#### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

THE "FROST PLOWERS" OF RUSSIA PRODUCED IN

A Boston Journal describes an extraordinary A Boston journal describes an extraordinary "frost flower" of Russia, which has been produced, it is said, in Boston in a temperature of artificial cold, in the following words:—This wonderful plant, or rather flower, is found only on the northern boundaries of Siberia, where the snow is eiernal. It was discovered in 1863 by Count Swinoskoff, the eminent Russian botanist, who was ennobled by the Czar for his discovery. Bursting from the frozen snow on the first day of the year, it grows to the height of three teet, and flowers on the third day, remains in flower for twenty-four hours, and then dissolves itself into its original element—stem, leaves, and flowers being of the finest then dissorves itself into its original element— stem, leaves, and flowers being of the finest snow. The stalk is about one inch in diamet r: the leaves, three in number, in the broadest part are an inch and a nalf in width, and are covered with infinitesimal cones of snow; they grow only on one side of the stalk, to the north, curving gracefully in the same direction. The flower when fully expanded is in shape a perfect star; the petals are three inches in length, half an inch wide in the broadest parts, and tapering sharply to a point. These are also interlaced one with another, in a beautiful manner, form-ing the most delicate basket of frost work that the eye ever beheld; for cruly this is frost-work the most wonderful. The anthers are five in number, and on the third day after the birth of the "flower of snow" are to be seen on the ex-tremities thereof, trembling and glitt-ring like diamonds, the seeds of this wonderful flower, about as large as a pin's head. The old botanist says, when first he beneld this flower, "I was dumb with as on ishment; filled with wonderment, which gave way to joy the most cestatic on beholving this wonderful work of nature, this remarkable phenomenon of snow. To see this flower springing from the snowy desertborn of its own composite atoms. I southed the stem of one lightly, but it tell at my touch, and a morsel of snow only remained in my hand." Gathering some of the flowers in snow, in order to preserve the little diamond like seeds, he hied to St. Petersburg with, to him, the greatest prize of his life time. All through the year they were kept in snow, and on the first day of the year following the Court of St. Petersburg were delighted with the bursting forth of the wonderful "frest flower!" Our triends in Boston succeeded in obtaining several of the seeds, and all through the summer and autumn they have been imbed ded in snow brought at great expense from the White Mountains and the coast of Labrador; and they now have the most unbounded satisfaction and pleasure in announcing that all signs are favorable to the realization of their londest hopes, the production of the "flower of snow." The snow and ice are in a large glass refrigerator, with the thermometer forty-five degrees below zero, and the solid bed of snow has already begun to show little fistures and a slight bulging in the centre—unmistakable evidences of the forthcoming of the phenomenon.

#### MORTALITY OF CHILDREN IN EUROPE.

A paper was read at the last meeting of the Statistical Society of London, by Dr. W. Farr, F. R. S., on the "Mortality of Children in the Principal Cities of Europe." The proportion of English children, he said, who die in the first five years of age, is very large; and one of the causes of this great loss of lue, among the poorer classes, especially, is want of care and attention, by reason of the absence of the mother at work in the field or in the factory, often at the precise period when the child most needs constant looking after. Illegitimate children are, for obvious reasons, almost exclusively the victims of infanticide; but the number of deaths from that crime, he alleges, is inconsiderable in comparison with the number of untimely deaths from other causes. None of the States of Europe, outside of England, publish an account of the causes of death of the entire population, so no comparison can be made in that respect; but data have been obtained from official sources from which an accurate view of the loss of young lives in Europe, from all causes, can be given. The facts do not at all refer to the same period, but range variously from 1851 to 1863, in the different countries. The birth rate in Italy and Prussia is 39 per 1000 of the whole population; Spain and Austria, 37; England, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden, 34; Norway, 33; Belgium, 30; and Spain, 26. The annual rate of mor-tality of children under five years of age, per 1000 of the population of the same age, is in Norway 41; Sweden, 51; Denmark, 53; England, 68; Belgium, 75; France, 79; Prussia, England, 68; Belgium, 75; France, 79; Prussia, 82; the Netherlands, 91; Austria, 161; Spain, 112; and Italy, 114. In England the mortality of children under five years of age is 101 in thirty large town districts, while in the sixty-three healthy districts of England it is only forty. Of 1000 children born alive in Norway, 833 attain five years of age; in Denmark and Sweden, 787; in England, 736; in Belgium, 733; France, 711; Prussia, 683; the Netherlands, 673; Austria and Spain, 637; Italy, 600; Russia, 603; in the sixty three healthy districts of England, 823; and in thirty large town districts of England, 645. Consequently the proportion of deaths out of 1000 children born alive is in Norway 167; Denmark and Sweden, 203; England, 264; Belgium, 267; France, 284; Prussia, 317; the Netherlands, 327; Austria and Spain, 363; Italy, 394; Russia, 397; sixty-three healthy districts of England, 177; and in thirty large town districts of England, 355. The records of the peerage of England show that of 100 children orn alive in peers' families 90 survive, ten only dying in the first nive years of age; and the deaths among the children of the English clergy are nearly in the same proportion. But in the foundling hospitals these proportions have been reversed; for ninety out of 100 born alive have been cut off in them during the first tive years of life. By the English Life Table, of 100 children born alive tifteen die in the first year, five in the second, three in the third, two in the fourth, and one in the tittn-making twenty-six In the first five years. Of the fitteen who lie in the first year five die in the first month of life, two in the second, and one in the turn month. The French returns show the neaths in the first week of age, and the annual rate of mortality in that first week is 154 per cent, which may be thus illustrated:—If 100 children just born were placed in a house, and their numbers maintained by the addition of a new-born entid to supply the place of every death, so that there should always be an average of 100 children maintained within the walls, 154 deaths would take place there in twelve months on the hypothesis that the mortality rate be that of the first week of life.

