

Science AND INVENTION

Pack thread or cord is given extraordinary strength, according to a German authority, by laying in a strong solution of alum, and then carefully drying.

A tropical substitute for the potato, already being tried in French colonies, is *Coleus Copini*, a new edible of the Mint or Labiate family. Its tubers, which average an inch and a half in length, closely resemble the potato in flavor when prepared in the same way.

The cradle of the human race is still being sought. The widely accepted theory of Max Muller, based on language, teaches that man's early home was in India; but some ethnologists are now inclined to agree with Prof. Hirt that the Aryans first lived in the territory north of the Carpathian Mountains, near the boundary line between Austria-Hungary and Russia, now occupied by Letts and Lithuanians.

Ozonizing apparatus for vitalizing the atmosphere of the sick chamber may become a necessary part of the physician's outfit. Dr. J. E. S. Barnes, an English medical man, reports having used the ozonizer in a severe case of pneumonia complicated with pleurisy, and the result was an immediate and important change in the air of the room, which was followed by rapid improvement of the patient's condition. Ozonizers are being used also for bettering the air of factories.

There abounds in Paraguay a tree, growing to the stature of an ordinary chestnut tree, from which a kind of vegetable silk is obtained. Consul Kuffin, at Asuncion, says he believes it can be woven into threads, but the chief use at present suggested for it is in stuffing cushions and quilts, for which purpose it appears to be well adapted on account of its extreme lightness. When removed from the bolls, which are six inches in length and about four and a half inches in diameter, the substance resembles a glossy down.

When a balloon passes over a forest it descends, and ballast must be thrown out to keep it up. This is explained by Prof. Moulllefert, of the French National Agricultural College of Grignon, as being due to the existence above every forest of a prism of cool, moist air, produced by the abundant transpiration of the trees, and extending to a height of from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above the treetops. Prof. Moulllefert also says that while forests drain the soil underneath them, they keep the upper layer, to a depth of four or five miles, moist.

From seven diamonds weighing from two to twenty-one carats—that have been picked up in Wisconsin and adjoining States, Prof. William H. Hobbs traces the diamond fields of North America to the volcanic region of the Canadian wilderness, south of Hudson bay. The only known matrix of the diamond is the black shale—or "blue ground"—around the necks of burned out volcanoes. The loose stones found seem to have been transported by glaciers, and on following up the probable courses of these ancient ice rivers the lines converge in the barren territory stated.

The Carnegie Institution has located its "Desert Botanical Laboratory" on the shoulder of a mountain two miles west of Tucson, Arizona. The Tucson Chamber of Commerce has given the site, and will install a water supply and an electric plant for the laboratory. The object of the undertaking is to study the plants characteristic of arid regions. The mountain on which the laboratory is to stand and the adjoining mesas possess a splendid representation of these forms of vegetation. Proposed sites in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Chihuahua and Sonora were examined before the location was finally chosen.

DOCTOR PARKER'S KINDNESS.

Tinged by Ruggedness When Dealing with the World.

The vein of rugged humor which appeared so frequently in the pulpit utterances of the late Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, of London, continually cropped out in the everyday clerical affairs of his life. He was once approached in the City Temple by a country clergyman, whose church was in an embarrassed financial condition, and asked to preach there on any day, at any hour, that might suit his convenience. "It is impossible," replied Dr. Parker. "I have already more engagements than I can fulfill."

Mrs. Parker, who was present, saw the minister's look of disappointment. "My dear," she said to her husband, "you must go. This gentleman has come a long distance to see you, and you must make it possible."

"Well," said he, looking into the face of his rural brother, "you see I must go. Fix your day, and I will be there at 12 o'clock."

The village pastor returned his

thanks, and went his way with a radiant countenance. The day came, the church was crowded. Dr. Parker preached in his usual telling manner, and pleaded for a generous offering as he alone could plead. At the conclusion of the service the pastor came into the vestry, and expressed his indebtedness to Dr. Parker and the gratitude of the church for his valuable services, asking at the end:

"How much, doctor, are we in your debt?"

"Forty-nine pounds, nine shillings and sixpence," promptly returned Dr. Parker.

This staggered the minister, who managed to stammer out: "It will take a little time to pay it all."

"Well, I will not take less," said Dr. Parker. "And meantime, as you have been out of pocket through coming up to see me in London, take this"—placing two sovereigns in the minister's hand—"to cover your outlay. Mind, not a halfpenny less to me than the sum named—but you can take eternity to pay it."

