

CURRENT ITEMS.

W. S. Astor's tax on real estate last year was \$240,000.

The forty-two theaters in Paris will accommodate 57,080 persons.

With his four wives Congress considers Cannon too heavily loaded.

BARRY SULLIVAN, the famous Irish comedian, will visit America next season.

SCHURZ is said to have decided to write a political history of the United States.

A PATTERSON (N. J.) clergyman, who lives three miles away, states to church.

It is Miss Lewis, of Manchester, Eng., that they say James Gordon Bennett has gone to marry.

The Plymouth Church people will hold daily prayer meetings during the Beecher trial.

The luxury of smoking brought forty millions of revenue into the National Treasury last year.

A CONNECTICUT Justice claims that the exclamation "Hello!" is swearing, and he fines a man for using it.

Who are these parties down in Brooklyn, Bilton and Teecher, who are having such a thundering long lawsuit?

The owner of Occident challenges any horse in the world except Goldsmith Maid to trot in San Francisco for \$20,000.

An unknown disease is destroying the cattle in Missouri. It is supposed to be caused by undigested chinch bugs eaten last summer.

LORD DUDLEY, of England, whose wife recently lost \$25,000 worth of jewels, had an income last year of \$5,000,000, so we guess he can stand it.

FREDERICK SEWARD is attracting much attention in the New York Legislature by his speeches, which are delivered with a finished grace of manner.

The last King of Spain, before the one just proclaimed, bearing the name of Alfonso XI, historically known as the Avenger, reigned from 1224 until his death before Gibraltar in 1250, so that between Alfonso XI and Alfonso XII, there is only the little period of 226 years.

A DELICATELY molded Englishman is spoken of by the Liverpool Post, who lately made a wager that he would bite a toad's head off, eat an ounce of raw tobacco, and follow this up with three raw potatoes. The bet was the price of the tobacco and two gallons of beer, which was easily won.

AMONG the distinguished Unitarians who have died within the past year are: Charles Sumner, United States Senator; Millard Fillmore, ex-President of the United States; Nathaniel K. Hall, ex-Postmaster-General; James Walker, ex-President Harvard College; Ezra Cornell, of Ithaca, and Gerrit Smith, of Peterboro.

MR. THOMAS HOLLOWAY, the celebrated pillman, is now engaged in the erection of a college for women near Egham, in Surrey, Eng., which is to cost nearly \$1,000,000. He also intends to erect two more hospitals in London, and has announced his determination to devote \$2,000,000 to such objects of charity as may be deemed advisable.

A RUSSIAN nobleman promised his guests a dish that had never before seen. When the lid was raised from a tureen five feet long it disclosed the prettiest actress of the Folies Dramatiques, dressed as a Lady Godiva, on a cushion. The feast was for the eyes only, and cost \$1,000, \$5,000 of which went for the game and \$16,000 for the dish on which it was served.

THERE probably never was a man with his presence of mind quite so far away as the fellow who was seen flying down the streets of a town in Texas, a few days ago, his coat-tails streaming in the wind and he loudly yelling, "Police! police!" while a man at his heels flourishing a big knife made a pass at him with every jump. The only policeman in the village was the man who was yelling.

SAVING IS WEALTH.

One great cause of the poverty of the present day is a failure of our common people to appreciate small things. They do not realize how a daily addition, be it ever so small, will soon make a large pile. If the young men and women of to-day will only begin, and begin now, to save a little from their earnings and plant it in the soil of some good savings bank, and weekly or monthly add their mite, they will wear a happy smile of competence when they reach middle life. Not only the desire but the ability to increase it will also grow. Let clerk and tradesman, laborer and artisan, make now and at once a beginning. Store up some of your youthful force for future contingency. Let parents teach their children to begin early to save. Begin at the fountain head to control the stream of extravagance—to choose between poverty and riches. Let our youth go on in the habits of extravagance for fifty years to come as they have for fifty years past, and we shall have a nation of beggars, with a moneyed aristocracy. Let a generation of such as save in small sums be reared, and we shall be free from all want. Do not be ambitious for extravagant fortunes, but seek that which it is the duty of every one to obtain—Independence and a comfortable home. Wealth, an' enough of it, is within the reach of all. It is obtained by one process, and one only—saving.

