

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A DREAM.—"If we could double the space-penetrating power of our telescopes," speculates Proctor, "we should probably much more than double, we should increase manifold, the number of stars—that is of suns—which would be brought within our ken. Not thousands of millions, but probably millions of millions, of suns exist within the limits of the sidereal system. Rather—I ought to say—they exist within the limits of our sidereal system, for doubtless this system is no more to be regarded as single within the universe than our solar system is unique within the star depths. Every star tells us of a sun, and probably of a solar system, in such sort that we must recognize thousands of millions of solar systems in the galaxy. May we not fairly assume, then, that in like manner our sidereal system is repeated millions of millions of times within some system of a higher order? That system may be in turn repeated many millions of times within a system of a higher order. And so on, to higher and higher orders, absolutely without end."

A WOMAN'S PRODUCT.—If expectations are fully realized, the material devised by Mrs. Wood, a clever English lady, will become a remarkably useful substance. It is known as "woodite," and its chief ingredient is caoutchouc. During the past few months it has given good results for a variety of purposes, and is now declared to be especially adapted to many other uses. According to Sir Edward Reed, M. P., it has been produced in diverse forms, such as fine sheets and ribbons for waterproof articles, dense blocks for resisting the blows of shot and shell, and particularly satisfactory rings for engine packing. One process converts it into an elastic, sponge-like substance, and another, in which it is mixed with whalebone cuttings, gives it a rough or frictional quality for mats. Some curious naval applications have been worked out. It is made into armor plates which on being penetrated by a shot close so tightly that no water is admitted, and it is also formed into light and convenient cylinders for carrying compressed air to drive life-boats, torpedo boats and scout boats, while it is suitable for making floating or partly floating cables for protection against torpedo attacks, etc.

THE GREATEST CATARACTS.—From the latest information, it appears that the three Krimbs Falls, in the upper Priazzan, with a total height of 1145 feet, constitute the highest known waterfall. Next in height come the three Scandinavian falls, 984, 853, and 804 feet, respectively; and these are followed by about half a dozen falls ranging from 591 down to 400 feet. Taking width into consideration, the Victoria Falls of the Zambezi, 394 feet high and 8200 feet wide, are the most imposing, making the Niagara Falls, 177 feet high and 1008 feet wide, seem quite insignificant in size.

WOLF-REARED CHILDREN.—From an old English pamphlet, printed in 1852, an extraordinary record of cases of children said to have been nurtured by wolves has been republished recently. In one instance, in 1847, a boy was seen in India with the three whelps of a female wolf, and was captured with some difficulty. He ran on all fours as rapidly as the whelps, ate raw meat from the ground like a dog, rejected cooked meat with disgust, shunned human beings, expressed his wants by a few signs, and seemed to care for nothing but eating. He died in 1850.

Dr. Oth. Witt, a German authority, attaches some importance to a troublesome silk spinner of India—Gricula trifrenstrata—from which an excellent fiber has been obtained. This silkworm is extraordinarily productive the living being surviving two generations in one year, and it forms a new and remarkable source of raw material for the silk industry.

OUR COLORS.—Some 150 different colors are now obtained from coal-tar, and these have almost entirely supplanted vegetable and animal dyes. In fact only two of the vegetable class—indigo and logwood—are still of any considerable importance. Coal yields a large amount of coloring matter, the magenta from a ton being sufficient to dye 500 yards of flannel; the aurine, 120; the vermilion-scarlet, 2,900; and the alizarine, 255.

Of all the deaths from poison in Great Britain, forty per cent. are said to be due to opium. This largely arises, in the opinion of Dr. Wynter Blythe, from the pernicious practice of using soothing preparations to quiet infants and keep them asleep most of the time. One preparation alone has been calculated to be the undoubted cause of death of 150,000 children every year.

The possibility of conveying fish alive during a month's trip was demonstrated near the close of last year when specimens of several varieties were taken from Paris to stock the waters of Chili. There was considerable loss of salmon, gudgeons, loles and barbs, but the carp, tench, eels, minnows, etc., mostly survived. A low temperature and constant circulation of air through the water were kept up on the trip.

It has lately been proven that coffee is not only a powerful stimulant, but has even more valuable properties as an antiseptic. It operates strongly in destroying cholera germs. Similar qualities are suspected to belong to tea.

Declared Off. From the Baker City Democrat.

It is with feelings of no little regret that we announce in to-day's Democrat, by order of the board of managers of the Baker City race track, that all races announced by them to take place in July and October, or at any other time, are hereby recalled and nothing further will be done by them to promote the interests of racing for the present. The reason for their decided action in this matter is briefly stated. They have canvassed the city to see what interest the people have in the proposed races, and have received only flat refusals of assistance from those whom they had reason to expect encouragement.

Protection or Tariff Reform.

Second question, the Tariff is the issue on which the coming campaign will be fought, and it behooves every citizen who would vote intelligently to inform himself upon a subject which so closely affects his temporal welfare.

GEN. LIEB'S BOOK, The Protective Tariff.

WHAT IT DOES FOR US, renders what is usually considered a most obscure subject easy of comprehension. It will serve as a useful primer for the beginner as well as a text-book for the learned. This book shows the practical effect of the Protective System upon the country. Perhaps the most conspicuous feature of the book is its exact alignment with the message of President Cleveland.

The position of Mr. Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress" is taken up, his assertions upon the Tariff analyzed, embodied and made to furnish their own refutation.

INDORSEMENTS: The form as well as the substance of the book is most admirable, and I have seen nothing surpassing it for use in the great work of spreading the truth about the people. It is an able and logical exposition of the injustice and admissions of the protective theory. The work is timely, and a very valuable contribution to the literature of tariff reform. R. W. TOWNSEND, M. C.

Notice that this book is receiving great commendation. It is bottomed upon fundamental truths, and I wish that the facts and arguments may be in the hands and minds of every citizen called upon this year to vote upon the great economic questions of surplus and tariff. GEN. JOHN C. BLAKE, Commissioner of Pensions.

We take pleasure in giving this work our hearty indorsement, and recommend that local committees and clubs assist in extending its circulation among the voters of Illinois. STATE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF ILLINOIS.

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