FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—Mozart is to have a monument in Vienna which will cost $50,000.

—If not overloaded, Esquimaux dogs will easily draw a sledge sixty miles a day.

—The boa ding-house for cats at Battersea, London, receives boarders at the uniform rate of about thirty eight cents a week.

—The smallest pony in the world is the pet of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts-Bartlett. He is five years of age and stands thirteen inches high.

—The northern half of the London Underground Railroad carried during the last six months, 37,629,000 passengers and injured no one.

—The French Government has granted $1,600 a year to the family of the late ex-Emir Abd-el-Kader. There are six widows to share the income and some twenty six children.

—Two hundred and fifty remedies for cholera have been received by the French Academy of Sciences. Each of the senders hope to obtain the Breant prize of 100,000 francs.

—Said Thoreau: I am inclined to think bathing almost one of the necessaries of life, but it is surprising how indifferent some are to it. One farmer who came to bathe in Walden, one Sunday while I lived there, told me it was the first bath he had had for fifteen years.

—While the elderly Baroness Burdett-Coutts appears always in public dressed in the quietest black, her comparatively young husband, Mr. Bartlett-Burdett-Coutts, is distinguished for his dressing in clothes of the extremest fashionable cut and of thunderously loud colors.

—Although there are at present only 170 professed vegetarians in Germany they are the possessors of a library of 700 volumes on vegetarianism. They have also lately started a monthly periodical called *Vegetarische Rundschau*. They call themselves "The German Society for Promoting a Harmonious Manner of Life."

—In France there are two Jews in the Senate, three in the Chamber, four in the Council of State, and in the Supreme Council of Public Education One Cabinet Minister, M. D. Raynal, is a Jew, and so are ten chiefs of ministerial departments, three prefects, seven sub-prefects, four inspector-generals, four colonels, nine lieutenant-colonels and eleven judges.

—A remedy, or rather a preventive, which at the time was much believed in, was to take during the day, either spread on bread and butter or in some other way, two spoonfuls of salt. This salt acted as a disinfectant, and it was asserted that no one who took regularly his two spoonfuls caught the cholera. I am surprised to hear nothing now of this salt specific.—*London Truth.*

—Dr. Clifford Allbutt thinks that specialism is now being carried so far in London as to lower the usefulness of the medical profession in general. He says, too, that the best specialists show much affectation in refusing to do regular professional work. "A young lady told me lately," says Dr. Allbutt, "that a London physician—one chiefly known as a lung doctor, but yet one under whom I would gladly place myself for any malady—said to her, having found her lungs to be healthy, he would name another physician who would care for her general health."

A Lake of Fire.

A correspondent of the New York *Times*, writing from Waterloo, an extensive estate in Nassau, describes a curious body of water to be seen there. The lake is nearly one thousand feet long and two hundred to three hundred feet broad. It is an artificial lake, the former proprietor of Waterloo having built it to store green turtles in. The plan was to buy the turtles alive and put them in the lake and let them increase in size and numbers, when they would always be ready to be caught and eaten. Millions of fish could be kept in the lake at the same time, and thus the occupant of Waterloo would always have a good dinner waiting in the yard. The lake's bed is cut out of the solid rock, and is only a few hundred feet from the ocean. It is connected with the sea by a small canal, also cut through the rock: and when the gate in this canal is left open the tide rises and falls in the lake.

It was one of the darkest nights I ever saw. We went into the boathouse and pushed out a heavy rowboat. I took the oars and we pulled off. The first stroke gave me a fine start. There had not been any unusual appearance of phosphoresence on the surface of the water more than is often seen on tropical seas; but as soon as the oars stirred it up they seemed to be dipped in melted gold. There was actually fire there, I was compelled to think. While I was wondering at it, a fish, startled by our splatter, darted across the pond near the surface, and in his trail was left a streak of yellow fire. Then we saw at different places on the surface little vapory clouds of fire flashing and darting about like the northern lights.

"If you have a newspaper in your pocket," said my companion. "Lay it out on your lap and splash the water with both oars, to see whether you can get light enough to read by."

I did so, and was able to read the heading and all the large lines without difficulty. I took an oar then and splashed the water, and wherever a drop fell back into the lake was a round spot of fire. There was something startling in seeing so much fire float around, and I had not the faintest notion where we were. I had gone out upon an unknown lake, in total darkness, and had no idea how large or how deep it was, nor where the current—if there was any—might carry us.