AN UNPLEASANT MISTAKE.

A late President of Harvard College, says the Boston Transcript, whose heart was quite too large to permit him to feel much interest in petty details of college discipline, summoned before him two

students, to one of whom an admonition was due for some grave academic irregularity, while with the other a business arrangement was to be made about some room rent. As ill-luck would have it, being in haste to discharge his mind of a most unpleasant burden, the fine old man fell afoul of the student whose errand was business, and administered to him as severe a verbal castigation as his noble nature was capable of.

THE NEW PARISIAN OPERA HOUSE.

A correspondent who was accorded the privilege of a peep into the new Grand Opera House in Paris, prior to the dedicatory ceremonies, gives some additional information respecting the magnificence of the interior. In point of size the new Opera House is not larger than the old one, but the corridors, staircases, saloons, foyers, waiting halls and all the adjuncts of the new building are on a scale of grandeur and dimension which throws into the shade everything that has hitherto been seen of the kind. Upon entering, the first thing that strikes the eye is the staircase leading to the first grand gallery. This is literally one mass of gold, bronze, marble and onyx combined with the richest draperies, statuary and everything that lavish expenditure can bestow upon it. The gallery is entirely Italian in its ornamentation. Its roof glitters with the most brilliant glass enamel and mosaic work of Byzantine character, while the floor is inlaid with marble mosaics. Then comes the grand foyer or saloon, the sides of which are lined with columns of part Indian, part Byzantine, part classical composition. The ceiling is adorned with the paintings of Baudry and other French artists, and the walls are adorned with antique masks, exquisitely carved, with marble panels, gold and glittering enamels and mosaics in lavish profusion. The theater proper is an elliptical semi-circle, of great elegance. The angles of the house are broken by double ranges of columns, between which tiers of boxes are placed. Finally, there is a saloon for the ballet dancers, where they can admire themselves before gigantic mirrors, while portraits of their most celebrated predecessors, and luscious—too luscious—groups of dancers, painted by Bonlangier, adorn the other end and sides. There are upward of 200 dressing-rooms, with other accommodations far beyond description.

THE WONDERS OF THE FLY.

A letter to the editor of the New York Evening Post from Dr. R. U. Piper, the naturalist, gives an account of some microscopic experiments lately made by him on insect anatomy. "I have managed," he writes, "to make a very careful dissection of the tongue of a house fly, and now I can show the so-called trachea on the tip of the tongue very neatly dissected by my own hand. I can also show a very fine specimen of a louse from a blowing fly, with all its organs perfect. I have noticed what I think is a fact, that the flies which survive the winter are all, or nearly all, perhaps, females, and have just dissected a house fly in which I find one hundred and six eggs. I have also demonstrated what, perhaps, an ontological discovery, that the central lancet of the horse fly is tubular. For what reason—as he has a snicker with which he draws blood from the wound he makes? The lancet of the horse fly—the female, for the male has no biting organs—is a compound instrument. When closed it presents a point; when open it shows several points radiating from its base. The two outside lancets have rows of teeth like those on the jaw of a shark. I suppose the creature introduces the lancet stick like the sticks of a fan. When it is withdrawn it is open in the process, and thus makes that ugly, tormenting wound which these insects inflict upon horses and cattle. The hollow lancet, perhaps, carries some kind of fluid to poison the blood or render it more fluid. There is, however, no gland to be found by which this fluid is secreted. That the lancet is hollow, however, I have shown without a question, as I have contrived to make fluid pass through it."

HALF-FARE.

