Some of the Peculiar Properties of Numbers.

An interesting and extensive field of investigation presents itself in relation to the peculiar properties of numbers. Let us give a few additional hints in this direction, which may be for the entertainment and instruction of the curiously disposed, and also, it may be, for the assistance of some "coming man," who shall gather up these several facts, and from them deduce certain principles, now unknown, whereby shall be answered the utilitarian inquiry, *"Cui bono?"* When Franklin was making his experiments with the electric kite, the same question was probably asked by his neighbors; Morse, House, Field, and a great army of operators have answered it.

If successive numbers be cubed, and the digits of the several results be added together until single digits be obtained, these will invariably be 8, 9, 10, constantly repeated. For example, the cube of 11 is 1,331, the sum of whose digits is 8; the cube of 12 is 1,728, the sum of whose digits by two additions is 9; the cube of 13 is 2,197, the sum of whose digits in like manner is 10; the cube of 14 is 2,744, which reduced gives us 8 once more

If, instead of cubing, we square consecutive numbers, and reduce to single digits as above, the result is a constant repetition of the following figures: 4, 9, 7, 7, 9, 4, 10, 9, 10. Let us now subtract each of these from that which succeeds it—4 from 9, 9 from 7 (or, rather, from 16, from which the 7 is derived), 7 from 16, and so on—and we have the nine digits in this order: 5, 7, 9, 2, 4, 6, 8, 1, 3 Subtract each of these from its successor in like manner, and the result is 2, 2, 2, unceasingly.

Let us now involve successive numbers to the fourth power, and reduce as before, and we find an equally curious result—viz: 7, 9, 4, 4, 9, 7, 10, 9, 10. Subtracting each from the next following, we obtain the nine digits in a new order—thus: 2, 4, 9, 5, 7, 3, 8, 1, 6. By continuing the operation a few steps, we reach a constant repetition of the figure 6.

The same final result is secured, but through a different arrangement of digits, if consecutive numbers are raised to the fifth power; and, quite likely, similar facts would appear in the case of the higher powers.

Again, if consecutive numbers be multiplied by 3, and the products be reduced by the addition of its digits, the result will always be 3, 6, 9, in constant succession. If the multiplier be 6, instead of 3, the order will be changed to 3, 0, 6. If any number whatever be multiplied by 9, the sum of the digits in the products will invariably be 9.

The following experiment has puzzled many a head that has not stopped to think how peculiar is this last mentioned number:

2,816	35,170
1,371	94,381
2,547	58,723
8,625	5,618
7,452	41,276
22,814	235,168

Let a person not in the secret write any number, as 2,816; the possessor of the secret then writes on the back of the paper or slate the number 22,814—two less than the other with a 2 prefixed. The first party then places under the number he has written two others, as 1,373 and 2,547, under which the possessor of the secret without hesitation places two rows of figures, taking care only that each figure laid down by himself, when added to the corresponding figure of his companion, shall amount to nine. The whole is then handed to the first party for addition, who is amazed to find that the answer is always identical with the number on the other side.

Such are a few of the curiosities of figures. We are satisfied that there is a meaning in them, which, perhaps, will some day be of service to the world. But who can tell us what they mean, or how they may be used other than as toys?

A SMART THING.—How many people are there who really know how to make a mustard plaster? Not one in a hundred at the most, perhaps, and yet mustard plasters are used in every family, and physicians prescribe the application. The ordinary way is to mix the mustard with water, tempering it with a little flour; such a plaster as this makes is simply abominable. Before it has half done its work it begins to blister the patient, and leaves him finally with a painful, flayed spot, after producing far less effect in a beneficial way than was intended. Now, a mustard plaster should never blister at all. If a blister is wanted, there are other plasters far better than mustard plasters; then, use no water, but mix the mustard with the white of an egg, and the result will be a plaster which will "draw" perfectly, but will not produce a blister on the skin of an infant, no matter how long it is allowed to remain on the part.