Dr. Parker would accept nothing but third-class fares when he visited poor parishes, but woe to the church that had a reputation for meanness in money matters. He visited one such, where, after service, the deacon said: "Well, Dr. Parker, as to your fee?"

"It is fifty pounds."

The deacon demurred; Dr. Parker insisted. Finally the officials of the church got together and paid over the fifty pounds. Then Dr. Parker said:

"Now, this is not for myself. Some time ago you had So-and-So"—mentioning a somewhat obscure minister—"to preach here. You know that his church is a struggling one, and that he is a poor man with a large family. You refused to pay him more than his bare railway fares. To redeem this iniquity on your part I have charged you fifty pounds, and I shall send it on to him as his fee for the sermons he preached here."—Youth's Companion.

ALL COME HOME TO JAIL.

Queer System of Treating Convicts Practiced in Hilo, Hawaii.

"The most unique method for handling petty violators of the law," remarked a gentleman at the Raleigh last evening, "is in daily operation at Hilo, the capital of the island of Hawaii. I was seated on the porch of the Hilo Hotel one day last winter, trying to evade the mosquitoes and the sunshine, when I noticed a score of natives in striped canvas uniforms break into a dead run in the direction of the jail. The heavy iron doors swung open to admit them, and they filed in one by one to become prisoners for the night. I learned later that these men were 'short-term' convicts, and that their hurry was inspired by the fear that they might be 'locked out of jail.'"

"But how did they escape?" he was asked.

"Escape?" repeated the narrator. "They did not escape; they were turned loose at 7 in the morning and instructed to report behind the bars at 5 in the afternoon. Let me explain: An alleged criminal is tried, convicted, and sentence passed upon him. Should his term exceed one year he is confined in a cell on the third floor of the jail, from which escape is practically impossible. If he is a "short-term" man, however, he is fitted up with a blue and white striped canvas suit and hired out by the day to contractors or the managers of neighboring plantations. His wages, usually 25 cents per day, are paid to the city. These fortunate convicts are both fed and lodged in jail, and in addition to their clothes are allowed a small ration of tobacco. Every morning, after breakfast, they may be seen embarking on their duties. They are not guarded in any manner, shape, or form; in fact, it resolves itself into an extreme case of "honor among thieves."

"It isn't once in a year that escape is even attempted, and the records in the county jail show but one instance where such an attempt has been successful. It is amusing to see these belated culprits running at the top of their speed for fear the doors of this novel institution will be closed against them. Those that may arrive later are admitted through another entrance, and an additional three or four days are added to their term as punishment for their tardiness."

"How do you account for this peculiar system being still in vogue?" was asked.

"It exists merely because of its efficiency. Hilo is a coast town; the Pacific Ocean guards it safely on the east, while to the west ward there is nothing but the high road and the jungle. The jungle and the sea mean death, and the high road capture; so you see there is a stronger force than honor which impels the return of the convict to his prison home."

A Dream of Bliss.

Dora—Wouldn't it be lovely if we had \$35,000,000?

Clara—Of course.

Dora—Perfectly heavenly! This book on "Facts and Figures" says a ton of diamonds can be bought for that.—New York Weekly.

An electric eel must lead a shocking life.

FREED BY A MANIAC.

Telephone Lineman Fusses a Rather Unpleasant Few Minutes.

An old lineman lately told of a trying experience which came to him while he was hunting for a break in the telephone connection between the main office and the insane hospital at Indianapolis. He had followed the line all the way out, and found that the difficulty lay between a forty-foot pole and the telephone in the men's building. As he passed along he noticed several "trusties," guarded by their keepers, working in the garden.

I had to climb a tree in an isolated part of the yard, he said, to unfasten a wire that had become entangled in a limb. I connected my test set and called up the wire chief and explained the case to him. With the work and the talk perhaps I was in the tree twenty minutes.

I was on the point of dropping from a lower limb to the ground when I saw a crazy man waiting for me with a large pruning knife in his hand. He was one of the gardeners whom I had passed.

"Come down!" he cried. "I know you. You stole my five thousand dollars. Give it back, or I'll kill you." And when he saw me hesitate and draw back he yelled: "Come down, or I'll come up there after you!"

I scrambled higher into the tree and shouted for help, but none came. The madman found a heavy board, and, placing it against the tree, started to climb up; but in his hurry and excitement he did not place it securely, and when he was about half way up it slipped and he went sprawling to the ground. He tried it three times with the same result. Then another inmate came sauntering by, and at once took a hand in the game. He held the plank for the other man, who soon made good headway.