The various railroads leading from Chicago to the East and West having decided to again issue half-fare tickets to clergymen, accordingly sent them to nearly all living along the line. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company recently received a letter from an indignant minister asking why such discrimination was made and why all were not equally entitled to low rates—but he failed to return his ticket. The following was sent in answer to the reverend gentleman: "Chicago, Ill., Jan. 1875.—Rev. W. E. Spencer, Sparta, Wis.: Dear Sir.—In reply to yours of the 12th inst., requesting us to inform you 'why this company issues half-fare permits to clergymen, and men of no other class,' and 'why the railroad officials changed the rule of last year requiring clergymen to pay full fare,' I have to remark, in an unofficial way, that it is my belief that the railway managers of Wisconsin wished to show their Christian spirit under persecution, and they probably based their action on the fortieth verse, fifth chapter of Matthew, namely: 'And if any man will sue thee in the law, and take thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.' The 'Granger' in your State now have our coat, and with a Christian spirit we voluntarily offer the clergymen our cloak. We do not, however, oblige them to wear it, but as cloaks, like umbrellas, it most anybody, we do not expect to have many of these permits returned. Yours respectfully, W. A. TRINALL, General Ticket Agent Chicago and Northwestern Railroad."

THERE was more than the customary stir at Las Vegas, the other day, when the stage coach, with four passengers inside and a corpse for driver, came tearing into town. The driver, though frozen into a beautiful "stiff," was sitting bolt upright, with an awful grimace of face and a death-grip on the lines. The ghostly Jehu was helped down from the seat, and the next day there was a big funeral at Las Vegas.

DIPHTHERIA.

At a meeting of the Public Health Association of New York, Dec. 10, 1874, the cause, nature, history and proper treatment of diphtheria were discussed by the physicians present. A paper read by Dr. Elisha Harris brought forward evidence showing that diphtheria is not a new disease, but, under various names, has been known since the very dawn of medical science. Four centuries ago it was described in Europe under the titles of "putrid sore throat," "malignant angina," "angina suffocative," etc. It was this disease which carried George Washington to the grave in 1799. Upwards of 100 years ago it prevailed extensively in the city and colony of New York.

The first fatal case recorded under its present name occurred in New York, Feb. 20, 1850. Before the close of the year, fifty-three deaths had resulted from the malady in that city. In 1858 and 1859, it again prevailed in New York in a mild form, but, in January, 1860, fourteen deaths were registered in the Bureau of Vital Statistics, and the disease became epidemic, and in certain localities very malignant. The abstract from the mortality of the disease shows that, from this time until 1864, diphtheria has become a serious enemy to human life in New York. In the spring of 1868 the disease appeared in Albany, and 2,000 cases were recognized in the first ten months of its prevalence, and 170 deaths were registered. During all this period, not a case occurred in Troy, a city only seven miles distant. During 1860 and 1861, diphtheria prevailed as a local epidemic in many towns throughout the Union; and the fact was gradually acknowledged that it was, in a certain way, infectious. The accepted deaths charged to the disease in New York in 1874 were, up to Dec. 10, 1,065 being 514 in excess of the number registered in 1873.

A paper read by Dr. Lewis Smith gave a review of the cause and nature of diphtheria. The malady is contagious through exhalations from the surface and from the breath of the patient. The theory is pretty clearly substantiated that the disease owes its origin to the presence of bacteria, small vegetable parasites. The grayish-white spots that appear upon inflamed surfaces at the beginning of the disease are entirely composed of bacteria, which, if not prevented, multiply rapidly, and, by burrowing in the tissues, infect the whole system. The bacterian theory, developed by microscopic investigation, is supported by the fact that diphtheria prevails most in localities favorable to the development of low forms of animal and vegetable life, as in crowded and filthy rooms, and in low grounds. Confirmation of the theory is also found in the fact that the disease begins in a single spot, and may then be easily cured. It is only in later stages that it becomes a dangerous malady. But Dr. Smith considers that an important factor in the propagation of the disease is a predisposing condition of the system. Bacteria sometimes exist in the atmosphere without producing diphtheria, and are even found occasionally in the mouths of well persons, and, when breathed, sometimes cause no injury to the lungs. These, with other considerations, indicate that diphtheria is, in certain cases, a constitutional malady in its circumstances, though in the majority of instances it is primarily local, and only subsequently constitutional. When diphtheria spreads from house to house, or from room to room, it is never carried by the clothing, but by the visits of persons infected with it.

