

Scientific.

THE MUSIC OF INSECTS.

Any contrivance that will cause two hundred and fifty-six impressions on the ear per second, and those at a uniform distance apart, produces that musical note which ought to be given by a key near the middle of a piano key-board, called middle do or middle C. If the impressions are more rapid than that, the sound is higher, if slower, then it is lower.

I hear a fly buzzing, and try the keys of a piano till I find one of the same pitch, and then I know that the fly is making one hundred and seventy motions per second of some kind or other.

The note of the mosquito that serenaded you last night, is said to be on middle do or C; if so, you know that the attentive musician made two hundred and fifty-six beats per second; and in the little time wasting her song on your inappreciative ears she made as many beats as there are steps between Boston and New York.

But the noise of flight is involuntary. Insects do not breathe through their throats, neither does any considerable part of their breath pass through any one channel, for the usual number of stigmata or breath-holes is eighteen.

I find no indubitable evidence of any others, and of these the males are only favored with musical organs. An Italian naturalist—he must have been badly mated—says, that the reason why the cicadae and grasshoppers are so merry is because their wives are dumb.

The Italian correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune says: The cholera is, alas, rapidly on the increase, and this year seems more than ever resolved to baffle medical science.

Why is this musical apparatus given to one sex only? Perhaps in each of the three cases a like amount of mechanism is required for the boring and sawing apparatus of the female, and an equal amount of space required for the development of the eggs.

The chirping of the cricket is pitched the highest, or nearly so, of any that the human ear can hear. In Southern Europe either they or their neighbors the grasshoppers, are kept in cages for their music.

THE COST OF A STORM. The Supervisor of one ward in Philadelphia says that nearly \$6,000 will be necessary to repair the streets in his ward after the late storms.

A NEW COMMODITY.

Scientific research and intelligent investigation are constantly adding new substances to those already recognized as possessing a mercantile value. Within a few months a new textile has been announced, but a more recent discovery promises practical results not only immediate, but having an important bearing upon various interests.

Although the peculiar properties of this vegetable growth were unknown until within a recent period, vessels are leaving New York and Boston regularly to obtain cargoes and the substance, as prepared by machinery at the factory in Birmingham, Ct., is in demand for bedding and upholstering purposes far beyond the means now at command for its supply.

The newly discovered sponge grows in a scraggly form among the corals of the seashore, and is gathered by natives of the Bahamas, and delivered dry at a certain price per pound, payable in merchandise at the various places of deposit.

As a new commodity, furnishing employment for skill and labor, starting new processes in machinery, and especially as affording to all classes additional means of comfort without a corresponding tax upon pecuniary resources, the discovery thus announced possesses not little commercial importance.

THE CHOLERA IN ITALY.

The Italian correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune says:

The cholera is, alas, rapidly on the increase, and this year seems more than ever resolved to baffle medical science. In Catania the cases in one day reached 500; the town is deserted, the public functionaries having struck. Palermo, too, despite the unremitting efforts of public authorities, seconded by the citizens, seems doomed.

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same day. The doctors despair of finding a remedy; the highest authorities affirm that they have made no progress toward the discovery of either cause or cure.

A STAR HIDDEN BY A THREAD.

David Rittenhouse, of Pennsylvania, was a great astronomer. He was skilful in measuring the sizes of planets and determining the position of the stars.

Your sun is 886,000 miles in diameter, and yet, seen from a distant star, our sun could be covered, obscured, hidden behind a thread, when that thread was near the eye, although in a telescope.

Just so we have seen some who never could behold the heavenly world. They always complained of dimness of vision, dullness of comprehension, when they looked in the heavenly direction.

Rural Economy.

WHEAT AND ITS ENEMIES.

Every year seems to multiply the enemies to this crop, and renders a remunerative return more uncertain; hence the science, and skill of the husbandman should be exercised to the fullest extent to mitigate the evils.

The Hessian fly has become a general enemy to the crop, but much can be done to avert its attacks by observing the proper time of sowing. It is the early sown wheat that is attacked by the fly.

The next serious difficulty in the way of wheat growing, is its liability to water-kill. The injury from this cause depends, in a great degree, upon the character and mechanical condition of the soil.

Of all the insect depredators to which wheat is subject, the midgy is the most formidable. Less than forty years ago this enemy first made its appearance in this country, and for a long time its depredations were confined to narrow limits; it has since spread over a vast area of our country.

There are other casualties to which wheat is liable, but the most formidable that

we have not before alluded to, is rust. This we believe, is entirely owing to the state of the weather at the time the grains are sowing.

Early maturity, then, is a matter of the first importance, as a means of avoiding the evil effects of most of these causes. To secure this, the land must first be put in the best possible order before sowing.

Advertisements.

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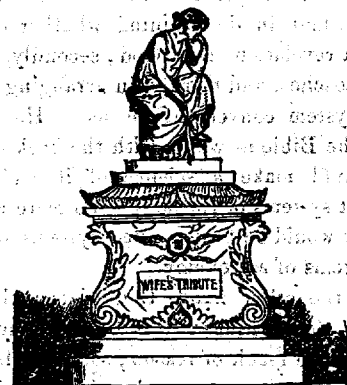
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WILLIAM MASON AND E. S. COMLY.

This book is modern, original, and complete. Coming as so many others upon the same subject, it contains that which has proved of value in them, and adds many new features, which, we believe, have never before been published.

Sunday-School Singing Book.

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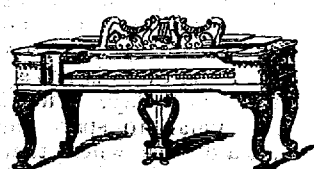
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