

Scientific Miscellany.

From experiments made in March, Fox and Farina conclude that in fine weather the last rays of light are dissipated in the Mediterranean at a depth of about 1,500 feet.

In a new French method of sugar manufacturing which is attracting the attention of Paris capitalists, the use of beet-root is to be superseded by that of potatoes, the saccharine matter being extracted by the help of electricity.

The relative value of different foods for soldiers is being carefully tested in the German army. One diet is tried at one regimental station and a different diet at another; all food in addition to the procribed rations being kept from the men.

Aificial sponge—made of cotton, rendered absorbent, and treated with antiseptics—is a recent English product. A piece of the size of a walnut has absorbed water until it has become as large as a coconut. It is so cheap that it need not be used a second time.

A French commission has found that the most violent explosion in mines occurs when there are thirteen parts of air to one part of damp, and that above or below this the force diminishes. When the mixture is below seven parts in 100, or above 130, the gas simply burns.

As tissue-exhaustion—resulting from toil, privation, or anxiety—promotes the development of cancer, an English medical authority thinks the marked increase in the death-rate from that disease during the last half-century may be readily explained by a glance at the history of our laborious age.

Although very rare before, a great number of moderate earthquakes were recorded in Tasmania during 1833 and 1834, nearly 100 having been felt at St. Mary's Bay during the month of January. These small shocks evidently originate 100 miles or more out to sea, and are seldom felt outside of the northeastern part of Tasmania.

Mrs. E. A. Ormerod, England's well-known entomologist, reports that her many correspondents all agree that sparrows will not feed on insects when seeds, grain, fruit, and other vegetable food is within reach. She therefore advocates a judicious destruction of the house-sparrow for the protection of crops, but is careful to show that the objection does not extend to other small birds.

Fish as Brain Food.—Sir Henry Thompson, the eminent English physician, declares that there is no foundation whatever for the common notion that a fish diet tends especially to feed the brain. Nevertheless, he recommends fish for brain workers, because the fat in fish oil contains proportions than most other materials which, taken abundantly, demand much physical labor for their complete consumption, and which, without this, produce an unhealthy body and a sluggish brain. That is, fish is particularly suitable for persons who are unable to take much exercise.

Extortion in Visual Universe.—On a clear night about 3,000 stars are visible to the naked eye. A like number in the opposite hemisphere makes a total of about 6,000 that can be seen without a glass. These are divided according to their apparent brightness, into six classes, 20 ranking first, next 10, then 10, then 10, second magnitude, 200, third, 450 as fourth, 1,400 as fifth, and about 4,000 as sixth. The telescope stars, unseen by the unaided eye on account of their remoteness, are classified as high as the fourteenth magnitude, and their number is vastly greater, being reckoned as high as 20,000,000.

Errecting Azur Farms on PLANTS.—Schlesinger, in Germany, has been investigating the influence upon vegetation of the salt mists which are present in a saline-laden atmosphere. He finds one part of sulphuric acid in 54,000 of seawater capable of converting certain plants to points in a short time, and others less sensitive to hydrochloric acid. Coniferous trees are most sensitive to sulphuric acid, then deciduous trees, while ordinary field plants resist longest. Oaks, planes, cedars, poplars, and mountain-trees resist better than birches and beeches. Fruit trees are very sensitive to plants and cherries more so than peaches and apples.

Bam Margraffia.—Numerous savants have shown Emanuel, a German scientist, that bees, wasps, wasps, and hornets, become exceeding voracious and凶暴的 (ferocious) on the approach of thunderstorms and he thinks that their conduct may be taken as reliable, indicating whether a storm is impending over a certain district. In a series of observations of storms, the barometer and hygrometer to predict a storm, the bees remain quiet, and no storm occurs; or the instruments give no indication of a storm, but the bees begin to buzz and fly around the flowers. With regard to rain merely, the barom. and hygrometer are safer guides than bees; but in the case of a thunder-storm the indications of the bees appear to be more trustworthy.

A keen-eyed old mule who keeps farm carts finds a morsel of coal in her back yard every morning. By strict economy she only buys a half-ton of coal a year.—Brooklyn Times.

For the Stomach's Ache.

Joe Howard, a veteran New York journalist, who has lost his appetite fully since his family moved and drank enough whisky to make a man boat, gives the following advice to persons whose eating habits have been thrown by the approach of cholera or something like it: "First and foremost, avoid whisky, whisky, and gin. They allay the pain temporarily, but they excite, exasperate, and inflame the stomach, and worse remains behind. Avoid all 'cholera medicines,' which are all made of licorice, pepper, red pepper, and camphor. These do not allay the pain, but the latter effect is excessively unpleasant. They are a distillation and a snare. In this case, as in nearly everything in life, the simplest and easiest is the best. Take a spoonful of the essence of ginger in two glasses of water, the hotter the better, and make it palatable with a little sugar. It acts like magic, and after a few trials the pain and all unpleasant symptoms disappear, and you are fit for work." Aside, however, from the dispensed advice of whisky, the best remedy is the fact that so many careful, weighty people just now are suffering with this weakening and demoralizing trouble, and the further noticeable fact that so many men die suddenly from its effects."

"Well, Charley," said an anxious parent to an urchin of three years, on Christmas day, "what did you find in your stocking this morning?" "Find, father?" replied the hopeful youth, "why I found a big hole!"

ENJOY LIFE.

What a truly beautiful world we live in! Nature gave us grandeur of mountains, glens and oceans, and thousands of means of enjoyment. We can desire no better when in perfect health; but how often do the majority of people feel like giving it up disheartened, disengaged and worn out with disease, when there is no occasion for this feeling, as every sufferer can easily obtain satisfaction proof, that "Green's August Flower," will make them free from disease, as when born. Diplopia and Liver Complaint are the direct causes of seventy-five percent of such maladies as Biliousness, Indigestion, Sore Heartache, Cough, Nervous Prostration, Dizziness of the Head, Palpitation of the Heart, and other distressing symptoms. Three doses of "August Flower" will prove its wonderful effect. Sample bottles, 10 cents. Try it.

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An All-Rail Route to Alaska.

The great project of building a railway across Siberia, now being pushed to completion by the Russian government, strongly holds out the idea that in the near future a great iron belt from this side of the world will meet half way, and travel by land from the new world to the old will have been accomplished. Great Railway corporations are now seriously looking into this, as it seems, stupendous project, but, in reality, not as great an undertaking as eastern people believe. The country that will necessarily have to be crossed in Western British Columbia and Central Alaska is far from being the fabled zone that many believe it to be. The line would undoubtedly in its course much strike the headwaters of the Yukon river, then head down that mighty stream to within perhaps a hundred miles of the coast, at or near Nulato, where it would leave the river, and, running nearly west, would terminate at Cape Prince of Wales, within about fifty statute miles of the Siberian coast. Very little difficulty, except, perhaps, in crossing the ranges at the headwaters of the Yukon, would be apprehended in winter travel. Immense forces stand the north nearly to the coast, and about midway down the Yukon are probably the greatest coal banks in the world. Branch lines would tap the coast settlements and the rich mineral sections of the interior. With such a family left behind, it would be well, indeed, in this enlightened progressive age, if we could not commence on such a line within a very short time.—Alaska Free Press.

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