

NEW AND CURIOUS.

Cohn, a celebrated Prussian bacteriologist, declares that a single germ could, under favorable conditions, multiply in three days to 4,722,000,000,000, and make a mass weighing 7,500 tons. It is a merciful provision of nature that "favorable conditions" never exist.

According to the Electrical Age, the total length of the world's telegraph system has now reached 4,908,823 miles, exclusive of 181,440 miles of submarine cables. This mileage is apportioned as follows: Europe, 1,764,790 miles; Asia, 310,685 miles; Africa, 99,416 miles; Australia, 217,479 miles; America, 2,516,548 miles.

The Agassiz expedition to the Fiji Islands has returned, after a successful examination of the soil and the flora and fauna. On the island of Toloya was the crater of an extinct volcano, into which a steamer could enter and sail around. Two sea snakes were caught on the North Astrolabe reefs, and several live specimens of bulolo, or coral worms, were secured. The scientists, who were taken out by the natives in canoes, saw thousands of the worms, which are said to dissolve after being about two hours on the surface.

Some figures relative to education and crime were read by Sir John Lubbock at the Sociological Congress recently held in Paris. They are essentially as follows: since the act of 1870 the number of children in English schools has increased from 1,500,000 to 5,000,000, and the number of persons in prison has fallen from 12,000 to 5,000. The yearly average of persons sentenced to penal servitude for the worst crimes has declined from 3,000 to 800, while the list of juvenile offenders has fallen from 14,000 to 5,000. Sir John Lubbock sees in these figures a confirmation of Victor Hugo's saying, that "he who opens a school closes a prison."

The Chinese school children have instilled into them at an early age habits of hard, steady study. At the age of five a boy begins his schooling. At daylight he rises and, after dressing as quickly as possible, he starts breakfastless to school. He is given a task and after it is completed he is allowed an hour for breakfast. Again, later he has an hour for luncheon, but he is at his study nearly 12 hours a day and seven days in the week.

All this time when he is not receiving his lessons he is studying aloud at the top of his voice. He is under the eye of his master both in school and on his way to and from school. The lad is taught rudimentary astronomy, physics

and natural history, but greater stress is put upon writing and his literary studies.

Some curious war statistics are as follows: At Plevna it took a Russian battery a whole day's firing for each Turk killed. At Gibraltar, in 1781, 360,000 shot and shell were thrown, and the killed and wounded was only 1,340. It took 200 shots to hit one man, according to the figures of the Franco-German war. Even more surprising, into Verdun 33,000 shots were thrown and only seven persons were killed. Phalzburg had a similar number of fatalities for the 8,000 shells received there. Eight deaths in Bitche were caused by 25,000 shells. In Mezieres 300 were killed, but it required 193,000 shells to do it. Then there was Thionville, into which 30,000 shells were thrown, with the result that two were killed; and finally Longwy, which received during the siege 30,000 shells without losing a single man. At Murfreesborough it took 27 cannon-shot and 130 rifle-bullets to hit one man; while one of the maxims of war, since the campaign of 1870, is that it takes a ton of iron to kill a man.

Just for Fun.

Little Teddie: Did our baby come right to us from heaven?

His Mamma: Yes, darling; right straight down.

Little Teddie: I guess he must 'a' lit on his feet, and that's what makes him so bow-legged, then.

Juvenile blunders still accumulate, in spite of "definite and dogmatic teaching". Here is the latest, given as a fact, from the Church Review.

Priest (catechising): Now, children, what is the meaning of those letters you see on the altar frontal—I. H. S.?

Little Girl: Please sir, I know—I 'ate Satan.

Kind Lady (at door): I am lady president of the charity society, and we never give to beggars at the door. But here are some tracts; they are good for—

Tramp: Will the kind lady please put a taste of butter on them and I'll try to digest them.

Sabbath-School Teacher: Who was Esau?

Johnny Thickhead: The—er—er—author of Esau's fables, ma'am.

A clergyman noted for begging, while talking to a Sunday school, compared himself to a shepherd and his congregation to sheep, and asked: "What does the shepherd do for the sheep?" To the amusement of all, a bright little boy answered promptly: "Shears them."

To judge from all one sees and hears, the doctrine of hell, with its fires, brimstone, chains, gridirons, and other delightful horrors, is

about dead. Even the newspapers admit discussions on the subject into their columns, and do not insist upon the disputants holding orthodox views. This is a good sign. No Christian dogma can stand honest newspaper discussion and the clergy are well aware of that. No doubt many are delighted to be rid of the frightful bugbear of hell and its fire; and some of the clergy fancy they can run the gospel show without it. Not so. A steam engine is not more helpless without fire than is Christianity. No one fears God if hell and the devil is dispensed with. Nobody wants Christ if there is no hell to be saved from. Blow up hell and you blow up heaven, god and the whole scheme of salvation. Christ is as utterly useless without hell as a lifeboat would be on the moon—where there is not a drop of water.—Liberator.



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