A RIVER OF INK.—The Cumberland *Alleghanian* says: The water from the mines above Cumberland is impregnated with sulphate of iron, a decomposition of sulphurate of iron in the coal, and flows into Will's creek. The creek is now very low, and but a very small body of water flows down the bed. At the head of the city are two or three extensive tanneries, and in the tanning of hides large quantities of tannic and gallic acids are poured into the stream. As soon as these acids come in contact with the sulphate of iron, the water becomes black, as is now the case in front of our city. There are millions of gallons of ink now lying in the bed of the creek, which needs but condensation and packing to make a salable article for exportation.

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Great Variety,	there, and find	Great Variety,
Great Variety,	the place where	Great Variety,
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TO DESTROY CUCUMBER BUGS.—The Watertown *Reformer* has the following timely advice in regard to ridding the garden of bugs, etc.: "To destroy bugs on squash and cucumber vines dissolve a teaspoonful of saltpetre in a pailful of water; put one pint of this around each hill, shaping the earth so it will not spread much, and the thing is done. Use more saltpetre if you can afford it—it is good for vegetable but death for animal life. The bugs burrow in the earth in the night and fail to rise in the morning. It is also good to kill the 'grub' in peach trees—only use twice as much, say a quart to each tree. There was not a yellow or blistered leaf on twelve or fifteen trees to which it was applied last season. No danger of killing any vegetable with it. A concentrated solution applied to beans makes them grow wonderfully."

SWEET PICKLES.—Sweet pickles of ripe cucumbers, or green tomatoes, or both, may be made. Prepare the cucumbers by scraping out the inside and paring the outside, then cut in small pieces, let them lay in a weak salt and water all night, or half a day, then drain them out, put them in a porcelain kettle, and cover with one third vinegar and two-thirds water; let them boil about fifteen minutes, or till you can pierce with a straw from the corn broom, then drain and throw the liquor away; then for one peck of green tomatoes, or the same quantity of ripe cucumbers, take two pounds of sugar, two tablespoonsful each of allspice, cloves, ginger, and mustard, one tablespoonful of cayenne pepper; put in the kettle with two quarts of vinegar, or enough to cover; when hot put in the cucumbers, let them boil, and they are done. I like mine with more sugar.

HOW TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF MILK.—A lady correspondent of a Southern paper, writing from Arkansas, gives the following recipe to increase the flow of milk in a cow. She says: "Tepid water, slightly salted, given twice a day, will increase the flow of milk one-third; if the cow will not drink it at first trial scatter a handful of bran or meal over the top of it. They soon become very fond of it, and will drink all you give them. I tried this plan three years ago with perfect success. I had only one cow, and she was of the common scrub stock of the country, and after she began to drink the water, prepared as above, she furnished me twice a day two ordinary water-buckets full of milk, and by feeding a little corn boiled with cotton seed the milk yielded butter enough to supply my table bountifully and leave me a few pounds to sell every week. I gave her three gallons of water twice a day."

TURKISH INFORMATION.—Sultan—The sovereign of the Turkish Empire—the recognized organ of all executive power in the State. His headquarters are at Constantinople.

Porte—The Government of the Turkish Empire.

Sublime Porte—The official name of the government, so called from the gate of the Sultan's palace.

Grand Vizier—The chief minister of the Turkish Empire.

Divan—The Turkish Council of State—the "Cabinet."

Grand Mufti—Chief interpreter of the Mohammedan law and head of the "wise men"—jurists, theologians and *literati*—who assemble for consultation on his order. He is mostly styled the Chief of the Faithful. A writer says a fetwa or degree from him would summon around the standard of the Prophet all the fanatical hordes of Islam to fight to the death against the "infidels, in the firm belief that death on the battle-field is a sure passport to paradise."

Pasha—Governors, Viceroys, Commanders, civil and military rulers of provinces.

Deys—About the same as Pashas.

Sheik—The name given the heads of Arabian tribes or clans. It means elder, or eldest in dignity or authority.

Osmandi—A Turkish official.

Islam—The religion of Mohammed.

Islams—Mohammedans themselves.

