



Science and Invention

Prove Not Proof Against Venom.
Dr. Calmette, who has made a study of the treatment of snake-bites with antivenom serum, has lately discovered, contrary to his first opinion, that venomous snakes and other reptiles are not proof against serpent venom. A much larger quantity of the poison is, however, required to kill them than to kill other animals.

Carborundum.
Among the industries supplied with electric power by Niagara Falls is the manufacture of carborundum crystals. These are formed by the reduction in electric furnaces of a mixture of sand, lime, salt and sawdust. The beautiful crystals are afterward crushed into powder, which is used as an abrasive, like emery or corundum. Carborundum is remarkable for its hardness, which property it almost, if not quite, equals the diamond.

The Destruction of Sodom.
An attempt to give a scientific account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah has been made by Dr. C. Schner, of Vienna. A study of the peculiarities of the Dead Sea basin, and of the site of the overwhelmed "cities of the plain," leads him to conclude that a violent earthquake must at some time have occurred there, which affected the entire basin, and was accompanied by the inundation of the shores. An old volcanic crater on the eastern side of the sea was, he thinks, simultaneously thrown into eruption through the disturbance produced by the earthquake. These occurrences would supply the principal phenomena mentioned in the scriptural account.

Something New in the Stars.
It would hardly occur to any one, except an astronomer, to search among the stars for a new chemical element. The much-talked-of helium was detected in stars before it had been found on the earth, and in the corona of the sun there appears a gas which has not been identified with any terrestrial substance. Lately it was discovered that a star in the constellation Upsilon, and a few others, exhibit strange spectral lines, which were at first supposed to belong to yet another new element. But more recently reason has been found for thinking that the strange lines are due to hydrogen in some extraordinary condition, only obtained in those particular stars.

Strange Indian Venenace.
In the course of the investigations referred to in the preceding paragraph, Dr. Calmette discovered the nature of a mortal poison which some of the natives of India employ to kill the cattle of their enemies. The poison is applied in little pointed rods inserted in the end of a short stick, which can be concealed in the hand. Approaching the cattle, the poisoner slightly scratches them with the venom-charged points. The ends of the little rods break off and remain in the wounds, which are barely visible. Dr. Calmette found that the poison was extracted from a kind of bean, growing on a leguminous plant known botanically as Abrus precatorius. This poison is called abrin, and is almost as fatal in its effects as the most violent serpent venom.

An Invisible Monkey.
There are many animals, especially birds and insects, which mimic in their colors and shapes the natural objects amid which they dwell, and thus frequently escape the eyes of their enemies; but, as Dr. Lydekker says, in knowledge. "Until quite recently no case was known where a monkey, for the sake of protection, resembled in form or coloration either some other animal or inanimate object." Such monkeys were discovered by Dr. J. W. Gregory during his recent journey in East Africa. Near relatives of the monkeys seen by him have long been known to naturalists, and have excited surprise by the brilliant contrast of the black fur covering their body and limbs with the snow-white mantle of long, silky hair hanging from their shoulders, and the equally white stripes on their tails. This contrast, Dr. Gregory found, serves to render the animals practically invisible, for the trees which they inhabit have black stems, and are draped with pendant masses of gray-white lichen, amid which the monkeys can hardly be distinguished.

Growing Usefulness of X-Rays.
Mons. Ollier showed, at a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Paris, how, by the use of Roentgen rays, the progress of bone-growth in the human body, after surgical operations, could be watched and studied in a manner hitherto impossible. In the way the position of diseased portions of a bone can readily be located, and such portions can be removed without amputation of the limb in

cases where such amputation would otherwise be necessary; but while proving themselves exceedingly useful when carefully and skillfully employed the X rays are also capable of mischief. Messrs. Seguy and Quenisset reported to the Academy that prolonged exposure to the rays had, in several cases, caused violent and irregular palpitation of the heart.

A GIRL'S FOLLY.

How a Vain, Frivolous Creature Annoys All Companions.
The following is a genuine extract from a letter written by a Western teacher while traveling in Europe a year or two ago:

"There are six of us, all teachers. We joined a party of tourists, as we are forced to count even the farthings closely. None of us have been abroad before or expect ever to come again, and as we have but four weeks on this side, we begrudge every minute in our eagerness to see and hear, and to store up invaluable memories for the future. We are greatly hindered and annoyed by a young girl, who, with her mother, belongs to the party. She is a commonplace person, with neither beauty, nor talent, nor charm. But she is possessed with an insatiable desire to 'show off.'

"I try not to see her, but it is impossible to be blind or deaf to her, or to ignore her. We went to St. Peter's to hear the great Gregorian chants, which are sung by the choir of the Vatican but once in the year. Miss Blank kept up a shrill whisper during the entire service.

"I went to the little circular chamber where the Apollo Belvedere stands alone, to study his highest expression of the pagan conception of divinity, and there, before its white, awful beauty stood Miss Blank, posing and giggling for the benefit of two contemptuous Italian officers.

"We drove through the vast solitude of the Campagna, with its ruins and tombs peopled by the ghosts of ancient Rome, and Miss Blank during the entire way talked of the gown and hat that she wore, simpering and chattering to compel our admiration. There is nothing in the world so beautiful or so sublime as to make her forget for one moment her silly little self."

