AIDS TO EDUCATION.

An Ohio School-Master's Method of Teaching English Grammar.

While the leading educators of District No. 42, Sedgwick County, Kan., are engaged in an earnest effort to bring their school to a higher point of efficiency by the use of the slow match and shotgun, some other parts of the country are not idle. Jackson township, Hancock County, O., has been heard from. The problem which the Ohio instructor of youth located there has been at work on is that of compulsory education. This subject is one which, as we all know, is far from being settled satisfactorily. Laws are passed that all children must attend school, but even if they can be enforced, it does not follow that all children will study their lessons diligently and be able to make a showing satisfactory to the conscientious and painstaking teacher. To accomplish this end has been left for the Ohio instructor referred to. The advanced grammar class was on the floor and he called on one of the boys to explain the exact relation which the participle sustained to the various parts of speech. The slothful but unsuspecting youth was free to admit that he could not do so. On hearing this lamentable confession the Jackson township educator drew a slung-shot from his sleeve and struck the misguided young man a couple of light blows. With the slow match, the shotgun and the slung-shot well established among our educational appliances America may well make a new boast of her great public school system.

What measure of popularity the common leather and lead slung-shot may obtain as a means for impressing English grammar upon the fickle mind of youth it is too early yet to say. It certainly does not look encouraging for it, when we learn in the course of the dispatch bringing the intelligence of the whole affair that its first user has had his license to teach revoked by an unsympathetic board of examiners to whom the beauties of the slung-shot are as a sealed book. But its promoter, Mr. John Walters, has many things to console him as he sees an ordinary teacher installed in his place. Galileo heard as good men as reside in Jackson township ridicule his telescope. John Walters may yet live to conduct a grammar publishing house and announce prominently in his advertisements a fine slung-shot with every volume.

Mr. Walters' ideas on educational subjects are what may properly be called advanced. He thinks that the teacher should not only be able to offer the pupil instruction, but also be prepared to see that he takes it. It is all very well, he argues, to assign a pupil a lesson on the subject of participles, but it is better to see that the lesson is impressed on him so that he will not forget it, even if it takes a new slung-shot every day. Our Ohio friend's ideal teacher is one who, while the scholars are at their books, throws his feet up on his desk, draws on a pair of brass knuckles and calmly uses a large jack-knife in the guise of a toothpick till recitation time. Then he calls the class to the floor, gets out his text-book and other weapons and proceeds to drive the children intrusted to his care along the flowery paths of learning on a fast run. Give Prof. John W. Walters a common school grammar and a good slung-shot and he will agree to carry the rules of syntax to the dullest pupil. All is novelty, all is excitement with the Walters' Method of Teaching English Grammar. The ordinary instructor approaches the weary student with the dry and uninteresting facts concerning participles and their relation to other words; it is true that Prof. Walters comes up to him with the same facts in one hand, but he is reaching into his boot for a six-ounce slung-shot with the other. The effect of the Jackson township idea of compulsory education on our school system will be watched with interest.—Fred. H. Carruth, in Texas Siftings.

Romantic Heligoland's Doom.

Oklahoma squatters are complaining that the new land-office is "pulling the ground from under their feet," but the literal meaning of that phrase is at present illustrated on the island of Heligoland, where a stormy sea recently toppled over a large cliff, together with its top stratum of pastures and cottages, and at the same time revealed the existence of a cliff undermining at least one-third of the remaining scant area, which has now been reduced to a little less than one-third of an English square mile. Year by year the sea encroaches upon the rocks of the west shore, but the full extent of its ravages was only lately ascertained by the discovery of an old map, showing not less than eighteen different villages, with castles, forts and monasteries, where the water now covers the submarine rocks to a depth of half a hundred fathoms. Like the island of St. Helena, the cliffs of Heligoland rise abruptly from an ocean abyss, which more than probably will swallow up the last breakwater before the middle of the next century. —Albany (N. Y.) Journal.

—Light colored fruits, such as pears, peaches and apples, should be dropped into cold water as they are pared. This will preserve their color, but they must not be kept there long, or the flavor will be destroyed. It is not so important to keep peaches a light color as it is pears. In all preserves there is danger of the juice of the fruit reducing the sirup; it is well to let it remain uncovered for twenty-four hours, and then if the sirup is found thin, pour it off and scald again.

THE GERMAN WAITRESS

She Works Hard, Flirts Generously, and Is a Good Deal of a Girl.