"If you will pull hard and watch the bow and stern of the boat, you will see something curious."

I did so, and was well paid for the exertion. When a boat moves fast there is always a cutting of the water at the bow and a little eddy left just behind the stern. That cutwater and that eddy were of flaming fire. More fish darted about, leaving fiery trails. Indeed, wherever the water was agitated it turned apparently into fire. When the agitation ceased the fire disappeared, except that there was always a little sparkling upon the surface.

—The chief difficulty about a woman doctor is that if she was suddenly called to attend a man who had fallen down a shaft, and they told her he was a young man and unmarried, she would stop so long to fix her crimps that the man would be liable to die from the violence of his contusions.—*Rockland Courier.*

—It is said to be the correct thing for ladies to have riding horses with tails and manes of the same shade as their hair. If ladies cannot procure horses to match their hair, the animals should be dyed.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Hay Fever.

Dr. Morell Mackenzie, in an interesting pamphlet, explains the true origin and nature of that mysterious ailment, hay fever, as being essentially nothing more than pollen poison. Of course, such poisoning differs immensely from infection by bacterial germs, because the floating pollen of the air does not increase and multiply in the human system, as they do; it merely sets up irritation of the mucous membrane, giving rise to catarrh and asthma. But the two cases have this much at least in common—that the origin of the disease has been traced in either instance to a definite external cause, in living germs or spores, and that by avoidance of this cause we may reasonably hope to bring the malady under proper control, if not to extirpate it altogether. The theory that hay fever is due to the pollen of grasses is no new one. On the contrary, it has for some time been growing in favor with pathologists, and Dr. Mackenzie's able exposition may be looked upon rather as the conclusive vindication of the pollen hypothesis than as the first statement of a new truth. Indeed, as long as hay fever has been known at all, the popular name by which it is familiarly called has associated it with the flowering time of the ordinary meadow grasses; though the irritation has generally been ascribed rather to the odor of sweet vernal grass and scented holcus than to the distinctive action of the pollen itself. The latter species is unknown. English meadows, but sweet vernal grass is familiar to most of us as the peculiar spiky plant to which new mown hay owes with us the whole of its delicious fragrance. Still hay fever, like influenza or cholera, did not occur in Europe, according to Dr. Mackenzie, in "the good old times" (whenever that may be) or if it did occur it was overlooked in the multiplicity of medieval diseases. As the complaint does not actually kill, it may have been considered unworthy serious attention in the days of the Black Death and the Great Plague; but it is singular that the first detailed account was given by Bostock at as late a period as 1819. Since that date, hay fever seems to have grown so alarmingly in frequency that Dr. Mackenzie is fain to account for its rapid development by supposing a new acquisition of irritating powers on the part of certain vegetable bodies. Surely, however, it is more likely that, "'tis we, 'tis ours, have changed, not it."

Helmholtz was the first author to set forth a definite theory of hay fever, which he believes to be produced by vibrios (the modish bacilli were not then in vogue,) and he held that the vibrios, though always existing in the mucous membrane of the nostrils, were especially excited to spasmodic activity by summer heat. But it was Dr. Blackley, of Manchester, who led the way in showing that this disagreeable complaint is really due only to the pollen of flowers and grasses. Instead of making his experiments *in corpore vili*, Dr. Blackley made them on his own person; he inhaled pollen, and artificially acquired the complaint; and he proved that in certain other instances the severity of the disease bore a direct relation to the amount of pollen in the air. Dr. Mackenzie, treating the matter in the most rigorously scientific manner, divides the cause of summer catarrh into two classes, the predisposing and the exciting. The predisposing causes is of course the possession of a certain peculiar idiosyncrasy, dependent perhaps on abnormality in the mucous membrane, or in the small veins and nerves with which it is supplied. As usual, the ultimate nature of the abnormality (if any) is too delicate for direct investigation. The idiosyncrasy is generally developed quite suddenly, and when once acquired it tends to increase most unpleasantly with each succeeding summer. And the moral of that is: "If possible, avoid catching hay fever at all for the first time, and you will most probably never catch it for the second." Oddly enough, the idiosyncrasy seems almost confined to the English race, at home or in America; Scandinavians, Frenchmen, Germans and Italians all enjoy a comparative immunity. French and German doctors in New York noticed no cases among their compatriots there, though the disease is painfully common among the Americans proper. It is flattering to our Anglo-Saxon intelligence that hay fever also specially affects "persons of some education and fair social position." In the West Indies, where yellow fever rarely attacks people of colored blood, light brown families are quite proud if one of their number catches the aristocratic infection, and it may, perhaps, be equally consoling to the sufferers from hay fever to learn that in Dr. Merriman's experience the complaint belongs "principally to the upper and middle classes." So much is this the case that farmers and agricultural laborers, who are most exposed to the exciting causes, seldom suffer from it. But in persons who possess the requisite idiosyncrasy, Dr. Blackley showed quite conclusively that hay fever can be artificially produced by inhalation of pollen. Rye, wheat, oats and barley affect the mucous membrane even more powerfully than the wild grasses. In America, however, it is a sort of wormwood that oftenest gives rise to the peculiar catarrhal symptoms. It must be remembered that everywhere pollen is liable to float in the air in large quantities during the flowering season of wind fertilized plants, like the grasses, cereals and wormwoods, and hay fever may therefore possibly be caught even at sea or in the heart of the great cities. Thus showers of pine pollen have fallen at St. Louis, Mo., transported from forests at least four hundred miles to southward.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Incidents at a Fire in Constantinople.

