually planted in the autumn, but the buds of this one should be lifted in late July or early August and planted at once. At that time the stalks have died down, and soon after new roots begin to put out, and some very radical leaves spread over the ground and remain green all the winter. The bulbs should be planted before this new growth starts, or there will be a great loss in the vigor of the plant's growth.—[Garden and Forest.

SUB SWINE.

There are many farmers who make a specialty of raising choice pigs for home market, by which they receive quite an accession to their income. Some time ago Dr. Bassett was called professionally to one of these farms. He found a piggery some 20x10 feet, with a walk in the centre and styes on each side. Each sty contained six to twelve pigs, some one year old, breeding sows, some of which were sick, and a few had died. He killed a sick one, and on post mortem examination found the disease to be that known as hog cholera. The pigs were put under the best known treatment,

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The largest pyramid in Egypt is 454 feet high.

It is said that envelopes were first used in France in the time of Louis XIV.

A vocabulary of the Eskimo language has been compiled by M. Ryberg.

There are 300 mountains in the United States each exceeding 10,000 feet in height.

Terrapin frequently fetch \$2 apiece within ten miles of the waters in which they are most abundant.

A parrot is said to have lived in the Zoological Gardens, Regent Park, London, for 52 years without a drop of water.

A violent gesture made by an Atlantic lawyer to emphasize a remark during a speech, caused a dislocation of his arm.

Many persons will not allow the rocking of an empty chair, because they say it is the forerunner of death in the family.

It is now proposed to rear insects for ornamental purposes, just as plants and flowers are acclimatized in hot-houses and gardens.

The heart of the poet Shelley is preserved in the house of his son, Sir Percy Shelley, at Boscombe Manor, Bourne-mouth, Eng. and

Miss Hannah Fairchild of Westport, Conn., has been a church member for fifty-five years, and has not missed a single service during that period.

A bald eagle lived his habits in the hair of a little girl in Johnson County, Mo., the other day, and was trying to carry her off when he was frightened away.

A German paper says that Berlin has lately been suffering from a plague of rats. They come in droves into the seven wholesale warehouses of the city, and were of extraordinary size.

Africa is 200 times as large as the State of New York. It is the most remarkable of all the countries as respects its animal distributions. Out of a total of 223 known species, 172 of them are to be found in no other country.

The tallest tree in Northern Vermont stands on the main street of Derby line. Its height by careful measurement is 192 feet. Three feet from the ground its circumference is exactly 20 feet, while at 5 feet it is 18 feet and 2 inches.

A resident of Plumstead, Penn., has a turkey hen which is very aquatic in her habits. She recently hatched and is now raising four, fourteen ducklings. When they take to the water she wades in after them, and keeps as near them as possible.

Dogs' heads of this iron are now sold in the fancy shops in London. The head is said to be well cast, and when enameled and finished by a hand-one head of hair, a very good-looking, if rather heavy-headed doll is the result. The bodies are made of kolasa heretofore.

Considerable astonishment was recently excited in a zone of Sweden and Russia, comprising the towns of Stockholm, Edsberg, Pösk, Köpman and St. Peterburg, by the appearance in his air and the eventual deposit on the ground of large clouds of powder of a peculiar appearance.

Regular Meals. The regularity of meals begins when the child is young. To feed the baby something every time it cries to keep it quiet is laying the foundation for a dyspeptic. The habit of eating between meals is formed, and the child will think it essential that it eats between each meal. There is little appetite for the regular meals, and the stomach is thus ruined by this irregularity. Business men are but older boys in this respect. They eat when they happen to have time or when they feel like it. Probably three-quarters of our business men have only two regular meals a day, breakfast and supper, and between times they will eat as time dictates to them. Some days they will fast, and other days they will eat a hearty noon meal, but more often they will only take a few sandwiches or a sandwich while writing or studying their accounts. One of the greatest surprises to Europeans is to see the way Americans eat. They have no time to linger half an hour or more over the noon meal. They do not talk and laugh as they eat, but their minds are intent upon business difficulties or schemes. Eating occupies a great deal of our life, and as one of the most important things we do proper attention should be given to it. As a race of dyspeptics we need more of the Britisher's slow, easy life when eating.—[Yankee Blade.

