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Devoted to the Protection of Home and the Interests of the County.

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POISON ON THE WALLS.

Results of Chemical Analyses—Illness Caused by Arsenical Wall-Paper.

The Massachusetts board of health published, about a year and a half ago, the results of analyses of wall-paper made by Professor Edward S. Wood. Twelve years earlier the same board had published a report upon the use of arsenic by manufacturers of wall-paper, prepared by Dr. F. W. Draper. In that report the presence of this poison in green papers was pointed out, and green papers became unfashionable. But Professor Wood showed that arsenic was to be found in papers of every hue and in those sold at high prices as well as in the cheap patterns. The quantity carried ranged from half a grain to nearly seven grains a square yard. Many green papers contained no trace of this poison. Glazed and plated papers, prepared for the use of children in kindergartens, carried from twenty to twenty-five grains on a square yard. Toys and candies were covered with arsenical pigments, and the white papers used in covering and lining small boxes was so heavily charged that a square foot yielded forty-five grains, or enough to kill fifteen men. Professor Wood's report was accompanied by a record of forty-two cases of illness caused by paper charged with arsenic.

There have been several hearings in Boston before the legislative committee on public health. Testimony has been given by chemists, doctors and professors connected with Harvard university. The evidence submitted is cumulative. Professor Lyon described fourteen cases of illness caused by arsenical wall-paper, all of which came under his observation.

In one case—several members of a clergyman's family having been affected—the symptoms were described as follows: "Numbness in shoulders and arms, weakening of digestive organs, sleeplessness, nervous prostration." In other cases the symptoms were "a peculiar sore throat," bronchial inflammation, loss of appetite, gastic irritability, headaches, a metallic taste in the mouth, soreness of eyelids, cold extremities, depression of spirits, extreme lassitude and fatigue in the morning. In these cases careful examination and experiments proved beyond a doubt that arsenic carried into the system from heavily charged wall-paper was the cause of illness. In one house, whose owner's wife had suffered severely, analysis revealed eleven grains of arsenic per square yard on the wall-paper.—New York Times.

The Question of Labor in Brazil.

Beyond the abolition of slavery looms up in Brazil the question of labor. There can be but one solution of the problem, and that is immigration. How to attract this is now absorbing the minds of the statesmen. The labor of the liberated slaves and their descendants will never be sufficient for the needs of the country. They are by nature the most lazy and worthless laborers in the world, and have a disposition to leave the plantations and flock to the cities of the sea-coast. There they just work enough to keep themselves alive, and as long as they can get raw farina and casasch are happy.

One great drawback to immigration to Brazil is the bad reputation for health which the country has in Europe. The northern seaport towns are undoubtedly unhealthy, but in the south of the empire and in the interior the climate is as healthful as could be wished. Still, the horror with which yellow fever is regarded and the difficulty of making immigrants understand the vast size of the empire and its consequent variety of climates, render the work of attracting them here difficult. The Argentines owe their great prosperity to the constant tide of immigration which is flowing to their shores, and the Brazilians claim that Argentine agents abroad omit no opportunity or scruple at no means to divert immigrants from Rio to Buenos Ayres.—New York Tribune.

A King in His Own Domain.

What a king is a man in his own domain? He turns the key in his office door, locking his cares temporarily within, and strolls leisurely home to his noonday meal, that climax of a morning's work. One or more women may have been dashing about the kitchen one or more hours to bring about this same climax. If he has a poor digestion he glowers but indifferently at the food spread before him; if the world uses him well he smiles approvingly. Well he may smile. His fingers are not smarting with recent contact with red-hot utensils, his eyes are not filled with smoke, and his hair is not redolent with beefstake; he has no perspiration on his brow, no dust on his shoulders, no rebellion, no resignation, no warfare of any sort in his breast. Even though laboring under the somewhat depressing effects of onion odor in his front hall, he may still smile, and that smile not be automatic. He has decided to imbibe some of the philosophy of life, and why be irremediably annoyed by onions?—Haryot Holt in Chicago Herald.

The Monument Sways with the Sun.

At the meeting of the Washington Monument society, Col. Casey made some interesting statements to the members in regard to his observation of the habits of the monument, for it appears that the great obelisk is a moving, if not a living thing, and that it has a regular swaying motion when the sun is shining upon it. On every bright day the apex of the monument moves at least one inch westward in the morning when the sun's rays first fall upon it, and eastward again in the afternoon when the sun reaches the western side. The heat of the sun's rays have an expansive effect upon the mason, and the plummet that is suspended in the interior of the monument registers this movement from day to day.—Washington Letter.

They Seem Extremely Tedious.

Professor Max Muller dares to say that there are long passages even in Homer which seem to him extremely tedious, and that not a few of Goethe's writings seem to him not worth a second reading.

