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OLDEST AMERICAN CITY.

REMARKABLE DISCOVERIES RECENTLY MADE AT COPAN.

The mysterious City of Honduras, the Cradle of Maya Civilization—Remains of Great Temples and Palaces—A Huge Structure 800 Feet High.

The Central American explorer, George Byron Gordon, contributes an article entitled "The Mysterious City of Honduras," to the Century. This gives an account of the recent remarkable discoveries made at Copan, Mr. Gordon says:

Hidden away among the mountains of Honduras, in a beautiful valley which, even in this little-travelled country, where remoteness is a characteristic attribute of places, is unusually secluded, Copan is one of the greatest mysteries of the ages. After the publication, in 1840, of Stephens' account of his visit to the ruins, which made the name of the place known to the world, the interest awakened by his graphic description, and the drawings that accompanied it from the skillful pencil of Catherwood, re-awakened, and until within the last decade writers on the subject of American archeology were dependent entirely for information concerning Copan upon the writings of Stephens, which were regarded by many with skepticism and mistrust. Not only do the recent explorations confirm the account given by Stephens as regards the magnitude and importance of the ruins, but the collection of relics now in the Peabody museum is sufficient to convince the most skeptical that here are the remains of a city, unknown to history, as remarkable and as worthy of our careful consideration as any of the ancient centres of civilization in the Old World.

Whatever the origin of its people, this old city is distinctly American—the growth of American soil and environment. The gloomy forest, the abode of monkeys and jaguars, which clothed the valley at the time of Stephens' visit, was in great part destroyed about thirty years ago by a colony from Guatemala, who came to plant in the fertile soil of the valley the tobacco for which, much more than for the ruins, that valley is famous throughout Central America today. They left the trees that grew upon the higher structures, forming a picturesque grove, a remnant of which still remains—a few cedars and cedars of gigantic proportions, clustered about the ruins of the temples shrouding them in a sombre shade, and sending their huge roots into the crevices and unexpected chambers and vaults and galleries of the vast edifices.

The area comprised within the limits of the old city consists of a level plain seven or eight miles long and two miles wide at the greatest. This plain is covered with the remains of stone houses, doubtless the habitations of the wealthy. The streets, squares and courtyards were paved with stone or with white cement made from lime and powdered rock, and the drainage was accomplished by means of covered canals and underground sewers built of stone and cement. On the slopes of the mountains, too, are found numerous ruins, and even on the highest peaks fallow columns and ruined structures may be seen.

On the right bank of the Copan river, in the midst of the city, stands the principal group of structures—the temples, palaces and buildings of a public character. These form part of what has been called, for want of a better name, the Main Structure—a vast, irregular pile, rising from the plain in steps and terraces of masonry and terminating in several great pyramidal elevations, each topped by the remains of a temple which, before our excavations began, looked like a huge pile of fragments bound together by the roots of trees, while the slopes of the pyramids and the terraces and pavements below are strewn with the ruins of these superb edifices. This large structure, unlike the great pyramids of Egypt and other works of a similar character, is not the embodiment of a definite idea, built in accordance with a preconceived plan and for a specific purpose, but is rather the complex result of a long process of development, corresponding to the growth of culture and keeping pace with the expanding tastes of the people or the demands of their national life. Its sides face the four cardinal points; its greatest length from north to south is about eight hundred feet, and from east to west it measured originally nearly as much, but a part of the eastern side has been carried away by the swift current of the river which flows directly against it. The interior of the structure is thus exposed in the form of a cliff one hundred and twenty feet high, presenting a complicated system of buried walls and floors down to the water's edge—doubtless the remains of other buildings, occupied for a time, and abandoned to serve as foundations for more elaborate structures, but sculptured monuments as well. The theory of development, though it cannot be set aside, seems inadequate to explain this curious circumstance, and yet there is just enough difference between these and other ruins and those of later date to indicate a change in style and treatment. Whether or not this change continues in regular sequence lower down has not yet been determined.