The German waitress is not an attractive young woman. She is broad-shouldered, thick-set and plain. She has rough hands, big feet. She is oftener than not pigeon-toed. She wears no dainty little cap, as does the English waitress. She has no clean apron or nor buttonhole bouquet, as have the waitresses in the coffee and cake rooms in America. In her wardrobe is no tailor-made suit which she can wear to the theatre on her night off. Her gowns do not fit her. Her hair is rarely in order. Her hands are never clean.

Nevertheless, she is the subject of more romance than a dozen French, English and American waitresses. Lieutenants smile on her, solid uniformed government officials make love to her, and artists draw delightfully pretty misrepresentations of her for the comic weeklies. Her name is carved upon the desks of the university lecture rooms. All sorts of proper and improper verses are written about her by gay students in fancy caps and top boots. Little sketches of her face adorn odd nooks and corners all over the university buildings.

The waitress shows her appreciation of all this attention by giving all students most generous measures of beer and an occasional kiss when the landlord isn't looking. Every waitress has her pet student. He always gets the cosiest corner of the best table, the finest bit of liver sausage, and the largest piece of mangled steak. She knows his special beer mug as well as she knows his face, and the moment he appears she has it filled well up above the one-pint mark of the imperial government. She sweetens each mug of beer for him by taking the first sip from it. She chats with him about university matters while he eats. She learns in just which duel he got the scar over his left eye, who laid open his right cheek, what kind of stroke nipped off the missing piece of his nose, and when that big chunk was cut out of his chin. She knows his intention to step on the toe of the champion swordsman of the Seuvian dueling corps or to call the President of the Saxon dueling corps a pup. It is a long day for her when he gives satisfaction for these insults on the students' field of honor. When he comes back to her, however, battered, bandaged and smelling strong of iodoform and balsam, she is just as proud of him as a woman can be of a man.

For eleven months of the year, however, the waitress' daily life is a hard and dreary routine. She gets ridiculously small wages for working fourteen or fifteen hours each day. Often enough she receives only the small tips of the persons she serves. Sometimes she must pay for the privilege of retaining these tips. She must remember an infinite number of details. She must know the owners of every one of threescore or more beer mugs on the shelves at the head of the big room. As soon as he comes inside of the door she must call to mind whether he drinks lion brew, or court brew, or Culmbacher, or Wurzburger, or local beer, in which corner his favorite place is, and how much froth below the four-tenths liter mark he will take without complaint. Of course, all German waitresses do not always remember all these details, but a typical German waitress rarely forgets one of them.

The German waitress is a pitfall for foreigners. Within limits an increase of tips secures an increase of servility from a German waiter. A German waitress, however, pockets an American's ten-cent gratuity without turning a hair, although she may have expected only a cent or two from him. A tip of twelve or thirteen cents she regards as evidence that the young man who gives it is very evil-minded or a fool. In short, she accepts all kindnesses and consideration in much the same way as a Third avenue shop girl accepts the seat a man offers her in an elevated railway car. Men who know the German waitress well are very fond of her. Foreigners who do not know her at all are still fonder of her. Every one else fights shy of her.—N. Y. Sun.

Where Salt is Taxed.

In every country where there has been a tax on salt cruelty and oppression have followed in its train. In France, under the government monopoly known as the *gabelles*, the law was most severe. In the fifteenth century French history shows that hundreds of men were executed for salt smuggling. In the time of Louis XIV. almost every year some three hundred smugglers were sent to the galleys for life. In China, where salt is one of the most important sources of imperial revenue, a breach of the salt laws involves fearful penalties. The offenders are sometimes flayed alive, their smuggling junks are confiscated and sawn asunder, while a crucified or impaled boatman is lashed to the mast as a warning to others. The Chinese jails are full of men lingering on under trial, or in vain hope of being brought to trial, for offences against the State salt monopolies. —Blackwood's Magazine.

Too Much of This Nonsense.

Sink (of the firm of Sink & Swim)—Well Mr. Gilhooly, we don't need a man just now; but if you will work for the salary we have spoken about I will hire you on one condition.

Gilhooly—I accept. Name it.

Sink—That you will not have the daily papers announce that you "have accepted a very advantageous offer from Sink & Swim."—Judge.

—Does a horse cease to be herviborous when it is eating its own head off? —N. Y. Herald.

QUEER MEDICAL OMENS.

