

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Dr. G. L. Beardsley reiterates the belief of many scientific men that death is usually quite painless, so far as physical sensation is concerned, and he is also of the opinion that mental numbness, or a feeling of sinking into rest, frees the mind from fear.

A very unpleasant sect to disagree with is a new religious body whose existence has within a few months come to light in the Crimea. Members deem it their duty to kill, on the earliest opportunity, those who differ with them.

A sign of the progressiveness of the times is the fact that recently some journeymen artisans, a class of workmen who, from time immemorial, have trudged on foot the highways and byways of the Fatherland, as well as of the neighboring countries, were seen riding on bicycles, their slim bundles strapped behind them.

Some campers on Lake Winnepesaukee got the mastery over the mosquitoes by burning camphor gum. After trying every other drug they had ever heard of they tried the camphor gum with gratifying success. "In two minutes," says the one who describes the scene, "the multitudinous hum had ceased; in five minutes not one of our winged persecutors remained within the walls of our tent."

In cosmopolitan New York takes the lead. In clubs, club-rooms, and club houses the following countries are represented: Japan, China, Cochinchina, Turkey, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Malacca, Hungary, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Prussia, Austria, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Holland, Belgium, Brazil, Mexico, Poland, and Cuba. No other metropolis approaches this record.

Father Hyacinthe says the condition in which the American and French republics were founded and developed are absolutely unlike each other. For the United States were exceptionally favorable. "Without neighbors, as without a history, this vast country seems reserved for a new experiment, of human things." To found a republic, the Frenchmen were forced to break, not only from the past of France, but from the present of Europe.

Walton, a lockmaker, of Birmingham, England, has a master key which he claims is capable of opening 22,600 patent lever locks, all the locks to be different—that is to say, each of the 22,600 locks may be different in their wards and combinations. The key weighs three ounces and is nickel-plated. It has taken the inventor three years to complete the drawings of the different wards and combinations which enable this extraordinary product of human ingenuity to be made.

For the last thirty-four years the Bible societies of England and America have printed over 10,000 copies for each business day. And at an outlay of about \$65,000,000 over 145,000,000 copies of the Scriptures have been published by these two societies since the formation in 1804 and 1816, the dates of their respective organizations. If, as has also been estimated, the numerous Bible societies and private publishers have issued as many copies, the number of copies of Scriptures printed would about equal a copy for every family now living on the globe.

Passenger elevators came into general use about eighteen years ago, and the American invention is now a feature in all the civilized countries of Europe, as well as in Australia and Mexico. The largest elevators in New York, those of the Manhattan Storage Company, measure ten feet in width by twenty in length; the most expensive, are those of the Produce Exchange system, the nine cars costing \$69,800. The elevators in the great Mills Building have carried 25,000 persons in a single day, the daily average being 12,000.

Unlike most other great rivers, the Congo has no delta. It discharges into the sea by a single, unbroken

estuary, seven and a half miles across, in which a sounding line of two hundred fathoms does not everywhere touch bottom, and a current runs of five to seven knots an hour. This enormous volume exceeds that of every other known stream except the Amazon. A conservative estimate of the amount of water discharged by it is 2,000,000 cubic feet per second. The Mississippi, when at flood height, carries down no more than 1,500,000 cubic feet and sinks in the dry season to 228,000. Moreover the Congo never runs low. It swells and sinks, as the rainy and dry seasons succeed each other, but within a relatively narrow range of oscillation.

The Chinese, like the chief product of their own country, appear to be always in hot water, and but for their vast population they would have been annihilated by earthquakes, war, typhoons and famine long ago. In 1877 it was estimated that the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire numbered 433,500,000, having increased in 100 years more than 220,000,000. Of course at the latter date more reliance could be placed on the census; but that China is like a burrow of human rabbits is undoubted. Two earthquakes in 1662 and 1731 destroyed 400,000 persons in Pekin alone, while during the famine in the northern provinces in 1877 upward of a quarter of a million of natives are supposed to have perished from want. With such enormous loss of life as they suffer and have suffered for centuries from natural causes, it is little to be wondered at that the prospect of losing a few more thousands by fighting with European powers has but little terror for them.

