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Nature's House Work.

Almost every day of late the telegraph has brought news of earthquakes in different parts of the world-not temblors, but veritable terre motos, which destroy building and kill people. It seems evident that at the present time the globe is giving an end-of-the-century performance.

Nature has her house work to do like an industrious dame; her idea of the permanency of the planets' arrangements are clearly not ours. She shakes and dusts in the course of her cleaning-up operations, and makes nothing of killing off tens Price, any size...... 60c of thousands of human beings when she has to upset a populous island. Man, who stays so short a time on the planet, fancies that the whole great show of nature was made for him alone. It is certain that nature does not always give heed to our human arrangements and has small regard for human life, for can she not renew the world perpetually? Men are always dying, but the world is always fresh and wonderful. Man has clearly put too high an estimate on his puny self .- [Mexican Herald.

[Yes, in one way man has put too high an estimate, and in another way he has put too low an estimate, on his own powers.-ED.]

H. Thomas has detected in tobacco smoke a poisonous, oily substance which produces violent headache, trembling, giddiness, etc. By treatment with a 2 per cent potash solution a phenol-like body may be separated, which has an odor resembling creosote. To the presence of this oil the observed toxic effects of tobacco may be attributed, since it is known that those are not altogether dependent upon the proportion of nicotine in the tobacco.

Fish scales are being utilized in France, where a chemist has discovered that the scales may be used in the manufacture of artificial pearls, and our consul at Lyons has found that the supply is inadequate and that there is an actual demand for large quantities of the scales in his consulate, where good prices are paid for them. The scales should be sprinkled with salt as soon as they are removed from the fish and packed in tin cans. Any specimens sent to Mr. Covert at Lyons will receive careful attention, and the results, with any suggestions that may be made, and particulars of price offered, will be duly reported. As the American sturgeon has the most beautiful and largest scales of almost any fish in the world, this may be of considerable importance to fishermen who engage in catching stur-

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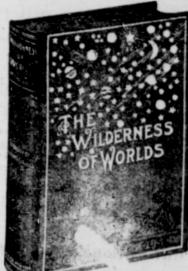
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