

ODD ITEMS.

Benjamin Franklin was one of the expert swimmers of his day. At breeding is becoming an industry as the skins can be used to line coats.

It is now rendered—"Man proposes and God disposes." General Longstreet keeps a hotel at Gainesville, Fla.

Senator Sherman is one of the best whist players in the Senate. A goblet placed over the head of a new baby in Georgia reached to the midge's hips.

Intemperance among the negroes of the South is said to be increasing at an alarming rate. When first caught sponges are slimy, ill-smelling things, looking like pieces of raw liver.

Winter fashions for ladies are to be eminently Russian and nothing if not overwhelming. The "beaten Chinese" is just peculiar enough to imagine that he can make the French walk Spanish.

The use of well water for drinking purposes in New York city has been forbidden by the health officers. Small bonnets are to prevail. They are so easy to trim and so very becoming to the majority of ladies.

There is a town in Illinois so rigidly temperate that they object to storms brewing in the neighborhood. Black and white plaid fans are the newest, and every other lady owns one at Newport seems to possess one.

Mr. St. John's friend says he dyes his red moustache because he doesn't want to possess anything the color of wine. In Japan the smallest piece of money is called "cash," and it takes about 1,000 of them to make \$1.

Four haggard men who run on a New England road are named Loveland, Lovelock, Lovejoy and Lovely. An observer says most of the centenarians in America are from Ireland, though there are many among the colored people.

One thousand shingles will cover one hundred square feet of surface, laid four inches to the weather; for the above five pounds of nails will be required. Germany makes bricks of refuse and cement. They are said to be both light and durable, and are not used only for some kinds of building purposes, but as a covering for boilers in preventing the radiation of heat.

The late John Cox, who was a blacksmith at Norwich, Conn., built the first bicycle ever used in America. It was, indeed, in the world. It consisted of one large wheel in front and the little wheel, Mr. Cox rode the bicycle more than sixty years ago.

In Alabama is a China tree ten feet in circumference. Its top was torn away by a storm; but six feet up the trunk two more trees have taken root and grown up as high as the old tree is. Half way up the trunk of the original tree a peach tree stands out.

A popular London comedian had in his service a short time since a servant whom he had taken out of charity, from the workhouse. One day she was very insolent to her mistress, whereupon the comedian told her that if she occurred again he should certainly send her back to the place whence she came. "I won't go there," she replied, "on any account. If the worst comes to the worst, I'll go on the stage."

When an officer is dismissed from the army he is said to be cashiered. When a cashier is dismissed from a bank he is generally cashiered. Same thing, only different. The latest campaign slander is that Cleveland is fond of pennants. It does not necessarily follow, however, that he goes to circus.

A woman aged 85 years recently astonished the natives of a seaport town in Rhode Island by appearing at the breakfast table clad in a white Mother Hubbard dress. Shade Trees.

The custom of overshadowing the dwelling with large shade trees, shading out the sunlight and air, is fast disappearing. It is found that a house thus shaded is not healthy or pleasant. But this by no means indicates that shade trees ought not to be encouraged in the neighborhood of the dwelling, for few objects, if any, add more to the beauty of a place than groups of shade trees arranged so as not to cover up and shade the dwelling.

Near the house should be groups of shrubs and flowers, and outside of these should be the shade trees; not arranged in stiff straight rows all of one variety, and as near possible of one size, but they should be set with out order, as nature set them, and a variety of trees should be intermingled with each other. This relieves the eye, and to every lover of nature looks far more beautiful than stiff formalities.

In the selection of varieties care should be taken not to set trees that contain a large size in the vicinity of the dwelling, but to select those that never grow more than thirty or forty feet high. The large trees, like the elms, should be set on the outside of the groups that have been set in the vicinity of the dwelling.

In making a proper selection, it is always best to examine groups of trees growing on soil similar to the one where it is desired to set them; then a good idea of what is best may be formed, and the appearance which each tree will make better understood. No one can describe the appearance of a tree, so as to be understood by any person far as well as they can understand it by personal observation.

