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SCIENCE ANSWERING SIMPLE QUESTIONS.
—Why is rain water soft? Because it is not impregnated with earth and minerals.
Why is it more easy to wash with soft water than with hard? Because soft water unites freely with soap, and dissolves it instead of decomposing it as hard water does.

Why do wood ashes make hard water soft?

1st. Because the carbonic acid of wood ashes combines with the sulphate of lime in the hard water, and converts it into chalk; 2dly, wood ashes convert some of the soluble salts of water into insoluble and throw them down as a sediment by which the water remains more pure.

Why has rain water such an unpleasant smell when it is collected in rain-tub or tank? Because it is impregnated with decomposed organic matter washed from the roofs, trees, or the casks in which it is collected.

Why does water melt salt? Because very minute particles of water insinuate themselves into the pores of the salt by capillary attraction, and force the crystals apart from each other.

How does blowing hot foods make them cool? It causes the air which has been heated by food to change more rapidly, and give place to fresh cold air.

Why do ladies fan themselves in hot weather? That fresh particles of air may be brought in contact with their face by the action of the fan; and as every fresh particle of air absorbs some heat from the skin, this constant change makes them cool.

Does a fan cool the air? No, it makes the air hotter, by imparting to it the heat of our faces but it cools our face by transferring its heat to the air.

Why is there always a strong draught through the key-hole of a door? Because the air in the room we occupy is warmer than the air in the hall; therefore the air from the hall rushes through the key hole into the room, and causes a draught.

Why is there always a strong draught under the door and through the crevices on each side? Because cold air rushes from the hall to supply the void in the room caused by the escape of warm air up the chimney, &c.

Why is there always a draught through the window crevices? Because the external air, being colder than the air of the room we occupy, rushes through the window crevices to supply the deficiency caused by the escape of the warm air up the chimney, &c.

If you open the lower sash of a window there is more draught than if you open the upper sash. Explain the reason of this.—If the lower sash be open, cold external air will rush freely into the room and cause a great draught inward; but if the upper sash be open, the heated air of the room will rush out and of course there will be less draught inward.

By which means is a room better ventilated—by opening the upper or lower sash? A room is better ventilated by opening the upper sash; because the hot, vitiated air, which always ascends towards the ceiling, can escape more easily.

By which means is a hot room more quickly cooled—by opening the upper or lower sash? A hot room is cooled more quickly by the lower sash, because the cold air can enter more freely at the lower part of the room than at the upper.

Why does the wind dry damp linen?

Because dry wind, like a dry sponge, imbibes the particles of vapor from the surface of the linen as fast as they are formed.

Which is the hottest place in a church or chapel? The gallery.

Why is the gallery of all public places hotter than the lower parts of the building? Because the heated air of the building ascends, and all the cold air which can enter through the doors and windows keeps to the floor till it has become heated.

Why do plants often grow out of walls and trees? Either because the wind blows the seed there with the dust; or else because some bird, flying over, dropped seed there, which it had formerly eaten.

Among other interesting facts of Dr. Bow's statistical view of the United States, the Boston Transcript mentions that the non-slaveholding have a third greater population than the slaveholding States; that the foreign vote of the country is one-twelfth of the whole; that about one-third of the white population of the slave States are slave-owners; that the State of New York has about one-eighth of the population of the Union; that there is one house to every six persons in the country; that the Roman Catholics have but one-eleventh as many churches as the Methodists; that the number of persons who live east of the Mississippi is twelve times greater than those who live west thereof; the distance between New York and New Orleans is more than that between London and Constantinople, or Paris and St. Petersburg; over two-fifths of the national territory is drained by the Mississ-

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sippi and its tributaries; of the 1,597 political newspapers published in the United States in 1850, 853 were Whig, and 742 were Democratic. There are four hundred thousand Indians in our territory; at the close of the Revolution, there were but 36,000 in the old thirteen States, according to an estimate of Gen. Knox; direct and indirect tax paid by each white person in the country, \$4 24; number of real estate owners, 1,500,000, or one in about 319 of the free males over twenty-one years of age; number of Federal office-holders, (exclusive of army and navy,) 35,456, a ninefold increase since 1800—the population having increased about fivefold; one fourth part of the people reside in villages, towns, and cities; the number of people to a dwelling in New York city averages more than 13, in Boston nearly 9, in New Orleans 9, in Richmond about 5; in 51 counties the females greatly predominate, in 155 the slaves, and in 7 the foreign born.