Superstitions Prevailing in Various Parts of the Old World.

Of all superstitions, medical ones are perhaps those endowed with most vitality. People of all times and all ages, including even those of the nineteenth century, of which we are all so proud, have always attached too much importance to the opinions of their medicine men. But the middle ages was the time for the currency of pure and unadulterated medical superstitions. The mediæval doctor must have added another terror to death as his advice certainly increased its probability in illness. To wear a dead man's bones was thought an excellent specific. To eat the first Easter daisy that could be found, and receive the benediction in three different parishes on the same Sunday, was still a more potent remedy. To steal a cabbage from a neighbor's garden and hang it on a hook to dry was another cure, and one certainly within the means of the poorest patient. The efficacy of this remedy was possibly to be found in the theft. People who hung up horseshoes for luck may perhaps be tempted to try it on their friends when quinine and bark have been found useless. A toad choked to death on the eve of St. John's day was possessed of even still more virtue. When we recall the ingredients of the witches' caldron in "Macbeth" we are afforded, as it were, a bird's-eye view of the pharmacopœia of the contemporaries of the conqueror. The water in a toad's brain was deemed a most efficient remedy in illness about the same period. There were cures for mental failings as well as bodily afflictions. To stick pins in a dead man's shoes, or to carry about in the pocket a wolf's tooth or eye, or, if it were handy, to ride upon a boar, were all—especially the latter—cures for cowardice. We sometimes consult doctors about our nerves now. Perhaps it is the name and not disease that is changed. The modern practitioner who should advise a nervous patient to take equestrian exercise on a bare-backed boar would possibly obtain notoriety, if not patients, to-day. A sovereign cure for toothache was to apply a dead man's tooth to the suffering jaw of the living. For epilepsy the remedies were many and peculiar. One was to wear a medal bearing the names of Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. M. Challamel informs us that some faith is still attached in rural France to the extraordinary remedies we have mentioned, and even in London and Paris, in educated circles, a good many medical superstitions are still extant.—Journal of American Folk-Lore.

ILLICIT TRADERS.

Individuals Who Are a Source of Great Trouble to Uncle Sam's Soldiers.

One of the purposes for which troops, under express provisions of the Revised Statutes, may be employed in the Indian Territory is the arrest of illicit traders. In that Territory, and in all reservations set apart for the use of the red men, the Government guarantees that whites shall be kept away. Exceptions are made, of course, under the permits of the Indian Bureau, through its agents, and soldiers are also authorized to perform certain duties there. But the chances of profit carry into the Indian country traders who have no authority to enter it. The tribes themselves in some instances encourage their presence, especially when they have alcoholic liquor among their goods, the selling of which to Indians is forbidden any way, and they are the more tempted to risk arrest and punishment from the good prices they can get. When their presence becomes known, troops are sometimes summoned by the agents to scout for and arrest the offenders.

Rather a striking instance of the trouble occasionally caused by illicit traders occurred among the Navajos of New Mexico a year or two ago. A squad of soldiers, starting from Fort Wingate to arrest whisky peddlers, was confronted by a large force of Navajos, who declared that the men should not be taken away. The sergeant in charge of the squad, finding his party greatly outnumbered, was compelled to proceed to Fort Defiance, where the Indian agent communicated with Fort Wingate, and a troop of cavalry was sent out. For a time an outbreak of this powerful tribe was feared from the mischief thus stirred up by the whisky sellers. More recent testimony to the connection between the suppression of illicit traders and the well-being of the Indians is given in this extract from the last annual report of Mr. Carroll H. Potter, acting agent for the Osages in the Indian Territory: "There has been no improvement in the condition of the Osage Indians during the last year. These people are not sufficiently industrious to control in the right direction the amount of money they get. In consequence a large share is spent for contraband articles, which it seems very easy for them to procure along the State line and from peddlers on the reservation. The latter class the Indians will protect in every possible way. The traffic in whisky by peddlers on the reservation is, in my opinion, alarmingly on the increase." —Harper's Bazar.

—Cherry Jelly: Common wild bird cherries make a nice and handsome jelly: Pick the cherries, put in an earthen dish, add a spoonfull or two water and steam them half an hour; mash them well with a wooden spoon, place in a jelly bag to drip, measure your sirup, place it in a kettle and boil it fifteen minutes, add a pint of heated sugar to each pint of juice and boil fifteen minutes longer, then pour in jelly glasses.—The Home.

