

## Science AND INVENTION

Metals get tired as well as living things, a scientist declares. Telegraph wires are better conductors on Monday than Saturday, on account of their Sunday rest, and a rest of three weeks adds 10 per cent to the conductivity of a wire.

Alzen is the name given to a new metal, which is composed of two parts of aluminum and one part of zinc. It is said to equal cast iron in strength, but is much more elastic. Alzen is superior because it does not rust and takes a high polish.

The singular phenomenon of hard steel being cut by a rapidly revolving disk of soft steel has been somewhat puzzling. A microscopic examination by an English engineer, F. W. Harbord, has now shown that the metal acted upon is heated nearly or quite to the melting point of steel, but only at the point of contact with the disk.

A section of the Canadian Northern Railway, running northwest from Sudbury and crossing the Vermillion River, is unique in that it is ballasted with gold. Every yard of the gravel used for ballast has been found to contain from 50 cents worth to \$1 worth of the precious metal in the shape of fine dust, and a syndicate is installing machinery for its extraction.

There was recently brought to the British museum about half a peck of stones asserted to have been taken from the stomach of an African elephant. The stones are angular and whorled. Other instances of the same nature are known to hunters. The man who gave the curiosities to the museum has demonstrated the existence of the stone-swallowing habit in crocodiles.

During the year 1907 the Nile reached the lowest level known in Egypt since 1877 and but for the existence of the great dam at Assuan and the vast volume of water impounded by it to supplement the low Nile during the season of drought the country would have been plunged into the horror of a famine. The year 1907 was the eighth successive lean year, so far as the Nile flood was concerned.

So great is the part played by birds in disseminating seeds and in protecting plants by the destruction of noxious insects that H. W. Hanshaw reaches the somewhat astonishing conclusion that if all birds were exterminated, not only would successful agriculture become impossible, but the greater part of the vegetation of the earth would eventually be destroyed. A permanent reduction in the bird population, he says, could not but have disastrous consequences.

One of the most remarkable of the high flights achieved by the free balloons, now employed in many countries for scientific exploration of the upper air, was made on July 25, 1907, near Brussels. The tandem balloons left the village of Uccle at 7 o'clock in the morning, and one hour and six minutes later they had attained an elevation, as indicated by the self-recording barometer, of almost exactly 16½ miles. At that point the upper balloon burst, and the flight was arrested. At the height of about 7½ miles, as usual, the fall of the thermometer was arrested, and a sudden rise of 12 degrees occurred in the temperature. At a little less than 8½ miles an isothermal zone was encountered, above which another rise of temperature began, and continued until the balloon burst. The last temperature recorded was about -44 degrees Fahrenheit.

### KINGSTON'S AGED OAK.

Centuries Old and Washington and Clinton Sat Under It.

"I was at Kingston during the Clinton reburial ceremonies on Memorial day," said a New York man to a Sun reporter, "and I stood a while beneath the branches of what is perhaps one of the most remarkable old oak trees to be found anywhere in this country. 'Just how old the tree is no one knows, but there are records showing that 200 years ago it was a landmark. The tree stands to-day more than 100 feet high and its trunk is nine feet in diameter. Nowhere about it did I discover any sign of decay or declining vigor."

"But aside from its admirable physical condition and aspect this old tree has historic interest. The tree stands not a great way from the old senate house, where the State of New York had its birth, and it marks one edge of the plot on which the famous one-legged Dutch governor of the colony, Peter Stuyvesant, built a stockade as a defense for the colonists against marauding Indians.

"After the revolutionary war, when General Washington went up from Newburg to visit General George Clinton at Kingston, the two patriots sat beneath the spreading branches of this oak and for hours recounted the events of the long struggle and doubtless discussed plans for the future welfare of

the country. Who may know but that some of the benefits which we enjoy to-day under the institutions of our government are results of the discussions of these two great patriots beneath this grand old tree? I brought myself to think so, at any rate.

"A few miles from this historic old oak, an old resident informed me, is another tree which besides being an ancient landmark is something of a curiosity. It is a chestnut tree, with a trunk twenty-one feet in circumference, from which about six feet from the ground a white elm of large size has grown. The chestnut trunk completely incloses that of the elm, and the explanation of the curious association is that at some time a branch of the chestnut was broken off, leaving a cavity in which in time mold and vegetable matter collected and made suitable depth of soil for the seed of the elm, which lodged therein to germinate and grow and become a tree, a veritable part of its unprotesting host, the mammoth chestnut trunk."