An old chronicler preserves a bill of fare for a Council dinner in the year 1592. For the first course there were capons, steamed beef, and old beans, black game prepared with vinegar; second course, steamed carp served with spiced sauce, snapperkurt with mutton, and pastry; third course, roast veal, birds, fried fish, cheese, fruit, nuts, chestnuts and wafers. The wine and game were furnished by the court; the host received fifteen farthings from each person.—From "Stuttgart," in Harper's Magazine.

Asphalt pavement is slippery only when it is not kept clean.

SHE TURNED THE TABLES.

The Husband's Impressive Lesson for His Wife Was Lost.

It seemed to him an excellent time to impress the lesson upon her, so he started for his hat he said to her: "Suppose you had wanted me to be married and I had planned to do something else."

"Suppose I had," she returned. "What of it?" "You wouldn't have asked, would you?" he asked. "No-o, I suppose not," she replied hesitatingly. "You wouldn't have got cross and been disagreeable about it, would you?" "Probably not."

"You would have been just as nice and sweet and clever as you possibly could be," he asserted. "You would have been both lovable and loving and would have tried to coax me to give up my other plans. Isn't that so?" "Perhaps it is," she faltered, "but—" "Never mind the 'buts,'" he interrupted, feeling that he was gaining his point. "What I am trying to impress upon you is that a woman doesn't seem to think it worth while to try the same arts on a husband that she does on a lover. That's where you're both foolish and unjust. Now, you admit that before marriage—"

"Before marriage," she broke in, "if you had spoken of going anywhere and I had pointed just the least little bit what would you have done?" "In—ah—well, I suppose—"

"If you had noticed what seemed to be even the merest trace of a tear what would have happened?" "Why, my dear, I—"

"If I had merely looked at you pleadingly what would have happened to that other engagement?" "Really, you don't give me time to answer. I must confess that in all probability I would have—"

"Given it up, of course," she prompted. "Isn't it worth while to make the same sacrifices for a wife that you do for a sweetheart?" "Somehow he couldn't help feeling that his little lesson was lost on her, but it is worthy of note that he told a business associate the next day that any man who went on the theory that a woman can't reason as clearly as a man was laying up a large store of trouble for himself.—Chicago Post.

Art of Climbing Stairs. One of America's leading physicians is quoted as saying that few people understand the art of climbing stairs without making themselves tired before reaching the top. Says our informant on this subject: "Usually a person will tread on the ball of his foot in taking each step. This is very tiresome and wearing on the muscles, as it throws the entire weight of the body on the muscles of the legs and feet. You should, in walking or climbing stairs, seek for the most equal distribution of the body's weight possible. In walking upstairs your feet should be placed squarely down on the step, heel and all, and then the work should be performed slowly and deliberately. In this way there is no strain upon any particular muscle, but each one is doing its duty in a natural manner. The man who goes upstairs with a spring you may be sure is no philosopher, or, at least, his reasoning has not been directed to that subject. This doctor might have gone a little farther in the same line, and protested against the habit which many persons have of bending over half double whenever they ascend a flight of stairs. In exertion of this kind, when the heart is naturally excited to more rapid action, it is desirable that the lungs should have full play. But the crouching position interferes with their action, the blood is imperfectly aerated, and there is trouble to do their work everywhere and at all times."

Getaway Fowl in South Africa. The air is brilliant, translucent, keen, and wonderfully exhilarating. Already nature is fully awake. Just amid that belt of bush, fringing the great grass plain yonder, you may see a big troop of guinea fowl—nearly a hundred of them—searching busily for their breakfast, delving below the dry soil for those small bulbs in which they so greatly delight. Magnificent birds they are, heavier and stronger than their semi-domesticated brethren at home in England. Last night they drank as usual at a small desert pool hard by, the only water within a radius of fifty miles.

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

A Farmer on Toll Roads.

A veteran Michigan farmer, writing to the Grand Rapids Press, says: "Toll roads do not meet the wants of the farmer; he wants free roads, not toll roads, and wants all who use them to help make them at a cost that will not be burdensome on the farmer. The toll roads are too costly for the farmer. To get the products of the farm to market he now pays enough taxes in the way of tolls to pay for the toll roads in five years at a price they could be built for now. Though the tax is paid indirectly it is paid. Farmers, as a class, are opposed to monopolies, and yet they grant franchises to toll road companies which are, on a small scale, greater monopolies than any of the railroad corporations of the State."

