

NEW AND CURIOUS.

The boatwomen of China have no need to agitate for women's rights—they possess them. The boatwoman, whether she be a single woman, a wife, or a widow, is the head of the house, that is to say, of the boat. If she is married, the husband takes the useful but subordinate place of deck-hand or bow oarsman. She does the steering, makes bargains with the passengers, collects the money, buys supplies, and in general, lords it over everything.

It is proposed to construct the hatches on ships so that pressure from below will fix them more firmly in their seats. This implies that they shall be air-tight. Then as long as a ship with a hole in her does not capsize, the confined air will give her a chance at least of floating. At present hatches are put in from above and are designed to exclude deck-water, not to retain air. An air-tight hold would make it possible to force out water down to the level of a leak by pumping in air.

An instructor at Columbia University has for a year or more been conducting experiments in grafting together different insects so as to make composite forms. His experiments have almost all been performed on bombycid moths. The process consists in cutting two chrysalids, putting the cut edges together and fastening them by brushing the line of union with melted paraffine, which at once hardens and holds the pieces firmly together. About ten per cent of the insects operated on have lived to reach the imago stage, the proportion being larger when the two individuals selected were of the same species, and much smaller, about six per cent, when they were of different species, the first being called homoplastic, the second heteroplastic union. An attempt will be made this season to breed from some of the moths produced by grafting.

It is interesting to note how European physicians are employing more and more hygienic measures in place of drugs for various forms of disease. Night terrors so common in children imperfectly fed and often occurring in others through faulty training, is now successfully treated by means of the music-box. Night terrors never occur when the child is sound asleep, but only in its first stages. If the stomach is overloaded, the crude, half-digested food irritates, and we have a regular storm of nervous symptoms which terminate in fear. The true remedy of course is to establish good habits of diet and good mental habits, carefully avoiding frights and tales that produce fears. Very helpful has been

found a music-box set to play pleasant airs when the child is put to bed. Cases of chronic night terrors have been cured by it when all other means have failed. Other nervous invalids have also found the box helped to promote sleep. It produces evidently a harmonizing effect on the nervous system and a sounder, more peaceful repose.—[Journal of Hygiene.

REFLECTED RAYS.

China's trouble with Christian nations began with the entrance of the first Christian missionary. Knowing this, it is small wonder that the celestials look askance at the followers of sweet Jesus.—[Freethinker.

Mohammedanism is spreading far more rapidly than Christianity in Africa. Sixty millions of Africans have been converted to the faith in Islam. What is more, every follower of the prophet of Arabia is treated as a brother by every Moslem.—[Freethinker.

Some preachers have asked the question, "Can Agnostics be saved?" and have answered it in the affirmative. Thus are many sincere Agnostics robbed of their fondest hope, which is that the orthodox heaven may clude their grasp. What shall we do to be damned?—[G. E. M.

One of the best features of pagan civilization—religious freedom—was destroyed as soon as Christianity gained an ascendancy. "From the very moment the church obtained civil power under Constantine," says Lecky, "the general principle of coercion was admitted and acted on, both against the Jews, the heretics and the pagans."—[Underwood.

Bishop Turner of the African Methodist Church says that he has "no respect for any negro who does not believe that the God he serves and worships is a negro." Neither have we. The race which does not make its god and its dolls in its own image ought to go out of the business altogether. Even Jehovah, who was all the time blundering, had sense enough to make mankind in his own image, and thus succeeded in getting himself worshiped in proxy, if not in person.—[Ex.

Ninety-nine out of every hundred human beings are unconscious for several hours before death comes to them. All the majesty of intellect, the tender beauty of thought, or sympathy, or charity, the very love for those for whom love has filled all waking thoughts, disappear. As a little baby just born into the world is but a little animal, so the sage, the philosopher, the hero, the statesman, becomes but a dying animal at the last. A merciful un-

consciousness sets in, as the mysterious force we call life slowly takes leave of its last citadel, the heart, and what is has become what was. This is death.—[Dr. Cyrus Edson.

If men were no better than their religions the world would be a hell indeed.—[W. K. Clifford.

Who can compute what the world loses in the multitude of promising intellects combined with timid characters who dare not follow out any bold, vigorous, independent train of thought, lest it should land them in something which would admit of being considered irreligious or immoral?—[John Stuart Mill.

A North Carolina mountaineer gives the following definition of fog: "Fog," he said, "is when the atmosphere and the hemisphere come together. That produces a great pressure, and causes the earth to sweat. The sweat we call fog."

A Fond du Lac little girl had a present of a "child's Bible." After conning it a while, she was observed to count something on the first page. "I don't like that book," she said, "it's too God-dy for me."

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