From these facts it is obvious that, in cases of diphtheria, there should be an entire separation of the sick from the well. Children should be especially protected from contact with diphtheritic patients. The same sanitary precautions should also be adopted in treating the disease as in dealing with low fevers.

FRENCH WORDS WRONGLY USED.

The French words constantly used in English are often used wrongly. It would be interesting to know the origin of our habit of calling out *encore* when we wish to hear a piece of music over again. It is just possible that in some bygone age the French may have done this, but certainly no living being ever heard a Frenchman call out anything but "bis" on these occasions. Then we have adopted the French word *morale*; but it is never used by Englishmen, never even by the most learned historians, without a blunder. The learned historians say, for example, "Wellington was now determined to carry on his war a *l'outrance*, and the *morale* of his army was excellent." Both these expressions are blunders. *A l'outrance* is French; it ought to be in this sense still worse. It is hardly possible to imagine a more absurd mistake, and yet it is universally prevalent among English writers. The historians mean to say "the moral of the army was excellent," or, in plain English, that the men were in cheerful resolute temper; whereas, to say that the *morale* of an army is good is to affirm that its theories of morality are sound, or in plain words that the soldiers are convinced that they ought not to commit adultery, etc. *Le morale*, used in this way, means mental firmness, cheerfulness, courage to face difficulties and bear privations without being cast down into low spirits; *la morale* of a body of men means their theory, more or less severe, of moral duty and obligation. Thus a lofty *morale* may exist at the same time and in the same person with a low *morale*.

PINS.

The luster and cleanliness of English-made pins have a reputation surpassing those made in any other country. This is owing, says the *Scientific Review*, to the peculiar treatment to which the better descriptions of the article are subjected. They are first cleaned by boiling for half an hour in clear beer, wine lees, or a solution of tartar, after which

they are washed. They are then whitened or tinned, by being laid in strata, in a common pan, made of copper, alternately with grain tin in the proportions of about six pounds of tin to seven pounds of pins, until the vessel is filled. Water is now added, and heat applied, and as soon as the water gets hot its surface is sprinkled with four ounces of cream of tartar, after which it is allowed to boil for an hour. This operation is repeated once or twice, the pins being washed in cold water between each boiling. After tinning, the pins are polished by agitation in a leather sack filled with bran, and, after the bran has been separated by winnowing, the pins are collected in bowls for papering.

MARRIAGE IN THE BAY STATE.

The report of the Massachusetts vital statistician has a chapter on marriages which is as interesting as the pages of a fashionable novel, though, let us hope, a trifle more trustworthy. The record shows that the last three months of the year is the season when most marriages are celebrated—the next favorite season is spring and early summer. During the year 1873, the number of females married at the age of 17 was 439, an excess of 89 above the average number for the last seven years. One hundred and seventy-four were married at the age of 16, forty-seven at 15, and seven at 14. Among the males, two were married at 16, eleven at 17, forty-four at 18, one hundred and forty-three at 19. Of the males above named who married at 18, three took for wives girls aged 16, 15 and 14, respectively; while one young man of 16 became the husband of a maiden of 17. A bachelor of 63 was accepted by a maid of 17; and a bachelor of 22 was united to a maid of 40. A couple, aged 59 and 52, respectively, were married, it being their first venture. A widower of 48 took for his fourth wife a maid of 24; and a widow of 23 was married to a bachelor of 27, her third husband. A widower of 19 found favor with a spinster of 32. The oldest parties married during the year were a widower of 80 and a widow of 67, it being the third marriage of each. There were three fifth marriages of males during the year, at the ages of 62, 57 and 54. One widow became a bride for the fourth time, her bridegroom being a widower of 55, her own age being 60. Among those who have been twice widowed was one who, at the age of 23, was married to a bachelor of 22. A widow of 17 married a bachelor of 22, and a widower of 20 married a maid of 22. The record contains the name of one man who died at the age of 73 of consumption, who was the father of thirty-four children, fourteen by one wife, seventeen by a second, and three by a third.

BISMARCK'S LETTER.

