

The Wilson Advance.

\$1 A YEAR CASH IN ADVANCE.

"LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIMS" AT BE TH' COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S AND TRUTHS."

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

VOLUME XXVIII.

WILSON, N. C., DECEMBER 15, 1898

NUMBER 50.

No matter what you pay for it

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

is the cheapest medicine in the world for that cough of yours.

STRANGE SLEEPING PLACES.

Novel Position Assumed by Some People For a Nap.

Probably the strangest sleeping-place recorded was that of a gentleman whom a policeman found sleeping on the top of the sharp spikes of an area railing. Before the magistrate on the following morning he stated that he was never more surprised in his life when he awoke to find himself where he was. One of the spikes had entered the sleeper's clothing without, however, disturbing his slumbers.

There are several authentic cases of bicyclists sleeping while riding their machines, and police constables on duty have been known to fall asleep while standing on the pavement without support of any kind. Recently a man engaged to pick apples was caught indulging in a surreptitious nap astride a branch, and it is quite a common practice of the men who bring garden produce into London for the early morning markets to fall asleep while seated on the shafts of the cart, trusting to their horses in order to arrive safely at their destination.

A hotel servant once dozed off while sitting outside cleaning the top row of windows in a seven-story building. But this feat was eclipsed by a stepladder, who found the distance between the top of the church steeple on which he was at work and the ground below too far to go for his dinner, so he partook of the meal up aloft, and then lay down on the solitary plank, face downward, with his arms hanging in the air, and fell asleep.

At Hackney a man slept nightly for ten years inside a four-wheeled cab. A fire in winter was, of course, out of the question, but his comforts were few, and a few sacks did duty for bedclothes, while for a pillow he used a piece of board.

Struck by Lightning 200 Times.

A very singular record is attached to a deserted and ruined house at Dartmoor, England. It was built by a wealthy landowner, with the intention of making it his country residence; but before the building operations were completed a heavy thunderstorm broke over Dartmoor, and the house was struck by lightning, the roof being dismantled. The damage was repaired and the house quickly finished. No sooner did the owner take up his residence in it than another violent storm struck the house and destroyed the chimney-stack, doing, besides, considerable damage. This made the owner nervous, and he left the house. It was soon shown that his fears were not groundless, for in nearly every thunderstorm that passed over the district the house has been struck, and a fresh portion of it destroyed. Altogether it has been struck over 200 times.

Sound Advice to Sermon Makers.

Rousseau's advice for the composition of a love letter no preacher should follow in the composition of his sermon: "Begin without knowing what you are going to say, and ending without knowing what you have said." The sermon which is made after the Rousseau pattern will merit nothing better than Cleopatra's sneer, "He words me, girls, he words me."

No one is more certain to be impressed with the limitations of language than the preacher. "A hindrance to thought, though the necessary instrument of it," as Herbert Spencer says.

The Salt Habit.

A medical journal advises against the excessive use of salt. It is first of all a perversion of taste, the condition destroying the flavor of delicate dishes if too pronounced. Furthermore, it is asserted that an excessive use of salt seriously overtaxes the kidneys to remove it, and that many cases of derangement and disease are due to this excessive use. The salt habit, it is added, is easily acquired, and persons indulging themselves, soon reach a point where nothing is palatable that is not strongly impregnated with salt.

The Difference.

This is a baby. It is a girl baby. How sloppy its chin! How red its eyes. What a weird content on its face. How like a demon it yells! Yet in a few short years some man will be half crazed with wild suspense, worshipping the very air this being breathes, devoutly kneeling at her feet and frantically begging for one word, one pressure of the hand, even a look, which will give him hope.

CASTORIA.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature

USES FOR WOOD PULP

THE MODERN WAY OF CONVERTING TREES INTO USEFUL ARTICLES.

The Material Costs About One-Half the Price of the Genuine Article. Telegraph and Telephone Wires and Bricks Some of the Things Manufactured.