INTELLIGENT MONKEYS.

Curious Anecdotes of a Chimpanzee and an Orang Outang.

The great physiologist, Blumenbach, had one of the monkey tribe, whose movements and conduct he carefully watched for more than a year together. It came to manage the wood for the stove with great dexterity, and would put it in with as much judgment and economy as a cook-maid or a parsimonious spinster. This animal was very partial to the fire, like all other apes, and would occasionally singe himself, when he would sally forth and roll round in the snow with all the ecstasy of a Russian after taking a warm vapor bath at 180 degrees of heat. After enjoying this luxury for a time he would return to his old quarters by the fire. He once swallowed a lump of arsenic large enough to have done the business of ten Kalmucks, but in him it produced only a trifling indisposition, and in a short while he was quite well again.

A work on insects happened to lie for some time upon the table, and which our philosopher contemplated with solemn studiousness for about an hour. The illustrations particularly riveted his attention; whether they awakened reminiscences of his former haunts is unknown, but when the book came to be examined, it was discovered that with consummate address he had pinched out all the beetles of the large plates and actually eaten them—it is supposed mistaking them for real insects in some unknown state of preservation.

Some curious details are given of the habits of orang outangs exhibited many years ago in London. They were male and female, the former the Chimpanzee, and the latter the Borneo. In some respects they presented a marked contrast, and did not show the least tenderness or attachment to each other. The social habits of the Chimpanzee far exceeded those of the female. In the morning, on first seeing a person whom he knew, he would utter a loud cry of recognition, and running towards him, would stand perfectly erect, spreading his arms like a child to be taken up, when he would wind them around the neck of the individual in the manner of the fondest embrace; nor was it an easy task for those to whom he was attached to leave the room except by stealth.

The instinct of providing and placing warm materials for her bed was most marked in the female, who would be for two hours dragging blankets from various parts of the room, smoothing and changing their position, and beating any raised part down with her knuckles, assuming at the same time a look of gravity and an appearance of wisdom.

The hearing of both animals was remarkably acute, and the knowledge of sounds was accurately shown. They also seemed to have a pretty good idea of time, for as the hour approached at which they were removed to their nightly quarters, they would of their own accord get the blankets, and enfold themselves in readiness to depart; and if their removal was protracted beyond the usual time, it required force to prevent them from going to the door.

The Chimpanzee having caught a cold, he had a violent cough that in sound was remarkably human; and when a fit of coughing came on he was usually given some sweetmeat or cordial to stop it. He soon adopted the cough as means of obtaining these luxuries. Really, those creatures that "ape humanity so," create in us strange and by no means agreeable sensations about ourselves.—N. Y. Ledger.

A HEALTHFUL DIET.

Fruit a Perfect Food in Summer as Well as Winter.

Some people are afraid to eat fruit, thinking that fruit and diarrhœa are always associated, when, if they understood the true cause of the diarrhœa, they would know that it was caused by eating meat. In hot weather meat putrefies very quickly, and during this process alkaloids are formed which are very poisonous, acting as emetics and purgatives. 'Tis true that fruit eaten green or between meals will interfere with digestion and cause bowel troubles; but use fruit that is perfectly ripe at meal-time, and only beneficial results will follow.

Acids prevent calcareous degenerations, keeping the bones elastic, as well as preventing the accumulation of earthly matters. This is because of the solvent power of the acids; but manufactured acids are not harmless, as are those which nature has prepared for us in the various kinds of fruit. Fruit is a perfect food when fully ripe, but if it were in daily use from youth to age there would be less gout, gall-stones and stone in the bladder. Stewed apples, pears and plums are favorite articles of diet. For breakfast or luncheon, in the dining room or in the nursery, there are few table dishes more wholesome and more delicious than well-stewed fruit served up with cream or custard.

There are many persons, however, who can not eat it on account either of acidity of the fruit or the excess of sugar necessary to make it palatable. Sugar, does not, of course, counteract acidity; it only disguises it, and its use in large quantities is calculated to retard digestion. The housewife may, therefore, be grateful for the reminder that a pinch, a very small pinch, of carbonate of soda, sprinkled over the fruit previously to cooking, will save sugar, and will render the dish at once more palatable and more wholesome. —Medical Classics.

—Summer boarding.—Algernon de Swellton—"Will you please pass me the menu?" Eliza Jane—"We haven't any this morning, sir. They're not in season yet."