To MANAGE A REARING HORSE.—Whenever you perceive a horse's inclination to rear, separate your reins and prepare for him. The instant he is about to rise, slacken one hand, and bend or twist his head with the other, keeping your hands low. This bending compels him to move a hind leg, and, if necessary, bring his fore feet down. Instantly twist him completely round, two or three times, which will confuse him very much, and completely throw him off his guard. The moment you have finished twisting him round, place his head in the direction you wish to proceed, apply the spurs and he will not fail to go forward. If the situation be convenient, press him into a gallop, and apply the whip and spurs two or three times severely. The horse will not, perhaps, be quite satisfied with the defeat, but may feel disposed to try again for the mastery. Should this be the case, you have only to twist him, etc., as before, and you will find that in the second struggle he will be more easily subdued than on the former occasion; in fact, you will see him quail under the operation. It rarely happens that a rearing horse, after having been treated in the way described, will resort to this trick a third time.—*British Sportsman.*

SHIP OF PTOLEMY PHILOPATER.—The description of this vessel, furnished by Atheneus in his fifth book, is almost incredible. It had forty banks of oars, was two hundred and eighty cubits in length—equal to four hundred and twenty English feet—thirty-eight cubits or fifty-seven feet in breadth, from entrance to entrance, and nearly eighty feet in perpendicular height from the aft rail or bulkhead to the keel. It was furnished with four rudders or steering oars, forty-five feet each in length, and the longest of the oars by which it was propelled were equal in length (fifty-seven feet) to the extreme breadth of the vessel. The crew consisted of upwards of four thousand rowers, and four hundred, or, according to some accounts, three thousand other persons were employed in the navigation of this immense fabric. It has been estimated this vessel had a tonnage of 6445 tons, builders' measurement, and an external bulk of 820,700 cubic feet.

WARM BATHING.—The warm bath is a grand remedy, and will cure the most virulent of diseases. A person who may be in fear of having received infection of any kind, as, for instance, having visited a fever patient, should speedily plunge into a warm bath, suffer perspiration to ensue, and then rub dry, dress securely to guard against cold, and finish off with a cup of strong tea by the fire. If the system has imbibed any infectious matter, it will certainly be removed by this process, if it be resorted to before the infection has time to spread over the system. And even if some time has since elapsed, a hot bath will be perfectly sure to remove it.—*Medical Journal.*

AMERICAN PROFANITY.—In one of his recent lectures on Europe, Dr. Baird told the following interesting fact in regard to Young America:—

Another bad trait which the English and Americans have is profanity. They are in the habit of using the term 'God damn' so often, that they go by that title, and children in France are sometimes seen to point at English and Americans, in the streets, as 'God damn,' without being conscious of the meaning of the term."

The phrase, "A Roland for an Oliver," signifies, giving an equivalent, the short history of which is this,—Roland and Oliver were two knights, famous in romance. The wonderful achievements of the one could only be equaled by those of the other. Hence the well-known phrase,

Daniel Dancer, when he had £3,000 a year, used to beg a pinch of snuff from his friends, and when his box was full bartered its contents for a tallow candle.—But his parsimonious ingenuity appears contemptible in comparison with that of the Russian miser, who learned to bark that he might avoid the expense of keeping a dog.

The General Assembly of Presbyterians, recently in session in Chicago, has decided by a vote of 160 to 52, that

divorces cannot be granted unless adultery be clearly shown, and that any one marrying a person divorced for any other cause than his own, is himself guilty of adultery in a moral view of the case.

From the *Scalpel*, a New York Medical Journal.

The Lager-Bier Mania.

At certain periods in the development of nations, as well as in the individual, we perceive a necessity for a change in their existence. An ill-balanced condition of the mind or body seems to invite some object on which the predominant passion or function can be exercised. That object may be legitimate, and harmonize with nature's law, or it may be illegitimate and antagonistic. It is unnecessary to quote many instances of this state in nations, and we believe every one has observed its effects at certain periods in the human subject.

We find implanted in man's moral, as in his material and physical nature, many desires which are irrepressible, and which demand an object. Take the religious sentiment, which is not generally the strongest in our nature, as an example: we find whole nations have been willing to deceive themselves by the worship of images which they have created themselves, and to persuade themselves that they really have the great powers attributed to them.

The spiritual delirium which seized upon our people but a short time since, shows how the desire after a future existence, common in all ages, was cultivated, until, like an inferior passion, it made for itself an idol and worshipped it. As we recover slowly from one disease, another makes its appearance, and attacks some other portion of the organization.

