

QUEER NOTIONS.

Queen Elizabeth, during her last illness, wore around her neck a charm made of gold which had been bequeathed her by an old woman in Wales who declared that so long as the queen wore it she would never be ill. The amulet, as was generally the case, proved of no avail; but Elizabeth, notwithstanding her faith in the charm, not only sickened, but died. During the plague in London, people wore amulets to keep off the dread destroyer. Amulets of arsenic were worn near the heart. Quills of quick silver were hung around the neck, and also the powder of toads.

PIPING COAL.

The old idea of piping coal to market has been revived and reduced to a practical basis. The coal is first pulverised at the mines and purified by washing, and when all the sulphur, iron pyrites, slate, etc., have been removed, it is run into pipes with half its volume of water and thus transported to market. The expense of transportation by pipe line is very small compared with that by rail. Instead of its riding in a car on wheels it rides in water in a finely atomized condition. The quantity of coal that can be carried in this way in a given time is astonishing. A pipe of four inches in diameter at 1200 pounds pressure per square inch will deliver over 300 tons per day; a twelve-inch pipe will deliver 5000 tons, and a twenty-four inch pipe will deliver 28,000 tons per twenty-four hours. It is proposed, in carrying out this principle on a large scale, to have pumping stations from twenty-five to thirty miles apart, according to grade.

A Jelly Palace for the World's Fair.

The women of California are going to build a jelly palace at the fair—not a shivering, unsteady structure like a new custard pie, but a solid building, with sides of glasses full of jelly. These glasses will be of transparent and of rainbow hues. The building will be thirty-one feet high, surmounted by a glass ball, two feet in diameter, full of jelly. The four arched entrances will form a shrine twelve feet square. The frame of the structure will be the lightest possible steel. It will carry plate glass shelves its entire length. On these shelves the bottles containing jelly of every color will be arranged. Some of them will be set upright and others horizontally, according to the effects to be produced. In the decoration of this novel palace 2644 glasses, 2½ inches in diameter, will be used; 966 four inches in diameter, and 1048 of assorted sizes, making a total of 4688.

The women estimate that this palace will cost \$2,400, of which \$1,000 will be for the steel frame.

HOW A MIRROR IS MADE.

A large stone table is used, which has underneath it a screw, by means of which the table can be inclined when desired. Around the edge of the table is a groove, the use of which will be known presently. While the surface of the table is perfectly level, tinfoil is carefully laid all over it. A strip of glass is then laid on each of the three sides of the foil, and quicksilver is

poured on until it is nearly a quarter of an inch deep. The affinity of the quicksilver for the tinfoil, and the obstruction made by the strips of glass, prevent it from flowing off. The plate of glass having been carefully cleaned is now slipped in upon the quicksilver through the side where no glass strip is placed, and is held firm while the table is inclined by means of a screw, so as to let the superfluous quicksilver run off into the groove along the edge of the table.

That having been done, the table is brought back to a level, heavy weights are put upon the glass, and it is then left for several hours. The next step is to take the glass from the table and put it in a frame, the coated side up. The coated—or amalgam, as it is sometimes called—soon becomes so dry as to allow the plate to stand on its edge, but it cannot be used for several weeks longer. This method of making mirrors is the best in use, and was invented by the Venetians in the sixteenth century.

ALL ALONG THE LINE.

An Oklahoma girl was recently married by a judge, divorced by the same judge, and married to the same judge, all in six months.

An apple, grown near Portersville, California, is reported to weigh almost two pounds, and measured fifteen inches in circumference.

A mushroom was found in Marine City, Michigan, recently that filled a bushel basket and weighed fourteen and a half pounds.

An inmate of the Bates county (Mo.) poorhouse died lately whose head was three feet in circumference and the weight of his brain was said to be 144 ounces.

A Tennessee liveryman fell off a bridge recently and landed on a pile of rocks fifty feet below, while intoxicated. He escaped uninjured, but got red hot and made a vigorous kick because his watch crystal was broken.

A marriage of more than ordinary interest took place in Golden City, Mo., recently. The parties were both blind and their romantic engagement extended over a period of seven years before their patient hopes were realized.

Mrs. Dennis Garrigan died and was buried at Amsterdam, N. Y., twenty-five years ago. When the grave was opened the other day, the body was found to be petrified and in perfect preservation. Every feature was perfect and was recognized by people who had been acquainted with her when alive.

There is a peculiar case in northern New Hampshire where husband and wife are both preachers of the Gospel, and each is settled over a parish in that region. Their parishes are about ten miles apart. The pastors frequently exchange with each other, and it is a very convenient family arrangement.

In Austria an application has been made for preserving trees and plants from the ravages of insects. The process is very simple, consisting only in placing two rings—one of copper, the other of zinc—attached together around the tree or plant. Any insect touching it receives an electric shock that causes it to be either killed outright or fall to the ground to die in a short time.

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