FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—Odessa, in Russia, has a new theater that cost $600,000.

—The Public Museum at Nantes, France, has just acquired the casket in which was placed the heart of Anne of Brittany, Queen of France and Navarre. It is of solid gold.

—Corea recently broke down her ancient barriers so far as to send an envoy to Japan, but the government was so poor that it could not support him, and, soon coming to the end of his resources, he had to ask aid of the Japanese Government to avoid being put in desperate straits.

—According to Sir Walter Buller, a person may now live for weeks and months in New Zealand without seeing a single specimen of the birds originally existing in that colony. In the settled districts they have been replaced by birds of foreign origin, and ornithologists are apprehensive that the indigenous species will wholy disappear in the course of a few years.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

—The English army consists nominally of 211,474 officers and men, but it is said that only one army corps can actually be got in the field, and that only by frantic makeshifts. Of the 71,810 officers and men stationed in England it is alleged that 15,000 are boys under nineteen and that 10,000 more are under twenty.

—The native merchants of China are said to be inveterate swindlers. A foreign dealer at Tientsin recently contracted for fifteen hundred bales of camels wool, guaranteed free of dirt and sand. When the first instalment had passed through the cleaning machine 35 per cent. of its gross weight was found to be sand and gravel, and besides that the wool had been wet to make the dirt stick in, and also make it heavier.

—In China all the roads except the imperial highways are tracks over private land. The owner does all he can to restrict them. When the soil washes down into the road—the road is always deeper than the land—the owner digs out the road to get back his soil with interest. This makes the roads in the rainy season successions of deep puddles, and over all Northern China traffic is suspended for four or five months every year on occount of the impassability of the roads.

—During a recent sitting of the Council-General of the Bouches-du-Rhone a committee appointed to examine the finances found that eight hundred francs a year was paid to the "guardians of the tower." Investigation showed that the tower had been suppressed since 1867; a total, therefore, of sixteen thousand francs having been paid for guarding nothing for twenty years. At St. Cloud an employe of the palace still received a salary for waxing the floor. The palace was bombarded into ruins in 1870.

—As brick and stone are now largely used in Japan for building purposes, the government of that country desires to take such measures as will be most likely to prevent their destruction by earthquakes, and to this end the Japanese Minister of Education has requested recommendations from various scientific bodies as to the best type of edifice to resist the shocks resulting from subterranean disturbance. In former times wood only was used as a material for the construction of houses in Japan.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

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Nerves.—Everyone of the thread-like nerves has each a latent power to cause excruciating pain, the limit of which is simply the limit of human endurance, and NEURALGIA has a few of these fibrous torments all pulsing painfully at once.

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SYMPTOMS.

Symptoms.—Neuralgia is defined to be a nerve disease, the chief symptom of which is an acute pain, intermitting, which follows the course of the nerve branch affected.

TREATMENT.

Treatment.—Apply ST. JACOBS OIL frequently, gently rubbing the afflicted parts; apply to the whole extent of the nerve soreness; keep up a gentle friction until a burning sensation is produced.

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MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Examples of the Knowledge Produced by the Work of the Last Fifty Years.

England may without boasting claim that she has taken the lead not only in gaining knowledge of the conditions which are concerned in the production of particular diseases, but that she has also been first in modifying her laws and in creating a public health administration in response to this teaching. Dr. Thorne took as an illustration of the benefits which had been conferred on the community by these changes the reduction in the death-rates from certain special diseases. Fifty years' experience of small-pox had provided data by which the extent of the usefulness of vaccination might be better defined. The Vaccination acts passed in Queen Victoria's reign had led to a vast saving of life, and especially of child life, and these had especially protected those who are unable to guard their own interests. "Fever" had been found to consist of at least two different diseases—typhus and enteric fever; the former largely due to the crowding of people in houses and of houses on a site where air and light were shut out; the latter mainly due to excremental pollution. Each required its special means of prevention and these had been applied with astonishing results. London had spent fourteen millions of pounds in the improvement of unhealthy areas, and among the results might be cited the almost complete disappearance of typhus from the metropolis. Enteric fever had enormously diminished, and this had been brought about through the adoption of methods which the new knowledge showed to be necessary. Further investigation had indicated the different channels by which disease could be disseminated; Ballard and Michael Taylor had demonstrated the part that milk could play in the diffusion of enteric and scarlet fever; Power and Klein had shown how milk-scarlatina had its origin, and had proved the urgent need for human and veterinary medicine to work together for the saving of human life; Buchanan had taught that phthisis, the scourge of the British Isles, was chiefly dependent upon conditions of soil which would be removed. These are but a few examples of the additions to knowledge which the work of the last fifty years has produced. Not least in importance must be reckoned the development of a system of precise investigation, which will confer in the future even greater benefits than those experienced in the past, and to the perfecting of which the new president of the Epidemiological Society has conspicuously contributed.—*Lancet.*

A ZIGZAG CONUNDRUM.

