

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

THE ELEMENTS.—The naturalist often finds himself at a loss to draw the dividing line between closely-allied species...

COOKING AND DIGESTIBILITY.—Experiments by Dr. N. Buttigin, a St. Petersburg medical student, show that the saliva is less active in digesting starchy foods in invalids and weak persons than in the healthy...

CHEMICAL SILK.—A new artificial silk is said to have been prepared at Lyons by M. de Charbonnet. The process consists in adding to an etherized solution of nitrated cellulose...

BEST VIEWS OF MARS.—When Mars and the sun occupy opposite places in the heavens our near planetary neighbor is seen at its best. This occurs once in 780 days, but, on account of ellipticity of the orbit of the earth and Mars, the two planets come nearest together only once in fifteen years...

ARTIFICIAL SPONGES.—A new sponge industry is being developed on the coast of Balmatia as an outcome of experiments by Prof. Oscar Schmidt, of Styria. Prof. Schmidt planted in favorable spots very small cuttings of live sponges, and in three years was rewarded with a fine crop of large sponges...

One of the three finest collections of butterflies in the world—the two others belonging to the British Museum and a Paris institution—has been made by Mr. Berthold Neumelger, of the New York Stock Exchange. It contains 100,000 specimens, and has cost twenty years in time and \$35,000 in money.

Dr. Paolinis mentioned an epidemic of diphtheria, in 1884, which followed the arrival of a flock of turkeys in Skiatos, one of the Grecian isles, where no case of the disease had previously been known for thirty years.

Vienna is to have an electrical laboratory at which the public, for certain fixed fees, may have tested the power and efficiency of dynamos, the candle-power and economical working of arc and incandescent lamps...

Europe now has twenty-two crematories, ten of them added within the past year, while no less than 600 bodies have been burned in Germany and 800 in Italy.

Among curious vegetable products are a kind of butter from a tree of West Africa and milk from a tree of Venezuela. Both are nutritious food.

A constant and disagreeable sweet taste has been reported in one case as a result of the substitution of saccharine for sugar.

Not Signs of Prosperity.—General John H. Thomas, speaking recently at their request, to workmen of Springfield, O., said: "Some people are thoughtless enough to imagine these large fortunes to be signs of prosperity. But to the thinking man, they are sure indications of rottenness somewhere."

The Michigan Supreme Court has unanimously declared the local option law unconstitutional, on the ground that the law is a direct violation of article 4, section 20, of the constitution, which provides that no law shall embrace more than one object, which shall be proclaimed in its title.

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