It is wonderful how extensively paper is taking the place of such substances as wood, brick and iron in various mechanical trades. For instance, boards of all sizes and shapes are now manufactured out of wood pulp very faithfully to resemble the grain and texture of every kind of wood. The material costs about one-half the price of the genuine article, and is used by carpenters, cabinet-makers, picture frame makers and boat builders for paneling, wainscoting and decorative work generally where lightness and durability are required. Two excellent qualities that the paper boards possess are that they are not subject to warping and dry rot. There are no bad knots to mar the appearance of the surface, and as the material is smooth and does not require planing, and can be sawed with a fine saw, there seems every reason to believe that it will in time be used even more than it is.

Telegraph and telephone poles, flag-staffs and spars for small sailing vessels are the latest development in the line of manufacture from paper. They are made of pulp in which a small amount of borax, yellow, and other ingredients are mixed. These are cast in a mould in the form of a hollow rod of the desired diameter and length. The poles and spars are claimed to be lighter and stronger than wood. They do not crack or split, and it is said that when they are varnished or painted the weather does not affect them. Besides possessing these advantages, the paper-made article can be made fire-proof by saturating it in a strong solution of alum water. When thoroughly dry the paper poles and spars thus treated will resist the action of flames. The manufacture of enamelled paper bricks, which commenced in 1896, has now become a definite industry, as the material has been used for building purposes all over the United States with very satisfactory results.

The production of these bricks on the hollow principle is a marked feature in their form, the object being practically the same as that sought in the making of hollow forged steel shafting. Not only is a defective center removed, but it is possible to put a mandrel into the hollow, and, by applying pressure the walls are operated upon from both inside and outside. When a solid body is heated the temperature of the interior always varies from that of the outer portion, at first often resulting in the expansion of one or the other that causes the defects. It is for these reasons that the plan of forming the bricks upon the hollow principle and plugging them afterward is of advantage. Sawdust is found to be a good filler for this purpose. It is first fireproofed, as is also the paper pulp used in the bricks, and then it is mixed with cement and pressed into the hollow of the bricks and smoothed and enamelled over.

WANTED SEVERAL TRUSTWORTHY PERSONS in this state to manage our business in their own and nearby counties. It is mainly office work connected with home. Salary \$1000 a year and expenses - definite - no more, no less salary. Monthly \$75. References. Enclose self addressed stamped envelope, Herbert E. H. S., Pres., Dept. M. Chicago.

The Other Man's Move.

Dr. Zukertot, the celebrated chess player, was walking in the street one day, when an idea struck him with regard to a certain chess opening, and he began carefully to think it out with a view to playing it in his next game with the equally well known player, Mr. Steinitz. Lost in thought, he stood at the corner of a street for a long time, until a policeman, suspecting him, went up and told him to move on.

A Superstitious Man.

An American millionaire who has a palace at Venice is so superstitious that his countrymen usually are. On Thanksgiving Day he invited a party of friends, including a Roman prince, one of the Queen of Italy's maids of honor, and various sprigs of the Italian aristocracy. The Roman prince, however, failed him at the last moment, and the host refused to sit down to dinner on finding that the company consisted of thirteen persons. He made various fruitless attempts to secure another guest, and at last, in despair, he announced that he intended to follow the customs of the Arabs, who always wait upon their guests, and eat their own dinners by themselves afterward. The meal proved a great success.

Aluminum Musical Instruments.

A new use for aluminum is reported from France, where attempts to construct violins, bass-fiddles and other string instruments of this metal have been entirely successful. It is stated that these instruments produce a richer sound than those manufactured of wood, and that this is especially the case with higher notes.

Why Allow Yourself to be Tortured at the Stake of Disease?

Why allow yourself to be tortured at the stake of disease? Chills and Fever will undermine, and eventually break down the strongest constitution. "FEBRI-CURA" (Sweet Chill Tonic of Iron) is more effective than Quinine in all being combined with Iron is an excellent Tonic and Nerve Medicine. It is pleasant to take, is sold under positive guarantee to cure or money refunded. Accept no substitutes. The "just as good" kind don't affect cases. Sold by R. W. Higgins.

TURKISH PEASANT WISDOM

Curious Proverbs That Embody Mohammedan Philosophy.