We consider the lager-bier mania as typical of a great want for something legitimate, by which may be quieted that excitement consequent upon the diseased condition of our motive faculties and passions, which in our country are cultivated until they acquire an intensity as unnatural as they are quickly matured.

The same cause operates to produce this demand in those who habitually indulge in this beverage, as may be seen at work on school-girls who, at certain periods, become addicted to the chewing of India-rubber, chalk, coals, and other unnatural substances.

It may be further traced in the extensive use of tobacco and the rapid increase in the consumption of other still more powerful narcotics. Lager-bier drinking is another phase of the same disease, and produced by similar causes.

We shall not pretend to treat this subject extensively, in a medical point of view.

As a surgeon, our attention has been confined more to the external effects on the material conformation; and if we do occasionally go below the surface, we trust it will be considered not as the complete dissection of the subject, but, like muscular anatomy, necessary to enable the observer to delineate his forms with correctness.—We have always been inclined to a little quackery in our artistic pretensions, and we hold ourselves amenable to the higher fields of auree spiritu hath walked in glory. All were dumb. But while I gaze upon thy living face, I feel that there is something in the love that mantles through its beauty that cannot wholly wring with a single nod! How many graves have been dug by false report!—

Yet you will keep it above the water by a wag of your tongue, when you might sink it forever. Destroy the passion for telling, we pray. Lisp not a word that may injure the character of another. Be determined to listen to no story that is repeated to the great injury of another, and as far as you are concerned, the slander will die. But tell it once, and it may go as on the wing of the wind, increasing with each breath, till it has circulated through the State and has brought to the grave one who might have been a blessing to the world.

The NATURAL HISTORY OF THE WEST INDIES.—Mr. Lawkins, who is engaged by the British Government in the geological survey of Trinidad, writes to the Smithsonian Institution that "it is a fact with which you may not be cognizant, connected with the natural history of the West Indies archipelago, that no two islands have the same species, but each its own peculiar birds, reptiles, and insects, and some of the fishes. In the Gulf of Paria there is a very singular fish called the 'Trumpet,' which rises to the surface, blows off its music, and then descends." It is believed the fossils of these islands are many of them new to science.

There can be little doubt that, by regarding the decomposition of the tissues in the human organization, lager-beer causes an unnatural deposit of fat all over the system in persons of sedentary habits, for we find that we suffer more from its injurious effects than those who by active exercise accelerate its conversion into its elements—carbonic acid and water. As an instance of this, compare the effects of lager-beer on our clerks and young men about town, and the German Turners, and the difference of its effects, or rather the effect of its countering influences which are working against it, will be immediately perceived.

In women who take little exercise, lager-beer acts as swill does on stable-cows; it accelerates the secretion of milk, but furnishes it with no casein or other nitrogenized substances, by which alone the infant can be sustained. The child will, consequently, have a watery and soft appearance, and be destitute of a healthy color; it will be liable to effusion of water on the brain, and die readily from croup or scarlet fever.

fever. In such cases we have frequently observed the child improve by being weaned. We believe the taste of lager-beer is naturally disagreeable, and that it is destructive to beauty. Women preserve unimpaired their natural tastes for a longer period than man; in fact, they seldom become as vivified in their tastes as men. I have observed that they seldom drink beer.

In all the saloons you generally see some other drink standing before them. We know that by women in Europe it is considered vulgar to drink beer, although we were never informed why.

It is little wonder that the German nation should remain subject to the rule of thirty-six petty tyrants, when we consider the state of indifference into which individuals may be sunk by drinking even quantities of beer much too small to cause, by their alcoholic properties, anything approaching intoxication. This total annihilation of the executive faculty can be attributed to no other cause than the hops with which lager-beer in particular is so highly impregnated.

Whether or not the narcotic properties of this bitter vegetable are intensified by the carbonic acid, we are not prepared to answer; but it does increase the stimulating and intoxicating properties of alcoholic mixtures, is well known to drinkers of sparkling wines or other ured mixtures.

We have, in the saloons in this city, watched the awakening from the lethargic stupidity into which a crowd of habitual imbibers of lager-beer have been sunk, when the announcement was made that a fresh barrel had been struck. Their greasy faces shine with additional lustre, and a perfect rush takes place to be first ready for the waiter. They appear to have a keen appreciation of the diffusive properties of the extra quantity of carbonic acid present in beer.