"These toll roads are not only a public nuisance, but the owners of them are the worst tax delinquents of the State, railroad corporations not excepted. The farmers in many parts of the county cannot get into the city without being compelled to pay a toll, or else drive a long distance out of their way. The farmer's wife cannot get into the city with a small basket of eggs, or a few pounds of butter, without paying toll almost as much as she receives for what she has to sell."

"The farmer is opposed to high rates of interest, and if he wants to borrow money and the lender charges him fifteen per cent. for the use of it, he would decline the offer with indignation, and yet the same farmer votes franchises to corporations which make him pay, through indirectly, not the less surely, over twenty-five per cent. on the money used to build toll roads for his accommodation, if the cost of the roads was figured at what it would cost to build them at the present time. The railroads of the State are required by law to pay taxes on gross receipts, but the toll roads only on net receipts. The toll-road lobbyist, when at Lansing, beats the railroad lobbyist two to one. You truly say that it is somewhat surprising that the farmers, in view of all the facts, are not more generally in favor of a system that will give better roads."

Education in Road-Making. The Rhode Island Agricultural College has made a new departure in its work of education that deserves imitation by other institutions of that character. Its faculty has established a special department for instruction in the theory and practice of road-making. The work curriculum is ethnologically applicable to the proposed course of instruction, which covers two years, and the announcement of the details is interesting. The plan is about to be put into operation after consultation with General Roy Stone, the road expert of the United States Department of Agriculture, and its advocates are enthusiastic in their predictions that it will bring intelligent industry to bear in improving the highways and byways of the tiny little commonwealth.

It is required that graduates from this school shall be competent to draw specifications and contracts, to manage all the machinery used in scientific road-building, and to be familiar with every detail of the profession of road engineering. For instance, candidates must pass an examination which includes algebra and geometry, the exact requirements for admission to any college. The instruction includes English literature, higher geometry, trigonometry, surveying, electrical mechanics, physical geography, mineralogy, geology and steam engineering.

But this is not all. That there is no "royal road to knowledge" will be sternly impressed upon the aspirants to the degree of road engineer by a novel requirement. For one month each spring the students will be expected to work ten hours a day at actual road-making, including all the mechanical appliances, from welding the pick and shovel to running the most elaborate machinery. While other collegians are training in such athletics as rowing, running, leaping, baseball and football, these sturdy youths of Rhode Island will be bending their backs, strengthening their muscles and expanding their lungs in improving and extending those highways which are the basis of civilization. May their ways be ways of pleasantness and all their paths be peace.—New York Mail and Express.

Instruction in Road-Building. The opportunities for instruction in building different kinds of roads afforded occasionally at fairs and institutes, and by sample sections that were laid under Government auspices, have been very valuable, and have aroused the people somewhat to a realization of the importance of regular instruction on this subject. The Worcester (Mass.) Gazette suggests that it would be well if the State spent a portion of the enormous sum appropriated annually for the highway system in holding institutes of instruction for highway supervisors, commissioners, selectmen, and all others who have to do with road-building. It thinks the trouble with the highway builder usually is that he does not consider his business a profession, and needs to learn from the experience of others. "By establishing a school for instruction in road-building, the State could do a greater service to the public than by using the amount such a school would cost in building macadam roads through the country."

Aid From the Railroads. In a number of States the railroads have shown a disposition to help the cause of better highways by transporting material for road building at

very low figures. It is now reported that a railway in Indiana is hauling without charge, and dumping at any designated point along its right of way, all the crushed stone needed by the commissioners of Green County. If one will do it, others certainly will follow.

POWER OF A METHODIST BISHOP.

Eighteen Men Who Have Spinal Ribs Over Many Millions.

The Methodist Church is one of the most highly organized, or rather is the most highly organized, of all the Protestant denominations. But without going into minute detail we may say briefly that the Board of Bishops is the highest Order in the Methodist system. It consists of twenty-one persons who are elected by the general conference to fill vacancies by death or deposition—a bishop cannot resign. It is within the power of the general conference to enlarge this number if, in its opinion, the needs of the church require. The new bishop is ordained with elaborate ceremonies, and Methodists claim, with true apostolic succession through the Wesleyes.

