TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Evidence increases that leprosy is no longer an unknown horror on this continent. Cases have recently been known in Massachusetts, Dakota, Minnesota and Louisiana.

It is stated by *Dr. Foote's Health Monthly* that 25,000 francs, equal to about $5,000, have been offered by a member of the French academy of medicine for the discovery of a cure for diphtheria. The prize may be awarded to anyone out of the profession if he shall make the discovery.

The United States government, in 1879, bought 14,000 sheep and 1000 goats for the Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico. Now the Indians have 900,000 sheep and 200,000 goats, and are a self-supporting tribe. The officials who recommended this plan believe that if generally adopted the Indian problem would be quickly resolved.

A number of prominent Lutheran preachers of Washington, New York city, and Baltimore have issued an appeal to the people of their denomination throughout the country for funds to erect at Washington a colossal bronze statue of Martin Luther. It is proposed to purchase for this purpose a duplicate of the figure of the great reformer which stands in the center of the old-fashioned group at Worms, and to erect it in front of the Lutheran Memorial church on the Thomas circle, between Fourteenth street and Vermont avenue.

The famous Walled Lake in the state of Iowa, the inlet west of Dubuque, is receiving much attention. It is in the midst of prairie land and it is two miles long and four feet above the earth's surface. It is inclosed by a wall of stone in some places ten feet high, tapering to six at the bottom and five feet at the top. The stones vary in weight from three tons to 100 pounds. There are no stones on the surface of the ground within ten miles of the lake. A few years ago the lake rose and broke the wall in several places, and the farmers were obliged to repair it to prevent inundation.

A young man in a large Baltimore dry goods house sold a motherly old lady a sunshade for $1.00, and she took him in a carriage to get the money at her house. On the way she stopped at a fourth restaurant to see a friend, and in about two minutes the salesman was [illegible] with the insane notion that he was selling dry goods for a living and was being swindled. He was confined in a cell, his relations being sent for, and it was many hours before he could convince his relatives that he was the victim of a swindler who had made a scientific study of the operation.

The usefulness of the silkworm is about ended, if the report of the discovery of a new textile plant in Mexico is authentic. Mexican newspapers declare that this plant, which is of the nettle species, yields a brilliant, fine, strong fiber, that takes dyes readily and is extremely pliant and durable. Its seeds are said to be no difficulties in the way of its preparation and manufacture, and the fabric made from it closely resembles silk. If correctly described, this new vegetable addition to the list of textiles will add largely to the already abundant natural resources of Mexico. There is hardly a doubt, however, that the plant will flourish in other lands of like latitude and temperature if transplanted.

Heretofore there has been no means of knowing the total railway mileage of the country, because no official inquiry has ever been made by any of the general government bureaus of statistics. A basis for approximating pretty closely to the actual mileage is at last given, however, in the advance figures of the last census. These show that there were 87,801 miles of complete mileage in the country June 30, 1880. The *Railway Age* has a record of 7,175 miles built during that year, of which it estimates that 4,500 miles were laid after June 30, and of 9,396 miles laid in 1881. This makes a total of 104,777 miles on January 1, 1882, and enough has since been built to bring the total at the opening of 1883 up to about 113,000 miles.

Somebody claims to have discovered that an ordinary man is two inches taller when he gets out of the bed in the morning than when he goes back to it at night. His theory is that there is a gradual diminution in hight during the day, caused by the yielding of the plantar arches and of the invertebral discs, as well as a sudden sinking at the articulations of the legs when the individual rises. The sinking at the ankle he places at a third of an inch, at the knee one-twelfth to one-eighth of an inch, and at the hip two-fifths of an inch. The shortening at the knees is probably due to the elasticity of the cartilages, while at the hips there is as well a sinking of the head of the femur into the cotyloid cavity. If any reader thinks it worth while he can measure himself and see what truth there is in this.

BREAKING A COLT.

The Laughable Indian Way by which Young Horses are Subdued.