It seems that the proposed Jordan canal, the plans for which have appeared in the foreign scientific journals, is not to be, in any proper sense, a canal, but rather a large inland sea, some 3,000 miles long, with an average of ten to fifteen miles in breadth. The waters of the Dead sea would be raised from the present level about 1,300 feet, and its area, of course, be largely increased. The river Jordan, the Dead sea and Lake Tiberias would all disappear with some square miles of land, principally on the western side of the Jordan valley as now existing, and in their place would be a vast inland sheet of water, fertilizing the neighboring desert with the rainfall produced by the evaporation from its surface. According to this plan, therefore, there would be, instead of a simple canal, a wide open channel, traversing Palestine from north to south, navigable in every sense of the term, with safe harbors here and there on either side.

Commissioner Loring, the head of the Agricultural Departments in Washington, has issued a circular to those desiring to engage in raising silk worms in the United States. The circular is a practical encouragement of this new national industry, and looks to the distribution of the \$15,000 devoted by Congress for this purpose. The next step—and the one which Miss Rosier, the pioneer silk culturist of Philadelphia, says is most needed as the connecting link between the one who raises the cocoons and the manufacturer—will be, it is hoped, the erection of a silk reel. There is little or no market for cocoons in this country, the prices brought averaging less than \$1 a pound, which contains from three hundred to five hundred cocoons. If the government would erect a reel where these could be sent direct and find a sure market, with a certainty of quick and certain pay, it would be the best way of reaching those now engaged in the industry and encourage others to enter it. Between express charges and commissions to middlemen but little profit is now left for the grower. The unanimous cry is, "Give us a reel."

Must have Patience.

"I know my dear," said the young doctor to his wife, "that we are not rich; but after a while our luck will change and we will have everything we want. You must learn to have patience."

"Don't preach what you don't practice. If you'd learn to have patients we would soon be out of trouble," and she whisked out of the room so full of feeling that she slopped over at the eyes.—*Merchant Traveller.*

A Fatal Deception.

One season, Keahat-haneh-Keoy, a cozy little village in the valley of the Sweet-Waters, where the Golden Horn begins, was chosen by our family, for our summer home.

We children were delighted with the place; but especially when we discovered that two storks had built their nest on the flat-top of the kitchen chimney.

One day when they were away, we got a ladder, and raised it on the top of the small house which served for the kitchen. There we rested it against the chimney, and I ascended to the nest.

We found their bed, or nest, made of the coarsest twigs, and pieces of sticks. It contained four eggs, about the size of goose-eggs, but they were of a buff color, while goose-eggs are white.

When we came down, and as we were talking about the nest, the idea struck me that it would be very funny to play a trick on the storks, by taking away their eggs and replacing them with goose-eggs.

My brother suggested that we should paint the goose-eggs exactly the color of the stork-eggs, with some water-colors we had, to make the deception complete.

We prepared four fresh goose-eggs, and when both of the birds were away, I remounted the ladder and carefully changed the eggs, and came down as rapidly as I could, before the birds returned.

The poor creatures, not perceiving the deception, went on sitting on the new eggs; for we noticed they took turns in their sittings—the male, which was the larger of the two, sitting by day and the female by night.

After four weeks' close watching, we knew, one day, that the eggs were hatched; for there was a great trouble in the stork family. Both the birds were standing and clanking their bills at each other as if they would talk each other down. At last, they both flew away and soon returned with many others of their tribe.

They all perched around the nest (or as many as could do so), the rest hovering over it and waiting for their turn to have a close look at the goslings. After due inspection and careful examination, they set up a clanking of bills that could be heard a great way off. They clanked and rattled, rattled and clanked, until their jaws got tired; then they suddenly ceased, and began pecking at something, after which they all took to flight.