Of these twenty-one men, eighteen have supreme and well-known jurisdiction over world-wide Methodist, and two of these are practically retired, thus reducing the active force to sixteen. How this supervision shapes itself into routine may be illustrated to show the extent and character of this authority. There are in the Methodist Church 124 conferences, 103 of which are in this country, while twenty-one are distributed through India, China, South America, Mexico and Europe. These conferences may be called the grand divisions of Methodism. They are always subdivided into two or more districts, and represent from fifty to 200 or more "charges" or churches. Each of these conferences holds an annual session, at which a bishop presides. He is associated with him in authority on such occasions what is known as the "cabinet," a body composed of the bishop and the presiding elders of the conference. The presiding elder, it should be said, is the chief executive of each district conference, and is himself a person of great authority. At each conference the bishop, in consultation with his cabinet, decides upon, appoints and announces the pastors for the coming year, and from this decision there is no appeal. A Methodist minister must either take his assignment or disobey orders and practically quit the ministry.

Thus, theoretically at least, these twenty-one bishops have in their arbitrary power the location and work of the 30,000 ministers of the Methodist Church—a power which cannot find a parallel outside of the Roman Catholic Church, if indeed it be equalled there.

It will be observed that the Methodist bishops are not confined to a diocese. Roughly speaking, each bishop visits the whole church in from twelve to fifteen years. The bishop, however, has an episcopal residence, though he may not be much at home. These residences are fixed by the general conference, and the choice is then made by the bishops themselves in the order of their seniority. Thus it happens that a bishop often officially resides at a great distance from the scene of the work with which he is most prominently identified. Bishop Vincent's home, for example, is at Kansas City, though he is commonly associated with Chautauqua interests.

In addition to these varied and important tasks within the bounds of our country, two or more of the twenty-one bishops are chosen to visit the foreign conferences. These men should be carefully distinguished from what are known as missionary bishops, corresponding to the Anglican bishop—that is, with a well-defined and permanent diocese, and who therefore correspond directly closely to a presiding elder, though he has presiding authority under him. These visiting bishops travel throughout the world and are effective everywhere.

It will be seen from this cursory sketch that the group of Methodist bishops are vested with more power than any body of ecclesiastics in the Protestant Church. As Bishop Falwells of the Reformed Episcopal Church remarked: "A Methodist bishop has more power in his little finger than I have in my whole body." It only remains to be said that this group of men exercise their enormous powers with rare wisdom, moderation and fidelity.—Church Economist.

When Gloves Were Only For Ornament. It is interesting to recall the fact that gloves as a badge of elegant dress seem to antedate the use of gloves as a protection to the hands. The Romans, Greeks and Persians wore gloves on state occasions. As early as the days of Charlemagne the glove industry of France was started by granting to certain monks the right to manufacture gloves from the skins of deer which were killed for venison.

Water For Typhoid. An eminent physician states that typhoid fever can be washed out of the system by water. He gives his patients what would amount to eight or ten ounces an hour of sterilized water. In cases of cholera, where the system carries a large amount of fluid, enormous quantities of hot water are of great benefit.

The Czar's Scepter. The Russian scepter is of solid gold, three feet long, and contains among its ornaments 268 diamonds, 300 rubies and fifteen emeralds.

MAN'S NEW SERVANT.

STARTLING OFFICE FOR THE MAGNET.

Edison's Immense Plant for Separating the Metal from the Quartz by Means of Electro-Magnetic Attraction Is Now in Operation.

Edison's Latest Triumph. This century has produced a host of thinkers whose penetration of intellect, keen observation and careful reasoning have slain the forces of nature and made them the servants of man. Of these there is probably none more deserving of the highest place than Thomas A. Edison. He has made more than a score of inventions, any one of which would entitle him to a name and a place among the foremost men in the scientific world, and yet he goes on and strives for more and greater conquests. The marvellous inventions with which his name is associated have not been achieved in a day, but are the result of patient, indomitable, unvaried and concentrated effort. Nothing he has done heretofore has required so much of his individual attention, taxed his inventive ingenuity so fully, or in the aggregate consumed his vital powers more than his latest accomplishment.