### Mud Houses Built by Wasps.

A naturalist has thus described the habits of a species of wasp that makes its nest of mud, says the Dundee Advertiser. The mud of which their nests is composed, he said, is often carried for some distance, as it is essential for them to use good, stiff clay. At the edge of some pond or stream you may see these insects roll sticky little balls out of the stiff mud with their strong jaws. With this heavy load of mud they rise slowly, and, having gained some height, they get their bearings and fly in a straight line to their nest. In this way they resemble the bees; indeed, all the wasps and bees seem to have a wonderful faculty for flying directly home from any point. When the wasp has gained the place selected for a building site she puts the tiny ball of mud against the wall of the building and rubs it tight by moving her head from side to side very rapidly. The outer surface of the nest shows a series of rings, with sharply defined lines between most of them, but the interior is always extremely smooth and almost a perfect cylinder. While building her nest the insect continually runs in and out of the tiny cylinder, examining it minutely with her "feelers." If a rough place is felt on the inner surface she carefully sets to work and rubs it smooth. When the cylinder is finished the wasp goes hunting for spiders.

### A Psychic Phenomenon.

An extraordinary incident is connected with Prof. von Herkomer's famous painting, "The Last Muster," which was the picture of its year at the academy.

One morning soon after the exhibition was opened the artist was astonished to receive a letter from a lady, a perfect stranger, who said she was not aware until she saw "The Last Muster" at the academy on the previous day that her mother, then dead, had ever sat to the professor for her portrait.

Now, the figure in the picture was painted solely from imagination, and the artist hastened to explain this fact to his correspondent. She thereupon asked for an appointment and took an oil painting of her mother, asserting that it was a faithful representation of that lady.

The academican was astonished to perceive that he had really portrayed on his own canvas a face similar of the figure in this other painting, although it was that of a woman whom he had never seen in his life.—London M. A. P.

### Shipwrecks and Courts Martial.

The custom of holding courts-martial in the British navy after every case of shipwreck has a curious origin. In 1741 the Wager, one of Commodore Anson's vessels, was wrecked off the coast of Chile, most of the crew being saved. The men and some of the junior officers held that they were no longer amenable to discipline because their pay ceased with the wreck, but the captain, whose name was Davy Cheap, differed, treated them as mutineers and shot one of his midshipmen. He was then deposed, and most of the crew made off in three of the boats. Later when it was proposed to proceed against the so-called mutineers the officers of the crown decided that the men had been correct in their view. This discovery led to the framing of Section 91 of the articles of war, which provides that in the case of shipwreck, destruction or capture by the enemy a ship is held to remain in commission pending inquiry by a court-martial.

### "In de Natchal Way."

A rich Northerner, walking about in a Southern negro settlement, came upon a house around which several children were playing. Seeing that the family was destitute, he called the oldest negro boy and gave him a dollar, telling him to spend it for a Christmas turkey. As soon as the generous man had gone, the negro woman called her boy and said, "Thomas, yo' glimme dat dollah and go git dat turkey in de natchal way."—Success Magazine.

Money is the root of much evil when it gives a man a fashionable wife.



Old Gentleman—And if you had five hundred dollars and multiplied it by two, what would you get? Boy—'Nautmobile!—Harper's Weekly.

Teacher—Parse "court." Pupil—"Court," a verb, active, indicative mood, present tense, and agrees with all the girls in the neighborhood.—Tit-Bits.

Father—Got a fall, did you? Well, I hope you didn't cry like a baby. Son—No, dad, I didn't cry. I just said one word—the same as you'd have said.—Punch.

"What sort of a looking chap is Gussy?" "Well, if you ever see two men in a corner and one looks bored to death, the other one is Gussy."—London Opinion.

Mother (crossly)—Tommy, haven't I told you you must not talk when I am talking? Tommy—But, mamma, you won't let me stay up after you go to bed!—Sketch.

"Do you think he can afford to keep an auto?" "He ought to. He's been an amateur photographer for three years and that didn't break him."—Detroit Free Press.

Stranger—Been a cyclone or an earthquake round here recently? Officer—Now this here's a college town, an 'ne of the students had a birthday party.—Harper's Weekly.

Mistress—Now, remember, Bridget, the Joneses are coming for dinner. Cook—Leave it to me, mum. I'll do me worst! They'll never trouble yez again!—Illustrated Bits.

"You say you acted like a perfect lady throughout?" "Sure, yer honor; when he tips his hat to me an' me not knowin' him, I ups with a rock an' caves in his face."—Houston Post.

Medium (impressively)—It's the spirit of your late husband, madam. He wishes to speak with you. Mrs. Peck—It can't be poor Henry; he never had no spirit.—Boston Transcript.

Teacher—What is it, Tom? Tom—Jimmy's swearing! Teacher—What did he say? Tom—Well, marm, if you say over all the cuss words you know, I'll tell you when you come to it.—Kansas City Star.

The American globe-trotter—Talk about traveling. Why, in America trains go so fast that it takes two people to talk about 'em—one to say "Here she comes," and the other to say, "There she goes."—The Sketch.

Mrs. O'Hoolihan—This payper says there do be sermons in stonies. Phwhat d' yez think av that? O'Hoolihan—Oid dunno about the ser-mons, but many a good ar-gument has coom out av a brick, Oid'm thinkin'.—Chicago News.

"I tell you," said Slinick, "men are getting so deceitful these days that you can't trust your best friends." "And what's worse," interrupted Burroughs, gloomily, "you can't get your best friends to trust you."—Philadelphia Press.

