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NEW AND CURIOUS.

There are 1,135 miles of railway in Cuba, 551 miles of which are controlled by British companies.

A glass factory has been started at St. Helen's, England, in which the whole system of blowing is replaced by an automatic arrangement of molds and blowpipes worked by compressed air. The output has been much increased.

Telephonic communication between St. Petersburg and Moscow is obtained by a line 412 miles long. It is said to be the longest single line in Europe. Nearly all of the towns in Finland are connected by telephone; the rates are very low.

The cultivation of fruit trees along the highways of France is being extended each year, the government having adopted this practice as a source of revenue, so that now roadside fruit cultivation has become an important branch of national industry.

A 25-mile railway for the Philippines was recently packed in the hold of a steamship at San Francisco. Everything needed for the railroad was sent except the ties, which will be obtained in the islands. It is said that the railway will be used to extend the 30 miles of railroad now controlled by the American troops. The engineering corps will build the bridges, etc.

The Board of Health of New York City has received a communication from the Board of Health in Michigan stating that twenty clerks of that State, who were working over old volumes of records were taken ill with consumption and died. The books were examined by a bacteriologist and were found to be full of tubercles and bacilli, and it is thought they became infected from a clerk who had consumption and who had the habit of moistening his thumb with saliva when turning the pages.

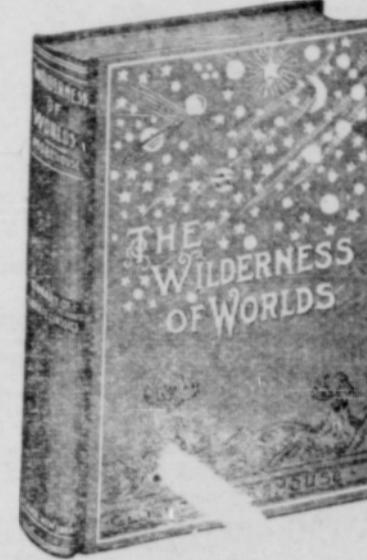
Before the Biological Society of Washington, Mr. O. F. Cook described his studies of the African termites, or white ants. Certain individuals in every nest have no other apparent function except that of fighters or soldiers. Some have a long beak from which they eject an acrid, corrosive fluid; others inspire terror by making a loud clicking noise with their mandibles, but they neither shoot nor bite. One singular observation of Mr. Cook was that the soldier ants which rush out to defend an attacked nest "do not return to the nest but wander about and soon perish from exposure to the outside air."

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