At that instant I bethought me to attach my test set and summon help through the office.

"Call up the insane hospital," I called, "and tell them to send help to me in the garden! There are two lunatics after me, and one of them has a long knife. Hurry!"

I looked down then, and saw that the maniac was in the tree. When just below me he seated himself on a limb, and, drawing the knife back and forth across his palm, said: "Look! Won't it cut?"

He started toward me, and had one hand on my foot, and I had raised the other to kick him, when several keepers rushed up. Two of them climbed the tree, and just as he raised the knife to strike they reached him and threw a rope round him. So intent was he on getting at me that he did not see them, and was easily taken.

TOMMY ATKINS OF JAPAN.

Soldier of the Mikado Aesthetic Even During a Battle.

If the British Tommy Atkins were to study the character of his Japanese brother-in-arms he would undoubtedly pronounce him a queer fish. His most striking characteristic is, perhaps, his gentleness and his estheticism. I have seen privates walk hand in hand like little school girls to certain famous Iris gardens, situated at a distance of, perhaps, seven or eight miles from their barracks, pay for admittance, admire the Irises for hours and go home again, having tasted all the day nothing stronger than weak tea, says the Japanese Times.

At intervals during the hottest fighting in China in 1900 the Japanese soldier hastened to unfold the fan which he carried with him and to fan himself. Even in his looting he was esthetic, for the objects he brought away with him, when he did bring anything away with him, and that was, of course, very seldom, were bric-a-brac whose value the western soldier could not appreciate. A marked difference between the Japanese soldier and the British lies in the fact that, while King Edward's uniform has notoriously an attraction for nurses and general servants, the mikado's uniform possesses no such fascination. I have followed long processions of conscripts to barracks, but have never seen a girl waste a glance on them, and during a residence of three and a half years in this country, I have never seen a soldier "walking out" a girl. It is different with sailors, who get more opportunity of seeing foreign countries and improving their manners.

Her Reason.

Doctor Porter had responded to a note left at his door by a farmer, asking him to go as soon as possible to see his little boy, who had "a very bad cold."

The doctor took one look at the child and turned to the mother.

"Don't you know your boy is coming down with measles?" he asked, severely.

"Yes, doctor, I knew he was," said the woman.

"Then what in the world did you mean by writing me he had 'a very bad cold'?" asked the doctor.

The woman hesitated for a moment; then, looking at her husband, she said, with sullen frankness, "Neither him nor me knew how to spell measles."

A PROMINENT COLLEGE MAN

One of Indiana's Useful Educators Says: "I Feel Like a New Man."



MR. JOHN W. MENG.

Mr. John Meng, 54 Jefferson Ave., Indianapolis, Ind., State representative of Indianapolis Business College, writes:

"I firmly believe that I owe my fine health to Peruna. Constant travel and change of food and water wrought havoc with my stomach, and for months I suffered with indigestion and catarrh of the stomach. I felt that the only thing to do was to give up my occupation which I felt very reluctant to do. Seeing an ad. of Peruna as a specific for catarrh I decided to give it a trial, and used it faithfully for six weeks, when I found that my troubles had all disappeared and I seemed like a new man. I have a bottle of Peruna in my grip all the time, and occasionally take a few doses which keeps me in excellent health."

—John W. Meng.

The most common phases of summer catarrh are catarrh of the stomach and bowels. Peruna is a specific for summer catarrh.

Hon. Willis Brewer, Representative in Congress from Alabama, writes the following letter to Dr. Hartman: House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.

Gentlemen—I have used one bottle of Peruna for lassitude, and I take pleasure in recommending it to those

who need a good remedy. As a tonic it is excellent. In the short time I have used it it has done me a great deal of good."—Willis Brewer.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

No Longer a Mystery.

"I have often wondered," observed the doctor, "at the extraordinary popularity of 'Dixie.' People always applaud whenever an orchestra begins to play it. Why is it?"

The professor was silent a long time.

"Well," he said at last, "I have sometimes thought it was because everybody liked the tune."—Chicago Tribune.

Uncomfortable.

Finnicus—I wonder why it is that those who attain the pinnacle of success never seem to be happy?

Cynnicus—Because the pinnacle of success is like the top of a particularly tall lightning rod with a particularly sharp point, and those who succeed in perching temporarily upon it usually find that they are targets for all the world's lightning.

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