We were curious to know what had happened. We made haste to ascend the ladder and find out the state of affairs before the birds came back. I was the first to explore, and I was both amazed and grieved to find the mother stork lying dead on top of the young goslings which had been hatched, and which were also dead.

I came down the ladder at once, and after the others had had their turn, the dead birds were removed by a servant.

We learned many years afterward that no stork had ever, after that day, perched upon that chimney.—*St. Nicholas.*

Euthanasia.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals may, in common with all humane persons, feel gratification that the long-continued experiments by Dr. Richardson for the painless extinction of animal life have been brought to a successful termination. The electric shock, which at one time found favor for this purpose, did not prove sufficiently safe to allow of its adoption, and Dr. Richardson felt that an anæsthetic agent must be sought for by which death should be rapid as well as painless. He successfully experimented with nitrous and carbonic oxides, ether, chloroform, methylene, carbonic acid, bisulphide of carbon, coal-gas combined with chloroform, all of which more or less fulfilled their end. The results have been very satisfactory, as carried out at the Home for Lost Dogs, where a chamber was charged with carbonic oxide, the gas having been previously passed over a porous surface, from which it took up vapor containing chloroform. Into this chamber was introduced a cage containing so many dogs, who in a very short time passed from life to death in a profound sleep without evincing the slightest pain or consciousness. Dr. Richardson has also administered the same narcotizing agent to sheep, so as to allow of their being killed in a perfectly harmless manner, and it is to be hoped that before long there will not be an abattoir in the whole country without facilities for employing the system.—*London Times.*

THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN.

For the Sting of a Bee.—Rub the place with ammonia or saleratus water immediately after it is stung, to prevent it from swelling; bruised peach leaves bound on are also good, and laudanum where it is very painful. If it swells much apply a poultice of onions and cream. To make an onion poultice, slice the onions and boil them in water till very soft; then mash and boil them with milk or cream and some crumbs of bread. A hops poultice is better for a toothache or swelled face. To make it, boil a handful of hops in a pint of water till very soft; then thicken it with corn-meal. A teacup of flaxseed boiled till soft, requires no addition to make a good poultice.

The person who first pointed out the usefulness of the matter in question is dust long since, no doubt, and his name forgotten. But this is really not very strange, seeing that our knowledge of mustard extends back over two thousand years and that, as the world goes, homely remedies, like homely people, are often slighted. Some readers probably know all and others nothing about mustard plasters. For the edification of the last it will now be told what these are good for how they should be used and how they may be made, taking occasion to say just here that a first-class mustard plaster can be bought ready made in any good drug store for a quarter.

One tablespoonful of ground brown mustard seed, mixed with two table-spoonsful of lukewarm water, will make a very efficient plaster. Lay this between well-worn muslin and fold the edges, that the linen of the bed or person may not be soiled.

For a delicate person use half mustard and flour; for a child, use four of flour and one of mustard. It is said that a mustard plaster that has been mixed with molasses will not blister.

These plasters should never be left on an unconscious person more than ten minutes, otherwise a blister, exceedingly painful and difficult to heal, may be formed. No person should go to sleep with one of these plasters on any part of the body, for the reason just named. An ordinary mortal will quickly tell how long a mustard plaster may remain on; on a child it should be shifted as soon as the skin reddens a trifle.

For the relief of pain, for sick stomach, for acute general weakness, for hysterical manifestations and for unconsciousness these plasters are a great service. Pain in the head often is relieved by a mustard plaster to the back of the neck or temples. Pain in other locations generally calls for the application of the plaster to the painful part. In sick stomach apply the plaster to the region of that organ. Shifting the plaster from place to place adds to its usefulness. For the relief of acute general weakness, as when a person may swoon, apply the plaster to the region of the heart, stomach or spine. If it is attempted to rouse an unconscious person by the use of this remedy move the plaster from place to place, paying special attention to the region of the kidneys, stomach, spine and to the arms and legs, always keeping in mind to shift the plaster on an adult every ten minutes and on a child as soon as the skin may be reddened.

Great Libraries.