We saw a young woman brought out of a burning house with a copper kettle in her hand. She was screaming wildly: "My baby! O, my baby!" The woman had been engaged in the kitchen, with her infant in her arms, and had been busily occupied saving her cooking utensils by throwing them into the cistern, quite unconscious that her dwelling was already on fire. The firemen, having discovered her in that perilous place, had rushed into the kitchen and forced her to hasten out. On her way she had espied a copper kettle, and had instinctively seized it; but in her fright and bewilderment, she had thrown her baby into the cistern instead of the kettle. Fortunately a sturdy fellow succeeded in rescuing the baby and restoring it to the distracted mother.

The other incident was even more dreadful. As we stood looking at the fire we beheld a man struggling, and the next moment saw him thrown deliberately into the flames.

George and I exchanged looks of horror, but the bystanders seemed to pay little heed to the occurrence, merely remarking that the man was an incendiary who had been caught in the act of spreading the fire for the purpose of robbery.—*St. Nicholas.*

The Machinery of the Alps.

The Alps constitute a great machine, which manufactures water out of snow and supples it to all Europe. Every year there falls on the Alps thirty-three feet of snow, most of it falling between the altitudes 7,600 and 8,000. This snow, light, opaque and enough, if piled on top of the Alps, to bury them three-fifths of a mile deep in the course of a century, is continually pressed down, formed into glacial ice, shoved through the valleys, melted into rivers and distributed to the four quarters of Europe by the machinery of the Alps. A cubic yard of snow weighs 187 pounds; when show is thawed and sinks into the glacial form, a cubic yard weighs nearly half a ton. When it becomes solid ice a cubic yard weighs nearly a ton. From the surface to the bottom of a glacier are to be observed all these gradations of snow, the light and opaque at top, the solid at bottom. Some of these glaciers are over 1,600 feet deep. The water which melts from them is estimated as equal to a height of ten feet a year. Their movement is generally downward, but occasionally they appear to shrink back and upward, only to renew their downward course at a subsequent period. In this way they advance slowly from the heights to the outlets of the valleys, sometimes as low down as 3,000 feet of altitude; this snail-like journey often requiring more than a century. A ladder which Saussure left in 1788 at the foot of the Aquille Noir, when he descended Mount Blanc, was found in 1832 at a distance of 4,757 yards below, a descent of eleven inches a day. A knapsack which fell into a crevasse of the glacier Talefre and was afterwards found below, traveled at the rate of fourteen inches a day. In 1820 a guide fell into the first crevasse that opened at the foot of Mount Blanc; in 1865 his body, recovered below, was found to have traveled at the rate of eighteen inches a day. In 1860 the body of a mountaineer, clad in the fashion of some former age, was delivered up at the foot of the Ahrenthal glacier in Austria. Tyndall found that the Mer de Glace traveled at the rate of thirteen inches a day in winter, and twenty-four inches in summer; Agassiz discovered that the center of the glacial stream moved faster than the sides; Charpentier ascertained that the stream had its eddies and whirlpools; Render asserted that it is impossible to point out any phenomenon of rivers which was not to be observed in glaciers. Hence their importance to man. They are plastic streams, to be studied at leisure and with the view of applying their lessons to running streams. The glacial fields of the Alps cover no less than 1,177 square miles. The glaciers of Mount Blanc alone cover 100 square miles, and their mass is equal to 1,834,000,000 cubic yards, which represents a body of water equal to the whole discharge of the river Seine during nine years. There is machinery for you?—*Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.*

Filters.