The famous confidential letter from Prince Bismarck to Count Von Arnim upon the election of the next Pope—the disclosure of the contents of which, by Von Arnim, was one of the principal causes which led to his arrest and subsequent punishment—has at last been published. In this letter Bismarck assumes the fact that sooner or later the old Pope will die and a new Pope must be elected, and that Germany has a *joint* interest in this election, as she has a large number of Catholic subjects, and as the Vatican Council by its recent decrees as to Papal infallibility and jurisdiction has completely changed the relations of the Pope to his Bishops, and priests, and to the people. He therefore contends that the governments of Europe should ascertain whether the election and the person elected would afford any guarantees that these prerogatives would not be abused, and have a mutual understanding with each other, so as to prevent any serious complications growing out of such an election. The particular request conveyed in the letter is that Count Von Arnim, as the representative of Germany, should ascertain from the Italian government whether it would feel disposed to exchange views with the German government upon this question, and special caution is imposed upon the Count to treat the letter and its contents with discretion.

ENGLAND'S SOUTHERN EMPIRE.

England's empire in the Southern Hemisphere covers 3,000,000 square miles, the size of the United States, less Alaska. The white population of Australasia, as these great islands are called, was, in 1850, about 240,000. Now it is but a little less than 2,000,000. Victoria has grown from 77,000 to 732,000 in these twenty-five years, a ten-fold growth. Queensland has grown from 9,000 to 125,000. Tasmania, which had a population so small to be counted in 1850, has 100,000 now. New Zealand has grown ten-fold in the quarter of a century, from 26,000 to 266,000. The population of Australasia is largely English, and strongly Protestant. Emigration has been freely encouraged. Several of the colonies are no longer penal, and the actual number of criminals on the islands is very small.

ENGLANDERS are the owners of the seven largest steamers in the world. The largest is, of course, the Great Eastern, now the property of the International Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company. It is 678 feet long and 77 feet broad; the second is the City of Peking, 423 feet long, and 48 feet broad, 6,000 tons burden; and third, City of Tokio, about same size, and both owned by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company; fourth, Liguria, owned by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, 4,830 tons, 460 feet long, and 45 broad; fifth, the Britannia, White Star Line, 4,750 tons, 455 feet long, and 45 broad; sixth, the City of Richmond, Inman Line, 4,600 tons, 453 feet long, 43 broad; seventh, the City of Washington, 4,600 tons, 450 feet long, and 44 feet wide.

COMPUTORY education—Beecher paying for Bessie Turner's schooling.

A PETRIED CITY.

Charles Warren Stoddard, writing to the San Francisco Chronicle, says, in describing a visit to the ruins of Pompeii: "I cannot understand how a people who are supposed to have been luxurious in their tastes ever lived in such ridiculously small houses as are those of Pompeii. The bed-rooms are like state-rooms, and the stone beds, like berths, fill the longest side of the apartment. There are no garden spots; even the baths, the crowning luxury of the time, are small. The forum and some of the temples are of more respectable dimensions, but the resorts of 30,000 people could hardly be less. The private life of the Pompeians must have been narrow, meagre, and unhealthy. The gardens without the city probably afforded their only means of recreation, and I wonder how any one who has once breathed pure air can have returned to sleep in such miserable quarters as the Pompeian bed-rooms. Single partitions between all the houses, no gardens, no open courts, save in the mansions of the wealthy, and the glare of the southern sun streaming on walls glowing with red and yellow paint—such was Pompeii in its best days. No doubt it was a brilliant and lively spectacle, and Bulwer has made the most of it. It seemed to me to be the correct thing to loaf about the place with a copy of Bulwer's 'Last Days' in my pocket. This I did at a later date. I frightened the lizards in the forum, and chased the butterflies in the Temple of Isis, and languished in the house of the wounded Adonis, for it was awfully hot. I sat the sole spectator in the well-preserved amphitheater, and walked in the Street of the Tombs. The 'House of the Tragic Poet' received me, and I explored for myself some dark passages that led under certain houses, where I met with an odor of sulphur that was almost overpowering."

THE GREATEST FARMER OF CALIFORNIA.