The Turkish peasants in their own country have plenty of homely wit. They say: "For the team ox there is no knife," meaning that the poor, hard-working peasant is too poor to be persecuted. The profound and submissive piety of the Turk shows in such sayings as "It may be six or it may be seven, but it will be what number Allah ordains," and again, "When Allah gives he does not ask whose soul thou art." Or a like characteristic is the saying, "The head that bends is never cut off."

Of course the poor, beaten donkey is the hero of a whole list of proverbs. "The donkey is little," it is said, "yet he loads camels." They invited the donkey to a wedding. "Is another maxim," and he said, "Is it wood or water that is wanted?"

Of religious proverbs Koranic literature is as full as Christian. "Do what is kind and good," says one, "and cast it into the sea; if the fish do not recognize it the Creator will."

Worldly prudence, however, inspires such maxims as these: "The sound by the tongue is incurable," "Out of the tripe seller's children cometh no silk brocade;" "Don't always expect the peppy part of the stew;" "They who handle money will lick their fingers;" which is more true of Turkey than of other places, probably. "The father gave a vineyard to the son, but the son never gave a bunch of grapes to the father," is a sermon of ingratitude. Short, pithy proverbs are: "A man should only listen with one of his ears," and "there is no friend to a man like his mother."

The Coy Coyote.

"Speaking about smart animals," said the real estate man, "I want to go on record as saying that there is no animal that can hold a candle to the coyote for smoothness. When I first went out to western Kansas I had an ambition to kill enough coyotes to make a lap robe to send back to my friends in the east. I tramped all over that country with a gun, but I never could get nearer than within a mile of a coyote. I used to drive out in my buggy and hide the gun under the seat, but it didn't make any difference. Not a coyote ever got near enough so that he could have been reached with anything short of a long-range cannon.

"One day I started out in a hurry and forgot my gun. I hadn't gone a mile from town before I ran onto a group of four coyotes. The critters didn't even take the trouble to lope off out of sight. They just walked off two or three rods from the road and sat down, and looked at me and yawned. It made me hot to see their infernal impudence, and I made a dive as if I were going to get the gun out from under the seat. I thought sure I would scare them away. Well, surely they wouldn't believe it, but those cunning coyotes never moved. They just sat up there and actually grinned. They said just as plain as if they had used the words: 'Oh, you needn't try to run any bluff on us! We are strictly onto our job.' How they knew I hadn't the gun I don't know, but I have had great respect for the sense of a coyote ever since."

THE SNEEZING SEASON.

Some Valuable Hints For Warding Off a Cold.

A cold, as nearly every intelligent person knows, is the result of a stoppage somewhere of free circulation of blood, to which one is first sensitive through a feeling of chill.

So slight is the chill oftentimes that not until the preliminary sneeze comes is the victim aware he or she has been in the track of a draught, or that the temperature has changed.

The usual notion is that by going indoors, changing to heavier clothing or retreating from the moist atmosphere the danger is averted. These precautions are all well enough, but the first and most efficacious measure should be to restore the quick flow of warm blood through every vein, and so by heat instantly counteract the little chill.

One, perhaps the simplest method of doing this, has been learned by men who stand on sentinel duty, who are obliged to suffer more or less exposure in winter, or who scorn the comforts of cold weather, of overcoat and umbrella.

Their method when the temperature of the body or extremities is lowered, or a sudden chill or quick change from warm to cold atmosphere is endured, is to inhale three or four deep breaths, expand the lungs to their fullest extent, holding every time the inhaled air as long as possible and then slowly letting it forth through the nostrils.

In doing this the inflation of the lungs sets the heart into such quick motion that the blood is driven with unusual force along its channels and so runs out into the tiniest veins.

This redoubles a glow down to the toes and finger tips and sets up a quick reaction against the chill. The whole effect is to stir the blood and set it in motion as from rapid exercise.

No Objectionable Literature in Russia.

In Russia many scientific and miscellaneous books are not allowed to be sold, simply on account of a few objectionable lines. But if any one needs the book he can send a letter, with a certain fixed sum of money, and get special permission to order a copy.