Billions of tons of iron ore lie scattered through the rocks of the eastern slopes of the Allegheny Mountains. But this ore is mixed with the rock in such fine particles that it could not be mined with the ordinary methods, and was therefore looked upon as one of the wastes of nature. The furnaces in the East were compelled to look for their supply of high-grade ore to a few isolated deposits, and to ores imported from foreign countries. The former being limited, and the cost of procuring the latter having almost reached the prohibitory point, the trade in high-grade ore for the manufacture of Bessemer steel began to shift westward to Michigan and Minnesota. From mills in the East were sent down and many thousands who depend on the smelting industry for a living were thrown out of employment. Walking along the Long Island shore Edison one day met a pile of black sand. He took some of it home for investigation. Placing an electromagnet near the mass, he was surprised to see little dark grains leave the heap and more like so many ants toward the magnet; the ants proved to be little grains of iron ore. On the basis of this find he evolved his famous ore-separating machine. When the above-mentioned current condition of the iron trade in the East was brought to Mr. Edison's attention eight years ago he remembered his experience with the sand, and in order to assure himself of the exact condition of the iron mines in the East he invented a magnetic needle which would "dig" toward the earth whenever it was brought over a large deposit of iron. With this he made a tour of the mines of New Jersey. To his amazement his needle indicated that the greater portion of the ground over which he traveled was underlain with immense deposits of iron.

He found immense deposits of iron. For instance, in the 3,000 acres immediately surrounding the village of Edison, there are over 200,000,000 tons of high-grade ore. In the entire district there are 7,000 acres in which the deposit is substantially as large. The world's annual output of iron ore does not, at the present time, reach 60,000,000 tons; so that in the rich two miles surrounding the village of Edison there is enough iron in the rocks to keep the whole world supplied for one year or the United States for three years, even with the natural increase in demand. Sixteen thousand acres or twenty-five square miles of land contain enough iron ore to keep the whole world supplied for seven years, at least, of course, for all natural increase of demand, due to the needs of a growing population. These acres would more than supply the United States with iron, including necessary exports, for the next seventy years; and they contain more than has been mined heretofore in this country since its discovery.

Here was an opportunity for the inventor and he set to work to plan out a great industry. It has taken him eight years to do it, but the result has justified all the trouble and money which he has expended upon it. Engineers used to large enterprises of the kind have smiled incredulously. Some of them have spoken of it as Edison's hobby, and others as his folly. Some have shown him on paper that no machine could be constructed powerful enough to crush five, six and seven ton rocks, or if such a machine were constructed it would never stand the jar and strain exerted upon it. This particular difficulty Mr. Edison surmounted so completely that less than two horse power is required to reduce rocks weighing six and seven tons to dust in three seconds from the time they are thrown into the crushing machine. He is crushing rocks and dropping the resulting powder just powerful electromagnets. The sand is not attracted by the magnetism but passes straight on, the iron ore is attracted to one side and falls in a heap of its own. This is the whole principle; yet in the actual working out it becomes one of the most tremendous processes in the world. It is, after all, no small matter to crush the very vitals out of a mountain and then extract all of the ore from the millions of tons of sand.

This is not all a theory which Mr. Edison has evolved and left to someone else to put to practical use. In the village of Edison, N. J., he has established

ished a smelting plant on the principle of his invention that is the practical demonstration of the feasibility of his theory. The methods by which the ore is extracted are all unlike any other, and all are the product of his inventive genius. The ore-bearing rock is blasted into lumps, and then laid on flat cars, conveyed to the crushing plant. The cars are run in under each one of the crushing mills. The trays containing the rock are lifted by cranes to the second story of the mill, where the rock is dropped into a large square pit. Ten feet below the edge of the pit revolve immense iron rollers weighing 100 tons.