The Australian Boomerang a Puzzle to Scientific Men.

Scientists have in vain studied the boomerang to discover the secret of its curious flight. It is against all laws of gravitation that an object hurled into space should return to the same spot from which it was cast, as it is impossible to explain the eccentric action of a curved ball. The boomerang is all the more marvelous when we consider that the savages of Australia were first to use it and to apply the peculiar properties of its form.

A German scientist found that there were larger and smaller boomerangs. The larger ones are slender crescents, plain on the lower side, rounded on top, pointed at each end and sharpened toward the edges. The lower end is cross-grooved to aid in holding it. The careful manner in which the savages manipulated the weapon, trying its shape, testing its qualities and scraping it down, is significant of the importance they attach to its having exactly the right curvature. The wood of which the instrument is made is an extraordinarily heavy Australian iron-wood, and the only tools used in making it are sharp stones and pieces of glass. The smaller boomerangs are bent at an angle of forty-five degrees, but are in other respects conformed to the larger ones.

An exhibition of boomerang-throwing revealed a degree of strength in the natives which was in astonishing contrast with the thinness of their forms. They took the weapon in their right hand, with the flat side downward and the concave side forward, and with a run and a shout, threw it by a short jerk about one hundred yards up into the air. It flew away in a straight line, then turned to the left, and returned in a curved line back to the thrower, whirling around constantly and whizzing unpleasantly.

The curve which the weapon describes in its return is not a screw-line or a spiral, but is more like a figure 8. The savages seemed able to control their instrument, even when wind interfered to complicate its course. Once the projectile went astray, and coming in contact with a gentleman's hat cut it off as cleanly as a razor would have done.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Recovered His Property.

A gentleman crossing Broadway near Cortlandt street, while getting out of the way of a heavy truck, dropped something, and immediately began an anxious search for it.

"Must have lost his watch," said a passer-by, joining in the search.

Another concluded it was his pocket-book, still another imagined valuable papers, and finally quite a crowd had collected, and all were eagerly groping in the mud.

"Ah, here it is!" said the gentleman, fetching a sigh of relief as he picked it up. It was a half-smoked cigar.

"That cigar cost me ten cents," said the gentleman.

Then the silence became so great that the roar of the street could be plainly heard.—*N. Y. Sun.*

CATARRH.

A New Home Treatment for the Cure of Catarrh, Catarrhal Deafness and Hay Fever.

The microscope has proved that these diseases are contagious, and that they are due to the presence of living parasites in the lining membrane of the upper air passages and eustachian tubes. The eminent scientists, Tyndall, Huxley and Beale endorse this, and these authorities cannot be disputed. The regular method of treating these diseases has been to apply an irritant remedy, weekly and even daily, thus keeping the delicate membrane in a constant state of irritation, allowing it no chance to heal, and as a natural consequence of such treatment not one permanent cure has ever been recorded. It is an absolute fact that these diseases can not be cured by any application made oftener than once in two weeks, for the membrane must get a chance to heal before an application is repeated. It is now seven years since Mr. Dixon discovered the parasite in catarrh and formulated his new treatment, and since then his remedy has become a household word in every country where the English language is spoken. Cures effected by him seven years ago *are cures still*, there having been no return of the disease.

So highly are these remedies valued that ignorant imitators have started up everywhere pretending to destroy a parasite of which they know nothing, by remedies, the result of the application of which they are equally ignorant. Mr. Dixon's remedy is applied only once in two weeks, and from one to three applications effect a permanent cure in the most aggravated cases.

Mr. Dixon sends a pamphlet describing his new treatment on the receipt of stamp to pay postage. The address is A. H. Dixon & Son, 303 King street west, Toronto, Canada.—*Scientific American.*

About 2,500 words are all that are used in ordinary talking and conversation, although there are some 20,000 words in the English language. Different authors vary in the number of words they use, but the difference is slight. Shakespeare found 4,000 words sufficient for all his works.

PEACE ON EARTH

Awaits that countless army of martyrs, whose ranks are constantly recruited from the victims of nervousness and nervous diseases. The price of the boon is a systematic course of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the finest and most genial of tonic nervines, pursued with reasonable persistence. Easier, pleasanter and safer this than to swash the victualing department with pseudo-tonics, alcoholic or the reverse, beef extracts, nerve foods, narcotics, sedatives and poisons in disguise. "Tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," is the providential recuperant for weak nerves, and this glorious franchise being usually the consequence of sound digestion and increased vigor, the great stomachic which insures both is productive also of repose at the required time. Not unrefreshed awakens the individual who uses it, but vigorous, clear headed and tranquil. Use the Bitters also in fever and ague, rheumatism, kidney troubles, constipation and biliousness.

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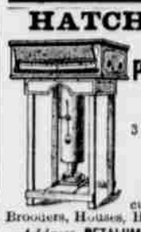

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