A California paper publishes the following respecting the farming operations of a man whom it denominates "the largest farmer in the world," and, considering that Dr. Glenn "runs" his farm of 50,000 acres himself, personally superintending it all, the appellation is correct: "The great farmer of the world, Dr. Hugh J. Glenn, of Jacinto, Colusa county, Cal., has raised and harvested the past season, on his own farm, 600,000 bushels of wheat. This would load eighteen, 1,000-ton ships or three hundred canal boats. All this wheat he has now in his own warehouses, ready for shipment when the water in the Sacramento river rises sufficiently. The doctor pays \$90,000 freight to put his wheat in San Francisco. The doctor is a wonder to the agricultural world and to himself. He can mend a trace and make a key to an ox-bow with his jackknife, just as easy as drawing his check for \$100,000, which he can do every day in the week. Dr. Glenn has only experienced one surprise during the year, and that was when a friend informed him that a panic had entered the land. Glenn is a big-hearted man; was born in Augusta county, Va., and does honor to the 'Old Dominion.' Send the medal to Glenn."

It is said Glenn has an unconquerable weakness for draw poker. He bets with the same impetuosity that he does everything else. He has been known to stand 'pat' without a pair, and 'raise' \$10,000; on several occasions he has lost immensely. He is not always unlucky, however, and his nerve has driven out many players holding better 'hands.' Dr. Glenn is one of the most remarkable characters that California has developed, and deserves to rank with the great hero of mining stock notoriety, Bonanza Sharrow.

MARTHA RIGDEN'S ROMANCE.

It is about a suit in England, in which a Capt. Charles Frederick claimed to be the lawful descendant of his grandfather. In 1773, Capt. Charles Frederick, a handsome, gambling spendthrift of the Grenadier Guards, ran away with beautiful Martha Rigden, the daughter of a master. They took up their abode in an obscure part of London, and whether they were married or not nobody could tell, but two daughters were born. Finally the dashing Captain's debts were so pressing that he exchanged into an India regiment and became a Colonel. Mrs. Frederick, nee Rigden, followed him to Bombay, where she was received in the best society as Mrs. Col. Frederick. He also wrote home, declaring that Martha Rigden was his lawfully wedded wife before leaving England, which circumstance he entered in his Bible. There was no evidence, however, of the marriage in the registry of the little church of Stratsfield. After the Colonel's death the pension of the East India Company was paid to the widow, but neither her relatives, nor the relatives of her aristocratic husband would ever believe there had ever been any union. There was much perplexity in the case, but the sentiment of public opinion was with the young fellow suing for his own from the first, and that probably carried it with the jury, for they brought in a verdict confirming the marriage despite the absence of all proof of a registry by overwhelming presumption. And, so, after a century, Capt. Charles Edward Frederick takes up his own on the baronetage of the nation.

PRINTERS' BLUNDERS.

The New York Sunday Times gives some specimens of typographical errors. The misplacement of a "space" made Adirondack Murray refer recently to "them asses of the people," when he meant the masses. The Dunkards, the most temperate of people, generally appear in print as Drunkards. General Butler begged the voters in 1867 to give a good account of themselves for the honor of the Old Bay State, and an enthusiastic compositor produced it as, "for the honor of the Old Boy's Tail."

A printer who once asserted that Mr. Thurlow Weed had gone out of his way to compliment him on close punctuation and clean setting, made in a single "take" of "copy," one of the most ridiculous blunders on record. It was a portion of a sermon of a prominent divine of Chicago, that had been written: "And he saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." The "clean setter" read it: "And he saw Abraham afar off, and a horse's ears in Boston." A compositor on a St. Louis paper, the other day, made an editor say that "this war-cry is the key-hole of victory."

THE FIGHT WITH THE JAMES DESPERADOES.