"So," remarked the boyhood friend, "you are in the swim." "Mother and the girls think I am," answered Mr. Cumrox. "But my personal feelings are those of a man who has fallen overboard and ought to be hollering for help."—Washington Star.

Teacher—If you are kind and polite to your playmates, what will be the result? Scholar—They'll think they can lick me!—Philadelphia Inquirer.

He—That fellow over there cheated me out of a cool million. She—How could he? He—Wouldn't let me marry his daughter.—The Pathfinder.

"Just this way, sir," said the courteous clerk in the railroad ticket office. "Let me show you some summer guides entitled 'Where to Go' and 'When to Go.'" The man with the modest income shook his head. "They don't interest me," he sighed. "What I want to know is 'How to Go.'"—Chicago Daily News.

"Professor," said Mrs. Gaswell to the distinguished musician who had been engaged at a high price to entertain her guests, "what was that lovely selection you played just now?" "That, madam," he answered, glaring at her, "was an improvisation." "Ah, yes, I remember now. I knew it was an old favorite, but I couldn't think of the name of it to save me."—Tit-Bits.

### His Anguished Speech.

Eventually our finest products will be cheap enough to be within the reach of all. Then the story of the boy and the hothouse grapes will be as dead and antiquated as the theater-hat stories of the past. This boy—he was a bootblack—entered a grocer's one day, and, pointing to some superb grapes, said:

"Wat's the price o' them there, mister?"

"One dollar a pound, my lad," the clerk replied.

A look of anguish passed over the boy's face, and he said hastily: "Then give us a cent's worth o' carrots. I'm dead gone on fruit."

## S.S.S. CURES ECZEMA, ACNE, TETTER ETC.

The skin is an index to the quality of the blood. Eczema, Acne, Tetter, pimples, rashes, eruptions, etc., show that some unhealthy humor or acid impurity is diseasing and corrupting the circulation, so that instead of supplying nourishment and strength to the fine, delicate tissues of the skin, it is continually pouring out its acid and unhealthy accumulations. External applications of salves, washes, lotions, etc., may relieve some of the itching and other discomfort caused by skin troubles, and for this reason should be used, but such treatment cannot reach the humor-laden blood, and therefore cannot cure. A thorough cleansing of the blood is the only cure for skin diseases. S. S. S., a purely vegetable preparation, is the best and quickest remedy. It goes down into the circulation and neutralizes and removes the acids, impurities and humors, thoroughly purifies the circulation and permanently cures skin diseases of every kind. When S. S. S. has driven the humors and impurities from the blood, and cooled and cleansed the acid-heated circulation, every symptom passes away, the skin is again nourished with rich, healthful blood and the trouble cured, as the cause has been removed. Book on skin diseases and any medical advice free to all who write. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.



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"How does it happen that Brown is treating everybody in sight?"  
"Why, you see, years ago he presented his wife with a little toy bank in which the children could keep their pennies."  
"I see. And now he finds himself the head of a frugal, industrious family."  
"No; now he finds the bank."—Puck.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

**Not Suspicious.**  
The Constable—Yes, your worship, the prisoner is a most suspicious character. The Accused (indignantly)—It's him that's suspicious. Aw'm no suspicious o' onybody!—Punch.

**Limit.**  
Mrs. Stubb—It states in this magazine, John, that the shortest men on earth are the Laplanders.  
Mr. Stubb—H'm! They couldn't be any shorter than an American man after his summer vacation.

FITS St. Vitus' Dance and various diseases permanently cured by Dr. F. H. King's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise, Dr. R. H. King, L. D., 601 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

**Permanent Receiver.**  
Patience—I hear Will is going to marry that girl he's been spending so much money on.  
Patrice—Yes. He's going to make her a permanent receiver.—Yonkers Statesman.

Kitchens, stables, sheds and kennels.—If "20-Mule-Team" Borax is sprinkled on the floors and places infested with dry rot, mould, decay, and insects such as beetles, ants, cockroaches, bugs and other vermin, it will arrest the dry rot and drive the vermin away. Borax is not injurious, and there is no danger from poisoning when using it.

**Lost Its Edge.**  
"Great guns, barber, that razor of yours is in a terrible condition; exclaimed the victim in the chair.  
"Yessah, Ah 'spect yo' am all right. Ah done wore dat razor to er ball 'las' night, sah, an' Ah reckon de grin'stone am what it needs."—Boston Post.

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with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarh. Send for testimonials free.  
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"Mistah Walkah, wot am de diff'ence 'tween a trav'ler startin' to Tangier an' a plate o' veal hash?"  
"I give that one up, George. What is the difference between a traveler starting for Tangier and a plate of veal hash?"  
"De one am Morocco bound an' de udder am half calf."  
"Ladies and gentlemen, the celebrated vocalist, Prof. Rox de Bote, will now sing that beautiful and touching sentimental ballad, 'Take Your Face Away, Clarence; You Have Been Using a Safety Razor.'"

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