"In a minute" one dose of HART'S ESSENCE OF GINGER will relieve any ordinary case of Colic, Cramps or Nausea. An unexcelled remedy for Diarrhoea, Cholera Morbus, Summer complaints and all internal pains. Sold by R. W. Higgins.

SPONGE FISHING.

THE WAY THEY ARE SIGHTED AND BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE.

Some Curious Facts About the Marine Product Which Are Not Generally Known—They Are Found in All the Seas of the World.

The sponges of commerce and the dried specimens of other species are not the actual animals, but merely their skeletons, or framework. That which constitutes their vital parts is removed in preparing them for market.

Sponges do not have the power of motion possessed by most animals; they are nearly always attached to submerged objects. Since it is impossible for them to go in search of food, they can grow only in places where there is plenty of food such as they require.

They are more active in fresh than in still water, and die in a short time if exposed to the air. The surface of a living sponge is covered with minute pores, through which water is imbibed, carrying with it both the air and the organic particles necessary for the support of life.

Sponges are distributed through all seas, and are classified, chiefly, according to the structure of the skeleton. The Mediterranean and Red Seas are the sponging-grounds of the Old World; the grounds of the New World are the Bahamas, Southern and West-Indies.

The best sponge of commerce is found in the Mediterranean, and is known as Turkey, or Smyrna, sponge. It is obtained by divers, who go clad in armor when diving.

Sponges are usually obtained by fishing for them. When a sponge vessel arrives at the fishing grounds in the Bahamas, it is anchored, and then crew immediately get ready for work. The sponge fisher's outfit consists of a small boat called a "dingey," a long hook and a water-glass. The sponge hook is a three-pronged iron fork attached to the end of a very long pole; the water-glass is simply a wooden water bucket with a bottom of common window glass.

To use it, the glass bottom is thrust into the water, the fisherman puts the ball around his neck and then buries his head deep in the bucket to exclude the light. There are always two men to each dingey; one to act as "sculler," and the other as "hooker." While the sculler propels the dingey along very slowly, the hooker, in a kneeling position, keeps his head in the water. When a good sponge is sighted, the hooker gives a signal and the dingey stops.

Together the sculler and hooker thrust the sponge-hook down through the water and run it under the sponge; the roots are thus pulled loose from the rocks, and soon the game is in the dingey. Thus the work goes on until a load is obtained, and then they are taken ashore and placed in crows to be cured. The crows are built by sticking pieces of brush or stakes into the sand just out of the water, or where it is very shallow.

Detection of the Rogues.

The executors of the law in Europe have been swift to seize upon discoveries in science to help them to run down criminals. A curious use was recently made of the microscope in Prussia. A barrel of specie sent from the frontier to Berlin was robbed and filled with sand. This was supposed to have been done on the way to Berlin. The eminent chemist, Prof. Eichenbargh, obtained samples of all the sand near the stations through which the barrel passed, and, by means of the blowpipe and microscope, found sand of the station at which it had been emptied and filled. The thief was afterward discovered and arrested.

In France noted rogues are not only photographed but weighed and measured carefully, and forced to speak and sing into a phonographic instrument before their discharge from prison, that they may be identified afterward in attempted crime.

It has also been noted for the identification of criminals that one part of the human body which is never duplicated in man or woman is the markings on the skin of the thumb. The face and figure may be altered at will, but the lines on the thumb—never! For the detection of criminals an impression of the thumb is stamped upon a paper.

Altogether Too Common.

A Kansas boy writes home from Manila: "There are many queer customs to be seen here. The native women do not hold up their skirts when crossing the streets. They have no skirts to hold up. But that isn't the strange custom. The men do not look."

How Dyaks Settle Disputes.

When the Dyaks of Borneo have to decide which of two parties is in the right, they have two lumps of salt of equal size given them to drop into water, and he whose lump first dissolves is deemed to be in the wrong.

French Searchlights.

Acetylene is used in a new French naval searchlight, which is designed to have the generating apparatus mounted below the deck with a pipe running up by the mast to the burner. Disturbing stomach diseases.