THE DELICIOUS BANANA.

A Few Interesting Facts Concerning That Wholesome Fruit.

A liking for bananas is a taste that must be cultivated in the majority of persons, and ten or twelve years ago the average inhabitant of the northern part of this country had not been educated up to the love for them.

Less than sixty years ago tomatoes, now considered one of the most delightful of table dishes when properly prepared, were looked upon as unfit to eat, many people claiming that they contained poisonous properties. But that belief was soon proven to be unfounded, and two years after two or three leading sanitary and scientific magazines came out with positive proof that they were not only uninjurious but healthful, and contain very nutritive properties. The few gardeners who took the risk of cultivating them in large quantities could not begin to supply the immense demand for them.

The experience with bananas, though they have at no time been considered as poisonous, is much the same as with tomatoes. Not very many years ago they were considered as unfit to eat, mainly because it was supposed they contained no nutritive properties and were of about as much benefit to the human system as so much cotton or corncob. But that idea was rapidly dispelled by scientists and this delicious fruit of the palm is now considered not only luscious but healthful as well.

The banana is the most important of tropical fruits and requires three or four months to ripen. After the fruit matures the plant withers and dries up and from its base spring up offshoots which may be transplanted. Although most banana bunches hang down in maturity, a variety is found on the Society islands whose very large bunches of deep orange-colored fruit stand up erect, forming ornamental rather than useful objects; for their taste even when cooked is acrid and disagreeable. The Brazilian banana is tall, rising to a height of fifteen or even twenty feet, and the fruit is yellow and excellent, rather vinous in flavor. The Chinese banana seldom exceeds five feet in height, the leaves being of a silver hue and the fruit aromatic. The Tahitian banana is similar to the Brazilian, but not so tall, and the fruit is angular, yellow, turning black when fully ripe, and the flesh is salmon colored, or buff, and slightly acid. A variety with a red skin is brought from the West Indies, and a very small banana is found in Africa and the East Indies.

In ninety-nine cases in a hundred bananas are eaten raw with no flavoring. An excellent dish is made by cutting the fruit into small slices and using a dressing of sugar and cream or wine and orange juice. The amount of nourishment is very great, and Humboldt tested that the same land which produces a thousand pounds of potatoes will yield 44,000 pounds of bananas; a surface bearing wheat enough to feed one man will, when planted with bananas, feed twenty-five.—Albany (N. Y.) Argus.

AN AGE OF PORTRAITS.

History Will Be Easily Traced by the Present Rage for Illustrations.

There never before was a time in the history of the world when the making of portraits was so much in fashion as at the present. The ease with which, by the aid of the innumerable photographic processes, a portrait may be produced has of course done much to foster the custom, and the foudness of the readers—or at least of the publishers—of the present generation for biography has also encouraged the making of pictures of the people written about. There has at the same time been something that might be called a revival of the ancestral portrait craze, and everybody who could compass it has felt obliged to do what he could to provide his descendants with a set of portraits of their ancestors.

The illustrated papers and magazines, too, have done much to increase the number of portraits. The picture of a prominent man is at once the most obvious and one of the most easily managed illustrations that can be found and for the past twenty years these periodicals have been increasingly full of this sort of work. The pictures have, of course, been of all sorts and kinds, and from the gray and slovenly process plate to the finely executed engraving or etching, and they have been full of all degrees of nearness or remoteness in the matter of likeness, but if any body has failed to have a clear idea of the personal appearance of any public character it has not been from lack of copies of his counterfeit presentment.

The collection of portraits has by this state of things become one of the easiest and most satisfactory of all the innumerable varieties of collecting that has yet been invented. One is able, with so little trouble and at so small an expense, to bring together a collection of portraits that are really interesting and not wholly uninstructive, that it is a pleasant and not very arduous form of amusement. They may be arranged in so many different ways, moreover, that one may at any time go to work and introduce into his collection an entirely fresh system of classification, and nothing adds to the dignity of such a pursuit like reclassification, with its sound of real profundity and acute investigation. He who finds time hang heavy on his hands and the illustrated papers and magazines accumulating in his attic, is very foolish and unmindful of his resources of amusement if he does not set himself to make a collection of portraits.—Boston Courier.

HOW TO GROW RICH.

Father Clarkson Delivers a Pointed Lecture on True Economy.