We copy these severe comments because Miss Blank's offense is unfortunately too common among even sensible girls. It is not always due to vanity, but to an eager, almost pathetic, hunger for admiration and love. Such girls are sometimes quiet and natural in their manner at home, but at the entrance of a stranger become affected, giggle and talk shrilly, like ill-trained actors on the stage. If a girl has merit or charm, appreciation will surely come to her. Let her wait for them to be sought and found out. A wise old Scotchman says, "Gin your wares are good, dinna cry them in the market too loudly or you cheapen them."

The Circle of a Rainbow.

The earliest attempt at explaining the phenomenon of the rainbow and its circular form was made by Aristotle, who, over twenty centuries before the birth of modern science, gave a correct explanation. He observed that from a glass globe filled with water and set in the sun certain colors were always returned at certain angles with the course of the sun's beams; and he properly explained the circular form of the bow, by saying that if the sunbeam passing through the observer's eye be taken as an axis, and the globe be revolved round this axis, and at the same distance from it in all parts of its course, the same colors, preserving their angle with the direction of the sunbeams or of the axis, would be visible through all parts of this course; and hence it followed that a rainbow would result if there were globes enough, and so placed as to reflect colors at the same time from all parts of an arc of such a circle."

National Holidays.

The United States is probably the only country in the world that has no national holiday; even the Fourth of July, in a strictly legal sense, is not such. Congress has, from time to time, provided for special holidays. The Fifty-third Congress passed an act making Labor day a holiday in the District of Columbia, and in bankruptcy legislation certain days are recognized as "no days" for commercial and banking purposes, but, with these exceptions, no provision has ever been made by our national Legislature for national holidays. The day of Thanksgiving, annually appointed by the President, is a legal holiday only in such States as have made special provision for it. In various States action has been taken by most of the Legislatures providing for holidays—the Fourth of July, Washington's birthday and a number of others having received attention.

A Clear Exception to the Rule.

Attorney—Ignorance of the law excuses no one.
Client—Except, of course, a lawyer.
—Brooklyn Life.

A man who keeps out of lodge processions, has genius, and can make something out of himself if he tries.

At this season of the year we always wonder that someone doesn't invent handkerchiefs made of blotting paper.

Boarding Trains in Motion.

Passengers are to have an opportunity to board and leave trains which are in motion at the Paris exposition of 1900 by means of a new system devised by a French civil engineer. The idea was suggested by the moving sidewalk at the world's fair. The outer circumference of a circular platform is to travel at the same rate as the passing train. There will be no danger upon entering the platform from a staircase in the center, where the speed is comparatively low. In advancing toward the edge the increase is gradual, and anticipated. The station attendant overlooks the entire platform from a tower in the center, and should there be a heavy crowd he causes the train, by means of switches, to run around the station, allowing ample time to discharge and take on all passengers. It is proposed to work trains and platforms at a speed of 7½ miles an hour.

AN ABOMINABLE LEGACY.

A tendency to rheumatism is undoubtedly inherited. Unlike many other legacies, it remains in the family. The most effectual means of checking this tendency, or of removing incipient rheumatism, whether pre-existent in the blood or not, is to resort to Hostetter's Stomach Bitters as soon as the preliminary twinges are felt. Nullifying the influences of cold, exposure and fatigue, the Bitters not only fortifies the system against their hurtful consequences, but subdues malaria, liver and kidney complaint, dyspepsia and nerve disturbance.

The Illinois Central railway is about to experiment with electricity as a motive power, with a view to its adoption on all the suburban lines of Chicago. It is said that both the third-rail and trolley systems will be tried exhaustively before a decision is come to on equipment.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark.

I, Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.
March 8, 1897. SAMUEL PITCHER, M.D.

Anthropologists have ascertained that the Andaman Islanders, the smallest race of people in the world, averages less than four feet in height, while few of them weigh more than 75 pounds.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by druggists, 75c.
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

A new steering device for ships controls the rudder by pneumatic pressure, the air being forced into a cylinder on either side of the rudder post by means of the steering wheel in the pilot house.

My doctor said I would die, but Piso's Cure for Consumption cured me.—Amos Keiner, Cherry Valley, Ill., Nov. 23, '95.

In every mile of railway there are seven feet and four inches that are not covered by the rails—the space left between them for expansion.

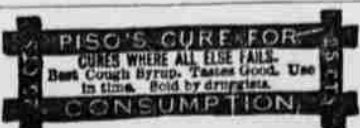
THE TURN OF LIFE.

Owing to modern methods of living, not one woman in a thousand approaches this perfectly natural change without experiencing a train of very annoying and sometimes painful symptoms.

Those dreadful hot flashes, sending the blood surging to the heart until it seems ready to burst, and the faint feeling that follows, sometimes with chills, as if the heart were going to stop for good, are symptoms of a dangerous nervous trouble. The nerves are crying out for assistance. The cry should be heeded in time. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was prepared to meet the needs of woman's system at this trying period of her life.

Mrs. Della Watson, 524 West 5th St., Cincinnati, Ohio, says:

"I have been using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for some time during the change of life and it has been a saviour of life unto me. I can cheerfully recommend it to all women, and I know it will give permanent relief. I would be glad to relate my experience to any sufferer."



\$1000.00

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What is the missing word?

Get Schilling's Best tea at your grocer's; take out the Yellow Ticket (there is one in every package); send it with your guess to address below before August 31st.

One word allowed for every yellow ticket. If only one person finds the word, he gets one thousand dollars. If several find it, the money will be divided equally among them.

Every one sending a yellow ticket will get a set of cardboard creeping babies at the end of the contest. Those sending three or more in one envelope will receive a charming 1898 calendar, no advertisement on it.

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N. P. N. U. No. 34, '97.

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