It is in such subterranean establishments as throng our city, that may be seen a class of wretches, who, to create thirst, est cheese in an advanced state of decomposition, salted and smoked eels, &c.; gluttons who neither eat to live nor live to eat, but eat to drink.

We may be thought one-sided or partial, when we ascribe these effects to the indulgence in narcotic beverages. Doubtless other causes have a large share in the same work; but without its influence—and it is one of vast importance—might we not soon or hope for an emancipation from many of the evils which distract nations and individuals on the road to a higher existence?

Certainly, a state of indifference, which we, as a nation, are too apt to relapse into after the wild excitement of fortune-hunting, and the other excitements to which we are particularly liable, even when not induced by narcotics, is not favorable to the development of our moral and spiritual culture—all relaxation is intended to be characterized by stupidity. We have always found that proper agitation, physically or mentally, is generally favorable to the development of human morals as well as intellect; and we find the same holds good in the recuperative condition called sleep; that from which we are most easily awakened is most refreshing.

When we consider these things, it is not surprising that men sink, under such circumstances into a state of materialism, and lose their appreciation of the beautiful.—In fact, beer by its properties destroys all fine distinctions, and its habitual use grinds the edge from our critical faculties. The beer drinking portions of the nations of Europe will furnish us with an example.—Look at the productions of some of the Dutch artists; their souls seldom ascend higher than slaughter house, kitchen-brawl, dog-and-cat scenes. We are aware of the taste of the Germans for music, and of the great masters in this art to which their land has given birth. But we find the sublime creations of those minds are lost to them when even slightly under the influence of their favorite narcotic beverage; there is something in them reproachable.

At the glee club festival in June last, we did indeed see a lager-beer audience fascinated by a polka, and struck with a swoon by a sentimental air, but they walked off from the melodies of their great composers, which to us appeared to fill the soul with aspirations after the beautiful and the infinite.

It is little wonder if a nation addicted to the use of a drink with such properties—and its effects are well known—should become devoid of spirituality, and fall into a state of materialism, such as history has yet furnished us with no parallel.

Its effects upon the external form, and upon the action of man, is already beginning to awaken attention. The depressed and broad heads; the flat, though wide, shoulders and breast; the straight back, and cow-like tread of its victims, are already known to keen observers.

A great change takes place in the eye when lager-beer is habitually drunk. It has invariably a turbid and sleepy look, which is not agreeable to his old friends.

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while its muscles are so much relaxed as to make it, as it were, hang in a defenceless state.

The effects of lager-beer in other respects are marked. The diameter of the head between the ears appears enlarged, and with it the back part of the jaws, giving to the countenance a three-cornered look, so characteristic of the low Dutch face; the neck becomes thick, often hanging over the shirt collar in wrinkles, in the region where phrenologists locate the organ of amativeness; the skin becomes red, with a blown up, spongy surface, from which large quantities of fatty matter of an offensive odor are produced, giving the whole surface a greasy and disagreeable aspect.

The habitual imbibers of this beverage are generally obliged to hold their cigars to their mouths, which being used chiefly as funnels for their favorite drink, seem incapable of much muscular tenseness. On men addicted to sexual excess, the neck appears to diminish in size, while the head swells out like that of a young sparrow in proportion to his limbs, and their skin, although retaining its greasy aspect, loses its color and is more translucent.

The effect of lager-beer on the voice is very marked; and the rapid decay in the voices of the tenor-singers of the German glee clubs, who lose not only the quality of tone, but the high range produces in such societies always a great want of tenors; it has become a by word among them to call a harsh, drawing voice, a beer-barrel voice.

This fact is well known to opera singers, who instinctively avoid it.

In the intelligent circles in Germany the effects of the hop have already attracted attention, and it has been discarded in a new beer, which is fast gaining popularity as a beverage. We allude to the *weizen* or wheat-beer, now generally known as Berlin white beer, from its pale color.

The effect of lager-beer on the urinary organs, and other parts of the human organism, aside from its alcohol, or the narcotic properties of the hops, is very unfavorable. When taken in large quantities, it has on some persons decided diuretic properties, whilst its evident action on the lower part of the spine is shown by a frequent loss of that power to which we owe the most exalted and ennobling joys of health and intellectual offspring. Every surgeon whose observations and induction have been correctly exercised can attest this startling truth; the offspring of such fathers are always inferior in stature and intellect, whilst those who marry later in life are often childless.

Those whose souls appear to be the tail end of their appetite, say that lager-beer produces a good appetite; but we are reliably informed that, although it may do so, it violates the taste.

Some philosophers who reason by analogy, say that beer