

WALLED LAKES.

During the explorations this season of Prof. Hayden's parties in the Yellowstone National park, many mountain lakes were found to exist, beside Yellowstone lake, the largest and best known among them all. They are beautiful sheets of water, and surrounded as they are by the quiet grandeur of the mountain scenery, their loveliness is very impressive. When one has gratified himself with admiration of their picturesque beauty, and comes to give them more detailed examination, he discovers among their interesting features—the existence upon their shores of those peculiar embankments which have been called "walls." These are especially observable upon the shores of Heart lake, one of the tributaries of Snake river, and in one of Mr. Jackson's fine photographic views of that lake the wall is clearly shown.

The position of these embankments is upon the gently sloping shores, and at or near the high water level, which at the time of low water is often some rods from the margin. Similar embankments exist upon the shores of the numerous small lakes of northern Iowa and southern Minnesota, and in other northern States, and their origin was the subject of much vague speculation, until a few years ago, when it was clearly explained by Dr. C. A. White, in his report on the geology of Iowa, as follows:

"The water is usually lowest in late autumn, and when winter comes it is frozen to the bottom over a wide margin from the shore. The ice, of course, freezes fast to everything upon the bottom, whether boulders, sand, gravel or mud, and the expansive power of the water in the act of freezing is exerted upon them, acting from the center of the lake in all directions towards its circumference. Those who are familiar with the expansive power of ice in the act of forming, will readily see that under such circumstances it would be more than sufficient to move the largest boulder up the gentle slope of the bed of the lake. It is true that the motion resulting from one winter's freezing would be hardly perceptible, but the act repeated from year to year, and from century to century, would ultimately move everything upon the bottom beyond the reach of the ice. The tracks of boulders thus moved have been observed, being as unmistakable in their character as those which the river mussel leaves behind it in the sand.

"Thus it will be seen that whatever was originally upon the bottom of the lake, within the reach of the ice, whether boulders, sand, gravel or mud, has been constantly carried towards the shore, where we find them collected in perfectly natural disorder, and forming a ridge just where the expansive power of the ice ceased. Below the line of freezing, the same kind of material would of course remain unmoved upon the bottom, because there is nothing to disturb it.

"The embankments vary in height from 2 to 10 feet, and from 5 to 20 or 30 feet across the top, their size and outline varying according to the materials which compose them. If boulders were numerous upon the bottom, the adjacent embankment is largely composed of them; if sand prevailed, a broad, gently rounded embankment resulted, just such as might be expected from that material; and if mud, filled with the fibrous roots of water plants and sedges were brought out by ice, a steep, narrow embankment was formed, because such material will stand more erect in a ridge or embankment than sand or boulders will.

"This description was applied especially to the so-called walled lakes of northern Iowa and southern Minnesota, the embankments of which were formerly believed by many to have been of artificial origin, but it applies equally well to the mountain lakes of the Yellowstone National park."

DRY GRAPHITE FOR STEAM CYLINDERS.

Mr. W. J. Williams, a prominent engineer of Philadelphia, has called attention to the successful use of dry pulverized graphite for lubricating steam-cylinders. He applies 137 grains twice a day, introducing it into the cylinder through the usual form of tallow-cup. Six months of continuous use, in a horizontal engine, working to its full capacity, proves this lubricant superior in every way to oils or tallow, both of which he had used for years. No oil whatever is introduced with the graphite. Besides satisfying all the lubricating needs of the cylinder, the joints, where gum is used, last longer and show less of leakage.

After a run of four months, Mr. W. says: "I took off the cylinder-head of my engine to examine the interior. I found the piston perfectly clean, with no appearance of wear or abrasion, on account of plumbago being used as the lubricator. I feel very positive that if I had been using animal or vegetable oils, the parts would be in a much worse condition today. The cylinder has been scored for several years. It is in no better or worse condition now than it was before I quit using oils (about 14 months.) The working part of the cylinder is everywhere covered with a coat of plumbago, readily soiling the fingers.

"I touched the cylinder in the same place three times, cleaning the fingers previous to each touch, but they were soiled each time.

"The conclusion I have come to about the choking up of passages is, that plumbago alone will not do it; but wherever there is friction of one or more moving parts, some of it will adhere to them.

"I have never heard a noise in the cylinder since I have been using plumbago, except when the steam is entirely shut off at the stop-valve for the purpose of stopping the engine; and then it would be heard during one or two strokes of the piston before the engine would stop, and this not oftener than usually occurs when using any kind of lubricator.