L. N. Cann relates that a gentleman who had tried the Spanish, Barey and other methods to subdue a wild colt finally tried the Indian way. He made a complete "dummy" man, whose long dangling arms, and queer misshapen body, with its stuffed hat instead of a head, caused the little children much amusement, mingled with astonishment, when he gravely informed them that "that was the man that was going to break our colt for us." In vain they plied him with questions. He would answer none of them, and they awaited further proceedings with the greatest curiosity.

Next morning the cart was brought out in good order. It seemed to have entirely recovered from the excitement of the day before, and enjoyed the currying and putting the boys gave it, taking an apple from the hand of one, and a lump of sugar and a piece of bread from another. Meanwhile he had his "dummy" all ready, and with the assistance of one of the lads, standing on the other side of the animal, lifted it lightly on the colt's back; and before letting it feel the weight of the "dummy" they had the girth, extending from each leg of the pants, securely fastened beneath.

All then stood aside, while the boy at the colt's head slipped off the bridle and got out of its way. For some moments for the first time the horse stood stock-still, and anticipating a repetition of the previous performances, the colt dashed off into the lot, rearing and plunging and going through a series of equine gymnastics wonderful to behold, while the old "dummy," held securely in its position by the girth around the horse, pitched forwards or backwards as the case might be, with its long arms dangling wildly in the air, now coming down on the horse's back, now on its hams, then giving a frantic lurch to the right or left, with head downward and arms dangling between the colt's legs, or recovering itself wildly, as the startled animal reared up its hams, to perform a Mazeppa act. As it threw its rider the horse's tail and hamstrings by its heels, that would have made the fortune of any equestrian in the land.

All hooted over the fun, and laughed till the tears ran down their cheeks, as they watched the performance of this "free show" for their benefit, happy that they knew there could not harm himself or anybody else, and free from care concerning the safety of the dummy, which, indeed, seemed to all entirely content.

The maneuvers of the colt to rid itself of its utterly reckless rider were wonderful to behold. Finding that rearing, pouncing, kicking and plunging did not accomplish its object, it rolled itself against the fence, and literally lay down and rolled over several times, but all to no purpose. Dummy still held on with the tenacity of Sinbad's Old Man of the Sea. At last, however, the loosened girth slipped around, and dummy dismounted from his lofty perch, was dragging and bumping along between the colt's heels, when made one last desperate effort to free himself from it, but, as before, the attempt was a vain one, for the dummy still held on with the stubbornness of fate.

Perceiving finally, that no harm was done to him, the colt cooled down, and at last commenced eating the grass as contentedly as if the object of his late terror were not trailing on the ground beneath him, for by this time that colt had been completely broken. That night, when he was released from his burden, he was as quiet as a lamb. Next morning the boys mounted and rode him where they would, without the slightest resistance on his part; and never, from that day to this, has he shown any opposition to the will of "the powers that be."

Phthisic vs. Love.

There appeared recently in the London Telegraph a paragraph about a lock of hair found in the center of an oak, placed there, the writer thought, by a "too secretive lover." Mrs. A. B. Tomlinson, of Knox, Penn., does not accept that explanation. "In olden times," she writes, "there was a superstitious belief (and some believe in it at the present time) that certain diseases could be cured by the following method: Place the patient with her back toward and close to an oak tree. Lay an auger on top of her head with the point toward the tree. Then bore a hole deep into the tree, remove the auger and cut off the lock of hair directly beneath it. Wrap the lock of hair in a verse taken from the Bible. Then take a wooden plug, place the hair and verse at the end of it, and, while muttering something akin to 'I do this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost,' drive it far into the heart of the tree. I have a girl working for me at the present time who is quite positive that she had the phthisic cured in that way, and I suppose some time in the future her lock of hair, always red, will be discovered in the heart of an oak, and there will be another article in a paper about another 'too secretive lover,' when if they could only know that phthisic was the cause of its being there how unromantic it would sound."

Pearls differ from other gems in requiring no art to bring out their beauty

FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

About Dogs.