It is estimated that the annual cost for the picking alone of the cotton crop of the southern states is $40,000,000.

The Inspiration of the Moment.

Let me tell you, my son, what the "inspiration of the moment" will do for you. It will thrill you to your very soul. It will make your heart beat high and your brain whirl in a very maelstrom of eager excitement; it will burn and throb with earnest thoughts, noble ideas, generous impulses mightily born of the great occasion, of the lights, the music, the applauding multitude, until your very being quivers with the life of the pent up eloquence that is struggling to escape.

And right there the "inspiration of the moment" will leave you. Right there the thrilling and the throbbing and the whirling and the burning and the quivering eloquence will go on, and keep going on, but it won't come out. You will have all the glowing colors there, and if you knew how to lay them on the canvas you could paint a picture that would live in men's hearts for centuries. You have only to say about 1.000 words, and if you only say the right ones and say them in the proper order, they will be graven as with a pen of iron upon the brain and soul of the nation. You have only eight notes to arrange, and the song you sing will linger while the sun shines and the flowers bloom.

But in all this orderly arrangement so essential to success the "inspiration of the moment" plays little or no part. When the "inspiration of the moment" opens your valves, all your pent up eloquence comes tumbling out, like a pied newspaper form falling down stairs. The type are all there from garret to sidewalk, but nobody, not even the printer who set them up can read them. The "inspiration of the moment" sometimes tells you how to say it, but only once in a century does it tell you what to say. And you are not liable to live 100 years, you know.—Burdette.

Training Geese, Pigs, and Monkeys.

"Nearly all animals may be taught to perform tricks," said William Conrad, the clown of Barnum's circus who trained the little elephant Tom Thumb to such perfection. "For some time this winter I was engaged in teaching a flock of geese to do many curious things of even a more surprising character than Blitz ever taught his canary birds to do, but just as I got them fairly broken in and under way, they fell sick, and nearly all died. As it was too late in the season to break in another flock and begin over again, I abandoned the idea of the geese for this year and turned my attention to breaking some other animals.

I am now putting a pig and monkey through their finishing lessons, and will have them both ready in time for our opening, provided the 'monk' lives. Monkeys catch cold so easily that generally when they have been taught to do tricks, they quietly turn up and go where all consumptive monkeys go—to the taxidermist. The pig I have just trained to perform the same things precisely as some of the fine-bred horses do in the rings, called a "manege act." The pig, while ridden by the monkey will kneel, walk on its knees, waltz, leap over hurdles and bars, rear up on its hind legs, go through a series of high stepping, posing, bowing—everything, in fact, that is done by a horse, all the time being guided by his rider, the monkey.

"Next season I shall not only train a flock of geese but a large number of sheep also, and if I succeed with these I shall try some other kinds of animals, for I believe with patience and kindness any kind of gentle animal and bird, and even snakes, may be taught to perform tricks.—New York Sun Interview.

The Peruvian Preserved Human Heads.

Among the interesting objects in the national museum are the Peruvian preserved human heads, being two human heads, the bones extracted and prepared by the Indians of the valley of the Amazon river. These heads are rare ethnological objects, of which very few have been brought to Europe and America. They are held by their owners in much veneration, as trophies of victories, the heads of enemies being thus prepared for permanent preservation.

The manner of scalping and contracting the skin so as to make the compressed head is as follows: The skin is cut around the neck as low down as possible, it is then loosened and slipped off over the head, all the flesh being removed. The scalp is then put to soak for ten or twelve hours in an infusion of herbs. Small pebbles are then heated and put into the scalp, which is shaken so that the pebbles touch every part. When the pebbles have cooled the scalp is dipped again into the infusion and allowed to remain until soft, the operation being repeated until the head has sufficiently contracted. The results is a well-formed and quite symmetrical head, about four inches in diameter, all parts contracted in equal proportion, and with long, flowing black hair; a braid of strings is passed through the lips, and there several other artificial appendages.—Washington Cor. Kansas City Times.

Predisposing Causes of Pneumonio.

It is a well-known fact that the disease attacks the poor oftener than the rich, the private oftener than the officer, the sailor on shore oftener than on ship, the soldier oftener than the civilian at the same post. It is unknown in the polar regions and common on the Mediterranean, increasing in a direct ratio from the poles to the equator. Elevation above the sea predisposes to it; north and east winds favor its development: rainy seasons or damp and marshy districts do not seem to influence it. Periods of steady and extreme cold have little effect upon the old, but sudden changes are very disastrous.

