

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

THE ANNUAL LOSS CAUSED BY INSECTS IN THE UNITED STATES IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$100,000,000; THAT AN OTHER SOURCE BEING \$100,000,000. THE INSECTS INCREASE WITH THE ADVANCE OF CIVILIZATION, ON ACCOUNT OF THE GREATER ABUNDANCE OF THE FOOD FURNISHED THEM. EVERY VEGETABLE PRODUCT AND EVERY VARIETY OF FRUIT AND FLOWERS ARE SPARED BY SPECIAL PARASITES, EACH OF WHICH THRIVES ON ITS RESPECTIVE FOOD-PLANT.

THE WINDS IN GREAT BRITAIN.
While considering it doubtful whether ants and bees can bear the John Lubbock believes it to be quite possible that they may bear winds as strong as those which are known to be fatal to the human ear. A fact may be true of their perception of sound. It needs the world may be full of music we cannot hear, unless we cannot see and breathe we cannot live.

FRUIT SEEDS—THEY ARE ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THE SEEDS WHICH ARE PRODUCED IN LOCAL GARDENS AND DISTRICTS. THE ONLY CONNECTION BETWEEN LOCAL SEEDS AND THE SEEDS WHICH ARE PRODUCED IN CENTRAL ASIA IS THAT THEY ARE BOTH MORE FREQUENT ABOUT THE SAME SEASON.

AT A LATE MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF FRANCE, M. LAURENT exhibited a curious spherical glass constructed in 1661 for Louis XIV by Father Bernini. The huge instrument comprises three lenses which slide into each other, the total length when extended being about ten feet.

THE BONES OF ANTIMONY WERE USED AS STAPLES AND SLEDGE-RUNNERS IN PREHISTORIC EUROPE, AND IT SEEMS THEY ARE STILL SO EMPLOYED IN NORTHERN GERMANY. THE SIMPLEST OBJECT OF A BOARD RESTING ON THE BONES OF A HORSE, AND THE STATES HAVE THE RUNNERS OF THE LOWER PARTS OF CATTLE.

A HITHERTO UNDISCOVERED MOUNTAIN 20 MILES LONG IS REPORTED TO EXIST IN LATITUDE 4 DEGREES 25 MINUTES SOUTH, LONGITUDE 138 DEGREES 28 MINUTES EAST.

SOME TYPICAL SPECIES OF MAMMALS, THE GREAT FOSSIL MAMMAL GUNNIE CLOSELY ALLIED TO THE ELEPHANT, HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED, THEIR BONES HAVING BEEN FOUND IN RECENT GEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS OF ALL QUARTERS OF THE GLOBE EXCEPT AFRICA. THE BEST KNOWN SPECIES IS THE NORTH AMERICAN MAMMOTH (M. giganteus), OF WHICH FRAGMENTS ARE FREQUENTLY DISCOVERED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES. A FEW REMAINS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED AS EARLY AS 1796, THOUGH NOTHING LIKE A COMPLETE SKELTON WAS OBTAINED UNTIL 1846. THE MOST PERFECT SKELTON, NOW KNOWN WAS DISCOVERED AT HAINESBURY MILLS, NEAR NEWBURGH N. Y. IN 1871, AND IS NOW MOUNTED IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NEW YORK CITY. BY THE SIDE OF THIS SPECIMEN WILL SOON BE PLACED THE SKELTON OF BURNUM'S GREAT ASIATIC ELEPHANT KILLED IN THE INDIES, AND IN THE YEAR FUTURE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT WILL MAKE THE THIRD FIGURE OF A MAMMOTH GROUP. COMPARED WITH THE MAMMOTH, THE ELEPHANT SHOWS A GREATER HEIGHT AND SLIMMER BODY TOGETHER WITH MANY OTHER DIFFERENCES.

THE SOUTH OF FRANCE THE GOVERNMENT POSTAL SERVICE IS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE "WAGON PISTON" OF PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, WHO CARRY MANY HUNDRED HORSES IN CONVEYING SMALL PARCELS FROM TOWN TO TOWN, EVEN ALONG THE RAILWAY LINES. THIS BUSINESS HAS BECOME SO EXTENSIVE THAT SEVERAL ROAD LOCOMOTIVES HAVE BEEN

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