Each locality has its peculiarities and is particularly adapted to the growth of certain varieties. If it can be understood what these peculiarities are, success is more likely to be attained, especially by those who cannot spend time to change the nature of the soil or protect the trees from the cold winds of winter.

A few dollars spent for shade trees to set in the vicinity of the farm buildings, will in a few years change the appearance of the home so much for the better, that its market value will be raised ten times as much as the cost of the trees.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Good, hearty laughter is said to be the best medicine in the world. If you are ill or depressed in spirits, get somewhere where you can watch a woman in a tight dress try to jump over a mud puddle. That will laugh you into good health or good nature again.

ONE OF THE MOST UNACCOUNTABLE AND DANGEROUS OF RECENT DECEITS DISCOVERED AND EXPOSED.

There is some mysterious trouble that is attacking men and women in the land with more or less violence. It seems to steal into the body like a thief in the night. Doctors cannot diagnose it. Scientists are puzzled by its symptoms. It is, indeed, a modern mystery.

Like those severe and vague maladies that attack horses and prostrate nearly all the animals in the land, this subtle trouble seems to menace mankind. Many of its victims have pains about the chest and sides, and sometimes in the back. They feel dull and sleepy; the mouth has a bad taste, especially in the morning. A strange sickly slim collects about the teeth. The appetite is poor. There is a feeling like a heavy load upon the stomach; sometimes a faint all-gone sensation is felt at the pit of the stomach, which food does not satisfy. The eyes grow sunken, the hands and feet feel clammy at one time and hurt intensely at others. After a while a cough sets in, at first dry, but after a few months it is attended with a greyish colored expectoration. The afflicted one feels tired all the while, and loses weight and color. He becomes nervous, irritable, and gloomy, and has evil forebodings. There is a giddiness, a peculiar whirling sensation in the head when rising up suddenly. The bowels become constipated, and then, again, outflow intensely. The first morning, when the blood grows thick and stagnant; and the whites of the eye become tinged with yellow; the urine is scanty and high colored, depositing a sediment after standing. There is frequently a spitting up of the food, sometimes with a sour taste, and sometimes with a sweetish taste; this is often attended with palpitation of the heart. The vision becomes impaired, with spots before the eyes; there is a feeling of prostration and great weakness. Most of these symptoms are in turn present. It is a disease that nearly one-third of our population have this disorder in some of its varied forms, while medical men have almost wholly mistaken in its nature. Some have treated it for one complaint; some for another, but nearly all have failed to reach the cause of the disorder. Indeed, many physicians are afflicted with it themselves. The experience of Dr. A. G. Richards, residing at No. 468 Tremont street, Boston, is thus described by himself.

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The First Meebebebe Pipe.

In 1728 there lived in Pesth, the capital of Hungary, Karol Kovates, a shoemaker, whose ingenuity in cutting and carving on wood, etc., brought him in contact with Count Andrássy, with whom he became a favorite. The Count on his return from his mission to Turkey, brought with him a piece of whitish clay, which had been presented to him as a curiosity on account of its extraordinary light specific gravity. He struck the shoemaker that, being porous, it must be well adapted for pipes, as it would absorb the nicotine. The experiment was tried and Karol cut out a pipe for the Count and one for himself. But in the pursuit of his trade he could not keep his hands clean, and many a piece of shoemaker's wax became attached to the pipe. The clay, however, instead of becoming discolored, appeared when Karol wiped it off, received, wherever the wax adhered to it, a clear brown polish, instead of the dull white it previously had. Attributing this change in the tint to its proper source, he waxed the whole pipes and polished the pipe again, and it, and noticed how admirably and beautifully it colored, also how much more sweetly the pipe smoked after being waxed. Other noblemen, hearing of the wonderful properties of this singular species of clay, imported it in considerable quantities for the manufacture of articles, and the great cost of importation for those days of limited facilities for transportation, rendered its use exclusively confined to the richest European noblemen until 1830, when it became a more general article of trade. The first meebebebe pipe, made by Karol Kovates has been preserved in the museum of Pesth.—From the Armagh Guardian.