A good filter has come to be a necessity—at least in our cities and large towns, and wherever the drinking water is drawn from rivers, lakes, ponds, etc. Into these every sort of impurity may find free entrance from sewers, the drainage of farms, dead fish and other animals, and masses of decaying vegetables. Boiling the water may kill the microscopic parasites (bacteria) that cause infectious diseases, but it does not free it from its visible, disgusting matter.

A good filter accomplishes two things. it strains out the grosser impurities, and it also destroys—so many eminent chemists now believe—much of the finer impurity by oxydizing it—really burning it up.

This fact, that filters actually destroy impurity, is among the late discoveries of science. It was found, when the Thames received all the sewage of London and the other towns on its banks, that the filter-beds contained but little impurity compared with the great quantity of filth they must have intercepted.

The chemists were at first puzzled, but they were at length satisfied that the great bulk of it was burnt by the oxygen of the air, it being known that a film of air clings tenaciously to all surfaces, and hence to every particle of sand of which the filter consisted. Hence a filter is a strainer and a great deal more.

The power of the filtering material, charcoal or pure white sand—neither sponge nor any other substance capable of decay should be used—is lost within from three to six months, and hence it should be renewed as often.

But much of the impurity is retained at the top of the strainer, and hence, unless it is frequently removed, it works down into the filtering substance and all the water must work its way through a mass of filth.

A filter whose straining-pot can be turned bottom upwards without taking it from the faucet is the only safe one. Of course, when turned the impurities are at the bottom, and are washed off by the flowing water.—*Youth's Companion.*

—Smart boy (to Sam, the mail carrier): "Heigho! you've got only one spur. How do you expect to get the mule along with a spur on but one side?" "Well, honey, you see, ef I gits that side of the mule along, ain't the other side a-goin to keep up?"—*Golden Days.*

—"You are very late sending your evening male out," said the editor to his daughter when he came home at two in the morning and met a timid, shrinking young man between the front door and the gate. "Not at all," answered the thoughtful girl, "Charles Henry is now a morning edition."

—"It seems to me," said a Vermont Judge to his daughter, "that your young man calls a good many times a week. My court doesn't sit anywhere near as often as yours does." "O, well, papa," was the blushing reply. "I am engaged to him, you know, and that entitles us to a court of special sessions."—*Burlington Free Press.*

—A woman will calmly leave the cover of a jar containing ground coffee open when she knows the air will take the strength out of it. But she will never leave the stopper out of a bottle containing perfume she bought in Paris last summer. Any one sending us a correct solution of the whyforeness of the thusly will receive, by return mail, the cornet used by Washington to blow his fire at Valley Forge.—*Puck.*

CAN BE HAD IF WANTED.

"Have you any malaria here?" asked a lady who was looking at a rural boarding-place for her family. "Well," said the landlady, "we hain't got none jist now; folks haven't asked for it; but we'll get it for your family if you want it." Most folks get malaria without wanting it. To get rid of its noxious effects, use Brown's Iron Bitters. Mrs. S. R. MacDonald, New Haven, Conn., says: "I suffered from malaria for nearly six years. Brown's Iron Bitters cured me completely.

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The editor of the Bridgeport, Conn., *Eagle* (Mr. A. Cheny) gives the following emphatic testimony:

"I have waited to satisfy myself that the cure would be *permanent*, and I am convinced beyond a doubt. I am free to say that without the Oxygen I *should have been hundreds of dollars 'poorer off' to-day in consequence of not being able to attend to business.* When I commenced its use I was completely run down, my stomach being in a wretched condition. After a faithful course of the Oxygen, I *am as hearty, strong, and vigorous* as I ever was in my life. I feel like a 'new man,' all owing to the Compound Oxygen, which deserves all the praise I can bestow."

Our "*Treatise on Compound Oxygen,*" containing a history of the discovery and mode of action of this remarkable curative agent, and a large record of surprising cures in Consumption, Catarrh, Neuralgia, Bronchitis, Asthma, etc., and a wide range of chronic diseases, will be *sent free.* Address DRS. STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard street, Philadelphia.

All orders for the Compound Oxygen Home Treatment directed to H. E. Mathews, 606 Montgomery street, San Francisco, will be filled on the same terms as if sent directly to us in Philadelphia.

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