Permanently cured by the masterly powers of SOUTHWESTERN NERVE TONIC. Invalids need suffer no longer, because this great remedy can cure them all. It is a cure for the whole world of stomach weakness and indigestion. The cure begins with the first dose. The relief it brings is marvelous and surprising. It makes no failure; never disappoints. No matter how long you have suffered, your cure is certain under the use of this great health giving force. Pleasant and always safe.

Sold by E. F. Nadai, Druggist.

THE VALIANT MAHDISTS.

Fanatical Bravery of the Dervishes as Displayed at Omdurman.

The fanatical bravery of the Dervishes in the face of hopeless odds was a dramatic feature of the historic battle of Omdurman. Again and again the Dervish hordes hurled themselves against the British line. Following the Dervish custom, they would advance, take up a position, plant their standard and, rallying around it, shout defiantly. Where they planted the standard they stood ready to die.

In the forefront of the Khalifa's battle line was a body of his troops surrounding the Khalifa's standard. The valiant Mahdists, foot and horse, surged forward around this black banner of the Khalifa and gathered an impetus which, if it had not been for the opportune arrival of the Lincoln in support, would have carried them on to the bayonets of the British vanguard.

As it was, although decimated at every yard by the continuous stream of lead from front and flank, they filtered on till only a mere handful of dismounted men remained to plant the black banner in the sand and die around it. It may be said that round this banner Mahdism died.

Within a few moments the dead bodies of the Dervishes were heaped up around the now torn and battered flag. Finally not more than three of its intrepid defenders were left, and they linked arms that they might die together fighting. Two of the three were shot, whereupon the one survivor, flourishing his spear, advanced against a thousand rifles. It was an inspiring spectacle. To the credit of the British officers be it said they forbade any one to fire upon the solitary warrior.

A great body of white clad footmen, screaming hoarsely the name of Allah and brandishing huge spears, ran at full speed across the open ground for no other purpose apparently than to die with their leader. Rifle and Maxim fire and shell from field guns swept through the mass and mowed them down, and not one man out of ten reached Yakub's standard. There they stood with the few surviving horsemen still shouting fierce defiance until not one man was left standing. So far from asking quarter they simply hugged death.

Diseases of the Blood and Nerves.

No one need suffer with neuralgia. This disease is quickly and permanently cured by Brown's Iron Bitters. Every disease of the blood, nerves and stomach, chronic or otherwise, succumbs to Brown's Iron Bitters. Known and used for nearly a quarter of a century, it stands today as the most famous and most reliable of all cures. Brown's Iron Bitters is sold by all druggists.

Spiders Help Make Balloons.

In the professional school at Chalais-Meudon, the spiders have now to spin for the benefit of the balloons, which are used for scientific and military researches. The spiders are grouped in dozens before a reel, which withdraws the delicate threads. One spider can give a thread from 20 to 40 yards in length, after which performance it is released. The threads are of a pinkish hue, and are washed to remove the sticky surface layer. Eight threads have to be combined. The resulting texture is much lighter than ordinary silk of the same bulk, and strong cords for military balloons can no doubt be obtained in this way.

Settled an Old Grudge.

An old man-of-war's man took a seat in a passenger car one day, attracting considerable attention by his dress and manner. An indiscreet neighbor ventured the question, "In the navy, eh?"

The sailor nodded affirmatively.

"Well," went on the other man, "I am not exactly in the navy myself; I am a contractor—that is, I furnish cheese to the navy."

"Oh, you are, are ye?" said the sailor. "You are just the chap I've been looking for," and accordingly he knocked the aspirant for naval honors over the car seat, and added as he looked around, "now show me the son-of-a-bitch that furnishes the butter."

Flesh Food and Vegetarianism.

Some one has estimated that twenty-two acres of land is needed to sustain a man on flesh, while that amount of land sown with wheat will feed forty-two persons; sowed to oats, eighty-eight; to potatoes, Indian corn or rice, 176 persons, and planted with the breadfruit tree over 6,000 people would be fed.

Might Mention the Fact.

"Suppose I should call you any hard names," asked the literary chap from the East, who was down in Mexico, studying human nature, "what would you do?"