The surface of these rollers is studded with teeth, and the space between them is less than a foot wide. Nevertheless a six-ton rock dropped into the pit passes between the rollers in less than three seconds. Far down beneath these rollers is another set of smaller size, but nearer together. From the heavy rollers above the rock falls into this lower set and is crushed still smaller. It has now been reduced to pieces the size of a man's fist, and from the lower set of rollers drops into an elevator or endless conveyor which carries the pieces up to the top of another part of the building and dumps them into a shaft leading down to three more sets of rollers set directly beneath one another. As the rock passes through these rollers the larger are found to be piled nearer and nearer together until with the last or third set the two rollers composing it are set tightly against each other, so that when the rock ultimately passes through it has been reduced to dust.

After the crushing process it is carried to the top of the magnet house and dumped into space to find its way through many sieves of varying meshes and past many magnet fans of varying strength. As it descends the ore is drawn by the magnet into a long pipe by itself while the sand falls to the ground. The value of the sand alone is no small consideration. It is sold to builders and contractors at a good price, being many times other obtainable. The pure ore is now allowed to drop downward and pass through a room whose floors are of any dust that may have accompanied it on its travel. After leaving the blow-off room, it is really a stream of pure, finely divided iron ore, which drops into the elevator and is carried to a storehouse, which holds 5,000 tons. Here it may rest temporarily or it may pass on by means of other conveyors to the mixing house. It cannot be smelted in the form of iron dust. It must be made into briquettes, and in order to do this it must be mixed with some adhesive substance which will prevent it from disintegrating when brought under the action of the furnace. To make this substance Mr. Edison had to perform 4,000 experiments before he got it of such consistency as to be satisfactory. This in small plastic nuggets the ore drops into the breaking machine and comes out in small blocks which are thrown on conveyors to be carried to the great ovens to be baked. On coming out of the ovens it is ready for shipment. Fast freight cars are at hand to haul it away to the furnaces.

From the time the ore is blasted with its native rock out of the mountainside until it is loaded in the form of commercially pure iron briquettes on the cars, it is not touched by human hands. The never-ending and never-resting stream of material constantly circulates through the various buildings, crushed by the stored momentum of gigantic rollers, hoisted skyward by steam, pulled earthward by gravity, deflected by magnetism, dried, sifted, weighed, gauged, conveyed, changed from rock into dust, and from dust into compression lumps, mixed with a due proportion of adhesive material; churned, baked, counted, and sent flying to the furnaces by fast freight; and not once in its course is it arrested or jugged or ward by human agency.

The pockets of ore from which the United States has drawn its chief supply are rapidly becoming exhausted. There is, it must be understood, plenty of iron ore in the country, but it is not the kind of ore from which steel can be made. Steel can only be made from ores in which the per cent. of phosphorus is very small. Edison with his crushing power has entirely eliminated this phosphorus element from the ore. If therefore remains inevitable that this most ultimately become the only serious method of producing steel from which steel will be made. It would seem from the prospect that Edison will become the head of a vast industry, as great as that brought into existence by the invention of the incandescent light, and in a measure more imposing, as it embraces the production of what in commercial circles is after all the most valuable metal on earth. In spite of this, however, the man who planned it all does not from his demeanor appear to have been over-impressed with its importance.

Both Acting. She—Have you really seen that wonderful set of photos that Miss Letterson has had taken, one on each birthday—so completely that less than two horse power is required to reduce rocks weighing six and seven tons to dust in three seconds from the time they are thrown into the crushing machine. He is crushing rocks and dropping the resulting powder just powerful electromagnets. The sand is not attracted by the magnetism but passes straight on, the iron ore is attracted to one side and falls in a heap of its own. This is the whole principle; yet in the actual working out it becomes one of the most tremendous processes in the world. It is, after all, no small matter to crush the very vitals out of a mountain and then extract all of the ore from the millions of tons of sand.

Works Both Ways. She—If it wasn't for the old bachelors there would be no flirts. He—If it wasn't for the flirts there would be no old bachelors. Many mean men are men of means.

Wonderful Originality. Miss Washleigh-George Hamby is very original, isn't he? Miss Hapsleigh never noticed it. What has he done that was original? Miss Washleigh—He handed me a box of candy last night and didn't say, "Sweetie to the sweetie."

Icebergs sometimes last 200 years before they entirely melt away.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

A mechanical device recently patented places paper labels on 100,000 tins in ten hours.