How He Battles. The rattle of the rattlesnake consists of three or more solid horny rings around the end of its tail. There may be as many as twenty-one of these rings, which are formed by the failure of the snake to shed its entire skin. The unshed portion dries and hardens, and it is by the shaking of these rings that the snake's tail produces the peculiar sound of rattling around in a paper bag.—[Keto Field's Washington.

HE IS STILL BOSS.

There Have Been Many Giants, but Chang Is the Tallest Now Living.

Turner the naturalist, declared that he once saw, upon the coast of Brazil, a race of gigantic savages, one of whom was 12 feet in height. M. Thevet, of France, in his description of America, published at Paris in 1575, asserted that he saw and measured the skeleton of a South American which was 11 feet 2 inches in length. The Chinese are said to claim that in the last century there were men in their country who measured 15 feet in height. Josephine mentioned the case of a Jew who was 10 feet 2 inches in height. Pliny tells of an Arabian giant, Gabara, 9 feet 9 inches, the tallest man in the days of Claudius.

John Middleton, born at Hale, in Lancashire, in the time of James I., was 9 feet 3 inches in height; his hand was 17 inches long and 9 1/2 inches broad, says Dr. Platt, in his "History of Staffordshire." The Irish giant, Murphy, contemporary with Clive, was 7 feet 10 inches. A skeleton in the Museum of Trinity College, Dublin, is 8 feet 6 inches in height, and that of Charles Byrne, in the museum of the College of Surgeons, London, is 8 feet 4 inches. The tallest living man is Chang-tung, the Chinese giant. His height is 7 feet 3 inches.—[Tid-Bits.

Will Beat the Thomas Cat. An old trapper has been bringing from the mountains for two weeks a number of peculiar little animals that have puzzled a good many people to tell what they were. They are about the size of a common rat and have large bushy tails like that of a raccoon. Their bodies are long and slender and well protected by a thick growth of brownish-colored hair. Their eyes are black and snapping, and when teased they growl and spit like a cat, showing a row of teeth as sharp as canine needles. The name of these little animals is the Lemmings, and they are a species of the civet cat, ranking between the fox and the weasel. They are better than all the pussies in creation as rat exterminators, and about twenty of them have been turned loose in different warehouses and ivery stables in this city.—[Marshall Appeal.

Giving All Honor to His Wife. The German Emperor loses to opportunity of winning favor with the ladies with his gallant speeches. One of the prettiest of these courtier-like utterances was delivered in answering a toast to his wife in the province where she was born.—"The land that nurtures me to this province and claims me to her in a manner different from all the others of my empire is the land that sparkles at my side, her Majesty the Empress, Spring from this soil, the type of the various virtues of a German princess, it is to her I owe it, if I am able to meet the severe labors of my office with a happy spirit and make head against them."

Frances Got It. "I want some more chicken," said 4-year-old Frances at the dinner-table.

"I think you have had as much as is good for you, dear," replied Frances' mother.

"I want more," said Frances pointed.

"You can't have more now; but here is a wishbone that you and mamma can pull. That will be fun. You pull one side and I'll pull the other, and whoever gets the longer end can have her wish come true. Why, baby, you've got it! What was your wish, Frances?"

"I wished for some more chicken," said Frances, promptly. She got it this time.—[Boston Beacon.

Etiquette. The word "etiquette" is Anglo-Norman, and primarily had a sense which different meaning from its present one. It formerly meant simply the ticket which was tied to the neck of bags or fastened to packages, to indicate their contents. Finally it seemed that the word came to be applied to cards given out at an entertainment, with certain titles of honor for guests granted upon them. This behavior was or was not "the ticket," or "etiquette," and the slang term, "must the ticket," and our elegant word "etiquette" have the same derivation.

One Cent a Half Wall Paper. Five, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 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