Keeps Pencil in Pocket.

Pencils can be securely held in an ordinary pocket by a handy new device formed of a wire clip to grip the edge of the flap at one side, with a loop to receive the pencil.

A Danish School Regulation.

Pupils in the public schools of Copenhagen are required to take three baths a week in the public school building, and while they are bathing their clothes are sterilized in a steam oven. The Danes object to the regulation on the ground that it makes the children discontented with their home surroundings.—New York Tribune.

Ayer's Pills, being composed of the essential virtues of the best vegetable aperients, without any of the woody or fibrous material whatever, is the reason why they are so much more effective and valuable than any other.

COST OF ELEPHANTS

Most Used in the Siamese Malay States as Beasts of Burden.

It is somewhat interesting to compare the weights carried by elephants in the tin-producing districts of the Malay peninsula with those used in the country of the Lao states. In the peninsula the distances are seldom more than at most three or four days' march, and the elephant is expected to carry as much as 900 to 1,000 pounds, besides his mahout and howda. The latter is often a mere brace of panniers, slung together so as to rest one on each side of the backbone, and covered sometimes with a light barrel roof of bark. A good tusk which will carry 500 pounds will fetch about \$50, and the female which can bear 800 pounds is worth about \$45. In the Lao states, where journeys of ten days or three weeks are frequent, the average weight hardly exceeds 300 pounds, or one-third of what is usual in the peninsula. The prices in various parts of the country vary considerably.

When we were on the Me Kiang and in the Malay Nax in 1893, a good tusk could be had for \$32 and a female for \$24; at Chiang Mai, where good teak-hauling elephants are in great demand, a tusk may fetch \$150, and a female anything from \$50 to \$100, according to her strength and ability.

In the Siamese Malay states there are probably about 1,000 domesticated elephants, all told, and in the Lao country probably over 2,500 animals are working at the present moment. That these animals breed in captivity in Siam is due to the fact that a large number of them spend the greater part of their time holiday making in the jungle. When there is no work for the beast, the mahout takes him out to a nice, cool, green bit of forest and leaves him there to enjoy himself. There is no expense connected with his upkeep, for he looks after himself. He has a habit of ratan round his feet to disengage him from wandering too far, and a wooden bell round his neck, by the tone of which the mahout or his little boy can always find him, when they go out once a month to look him up and give him some bananas.

Horses Have Honor.

Horses may have no souls, but they have honor, which for the practical purposes of the world is sometimes quite good, and let no one doubt they enjoy it. Some time ago a fine horse that had been sold to a second-hand furniture man was coming down the street with a load when the signal gong rang in the engine-house it just happened to pass. The old horse had been going at the pace of a nag that works by the day. But there was a change. The driver picked himself up to see his steed disappearing around the corner at a breakneck speed, with bureau drawers and chairs flying out behind and littering the street. Away it went, like a meteor, ahead of the flying fire brigade, to the fire, picked out a hydrant and backed what was left of the wagon up against it. Only then did it stop. But if any doubter could have seen the grin on the horse's face as it eyed the driver who came panting up to claim it, he would have doubted no longer.

Every Citizen Postmaster.

The people of St. Kilda never have any trouble with their post office department. Every man is his own postmaster and letter carrier.

Dispatching the Mail.

An ordinary passenger car on a steam railroad costs from \$4,000 to \$5,000 and weighs 28,000 pounds, or 19 tons. A mail car, which costs from \$2,000 to \$2,500 and is shorter by about one-quarter than the ordinary coach, weighs 32,000 pounds, or 16 tons. A baggage car, without the baggage in it, weighs 28,000 pounds, or 14 tons, and costs about as much as a mail car. A sleeping car, with observatory attachment, literary annex and culinary department, costs anywhere from \$10,000 to \$12,000. The average weight of a sleeping car is from 20 to 22 tons.

A full train in motion, as a little figuring will show, is no light affair. The ordinary weight of the railroad locomotive for passenger service, inclusive of tender, but not of fuel in the tender, is 40 tons. One baggage car weighs 14 tons, and one mail car 16 tons, bringing up the weights of the locomotive and the baggage and mail cars to 70 tons. Six passenger cars at an average of 19 tons, weight of baggage, of fuel carried, weight of a train made up of a locomotive and eight cars would be 184 tons, or 368,000 pounds, exclusive of the passengers and mail matter.