The city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is without rate, mice and cats, as the air is too rarefied for those animals. It is estimated that greater quantities of gold and silver have been sunk in the sea than are now in circulation in the whole world.

Dr. R. Kossowatz, of Charlottenberg, Germany, has secured a patent from the Imperial Government covering a rust preventing paint composed of the peroxide of earth of the cerium group. The tannery of Newark, N. J., are said to get more money out of a hide than anywhere else. Three and sometimes four, spits are made and finished. It is estimated that \$10 is realized per hide and the yearly business done amounts to \$10,000,000.

It has been calculated that the hair of the head grown at the rate of one and a half inches a week. This will give a length of inches in the course of a year. For a man sixty years of age no less than twenty-seven feet of beard must have fallen before the edge of the razor. Through the gift of Mrs. Charles Pratt, the Pratt Institute, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has come into possession of 1000 examples of textiles, ranging over several centuries of European and Oriental manufacture. The collection was purchased from Signor Salvador, of Florence, Italy, by whom it was collected, and it is said, cannot be duplicated.

At Lynn, Mass., there is now in practical operation a new cotton gin which is attracting much attention. This is a roll gin, so revolving spindles being used which cut the fibre, the seed being forced out by a spiraling blade close to the roller. In a recent trial a long staple lint run through this machine was declared to be worth 15 cents a pound against six cents a pound when run through the old style gin.

The main source of the amber supply is the seaboard of the Baltic Ocean. It is a fossil gum, originally the excretion of a species of enifer now extinct. This grew in luxuriant profusion hundreds of thousands of years ago on the marshy coasts of Northern Europe, when the climate was much warmer than it is today. The natural history of amber is thus explained: The immense forests of amber pine underwent their natural downfall and decay. The resin of the woods accumulated in large quantities in logs and ponds, and in the soil of the forests. Where the coast was slowly sinking, the sea by and by covered the land, and the amber, which had been gradually hardening, was at last deposited at the ocean bottom. In the higher regions the pine cones would still flourish, and be washed down to the shore and deposited in the later formed green sand, and the still later formed stratum of light or brown coal.

The gum became fossilized by its long burial under ground. More than 200 specimens of extinct life, animal and vegetable, have been found embedded in amber specimens, including insects, reptiles, plants, leaves, shells, fruit, etc., which had been caught in the liquid gum and entombed there for all time. Some of these specimens are so curiously beautiful as to be almost priceless, and one English collector has a cabinet of them which is valued at \$100,000. One piece contains a lizard about eight inches long, a little jeweled insect, perfect in its form and coloring, which has no like in anything existing now. Indeed, in many instances science is able solely through this medium to study details of an animal life which perished long ago. There are many hundred thousands of such amber fossils as if they were preserved with wings poised as if for flight, whose ethereal sheen glows through the yellow amber as if as brilliant as if they were floating alive in the sunshine.

Fruit Cakes. Just now a fad in Continental Europe with people having real or imaginary diseases, is by no means a new thing. In the tenth century an investigator has discovered, many medical authorities become enthusiastic in their writings over the remarkable curative virtues of grapes, while a certain Van Swieten of a more modern date is said to have recommended in special cases the eating of twenty pounds of strawberries a day. The same gentleman also reports a case of phthisis healed by a cherry case of phthisis healed by a cherry case, and cites cases in which grapes have regained their reason by the exclusive use of cherries as food. These instances rather favor of the infatuation, but there is no doubt that the so-called grape cure for indigestion and other evils, is carried on in many places on the Continent, and that people betake themselves to Mezzana, Vevey, Bingen, or to Italy and the South of France with the intention of devoting six weeks to the cure, during which time they are expected to have gradually accomplished the feat of consuming from three to eight pounds of grapes daily, as the case may be. Grapes are said to exercise a salutary action on the nervous system, and to favor the formation of fat; that is to say, when fruit of good quality is employed, if the grapes are not sufficiently ripe and are watery and sour the patient may lose rather than gain in weight. The valuable results obtained by a fruit diet in cases of biliousness are due to the fact that malarial germs habitually present in the alimentary canal do not thrive in fruit juices.

Icebergs sometimes last 200 years before they entirely melt away.