HIS PAST DIDN'T BOTHER HIM.

When Swinburne Was Very Close Unto Death by Drowning.

In Mr. Edmund Gosse's reminiscent article, "Swinburne at Etretat," in the Cornhill Magazine he relates the poet's bathing adventure that nearly cost him his life in the late summer of 1868. The timely appearance of a fishing smack on the scene prevented the premature silencing of the voice that was presently to entrance the world (or some part of it) with the "Songs Before Sunrise."

"I asked him," writes Mr. Gosse, "what he thought about in that dreadful contingency, and he replied that he had no experience of what people often profess to witness—the concentrated panorama of past life hurrying across the memory. He did not reflect on the past at all. He was filled with annoyance that he had not finished his 'Songs Before Sunrise' and then with satisfaction that so much of it was ready for the press and that Mazzini would be pleased with him.

"And then he continued, 'I reflected with resignation that I was exactly the same age as Shelley was when he was drowned.' (This, however, was not the case. Swinburne had reached that age in March, 1867, but this was part of a curious delusion of Swinburne's that he was younger by two or three years than his real age.) Then when he began to be, I suppose, a little benumbed by the water his thoughts fixed on the clothes he had left on the beach, and he worried his clouded brain about some unfinished verses in the pocket of his coat."

So here again, comments the Dial, we have an instance of the failure of an actor in a real life drama to rise to the dramatic possibilities of his part. They do these things better in fiction.

There is nothing whatever to be gained by nigging the ration of the growing calf. The highest priced as well as the cheapest meat is usually that which is produced in the shortest time, and to do this a generous ration must be given. Stunting the calves inevitably means slow growth and high priced gains, and these mean relative loss in the feeding operations.

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way of judging of the future but by the past. —Patrick Henry.

The old beliefs persist in southern Europe, and a tragic comic instance reaches me from Venice. A cockatoo, kept by a British resident as a pet, had been accustomed to promenade about the roof garden when the family went up there. But one day recently it extended its constitutional to a neighbor's roof and was promptly shot by him. He subsequently offered as a complete explanation the plea that he thought it was an owl and that there was a very young baby in his household. Now, students of ancient Greek and Roman augury know that the perching of an owl on the roof foreboded death to one of the inmates, while Ovid is among those who charge screech owls with sucking the blood of infants.—London Express.

Various Kinds of Wisdom.

Wisdom is of many kinds. Natural, long fibered, we call genius; the college kind is a factory made article, known as learning; common sense is handmade and generally homemade, and there is an imitation known on the street as "bluff," in society as "pretense" and in the Bible as "hypocrisy." —Life.

Old Habits.

"I believe that phrenologist is a fake."

"Why?"

"He asked me in an absentminded way if I didn't want a shampoo. Tried to laugh it off immediately, but I have my suspicions."—Pittsburgh Post.

How Wheat Perspires.

When you are perspiring furiously in the dog days it may or may not console you to think that an ordinary field of wheat is giving off moisture quite as furiously. Between the months of April and July, according to Sir James Dewar, a field of wheat perspires sufficient moisture to cover the surface of its ground to a depth of nine inches. Another interesting fact is that it requires three and a half pounds of water to produce sixteen grains of wheat. Speaking of the solar radiation in tropical places, Sir James says that in six hours about four-tenths of a square mile receives heat equivalent to the combustion of 1,000 tons of coal, while an area of 1,300 square miles receives in one year heat equivalent to 1,000,000,000 tons of coal—the whole estimated coal output of Europe and America.—Philadelphia Ledger.

WALL STREET BANKS.

As a Rule They Make Loans on a 20 Per Cent Margin.

Most Wall street banks insist on having a twenty point margin behind each loan. That means that a man borrowing $100,000 must put up as security stocks or bonds of $120,000 market value. If the securities decline to a point where the $20,000 margin is reduced to $15,000 the borrower is called upon to put up additional securities. Most brokerage houses do not wait for such a summons, but send the necessary collateral to the bank as soon as they see that the price of their securities has declined.

But the banks are guided always by the character and the financial standing of each borrower. Each bank has a list of favorite borrowers who can secure whatever money they need in times of stress or in times of calm. The loan clerks know who the favorites are and show them every courtesy. It means a good deal for a Stock Exchange house to get on the "favored list" of a Wall street bank.

Some borrowers, in order to stand well with a bank, never complain when the bank raises the rate on their loans. They go on the theory that it is foolish to dispute a rate with a bank when the difference between 2 per cent and 2½ means only $1.39 a day on the interest charge for a $100,000 loan.—New York Post.

SULPHUR SHOWERS.

Not Sulphur at All, Only the Pollen Grains of Pine Trees.

Many persons are aware that in spring, and especially in early spring, it happens that after a shower the edge of every pool of water in the streets and along the sidewalks will be bordered by a rim of pale yellow color. As the water evaporates this ring remains as a fine powdery mass, so much resembling sulphur as to have given rise to the name "sulphur showers." This so called sulphur is, of course, not sulphur at all. When examined under the microscope it is found to be made up of a mass of the yellowish pollen grains of pine trees.

Instead of consisting of a single cell, as do most pollen grains, that of the pine consists of three cells, the two larger end ones being filled with air and the other containing the ordinary fertilizing principle. The two air containing cells are larger than the other and act as balloons to buoy it up in the air.

In pines and allied trees fertilization of the cones, by which they are enabled to set and develop seeds, is accomplished by the wind—that is, the pollen is produced in immense quantities and is transported through the air to the cones, which are often on separate, widely distant trees. Thus it often happens that the pollen gets up in the higher currents of the air, is carried for long distances and is only brought down to the earth by the rain, producing the so called shower of sulphur.—Harper's Weekly.

An Ashland (O.) hen laid an egg the other day that, on being boiled hard and opened, was found to contain a good sized safety pin. Just what this old Biddy had on her mind when she pulled off this stunt it would be difficult to guess unless possibly she had discovered that the head of the house needed an anchor for his gallusses.

There are many miracles in the natural world, and we do not think of them as wonderful because they are so common. One such interesting phenomenon is that observed in the case of fish life, fish being endowed with the capacity to retain the life spark even though frozen solid in ice for months at a time. The freezing and thawing process must be slow or the fish will not survive it.

The young men and women students at the North Dakota Agricultural college concluded a short time since a tour of some thirty towns of the state in a special demonstration car. The purpose of the trip was educational. The young men gave demonstrations in seed testing and other good farming activities, while the young women gave demonstrations in domestic science.

An Oklahoma contributor to the Kansas City Weekly Star recommends the use of sand for curing scours in calves, having used it in his own dairy herd for a dozen years. For a dose he takes as much sand as he can hold in the palm of his hand, washes it clean and then gives in the form of a drench in a pint of water. He reports this remedy effective in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred.

A Kansas farmer proved the other day to his own satisfaction that it pays to care for his farm machinery. For years he has followed the practice of housing his farm implements when not in use. One seed drill that he had used for fourteen years sold for $41.50. This same implement would cost new today about $60. Other machinery that had been used a number of years brought correspondingly high prices.

Willie—Does your pa ever send you to bed before 7 when you're naughty? Bobby—Worse'n that. When I've been bad he makes me get up before 7.—Boston Transcript.

Be wise today. 'Tis madness to defer.—Young.