

## THE ELECTRIC EEL.

The electric eel, *Gymnotus electricus*, is found in the rivers of tropical America. It is in form and shape similar to other species of the *Anguillidae* or eel family, but from its great size, sometimes attaining six feet in length, and strength proportionate, and being possessed of internal electrical apparatus as powerful as the strongest artificial battery, it becomes a formidable opponent when encountered by man or animal in its element, the water.

The electric eel abounds in the Orinoco and the Amazon, but the force of the current and the depth of the water prevent their being caught, though the natives often feel shocks from them while bathing in those rivers.

USES OF THE LESSER METALS.—Cadmium, occasionally employed for the production of very fusible alloys, is usually obtained along with

## WEANING THE BABY.

Dr. Brochard in a French medical journal lays down four rules to be observed in weaning infants, as follows: (1.) It should never be done suddenly, one regimen being gradually transformed into another, so that the child may be progressively prepared for weaning. The time for it, as Trousseau justly observes, cannot be fixed by the almanac, but it must depend upon dentition. As soon as the teeth appear we should commence our preparations. About the fourth or fifth month we may accustom it to the sucking-bottle, substituting this for one of the sucklings at night, and afterwards for another; and even for a fortnight after weaning the child should have nothing but milk. At a later period farinaceous food and broths may be added. Many women begin to give their infants this kind of food far too soon, and at the time of weaning cannot get them to take the milk which

or asthenic, generally subsides on the fourth or fifth day of treatment. He usually prescribes one grain of opium, with or without lead and tannin, night and morning, in order to restrain the bowels which the juice has a tendency to relax. The effects of this treatment are, he says, rapid diminution of joint swelling, diminished perspiration, steady fall of pulse, which often becomes quite slow, with a slight tendency to syncope, the majority of cases requiring quinine and supporting food about the sixth day. Such vigorous treatment should evidently be undertaken only under the supervision of a competent physician.

REPAIRING LOOSE WATCH COVERS.—Some of our watchmaking readers may get a hint of value in the following which we quote from *Art-Industry*, a neat journal which has arisen from the ashes of the *Silversmith and Watchmaker*: If the rims of hunting-cases become so worn by the friction of the springs that they



THE ELECTRIC EEL OF SOUTH AMERICA.

zinc. Tungsten has been recently proposed by Dr. Versmann as a substitute for nickel in German silver, a highly sonorous alloy being obtained by reducing simultaneously tungstic and copper oxides, and fusing the resulting alloy with zinc or brass. The same metal has been suggested as a hardening and ameliorating ingredient in steel, as have also chromium and titanium. Few, indeed, of the remaining metals of this class are of any large industrial importance even in the state of compounds, potassium, sodium and calcium being the main exceptions. Certain of the compounds of barium, strontium, chromium and cobalt are also of considerable importance for a few special purposes and manufactures. Vanadium compounds have been recently introduced for developing certain colors in calico printing, etc., and cerium salts have been used medicinally, while molybdenic oxide is a valuable analytical re-agent.

DOTING mother: "Yes, I shall be happy to give you the wages you ask; but I shall expect you to give the dear children." Nurse: "I shall be happy to do so, ma'am; but of course that will be an extra!"—*Funny Folks*.

should then form almost their only diet. Solid food should be delayed for some weeks, and given only as the teeth appear. (2.) The child should never be weaned until it has teeth. (3.) It should never be weaned during very hot weather when diarrhea is apt to occur. (4.) It should not be weaned while in the act of cutting its teeth, the intervals which occur between the cutting of the different groups of teeth being selected.

LIME JUICE FOR RHEUMATISM.—In the *Canada Lancet*, Dr. A. H. Chandler calls attention anew to the use of an old remedy, and reports several severe cases in which good results followed its use. Without regard to the condition of the bowels—unless previously much constipated—he begins with at least ten ounces of lime juice, increasing rapidly to eighteen or twenty-four per diem—from half an ounce to one ounce or more every hour, with not less than double or treble the quantity of cold water, usually diluted and sweetened to the patient's taste. He finds that even on the second day the amendment is decided, and the disease, in acute cases, more particularly asthenic

will not close tightly, or not stay closed at all, the trouble can often be remedied by undercutting the rim at such an angle that the spring will draw the case tight. It is difficult to do this neatly with a graver or other hand tool, and the ordinary steel ratchet-wheel, taken from the material box and mounted on the lathe as a cutting-burr, will be found more to the purpose. A wheel should be selected with very fine teeth; and, if not hard, it should be hardened the same as any other cutting-tool, and mounted on the live spindle in the most convenient manner. This burr will cut and finish a square hole in a main-spring so narrow as to be difficult to punch, besides saving the risk of breaking small files in finishing the hole; the spring to be cut should be bent backwards, so that the hole will not be cut too long. It will also cut a soldier from the grooves in spectacles after mending, and do a hundred other little things that no file will do.

FIFTY thousand eucalyptus trees are to be planted about the City of Mexico, and it is expected they will cause a very material modification of the rainfall about the Mexican capital.