If the farmers of the country who own worthless dogs—curs without any breeding—could be induced to destroy them and substitute one well-bred sheep hound pup, not more, to each farm, the wealth of every farming community would be vastly increased in many ways. Farmers with a little tact in getting along with a dog would soon find the colly saving them many a step. Eager and anxious to learn, willing to do anything within his power, the young dog needs only a wise and patient restraint, an intelligent direction, to become the most useful hand on the place.—*Breeder's Gazette.*

Wooden Silos.

The opinion is steadily gaining ground, backed by the actual test, that wooden silos are not only practicable, but in many cases preferable to an expensive stone structure. Water sometimes works into the latter, and frost may combine with it to work injury to the contents. Simply boarding up a bay in the barn is getting to be a popular way of making silos, and there is little objection to it. Well-built silos will keep well in such a condition; there is no doubt, and why may not the average farmer try the new system in this way rather than invest in a costly stone silo?—*New England Homestead.*

Destroying Tree Insects.

A writer in *Farm Weekly* says: As an evidence of the need of applying a strong and extreme measure, I cite the ravages in a section, to the stones of peach and plum trees, mountain ash, Japan and other quinces. I will mention that although gas appears to be fatal to them, making it necessary to work in the beginning of the gas, the effect on all green foliage is not so great, having as many grafts in the leaves of peach and plum stocks that after many of them were found eaten out by the newly hatched larvæ, which the grafts had contained some little days after the opening of the buds, the trees that after the night gases were taken away, and to watch and hatch usually in August.

Legs and Feet of Horses.

The feet and legs of horses require particular attention. It is said anything with horses, "Keep the feet and legs in order, and the body will take care of itself." The legs are the first to fail. The horse, when brought in from pasture, perhaps of six months old, is called upon to do a day's work. Horses from his knees and hocks down, should be well hand-rubbed, and that for well-rubbing in a little prepared oil will tend to prevent swelled legs, sitfasts and spring halt. When the legs are fevered from overdriving they should be bandaged with wet cloths to take away the heat, and prevent weak-legs that prove expensive, and which, without diminishing his capacity for labor, not really affect the market value of the horse.—*Live Stock Journal.*

Farm and Garden Notes.

Salt is used to destroy the golden nugget with partial success. About July I sow two bushels to the acre; the salt also hastens the maturity of the crop.

Everything points to another period in England of Rinderpest contagion. Both foot and mouth disease and pleuro-pneumonia are appearing in unexpected places.

It is well to give horses a double amount of feed on the evening preceding a long journey, and only half rations of grain or a little hay on the morning of starting.

The tendency of modern practice in manuring with commercial fertilizers is to use readily soluble and quick acting manures, but to use them sparingly at times. Little and often is the rule.

A good guide for feeding grain to cattle is one pound to each hundred of their weight. Most animals eat in proportion to their weight, and an animal weighing 1000 pounds may receive ten pounds of grain per day.

The average at factories from common cows the year through has been from twenty-four to twenty-five pounds of milk to make one pound of butter, or two and one-half pounds of cheese. It takes more during the flush season of pasture, and less in autumn and winter.

A good cow has a full eye, a small and short head, dished in the face and sunken between the eyes, a soft and loose skin, deep from the loin to the udder, and a square bag with teats a good distance from each other, and one which, when milked, shrinks to a small compass.

Receipts.

Potato Pie.—Skin some potatoes, cut them in slices, and season them; also, some lamb, mutton, beef, or veal. Put layers of them and then of the meat. Cover with gravy and sliced tomato under a short crust.

Corn Pone.—Corn pone is highly recommended as a breakfast dish. Take one heaping coffee cup of boiled hominy, heat it, and stir in a table-spoonful of butter; as much corn meal may be added as will serve to thicken this till it is like the batter for "johnnycake." Bake in a quick oven and serve hot.

Household Hints.

To remove stains from cups or other articles of tableware or marbelized oil-cloths, rub them with saleratus, either with the finger or a piece of linen.

The best and easiest way to clean white paint is to use enough spirits of ammonia to soften the water, and ordinary hard soap, and rub well.

To keep pudding sauce warm if prepared too long before dinner is served, set the basin containing it in a pan or pail of boiling water; do not let the water boil after the sauce-dish is set in it, but keep it hot.