In early life we recollect hearing a young man inquire of a venerable gentleman, who had accumulated a large estate, what the secret of his success was. He said it was: "When you earn seventy-five cents per day, spend only fifty cents of it and keep out of debt." That information, simple as it was, has had an important influence upon life's transactions. And if it were lived up to by a large mass of laborers, mechanics and all classes of wage-workers the world would be a great blessing. The rapidly increasing riches and consequent willful and wicked extravagance of a large class of our population is corrupting the minds and misleading the practices of the great mass of workers. Whilst the riches are increasing, paupers are multiplying much faster. There are twice as many, according to population, of those who ask and receive aid now as did fifty years ago. And yet the wage-worker receives twice as much now as then. The articles of food cost no more, and clothing not half as much as then. Wage-workers of all classes, both male and female, are not prospering as formerly. They are not weekly, monthly and yearly laying up a portion of their wages as then. They live more extravagantly, spend more recklessly, and foolishly ape their neighbors in fashionable follies. Mechanics appear, at least a large proportion of them, not to attempt to make any provision for the future. When they make $15 or $18 per week, instead of permanently investing at least one-third of the amount, they spend it all. Then, if work fails, or the man is taken sick, or any member of his family, so as to keep him from work, the family at once becomes an object of charity, the rents are unpaid, the butcher's bill neglected. The man becomes discouraged at the accumulated debts, until he begins to debate with himself whether he ought to try to pay the old debts. So soon as he does that—when he begins to study how to forfeit his honor, repudiate his obligations, he is gone. He no longer has that keen sense of honor which teaches him to regard as sacred his debts. Then he is no longer a man. His pride, his ambition, and all of the impulses which nerve and sustain a man in life's conflicts, are gone. He has not confidence in himself and his neighbors have less. But if a man lives by rule, uses the plain necessaries of life, and scorns to ape the follies and corrupt practices of the growing cussedness of the world, and lays up carefully at least one-third of what he earns, soon he will see there are better days for him. A little weekly and annually saved, the increasing accumulation of interest, the increasing ambition, and the renewed energy will soon build or buy a house. Then the expense of living decreases, and the saving can be more, until imperceptibly the man with his family find themselves in comfortable circumstances, respected by the world, his financial credit established, and he is enabled to enter other enterprises than as a day laborer.

We have seen these things worked out and demonstrated all about us for the last sixty-five years. The man who spends as he goes soon has nothing to spend, but is broken down in spirit, credit and character; but the man who weekly saves a portion of his earnings, economizes in his business, soon places himself among the honored and respected. It is as certain as the revolution of the spheres. But the man who saves nothing sinks lower in spirit, enterprise and character. He soon becomes too indolent to work and not too proud to beg. And he goes down as fast as gravitation will take him. Trust no man who does not regularly save and lay up a certain per cent. of his wages. There is no hope for him. He will become sour, abuse those who prosper by saving and will live a miserable life, hating the prosperous and dying a beggar. "If you earn seventy-five cents per day, spend only fifty cents of it."—Iowa State Register.

BLACK IS WHITE.

A Seemingly Incontrovertible Argument from Etymology.

The word black (Anglo-Saxon *blac, blace*, bleak,) is fundamentally the same as the old German *blach*, now only to be found in two or three compounds, as Blachfeld, a level or plain; Blachmahl, the scum which floats on the top when silver is melted, and Blachfrost, and it meant originally "level," "bare," and was used to denote blackness, because blackness is (apparently) bare of color. But the nasalized form of black is blank, which also meant originally bare, and was use to denote whiteness, because whiteness is (apparentiy)bare of color. The same word was used to denote the two opposite things. From which it would seem that black is white. To any one who shall point out a flaw in this etymological argument I shall endeavor to be grateful, provided he does not disturb the very satisfactory conclusion. This I should naturally resent. It may help him to a conclusion and serve as a further support to my contention to point out that *blac* in Anglo-Saxon actually means "white" as well as "black," so that it is not in its nasalized form only that the same word is employed to express opposite things. Why is this, unless that to the primitive mind both white and black appeared to agree in being bare or void of color, and for that reason to deserve the same name? And here I can not help harboring a suspicion, suggested by the Old German Blachfrost (which appears to be nearly obsolete, or only used in some localities) that our "black frost" meant originally a frost bare of accompaniments, as hoar, rime, and it is a coincidence only that it should be black in color and blacken the vegetation. But we have long lost hold of the original meaning and believe it to refer to the color.—Notes and Queries.