Yesterday a rumor reached our city that the residence of the mother of the notorious James boys had been invaded by detectives on Sunday night, back of Kearney, in Clay county, and that a desperate fight had ensued. The report gave rise to many surmises on the streets, some doubts, and many predictions, yet in the absence of facts all opinions expressed were drawn wildly. The arrival of the train last night on the Hannibal and St. Joseph road at 9:30 brought a confirmation of the story, yet no particulars. The attacking party, it is said, were four detectives, who had learned that the two boys, the James brothers, were at home. On Sunday night they visited the house, and in attempting to gain ingress were met with opposition, and a desperate fight ensued between the inmates of the house and the detectives. Quite a number of shots were fired on both sides. Two shots from the detectives took effect, one breaking the left wrist of the mother of the boys, and another killing their half-brother, whose name we failed to learn. The boys, Jesse and Frank, escaped, and have not been seen since. The wounding of the mother and the killing of the boy is greatly regretted, yet full particulars of an authentic nature are obtained, we are not prepared to condemn. We hope the affair is not as rough as report makes it. —Kansas City Journal of Commerce, Jan. 28.

A TERRIBLE STORY.

Dr. Ricardo, of Passaic, N. J., recently mulct in heavy damages for alleged malpractice in dressing the arm of a little boy, is now on trial for a criminal charge of assault with intent to kill to cover up the malpractice. It is claimed he gave the lad morphine, and then said he would die. The child survived that night, which seemed to greatly surprise the Doctor on his arrival the next morning. The next night the same watcher was called in, and he was told that the child would certainly die that night, and the morphine powders were ordered to be given again. The Doctor went to an undertaker and told him that the child would die that night, and made arrangements with this undertaker for the burial. Ricardo then told the watcher, the undertaker, and the mother of the child, that if the child died, not to remove the bandages, as it would be dangerous for them to do so. The reason that the child did not die was because the powders were not all given as directed, only a portion of them being given, the attendant and the mother being alarmed at the excessive size of the dose. Seeing that the child did not die, Mrs. Schaner sent for Dr. Watson, an old family physician, who examined the wounded arm and found that it had mortified and partially decayed, the flesh fairly falling off from the bone. The arm was amputated, and the unfortunate little boy (now ten years old) recovered.

A MONSTROUS ARMY.

The army of Germany, which in the last few years has played such a considerable part in Europe, furnishes an interesting topic of inquiry to all who see that sooner or later the champion fighters on that continent will again get to licking each other, in the teeth of all civilization. Well, the brute force kept on hand by Germany is thus labeled off: 31,830 officers, 1,329,600 soldiers, 314,970 horses, 2,700 field cannon, and 820 siege pieces. Moltke has them all rubbed up every morning, and so they are kept bright and shining. Out of this effective total, 846,720 men can be got thoroughly ready and equipped to take the field six weeks after the first order passed. The Landsturm law which has just passed the Reichstag will add to the army 202,500 soldiers, 3,718 officers, while the organization of the "fourth battalions" will also furnish 152,100 soldiers and 3,400 officers. Thus when the day of battle does come, the grand total of the imperial army will be 38,948 officers, 1,684,200 soldiers, and 331,170 horses. One hardly knows whether to pity most the poor horses or the men caught in such a trap.

MEMORY.

The human mind in this life may fail to recall or recollect, but all it learns will be remembered eternally. Some evince in this life this wonderful power of recollection; but hereafter all shall remember the facts of life as well as any remember them here. The notorious Count of St. Germain is a wonderful instance of the power of recollection. Any newspaper he read once he knew by memory, and was furnished with such a gigantic, comprehensive power of numbering, that he retained a series of numbers, which he could recite forward, backward, and pulled out from the middle. From the court of Henry III., in Cnocow, he demanded one hundred packs of piquet cards, mixed them together in disorder, let him name all the succession of the cards, ordered it to be noted down exactly, and then repeated them, following one after the other, without being wrong once. He played almost every musical instrument, was an excellent painter, and imitated any handwriting in the most illusive manner. He had but one passion—playing all games with absolute mastery.

A MESALLIANCE, NOT A MISTAKE.