The first predisposing cause is age, the disease being most common in early childhood, from 20 to 40, and after 60. The proportion of male to female victims is as three to one. Any general condition of the body which debilitates is a predisposing cause. The complications which render the disease so dangerous are those which diminish the nerve supply or weaken the muscular power of the heart. Bad sewerage and miasmatic influence are potent causes of the disease."—Professor A. L. Loomis.

An Actress' Pet Young Alligator.

Attired in a loose costume of white satin, edged with lace, Miss Kate Forsythe the well-known actress was running vivaciously about her room the other night, followed by a little creature with a long tail and a scaly hide. Now and again, when the little thing got too close to her, she would vent a playful shriek and jump on the bed or a chair out of harm's way, while the little creature would stand staring up at her working its jaws ominously.

"It won't hurt you," cried the actress from the edge of the bed as a visitor, whose card had gone up ten minutes before and had been on the journey up meanwhile, entered. "It won't hurt you. It is only my baby alligator, Delphine. It's a dear little darling," she went on, as she jumped down and gathered the little beast up in her arms. "I brought it home from New Orleans as a present to mamma. But when I offered it to her, what do you think?—she ran away shrieking and she won't come near me any more when I have the the little creature with me. But I just love it. It's as tame as a pug and as playful as a monkey, and tame—why it knows me as well as a real baby knows it mother. That little box there half full of water is its bed. It was frozen stiff when I brought it up here, but it's all thawed out now. There, you funny little creature, go to bed. [Plash!] There it is in, and I'm sure its eyes are closed already."—Philadelphia Press.

Some Items for Moon-Gazers.

Had we a railway to the moon it would take but about a year to reach it, traveling at the rate of twenty-seven miles an hour.

None of the heavenly bodies, except the sun and moon, have any direct influence on the earth.

Old sailors think that if the direction in which the moon is at the time of its change from old to new moon be ascertained, the direction from which the wind will blow for the next seven days can be known.

The moon supplies a small amount of heat and a great deal of light. It also affects the earth in respect to magnetism.

If the moon were burned up ships in harbor could no longer get out, and those without could not get in.

Seen from the planet Venus the moon would appear as a companion star or planet with the earth.

If the moon were destroyed the loss of heat, while hardly perceptible, would slightly lower the temperature at night.

It is a maxim of farmers out west that all plants which are to grow up, like corn or wheat, must, in order to prosper, have their seed sown when the moon is waxing, but all which are to grow down, like beets, parsnips, etc., must have the seed sown in the waning of the moon.—Detroit Free Press.

The Tree-Frog's Change of Color.

Any one may try the experiment by going to a shady, damp place, almost any warm day in June or July, and they will be very likely to hear a little piping song, something between a small common frog and that of a hearth-cricket. Guided by this song the little tree-frog is not hard to find, and when found he will be the exact color of the leaf, bark or any other thing on which he is resting.

Some one says, "Oh, yes; we know there are frogs of different colors, and that the love to sit on something of like colors to protect themselves from birds and other enemies." But don't be quite so fast with your opinion; wait until our experiment is finished. Now take him from the green leaf on which he now sits, and place him on the body of a tree which is a dark gray color, and in twenty minutes he will be the exact color of the bark on which he sits. Again remove him to a log or stump that has been burnt as black as fire can make it, and in twenty minutes he will be as black as the stump or log on which he sits.

All these tests I have tried, and therefore feel perfectly safe in making them known, and would be pleased if another person having made any experiment with this little frog would make known the results.—Asa Gregg in Inter Ocean.

Immunity from Fatal Small-Pox.

Dr. Ogle, having expressed his disappointment that the profession did not show complete immunity from fatal small-pox, The London Lancet points out that the rate of thirteen deaths of medical men from small-pox per 1,000,000 living implies that during the ten years 1873-82 only two deaths from this cause, out of 8,865 deaths from all causes, occurred in the profession in England and Wales, numbering about 15,000. "There were in England and Wales during those ten years 19,377 deaths from small-pox, and it is fair to assume that one or more medical practioners were brought into personal contact with each of these deceased persons. Bearing these facts in mind, the deaths of but two medical men from this disease during these ten years induces overpowering evidence both of the value of vaccination as a protection from small-pox, and of its general and effectual adoption by the profession.—Medical Journal.

Where John Cabot Probably Landed.

Historians and scholars can not agree as to whether to Christopher Columbus or to John Cabot belongs the honor of the discovery of the American continent. Many believe and assert that it belongs to the latter. The exhaustive researches recently made by Professor Horsford would seem to show that Cabot first landed, not, as has been supposed, at some point on the coast of Maine, but at Salem Neck, on the coast of Massachusetts, and, proceeding southward, entered what is now Boston harbor, and thence up Charles river, building a fort on its banks. It is probable, then, that John Cabot and his crew were the first white men who ever looked upon the pleasant shores of what is now South Boston. That it had been a favorite spot with the Indian tribes is attested by the discoveries made in digging for the foundations of buildings in later years.—Boston Globe.

