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NEW AND CURIOUS.

There are 2,000 miles of railway open for traffic in New Zealand.

***

There are 10,000 miles of railway now in operation or under construction in Africa.

***

It is said that in Japan extensive preparations are being made for lighting railway cars by acetylene gas.

***

A famous Italian faster has been unmasked at Rio de Janeiro. A physician found that he used fibrous meat compressed into the smallest size, and this, in connection with a small quantity of mineral water, was enough to prevent starvation.

***

It is said that metal never rusts in the waters of Lake Titicaca. A chain or an anchor can be left in it two weeks, and will be as clean and bright as when it came from the foundry, which is probably owing to the action of some of the chemical salts in the water.

***

It is an extraordinary fact, says the Scientific American, that up to the present time dead animals were left to decompose on the Paris streets, as there were no facilities for removing them. The Prefect of Police has now taken steps to have such nuisances removed on application. The cost is not to exceed $1, which is to be paid by the applicant. This seems a rather extraordinary sanitary regulation.

***

Dr. Ludwig Mach has successfully alloyed aluminum with magnesium and thereby obtained a compound which can be worked like brass, and which is lighter still than aluminum, says the Iron Age. A 10 per cent magnesium alloy resembles zinc, a 15 per eent alloy is like brass, and a 25 per cent like compound bronze. The alloy is almost as white as silver and very hard. It is less expensive than brass.

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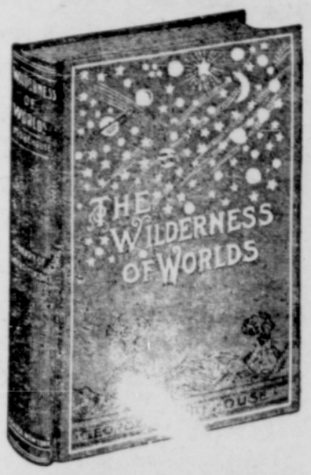

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