

**NEW AND CURIOUS.**

It has been proved, as the result of experiments, that the circulation of the blood is affected by music.

The oldest wooden building in the world is said to be the church at Borgund, in Norway. It was built in the eleventh century, and has been protected by frequent coatings of pitch. It is built of pine and in fantastic Romanesque design.

Mathematical calculations show that an iron ship weighs 27 per cent. less than a wooden one, and will carry 115 tons of cargo for every 100 tons carried by a wooden ship of the same dimensions, and both loaded to the same draught of water.

M. Beguin has written an article in Cosmos to show that the growth of all vegetation is surely affected by the moon, on similar lines to that produced by the sun. After a long series of experiments he concludes that the moon's effect is greatest in the tropics and during its period of darkness.

Soap has been in use for 3000 years, and is twice mentioned in the Bible. A few years ago a soap-boiler's shop was discovered in Pompeii, having been buried beneath the terrible rain of ashes that fell upon that city 79 A. D. The soap found in the shop had not lost all its efficacy, although it had been buried 1800 years.

Among the world's oldest men known to fame three have pre-eminence in Europe. These are Mr Gladstone, Pope Leo XII. and Prince Bismarck.

Mr. Gladstone has lived to a greater age than any other English statesman who has ever been prime minister during the last two hundred years; and at eighty-eight his mental powers are unimpaired, although his sight has nearly failed him, and he is deaf. The pope at eighty-seven has remarkable health and vigor, and shows few of the infirmities of age. Prince Bismarck at eighty-two suffers as much from lack of occupation as from bodily weakness.

Practical builders in large cities often refer to glass as a prospective building material. Demand for light, durability, cleanliness, strength and protection from fire, insure its much wider employment in the near future. The protection offered against electrical disturbances and the possible casualties from the increased employment of electricity, is also open to consideration. Glass floors are in the line of progress, and the prospect is that there will be a demand for glass houses one of these days. Indeed, the demand for better lighted apartments in closely built districts, made imperative by hygienic

necessity, far exceeds the methods at present available.

An air-ship, constructed on the principle of a balloon, but consisting entirely of aluminum, was tried last November, under the direction of officers of the German army. Although the ship was wrecked, by being too suddenly brought down to earth, its trial trip established the fact that a balloon composed of aluminum instead of silk can not only be made to rise, but also carry up a considerable weight with it. By means of driving apparatus, the immense hollow cylinder, which was 134 feet long, 46 high and 42 broad, and which, together with the car suspended beneath it, weighed 5720 pounds, was driven rapidly through the air after having risen to a height of 800 feet. The accident that terminated the experiment is ascribed to the fact that the inventor of the balloon, Herr Schwartz, had died suddenly before the trial trip, and those who took charge of the work were comparatively inexperienced, and left out some of the apparatus which he had deemed essential. Another ship is to be constructed and the experiment repeated.

**An Atrocious Sermon.**

But I heard one sermon that touched my heart, that left its mark, like a scar, on my brain.

One Sunday I went with my brother to hear a Free Will Baptist preacher. He was a large man, dressed like a farmer, but he was an orator. He could paint a picture with words.

He took for his text the parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus." He described Dives, the rich man, his manner of life, the excesses in which he indulged, his extravagance, his riotous nights, his purple and fine linen, his feasts, his wines and his beautiful women.

Then he described Lazarus, his poverty, his rags and wretchedness, his poor body eaten by disease, the crusts and crumbs he devoured, the dogs that pitied him. He pictured his lonely life, his friendless death.

Then changing his tone of pity to one of triumph, leaping from tears to the heights of exultation, from defeat to victory, he described the glorious company of angels who, with white and outspread wings, carried the soul of the despised pauper to paradise—to the bosom of Abraham.

Then changing his voice to one of scorn and loathing, he told of the rich man's death. He was in his palace, on his costly couch, the air heavy with perfume, the room filled with servants and physicians. His gold was worthless then. He could not buy another breath. He died, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment.

Then assuming a dramatic atti-

tude, putting his right hand to his ear, he whispered: "Hark! I hear the rich man's voice. What does he say? Hark! 'Father Abraham! Father Abraham! I pray thee send Lazarus that he may dip his fingers in water and cool my parched tongue. For I am tormented in this flame'"

"Oh, my hearers, he has been making that request for more than eighteen hundred years. And millions of ages hence that wail will cross the gulf that lies between the saved and lost, and still will be heard the cry, 'Father Abraham! Father Abraham! I pray thee send Lazarus that he may dip his finger in water and cool my parched tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.'" "

For the first time I understood the dogma of eternal pain—appreciated the "glad tidings of great joy." For the first time my imagination grasped the height and depth of the Christian horror. Then I said, "It is a lie, and I hate your religion. If it is true, I hate your god."

From that day I have had no fear, no doubt. For me, on that day, the flames of hell were quenched. From that day I have passionately hated every orthodox creed.—[Ingersoll.

The Bible, as the word of God, is a revelation of what is not true; as the word of man, a record of human struggle after knowledge.—[Ex.



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