LEPROSY IN SAN FRANCISCO. The San Francisco Bulletin says: "There is a leper colony struggling to life among us. It is small now, and, perhaps, scarcely noticeable. But it is striking its roots deep into the soil. It not only extends, it is bound to grow and expand. Leprosy is a disease of comparatively recent importation in the Sandwich Islands. But now 2 per cent. of the whole native population are afflicted with the horrible disease in various stages of development. It has had a notice that the white race need have no fears on the subject. But that is wholly false and unreliable assumption. There are white lepers now. Former local administrations, fully impressed with the gravity of the matter, sawed up one after the other their leper colonies and shipped them off. But now there seems to be a disposition to settle down and accept leprosy as a feature of San Francisco life. There is a hitch between the steamship companies and the authorities. There are some defects in the law. From the merits of the controversy we do not propose to pass now. All that we know is that nothing is being done and that the leper colony grows. Against any further paltering with this great evil we protest with all the energy that can be thrown into language. The sanitary interests that have grown up in favor of the continuance of the leper hospital should be trampled under foot. There should be no cessation of effort till the lepers are gone.

Female Thumbs. The female thumb is said to be an important index to the female character. Women with long thumbs are held by physiologists, indeed, many etc., to be more than ordinarily intelligent—what are called sensible women; while women with small thumbs are regarded as romantic. According to certain authors, who profess to have been observers, a woman's hand is more indicative of a woman's character than her face, as the latter is to a certain extent, under the control of temporary emotions, or of the will, whereas the former is a fact which exists for any one who understands it to profit by. Women with square hands and small thumbs are said to make good house-wives and gentle wives. This sort of woman will make any man happy who is fortunate enough to win them. They are not at all romantic, but they are what is better, thoroughly domestic. Women with long thumbs have tempers of their own, and generally a long tongue.

There is a hint in this to a lover. Let him, the first time he seizes hold of his mistress's hand, examine, under some pretext or another, her thumb, and if it be large, let him make up his mind to marry her as soon as he can. If she is small, he will be very careful. Again if a young man finds that his lady love has a large palm, with one-shaded fingers and a small thumb, let him thank his stars—for in that case, she is susceptible to tenderness, easily talked into or out of anything, and readily managed. But if she has a woman with a square hand, well-proportioned, and only a tolerably developed thumb, then she is either one of two distinct classes of women—a practical female who will stand no nonsense, or she is a designing female—a woman who cannot be duped, or a woman who will dupe him.

THAT CUSTOMER.—"See here, sir, when I was over last week, I bought a silk dress pattern of you at \$2 a yard, and you said the former price was \$1.50." Dealer.—"Yes, you bought it at our grand bargain sale." "Exactly. Well, my wife says that stuff has been selling in Philadelphia right along at \$1.50 a yard."

"Indeed!" "What did you mean by saying the former price was \$5?" "When?" "During the war."

Dr. H. Mercer distinctly states that Acker's English Remedy has and does cure contracted consumption. Ask for circular. An entirely new medicine, guaranteed.

If there is a wooden floor to the bog pen, no matter how high it is made, there will every year be a considerable amount of valuable manure fixed in its way through. Even the earth under the floor, to the depth of six or eight inches, will make a good fertilizer. A hogan floor should be laid with the purpose of taking up every second year, and it will generally need it if made of soft lumber.

Dr. H. Mercer will refund the price paid if Acker's Blood Elixir does not relieve any skin or blood disorder. A new, but thoroughly tested discovery.

An exchange says that there can be no earthly reason why women should not be allowed to become medical men.

One of the worst weeds in the newly-seeded meadows is the white daisy. It is especially abundant on fields, where young clover has been pastured after the grain with which it was sown has been cut. Cattle will eat the white daisy when made into hay only when starved to it, so that enough is lost by depriving it of condition of stock to offset whatever nutriment it may contain.

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