Bury the Dead in the House.

In certain parts of Africa it is considered a mark of disrespect to bury out-of-doors at all. Only slaves are treated in such unceremonious fashion. The honored dead are buried under the floor of the house.

Latest Colonial Policy.

Spain is saving \$4,000,000 a month by doing nothing for Cuba. It is, however, a novel way to run a colony.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Relief in Six Hours.

Distressing Kidney and Bladder disease relieved in six hours by "NEW GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN KIDNEY CURE." It is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in bladder, kidney and back, in male or female. Relieves retention of water almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is the remedy.

Speed of Electricity.

The speed of electricity is so great that its passage from point to point along a conducting wire may be regarded as practically instantaneous. Various attempts have been made to measure the rate at which it travels, and observers, with delicate instruments, have affirmed that it was not less than 114,000 miles per second, and in one of two places it speed was as

The Cruel Knife!

It is absolutely useless to expect a surgical operation to cure cancer, or any other blood disease. The cruelty of such treatment is illustrated in the alarming number of deaths which result from it. The disease is in the blood, and hence can not be cut out. Nine times out of ten the surgeon's knife only hastens death.

My son had a most malignant Cancer, for which the doctors said an operation was the only hope. The operation was a severe one, as it was necessary to cut down to the jaw bone and scrape it. Before a great while the cancer returned, and began to grow rapidly. I gave him many remedies without relief, and at last, upon the advice of a friend, decided to try S. S. S. (Swift's Specific), and with the second bottle he began to improve. After twenty bottles had been taken, the Cancer disappeared entirely, and he was cured. The cure was wholly vegetable, and he is now seventeen years old, and has never had a sign of the dreadful disease to return.

279 Snodgrass St., Dallas, Texas.

Absolutely the only hope for Cancer is Swift's Specific.

S.S.S. For the Blood

as it is the only remedy which goes to the very bottom of the blood and forces out every trace of the disease. S. S. S. is guaranteed purely vegetable, and contains no potash, mercury, or other mineral. Books on Cancer will be mailed free to any address by the Swift Specific Co., Atlanta, Ga.

DO CROWS CONVERSE?

Cunning Birds That Seem to Have Means of Communication.

There is some reason for calling an owl the bird of wisdom; and yet, there is cause for wondering if the crow is not mentally his superior. Crows are not intimidated by the gloom of late autumn. If the fog is too dense to fly through it, they rise above it or trot about the ground, discussing the situation with their fellows. Is this speaking too positively? I have long been familiar with an observing man who has lived all his days within sight and hearing of crows. He claims to understand their language, and can repeat the "words" that make up their vocabulary. Certainly crows seem to talk; but do they? Does a certain sound made by them have always the one significance? Year after year, I have listened and watched, watch and listened, and wondered if my friend was right. He believed it. I believed it almost. Are there limitations to ornithological interpretations? And is this an instance where truth is unattainable? We know that crows are cunning and by their mother wit have withstood the persecutions of mankind; we know that they have a wide range of utterances, and not one is put forth merely to gratify the ear, as in the case of a thrush's song; yet we hesitate to say plainly that crows talk to one another and that they take counsel together. There is no physical or metaphysical reason why this should not be the case; there is abundant evidence pointing in that direction, but no actual demonstration satisfying every one, has taken place. Were we less theoretically ridden and more observant, the question would have been settled before this. In such a case, the opinion of the farmer is worth more than that of the professional ornithologist.

Railroad Cars.

An ordinary passenger car on a steam railroad costs from \$4,000 to \$5,000 and weighs 28,000 pounds, or 19 tons. A mail car, which costs from \$2,000 to \$2,500 and is shorter by about one-quarter than the ordinary coach, weighs 32,000 pounds, or 16 tons. A baggage car, without the baggage in it, weighs 28,000 pounds, or 14 tons, and costs about as much as a mail car.