"I increase the quantity of plumbago sometimes to 180 grains twice a day; 134 is the minimum and usual quantity."

RAW ONION AS A DIURETIC.—Dr. G. W. Balfour, in the *Edinburg Medical Journal*, records three cases in which much benefit was afforded patients by the eating of raw onions in large quantities. They acted as a diuretic in each instance. Case first was a woman who had suffered from a large white kidney and constriction of the mitral valve of the heart. Her abdomen and legs had been tapped several times, but after using onions as above she had been free from dropsy for two years, although still suffering from albuminuria. Case second suffered from heart disease, cirrhotic liver and dropsy. Case third had dropsy depending on tumor of the liver. In both of them the remedy had been used with good results. Both had been previously tapped, purgatives and diuretics alike having failed to give relief. All other treatment having failed to give relief, recourse was had to the onions. Under their use the amount passed steadily rose from 10 to 15 ounces to 78 or 100.—*Herald of Health*.

THE NAILS.—The growth of the nails is more rapid in children than in adults, and slowest in the aged; goes on faster in summer than in winter, so that the same nail which is renewed in 132 days in winter, requires only 116 in summer. The increase of the nails of the right hand is more rapid than those of the left; moreover, it differs for the different fingers, and in order corresponds with the length of the finger, consequently it is the fastest in the middle finger, nearly equal in the two on either side of this, slower in the little finger and slowest in the thumb. The growth of all the nails on the left hand requires 82 days more than those of the right.

CHAFF.

THE violinist who "carried the house by storm" used a rain bow afterward.

EVEN a clothes line becomes unsteady when it has too many sheets in the wind.

THE worm and the barrel hoop are very much alike in this respect, that they turn when trod upon.

A MUSICIAN, George Sharp, had his name on the door plate thus: "G. Sharp." A wag of a painter, who knew something of music, early one morning made the following undentable and significant addition: "Is A flat."

A FLORIDA preacher closed an unsuccessful revival meeting recently with the remark: "I tell you, my hearers, it don't pay for the gas."

A SYBARITE is already ecstatic at Prof. Edison's electric-visibility discovery. He thinks cigars will be made with the spark in them. When you nip the point off they will light.

THE man who goes to church simply because he has nothing else to do may not be a heathen, but he is certainly an idle worshiper.

AN agricultural paper asserts that milk comes through inheritance. Mebbe it does, but some of it looks as if it had come through a thunder shower with the lids of the cans open.

A GENTLEMAN died not long ago who had been addicted to his cups. One who was not aware of his habit was making inquiries of the family physician in relation to his death, and among other matters asked about his spiritual condition. "It was excessive," replied the doctor; "that was what killed him."

A YOUNG man in this city, who sent a manuscript play to a theatrical manager, had it returned to him with the remark that if he would only work it over so as to make the heroine rob the bank instead of defend it, and afterward climb up a catarract on a slack rope, with a safe on her back, while the detectives paused frightened on the brink, it might do.

"DOVEY," he said, "I believe I was telling you, after I came home last night, about the necessity of some retrenchment in our expenditures, was I not?" "Well, really, I've forgotten, John," she answered, nonchalantly; "turn on the phonograph and see." He turned it on, and all it said was: "Whazzzer mazzzer—(his) mazzzer? Whazzzer mazzzer?"

THE little folks wanted the head of the family to spend the evening with them. Father said he thought of attending a meeting. Various measures were discussed for keeping father at home, when Tommy, aged five, addressed his brother, aged seven, as follows: "I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll put a sign on the front door—'No admittance to go out of this house nights.'"

POTATOES.—Those grown on virgin soil, of a middle size, and floury, are to be preferred. They should be as nearly as possible of one size, well washed, but not pared. They should be put into a vessel of cold water for an hour, then put into fresh water, and boiled in a kettle or saucepan, closely covered, in the most expeditious manner possible; or they should be steamed, which would be still better. If boiled, no more water should be used than merely to cover them, as they produce a considerable quantity of fluid. When they are done, the water should be instantly poured off, and the kettle containing the cooked potatoes placed on the side of the fire with a cover on, and a cloth over them, until the steam is absorbed, and rendered quite dry and mealy before they are sent to the table.

RAW OYSTERS are more digestible than cooked ones. It is believed by some that there is a true gastric juice in an oyster's stomach, which assists in digesting them. This, however, is not known with certainty.

TURNIPS and carrots contain about 90% of water. Their chief value is as a divisor of more nutritious food, to allow the gastric juice to act on it more readily, and as a relish.