Has a Monumental Significance.

When we hear of a little thing by Raphael, half a foot square, fetching $125,000 we are amazed until we reflect that this little trifle has a monumental significance as marking the point where the great master, and with him one might say the art of the world, forsook the early tradition and under the guidance of the newly-discovered antique fragments turned to the study of nature alone.

That Raphael picture will never go out of fashion, and the same may be said of all the great names which have survived through many centuries of change. But when such sums are paid as we have seen paid a few weeks ago for modern work we can not but wonder what will be the worth of those same canvasses a score of years hence. Any one who can look back a quarter of a century will remember how many changes of fashions there have been in art, as in everything else. A dozen fashions have followed one another, each for a brief period, as the manipulators have found it to their interest to direct.—Philadelphia Times.

The Surface of the Caspian Sea.

The results of the Russian level surveys between the Euxine and the Caspian show a considerable modification of former estimates, the difference being reduced from 400 to 85 feet. The surface of the Caspian is certainly a little below the ocean level, but its subsidence is subject to strange fluctuations. It slowly rises and then slowly sinks each alternate thirty years. The inhabitants of the rocky south shore have a special name for this phenomenon and explain it by a variety of the absurdest theories. The Caspian is nearly as salt as the Mediterranean, and its former connection with the ocean seems probable from the fact that it abounds not only with sea fish but with seal, which the harpooners of the last hundred generations have failed to exterminate.—Dr. Felix L. Oswald.

Size of the New English Ironclad.

The new English ironclad just launched from the Pembroke dock-yard, the Anson, in a twin-screw, armor-plated barbet ship. Her principal dimensions are: Length beween perpendiculars, 330 feet; extreme breadth, 65 feet 6 inches; displacement, 10,000 tons; engines, 7,500 horse-power; and indicated speed, 16 knots. Her complement of officers and men will be 430. Her belted armor will be 18 inches in thickness and she is to carry four 63-ton guns, six 6-inch broadside guns, ten Nordenfeldts, and twelve 6-inch quick-firing guns. — Chicago Tribune.

A Theory Concerning Fruit Bearing.

If is contended by some orchardists that a tree bearing a certain number of bushels of small apples will not grow as fast as one bearing the same kind and same number of bushels of large apples. The reason offered is that the seeds of the apples take much of the tree's strength, and that as the seeds of the small apples are nearly as large as of the large ones, the tree's growth is thereby more retarded. The weight of evidence appears to favor this conclusion.—Chicago Times.

Enemy to Our Native Birds.

Feminine subservience to fashion is the greatest enemy to our native birds. To minister to this vanity an army of men and boys are employed throughout the country to murder these innocents, that their stuffed skins may decorate a lady's bonnet. Travel a hundred miles along our coast and you may not see a gull where five years ago there were thousands of white breasts flashing in the sunshine. In many places meadow-larks, bobolinks and orioles are almost extinct.

It Can Scarcely Be Improved.

New York Town Topics says that, according to a letter from London, at a recent social event there Canon Farrar, who was one of the guests, was asked how he found America as a country to travel in. "Excellent," he replied. "I can scarcely conceive how it could be improved in any way. The better classes there are really so civil and attentive that one could almost do without a valet."

Japan Ahead in Some Things.

The Japanese are away head of us in some things. They always keep their back yards in apple-pie order—no ash-heaps, garbage barrels, tin cans and rubbish. The Japanese back yard is a little paradise, and is made as beautiful as art and nature can make it. The Japs, however, have no front yards and they dump their rubbish in the street.—Chicago Journal.

Night Air Is Not Injurious.

Professor Reclam, the German hygienist, declares that night air is injurious only in swampy regions, whereas on dry soil, in the mountains, and everywhere in the upper stories of the house it is more salubrious than day air. Neither does he consider draughts hurtful unless one is in a glow.—Exchange.

Results Reached with American Powder.

American cannon powder claims to beat all creation, some of the latest make speeding a hundred-pound projectile through the air at the lively pace of 2,029 feet per second. This result was reached at a recent trial of the new navy guns at Annapolis.—Boston Transcript.

Copper Wire Inside of Steel.

A telegraph wire is now being brought out in England in which the steel is made to surround the copper. The wire is said to be drawn from compound metal, consisting of a hollow ingot of steel filled with copper.—Philadelphia Record.

Fire-Proof Theatrical Scenery.

At the City theatre at Cologne all the scenery and implements have lately been impregnated with chemicals as a preventive against fire.

A young doctor says: "Our profession is the only one in existence which gives all its improvements to the world free of charge."

The census officials estimate the population of the country at present to be 60,000,000.

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