What think you, reader, of your body being a planet inhabited by living races, as we inhabit the earth? Whatever may be your thoughts on the subject, the fact is even so. Your body is but a home tor parasites, that crawl over its surburate the same possible in its enburrow beneath its skin, nest'e in its entrials, and riot and propagate their kind in every corner of its frame. The sensation in regard to triching in swine flesh has set the scientific to knocking their heads together, and the result is the following facts:-Parasites not only inhabit the bodies of all animals used by us as food, but they are also found in abundance in our organization. The species trichina spiralis, of which so much is said, and whose existence has been discovered in tark is said, and whose existence has been discovered in pork, is, according to our best anatomists, found in almost every muscle of the human body. It lies all along the fibres of the muscles, enveloped in little cysts or sacs about one fourth of an inch in length. It can be distinctly seen and examined only by the use of the microscope. Professor Wood, of this city, says:—"No evidence has yet been produced of any morbid influence exerted by the brichina upon the system during life. They have been found in subjects carried off by sudden death (accident), and in the midst of health." An English authority says:—"It is a notorious fact that numerous parasites do crawl over our surface, burrow beneath our skin, nestle in our surface, burrow beneath our skin, nestle in our surface, burrow beneath our skin, nestle in our entrails, and riot and propagate their species in every corner of our frame. Nearly a score of animals belonging to the interior of the human body have been already discovered and described; and scarcely a tissue or an organ but is occasionally profated by their inroads. Each, also, has its special or its favorite domed.

On exercise of strongle chooses the heart for its One species of strongle chooses the heart for its

INHABITANTS OF THE HUMAN BODY.

dwelling place, another inhabits the arteries, a third the kidneys. Myriads of minute worms lie coiled up in the voluntary muscles, or in the arcolar tissue that connects the fleshy fibres. The quinea-worm and the chique bore through the skin and reside in the subjacent reticular membrane. Hydatids invest various parts of the body, but especially the liver and the brain. A little flake, in general appearance much like a flounder, lives steeped in gall in the billiary vessels. If you squeeze from the skin of your nose what is vulgarly called a magnot—the contents, namely, of one of the har follicles—it is ten to one that you will find in that small sebaceous cylinder several animalculer, exhibiting under like microscope a curious and complicated structure. Even the eye har its living inmates. With this knowledge of our composition, it matters but little how many callozog we consume, so long as little how many calozod we consume, so long as we do not see them—it is nothing more than all ages have done before us. We might with as much propriety refuse to drink water, which, however pure, is fairly alive with animalcule, as to restrain from the use of meat because it exhibits (under the miscroscope) entozoa.

MISCELLANEOUS. Professor Wheat-tone ascertained that the du ration of the electric spark does not exceed the twenty-live thousandth part of a second. A can-non-ball would appear stationary in its flight if illuminated by the spark, and the wing of an insect that moves ten thousand times a second would seem at rest.

No change has been made in the form of the

plough used in Sicily since the time of the

The solar heat in a year is sufficient to melt a coating of ice spread over the globe forty-six feet

produce of the New Almadon (Spain) mines for the last ten years has averaged about two thousand live hundred flasks, of seventy-six and one half pounds each, of mercury per month.