Germany has more books in its libraries than any other nation. There are over 1000 libraries in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, twenty of which contain over 100,000 volumes. France has six libraries of over 100,000 books, besides the National Library, which is the largest in the world. Great Britain has only nine libraries of over 100,000 volumes, and the British Museum pays out \$10,000 annually adding to its collections. Spain has thirty public libraries, containing 700,000 volumes. The library in Washington contains 518,000 volumes and 170,000 pamphlets, and there are but five larger in the world—the French National, with 2,500,000; the British Museum, 500,000; St. Petersburg, 1,000,000; Munich, 900,000; and Berlin, with 750,000.

It is believed that artificial tails may be grown on animals, since the Chinese have succeeded in raising goldfish with exceedingly long appendages. Darwinianism in reality.

In thirty years' successful experience in the manufacture of 150,000 instruments, the Mason & Hamlin company have accumulated facilities for manufacture without which they could neither produce as good organs as they now make, nor with as great economy. Said an experienced manufacturer in witnessing the operation of a single machine in their factory recently: "One boy with that machine does as much work as ten skilled workmen could do without it, and does it better at that."

These accumulated facilities, including experienced and skilled workmen, are the secret of their producing organs which are unquestionably the best, yet can be sold at prices which are little more than those of the poorest.—*Boston Traveller.*

BISMARCK is a zealous pisciculturist, and every stream and lake near his estate is well stocked.

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The ancient city of Nuremberg is to have next year an exhibition of goldsmiths' work.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is highly praised by those who are obliged to stand all day in stores, and is a genuine blessing in every such case, as well as to the tired-out housekeeper who must be on her feet all day.

Forty thousand persons in Switzerland are employed in the watch making industry.

Delicate diseases of either sex, however induced, speedily and permanently cured. Book of particulars 9 cents, in stamps. Consultation free. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

EL MAHDI, the false prophet, sleeps during the day and transacts business at night.

"Isn't that Mrs. Holmes? I thought the doctors gave her up. She looks well now." "She is well. After the doctors gave up her case she tried Dr. Pierce's 'Favorite Prescription' and began to get better right away. I heard her say not long ago that she hadn't felt so well in twenty years. She does her own work and says that life seems worth living, at last." "Why," said she, "I feel as if I had been raised from the dead, almost." Thus do thousands attest the marvelous efficacy of this God-given remedy for female weakness, prostration, ulceration, leucorrhoea, morning sickness, weakness of stomach, tendency to cancerous disease, nervous prostration, general debility and kindred affections.

It is estimated that one voter in seven cannot write.

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MENBMAN'S FORTIFIED BEEF TONIC, the only preparation of beef containing entire nutritive properties. It contains blood-making force generating and life-sustaining properties; invaluable for indigestion, dyspepsia, nervous prostration, and all forms of general debility; also, in all enfeebled conditions, whether the result of exhaustion, nervous prostration, overwork or acute disease, particularly if resulting from pulmonary complaints. Caswell, Hazard & Co., Proprietors, New York. Sold by druggists.

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Young Men—Read This. THE VOLTAIC BELT CO., of Marshall, Mich., offer to send their celebrated ELECTRO-VOLTAIC BELT and other ELECTRIC APPLIANCES on trial for thirty days, to men (young or old) afflicted with nervous debility, loss of vitality and manhood, and all kindred troubles. Also for rheumatism, neuralgia, paralysis, and many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred as thirty days trial is allowed. Write them at once for illustrated pamphlet free.

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You can be cured if you will take Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great blood purifier. Whether the disease is hereditary or acquired, this medicine expels every trace of impurity, and vitalizes and enriches the blood, while it also tones and strengthens the system.

"I had four scrofulous sores come on my feet, which grew so bad that I could not wear a shoe. Nothing which I took did me any good till one day I saw Hood's Sarsaparilla advertised in a paper and decided to try it. I have taken two bottles and the sores are almost entirely healed."—MRS. ADRIE PITTS, South Potsdam, N. Y.

Clarence Johnson, Erie, Pa., had scrofulous sores on his face and head. He was entirely cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

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