

NEW AND CURIOUS.

It is said that tomatoes have been successfully grafted on to potato plants, thus raising two crops on one plant.

An English medical paper queerly remarks (of one of many like fungi) that the most wonderful vegetable in the world is the truffle, because it has neither roots, stem, flowers, leaves nor seeds.

A very curious African fat is "beetle oil", which is like congealed coconut oil both in color and consistency. As its name implies, the fat is extracted from a species of beetle. It is used for household purposes.

Glass prepared by some process which renders it malleable is used with great success in filling teeth. Glass is also used for church bells; of course it is toughened, so there is no danger of cracking. The tone is more musical, soft and sonorous than that obtained from any metallic combination.

A Russian chemist is reported to have discovered a substance with most powerful anæsthetic properties, which exerts its influence over a wide area even when diluted with air. It is proposed to determine whether it will not be possible to enclose the anæsthetic in bombs, which could be thrown into an enemy's ranks and there exploded, thus anæsthetizing large bodies of troops and rendering them an easy prey. This would "put one's adversary to sleep".

Prof. Clowes gives certain results as to the condition of the air in various situations near his laboratory. A few of his figures serve to indicate the varying degrees of efficiency attained in ventilation. The results give the relative volumes of carbonic acid gas present in the air, viz.: In the college grounds, 43 parts in 100,000; in the chemical laboratory, 69 parts in 100,000; in the masonic hall, 179 parts in 100,000; in a private sitting room, 284 parts in 100,000; in the committee room, 418 parts in 100,000. These results probably hold true elsewhere, substantially.

Five hundred years B. C. the Celts possessed Central Europe from the Rhine to the Danube and from the North Sea to the Alps. About a hundred years later, pressed by Germanic tribes on their north, two streams of migration poured out from them—the one into Italy, Illyria, Southern France, Northern Spain, and Northern Briton; the second, continuing several centuries, into Belgium, Northern France, and Southern Briton. The primitive physical type of the Celt was tall in stature, skull dolichocephalic, hair blonde and com-

plexion fair. The fact that the southern branch, especially in France, so widely departed from this, was owing to their constant intermixture with the Ligurians, who are supposed to be non-Aryan, and other peoples descended from the dwellers in the stone age. The primitive Celts were, of course, closely allied.

A railroad surgeon has lately reported an instance—uncommon, let us hope—of the scattering of diphtheria through a wide region. A child with diphtheria was carried two hundred miles in an ordinary car. The next day a number of school-teachers, returning from a teachers' institute, travelled in the same car. Shortly afterward diphtheria broke out in the schools in four different places along the line of the railroad, and the evidence which the railroad surgeon was able to collect pointed to the spread of the disease by these teachers, who, when examined were found to have diphtheritic organisms in their throats, although they did not actually have diphtheria.

REFLECTED RAYS.

You will never accomplish anything worth accomplishing till your mind is anchored fast in some noble undertaking; and no undertaking can be truly noble whose object is not of great permanent utility.—James Gillespie.

The natural effect of a Sunday rest law is to make people exceedingly restless.

Civil legislation makes people very uncivil when it enters the sphere of religion.—American Sentinel.

While the people of this country are clamoring for war with Spain on account of her atrocities in Cuba, let them not forget that Spain is a "Christian nation". And who knows but that a union of religion with the state here, might do as much for this country as it has for Spain! — [American Sentinel.

Numberless altars have been red-dened, even with the blood of babes; beautiful girls have been given to slimy serpents, whole races of men doomed to centuries of slavery, and everywhere there has been outrage beyond the powers of genius to express. During all these years the suffering have been supplicants; the withered lips of famine have prayed; the pale victims have implored, and heaven has been deaf and blind. — [R. G. Ingersoll.

One of the worst features in human character is social cowardice, a dread of being known to differ from the ignorant crowd. There are millions of Freethinkers in the world who never openly declare themselves, for fear of offending parent, friends, neighbours. Such Freethinkers perhaps do not reflect that if all had followed their policy, the clergy would have been as tyrannous and cruel to-day as they were hundreds of years ago.—Liberator.

A clergyman in England complains that the people are giving up studying the Bible for football, cricket, cycling, tennis and concerts. Sensible people! There is a thousand times more fun in those than in all the Bible, and a thousand times less immorality. But why did "God" inspire a book that was less attractive than human sports, Eh? Were I "God" I would try again; I would call in the silly old, wicked old Bible and burn every copy of it. And then I would write or inspire something so attractive that nothing could compete with it. Why don't the clergy inspire "God" to inspire such a book? Why! I know. An attractive Bible and an attractive religion would leave the clergy with nothing to do; they flourish on a bad religion which nobody likes, and which they have to coax, threaten, cajole, bribe and intimidate people to induce them to have anything to do with it. Still people hate the stuff, and are glad of anything that gives them relief from it.—[Liberator.

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