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

Dr. Foote's Health Monthly advises parents not to punish a child by boxing or pulling its ears.

Kerosene oil will cure chilblains. Rub the parts affected thoroughly with the oil before going to bed. A second application may be necessary.

To prevent the hair from falling out, apply once a week with a piece of flannel or sponge a wash made of one ounce of powdered borax, half an ounce of powdered camphor, and one quart of boiling water.

Dr. Danford Thomas, in his capacity as coroner, has directed public attention to the mortality which follows the neglect of measles. It is a common opinion among the poor that a child must have the measles, and that when it gets the disease it requires no treatment and but little care. This is a mistake. In the records of vital statistics it may be seen that it often proves more fatal in the large towns than any other zymotic disease, more even than scarlatina. With medical and parental care the disease generally does well, but without this it is liable to serious complications and apt to leave disagreeable consequences.—*London Lancet.*

American Restlessness.

Dr. Edward Eggleston's paper in his country series of articles on colonial history, describes "The migrations of American colonists," and alludes as follows to an American trait: "From the beginning, the Americans have been a migratory people. New Englanders, as we have seen, planted themselves in Westchester and on long Island, came by throngs into New Jersey, and migrated to the more southern colonies. So Virginians helped to people Maryland and North Carolina, migrated southward to New York, and, soon after the Revolution, began to look westfully over the mountain barrier into the great interior valley. New York Dutch migrated to South Carolina; some of them settled also in Maine, Pennsylvania, and Maryland; while Pennsylvania, excited by fear of Indian massacre during French wars, peopled much of the mountain and "piedmont" regions of the colonies to the southward. It is said that of 800 militiamen of Orange county in North Carolina, during the Revolution, every man was a native of Pennsylvania. There was an incessant movement to and fro of people seeking to better their condition. Once the European had broken away from his moorings of centuries, the restlessness of the new continent impelled him, and he became a rover. This instability as to place remains yet in the American character. The mental alertness, which comes of changing circumstances, new scenes, and unexpected difficulties, was early remarked by travelers as a characteristic of the native colonists."

Splendid Miser.

Dickens Dickcamus was a splendid miser, who united the opposite characters of great parsimony and magnificent appearance, which he thought himself bound to maintain, as he claimed a descent from the Byzantine emperors. His table was spread twice a day, as if for grand entertainments, and the servants sent out with silver dishes and covers, which, after passing a few streets, they brought back empty as they went out, while their master was dining on cheap vegetables, or, perhaps, a morsel of pork or mutton. His supper, though splendidly arrayed, was an egg, or a few olives with a gill of sour wine.

When he went out, his servants attended him in rich liveries; but on their return they were ordered to assume their own clothes. In the winter no fire was permitted in any part of the house except the kitchen. His servants were ordered to wash in the sun, or if the sky was cloudy, to run races or draw water from a deep well, that they might be warmed without the expense of a fire. He himself was shut up in his bedroom over a miserable spark, sustained by all the dirty and waste paper which he had carefully collected during the other seasons of the year.

During his last sickness, when he was puzzled to whom he should bequeath his property, a letter came from a relative, written on an inch of paper. Instead of being enraged at such disrespect, his avarice got the better of his pride, and he declared the writer his heir, esteeming him, by this instance, well worthy of becoming his successor in parsimony.

WONDERFUL REVELATIONS OF THE MICROSCOPE.

Discovery of the Most Deadly Enemy of Mankind—The Bacillus and Its Ravages.

The scientific world has been greatly startled and agitated of late by the discovery with the microscope of the most dreadful enemy of mankind in the form of myriads of little death-dealing parasites. The air we breathe and live in is charged with those deadly little growths in proportion as it is infected from various noxious sources. Having by recent experiments and research been shown to be the most fruitful cause of disease known, and the welfare and health of every individual depending so largely on the freedom from their destructive ravages, it is but natural that the reports of recent investigations in this field of scientific inquiry should be widely read, and that every phase of the so astounding discovery should be subject to universal discussion. At first received with some scepticism they have so long been thoroughly proven, and are now receiving such universal indorsement of the leading scientific men throughout the world, that little else is talked of in the schools or debated in science, and the medical and secular journals are crowded with the testimony given in being added corroborative of the value of the marvelous discovery which is announced the greatest advance in medical science of modern times.