The green, red, blue, and yellow colors have been succe stully tendered by means of photography by M. Nience de St. Victor.

M. Bunsen finds that pyrolusite exceeds bismuth in thermo-electric power, and copper pyritas possesses the same quality in a still higher degree.

#### INTERESTING ITEMS.

Wolfish.—A negro man was attacked and eaten up by wolves in Arkansas, a short time since. He had defended himself with a knife which he had used in slaughtering hogs, and killed five wolves before he was overpowered.

AN ANCIENT STRUCT .- A Boston exchange says that the workmen engaged in digging the foundation of a new six-story hotel, in Charlestown Square, Saturday, discovered a neatly paved space of ground about twelve feet below the surace. It was quite a large spot, and is supposed to have been a street in former years,

A SMOOTH PATEWAY IN LIFE .- A man named Fleming died at Lockport, Will county, Illi-nois, recently, aged one hundred and two years, having been born in 1764. He was never sick in his life, not even to the extent of a head-ache or toothache, and was never a sufferer from anything in the way of accident.

Money Left in Thust,-The amount of money anoney Left is trust.—The amount of money left in trust ov will is yearly increasing in Massachusetts. Several heavy fortunes left by deceased persons have recently been disposed of in this way. The late H, L. Rachardson, of Brookline, left an estate of the value of about \$200,000, nearly all in trust.

A STEAM WHALING VESSEL .- The barque Pioneer, three hundred and twenty-ave tons bur-den, which left New London on Saturday for Davis' Straits, is the first American whaling vessel to use steam as a motive power. The result of the experiment of using steam whating vessels will be awaited with great interest.

SALT WATER ON ITS TRIAL. - The people of New London are earnestly labored with by the New London Star and eight doctors to allow their streets to be sprinkled this summer with salt water, inasmuch as that is the only kind they can have. The doctors say it will be better for health than fresh water.

PRODIGIOUSLY BEHIND THE TIMES, -Miss Polly Brown, aged 85 years and 5 months, died in Warren, R. I., on Saturday. She had always lived in the same house in which she was born; never was in a steamboat; never saw a railroad; and was never in Providence, which is a remarkable thing for a Rhode Islander.

MANUFACTORIES AT THE SOUTH. - A large cotton tactory, called the "Manassas" manufactory, has been built at Carrollton, Miss. It contains one hundred and eighty thousand spindles, thirteen hundred looms, and will go into operation July 1. The company own seventeen hundred acres of land contiguous to the factory, all well wooded.

The Misportunes of Chicago, -Work on the lake tunnel at Chicago has been delayed by an accumulation of cas. An unusually large amount recently collected and exploded, the flames extending along the ceiling for one hundred feet. By the explosion several of the miners were knocked down and others slightly burned

UNION LEAGUES IN ALABAMA, -A gentleman from Alabania has formished a tabular statement by countles, showing the number of men belong-ing to the Un on leagues which have been organized in that State since the close of the war. The aggregate is eighteen thousand and upward, of whom, it is said, two thirds can take the test oath.

Assassination of an Agent of the Freed-men's Bureau.—The following despatch was received on Saturcay by General Howard:—

"Vicksburg, May 4.—An Assistant Sub-Com-missioner of the Bureau, Lieutenant J. B. Blandig, was assassinated at Grenada on the night of the 30th ult. Every effort will be made to ierret out and bring the murderer to justice. "Thomas J. Wood, Major-General."

A QUESTIONABLE CASE.-Dr. Lage, of Lyons, France, has made a discovery of questionable utility—the artificial production of wens. As usual, the unfortunate rats are the victims to this new phase in the development of science, and human progress. The wens are produced by the introduction of certain metallic sulphates, and the philosopher has succeeded in conferring remarkable ornaments of this description on his four-footed 'ellow-animals,

Ex-Senator Cwinn.-The New Orleans Picayune of the 20th ult. says:—
"We learn that Hon, William M. Gwinn, late Senator from California, and formerly a member of Congress from Mississippi, now in confine-ment as a State prisoner in Fort Jackson, but upon what charge has never yet transpired, or seems easily to be divined, was offered his liberty the other day, upon condition that he would give his parole to leave the country and never return, and that he immediately declined, preferring to remain a prisoner in his nativilland rather than go into banishment elsewhere.

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ı		do 30 00 to
1	LADIES' SADI L.	
l	GENTS' do	do 8.00 to
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