There is in the Department of the Interior at Washington at least one heroine of a mesalliance who has made a woman of herself, which she never would have been had she stayed at home; and probably married without a choice. Her father was a wealthy New York merchant, and took his daughter traveling with him over Europe for a couple of years. She was the only daughter of the family, and her father and mother and brother watched her closely and cared for her tenderly. In fact, they forgot she was a human being, and always wanted to keep their angel in the house. None of the young men were good enough for her, and she was not allowed to receive or go into company. But she was allowed to drive out in a fine carriage, and on the box was a good looking young coachman. He was the only young man she was allowed to talk to, and he warmed her heart. And both were human. What wonderful resolution it must have taken to induce her to marry him. He was a conscientious boy, too, but he could not resist such a chance. It would not have been human had he refused to link his life with that of the girl. And their lives and fortunes were joined, and the house ragged, but the young couple kept out of the storm. They went to living for themselves, and both put their former lives all behind them. She began teaching music and writing for the periodicals. She did her first work, and really just began to live. He was busy, too—not driving a coach. They treated the cross currents of the world together and thrived. She is a government clerk at a good salary and is well paid for literary work, too. He is educating himself up to her high station of perfect independence. And both are happy and comfortable and live; they do not simply stay. Her father is dead. Her mother and brother are enjoying the luxuries of fortune in New York. She would not go back to that life again for double the fortune. Life is worth more than that. It may be called a mesalliance, but it was not a mistake, for it resulted in a happy, active life.

BOOKS AND DOGS AS PROPAGATORS OF DISEASE.

Among the many agents for the spread of infectious diseases are, it seems, "our domestic pets." For the propagation of fever a dog is sometimes as bad, or worse, than a drain, and a case is referred to in the *Saturday Review* in which scarlet fever was carried from one child to another by a favorite retriever. The dog had been reared in a house where scarlatina prevailed, and was subsequently given to a friend of the family. Shortly after one of the children in the dog's new home was attacked with malignant scarlatina and died. Disinfectants were used plentifully, and every precaution taken to prevent a recurrence of the malady, but in two months' time a second child took the same disease, in the worst form, and died. As the dog had been the constant companion and playfellow of these children, its woolly coat, it is alleged, became so charged with contagious matter as to render it a source of disease and death. Although it is only fair to the dog to admit that the children may have caught the fever from other sources than his woolly coat, yet there is reason to fear that both dogs and cats, especially the latter, do occasionally assist in the circulation of infectious illnesses, and where fever prevails the sooner they are lodged out of the house the better. They are, however, probably not more dangerous in this respect than books. No one who takes a book from a library ever troubles himself or herself as to the antecedents of the volume; it may have just left the hands of the fever patient. —Pall Mall Gazette.

A QUEER BEE-HIVE.

Mr. George Many, of East Penn Township, Carbon county, Penn., is regarded by his neighbors as an industrious and skillful blacksmith, but just now he is not a little hampered in his operations by a colony of bees that hold their habitation in his shop bellows. It appears that while away from the shop, 500 day last summer the swarm gained entrance to it and domiciled themselves within the bellows, without as much as saying "by your leave," and though Mr. M. has applied his ingenuity in various ways to cut them, his efforts so far have proved fruitless. Early in December last, on a pleasant day, the yellow-bees ventured out in such numbers that Mr. Many became impressed with the idea that they were intent upon swarming, and getting a basket and veiling his face, he watched them all day, so as to be able to trap them, but the thing was no go, for toward evening they retreated to their comfortable lodging-place, where they remain to this day. It is likely that if they pursue their honest vocation without molestation to the horses and persons frequenting the premises, they will be allowed to remain undisturbed, otherwise they will have to undergo some ordeal to bring them under subjection.

A FRENCH naturalist has recently grouped, for public convenience, a number of his observations upon animals, showing that many members of the brute creation may be used as living barometers. Rain or wind, he says, may be expected when the spiders shorten the last thread by which their webs are suspended; fair weather when they lengthen them; and the duration of either by the degree of contraction or expansion observable. When swallows sweep near the ground, uttering plaintive cries, rain is at hand; when they mount up, fly from side to side, and play together, fine weather will follow. When a single magpie leaves its nest in the spring it is a sign of rain, but the reverse is the case when two parent birds leave it in company. Rain is near when the peacocks utter frequent cries, when parrots chatter more than usual, and when geese are uneasy.