To L. Pasteur, the eminent French scientist, who by his long and laborious labors, extending over many millions of dollars, is justly due the honor of first pointing out the terrible power of these germs. Intelligent observation and experiment has recently proved, and from the public treasury showed, with which to continue his experiments. He has discovered several varieties of parasites, some comparatively harmless, others extremely dangerous. One form he has shown by a series of vaccinations and other conclusive experiments was the cause of death of many thousands of animals in the city of Paris, another the active agent in the death of fowls by cholera. According to the knowledge he had gained of the nature of these germs, he invented at a means of spread that readily prevented a spread of the disease and ended their destruction.

Twenty years after the all of other eminent English scientists made a number of examinations of the germs in the air, in the atmosphere, and found numbers of living and dangerous germs in abundance. Lately and hastily to have at our gates were found, and in one of the hideous varieties, which in few days or hours could be seen and felt the effect, the poisonous germs necessarily must be destroyed.

Dr. Rudolph Koch, of Wilhelm, Germany, a man whose work is equal with the examinations of the germs, has made him a recognized authority upon the subject, by experimenting after the methods of Vaccination, has discovered and published an account of one of the most dangerous varieties, which at its process proves death, and adds to any disease incident to the human race.

Hydrocephalus is a disease called an anæmia in Germany, which is caused by the germs. When contracted by any, with a loosing by vomiting, cause a great deal of temperature. Being so small as light as dust invisible to the naked eye, they may be blown any distance by the wind or carried upon the clothing or body. Like seeds they may lie for months or years undisturbed upon the furniture, floor, carpets, curtains, walls, or in the bedding, and only requiring a proper degree of warmth, moisture and food to wake into life, develop and grow. They thrive and live in the blood, lymphatics and secretions of the human body. When the system is unhealthy or weak they attack the cells that make up the animal frame. Any abnormal food and form bacteria will need to grow, and a single drop is sufficient to contain hundreds. Examined with microscope and great power, which enlarges them so that they can be seen and studied, they have the appearance of minute rod like cells, moving, when active, with powerful motion. They lodge in the middle like a bow and traverse a space in their centers from one half to one-third of their length. A fine appearance of the common body may be with microscope.

The point of attack of the germs is in remote organs. Observation has revealed tumors, tubercles, carbuncles, and abscesses. The process by which the germs are formed, and the manner in which they produce decay of matter and other animal tissues, is not known. The germs are organized cells, and are the active agents in the death of animal tissues, leaving a foul mass. The germs so common in the human system are only the natural germs, which, when the body indulges of the excessive. It is one warning of an unusual it is an indication of unusual such germs. The food taken, and the air we breathe, tend to form these germs in a great degree. The degree of their presence in the body can be imagine by the natural germs, and is considered. A few germs may be readily absorbed into the system by breathing air containing them. They are then drawn into the interior of the body through the lung and nasal respiratory passages of the throat, etc., and are lined with sticky mucus. In the full blood, and ready lodgment and favorable conditions for development, increase and growth. The "cold" or catarrh, ozena or chronic catarrh, hay fever, etc., are common results of the effects of the germs. Lung affections are lodged in the lungs, and are called forth by the germs. Lung affections are lodged in the lungs, and are called forth by the germs. The germs are found in the blood, lymphatics and secretions of the human body. When the system is unhealthy or weak they attack the cells that make up the animal frame. Any abnormal food and form bacteria will need to grow, and a single drop is sufficient to contain hundreds. Examined with microscope and great power, which enlarges them so that they can be seen and studied, they have the appearance of minute rod like cells, moving, when active, with powerful motion. They lodge in the middle like a bow and traverse a space in their centers from one half to one-third of their length. A fine appearance of the common body may be with microscope.

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