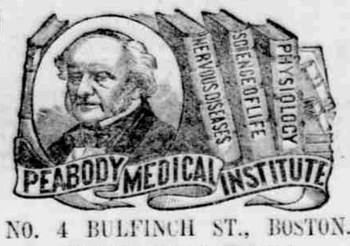
Mussulman—A follower of Mohammed.

Ottoman Empire—Another name for the Turkish Empire, and derives its name from Osman, its founder.

Osmanlis—The Turks proper.

Not all followers of the Prophet are Turks. In European Turkey there are, in round numbers, five million Mohammedans, less than half of whom are Osmanlis, the rest being of Slavonic descent, but none the less ardent worshippers of Islam.

A BURNING ROCK.—A correspondent of the Louisville *Ledger Standard* writes from Yankton, Dakota, as follows: "We have had the good fortune to witness some very fine scenery along our route, and the most interesting was witnessed on the afternoon of the 7th inst. We had noticed for some time a large cloud of smoke ahead of us, and on nearing it we found it to be what is called 'Burning Rock.' It burns constantly, as we were informed, and of its own volition. The rock looks as if it might contain coal, but of very poor quality. The fire reduces the rock to a very bright red cinder, which snaps like artillery, but the cause is as yet unknown to the people hereabouts. What idea have you to advance on this matter?"



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WM. H. SECHLER, *Attorney at Law*, Ebensburg, Pa. Office in Colonade Row, (recently occupied by Wm. Kittell, Esq.,) Centre street. [1-21.'76.-tf.]

THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS.

To the Editor of the Scientific American:

In regard to the flight of birds, I think that there is no necessity to resort to such theories as the figure 8 motion to understand how a bird flies when it beats the air with its wings. I think that the formation of the feathers, and their inclination in the wing, ought at once to explain that kind, of flight. When the bird makes the down stroke, the feathers a solid resistance to the air, and the motion imparted to the body of the bird must be upward. The wing must then be raised to commence the motion for another stroke. In raising each feather lets the wind pass through in an oblique manner, which causes them to act as sails on a vessel sailing on a slip, thereby propelling the bird forward. The bird instinctively knows how to direct itself in the direction it wishes to ascend, descend, or move straight forward. The close of the down stroke can be seen also in a sailing bird, such as a turkey buzzard, when about to fly in a place where there is not room for rapid headway. Each succeeding stroke is more violent than the preceding one, and the body is jerked forward at each time.

A flying machine might be made on the principle that the wings would have to overcome resistance to the air to keep up the flight, and the propelling part could be arranged independently. But there is another mode of flight that has not yet been studied by the minds of men. It is a remarkable thing that man has not studied beyond the Milky Way, and is still studying the constituents of the earth, yet he cannot understand the flight of birds. I have seen many species of birds, but they all fall short of the mark. I have seen buzzards with wings rise in a spiral manner, when the air was so calm that a leaf on a tree would not move. I have seen the hawk, when nearly in the eye of a steamer, sail along without any other motion of the wings perceptible than a little bending of the tips. I have looked down through the rigging of vessels as they sailed before the wind, and never could detect any motion of the wings. The theory of perpetual motion will not explain it. I have observed large butterflies that seemed to be in a meat heaven like enjoyment, as they sported in the cozy evening among trees in the warm summer evening, when there was not even a breath of air, without moving the wings, as if they were supported by some embodied spirits that had the power to resist attraction or gravitation, for aught I know. I have seen a swallow seem to be enjoying the sailing of birds in false heaven, when a number of purposeless sailing insects immediately in front of the open door of the steamer. They were packed quite close together, and moved exactly with the steamer. As it was necessary for them that they should breath oxygen, and as they were continually rolling over one another to come to the surface, I have sometimes half the fish would be out of the water, yet the uniform motion of the steamer kept up, and no one on board could detect any motions of fins or tails that would warrant such speed. There are many other modes of flight such as by leaves, insects, the dragon fly as an example, but the sailing of birds is a most interesting study for philosophers, and I think it will be safe to say that man will never be able to put it in practice. But the knowledge may come in handy in explaining some things of a different nature.

JOHN H. BRYO.
Hagerstown, Md.

MAD STONE.—The mad stone is originally found in China. At first the first records of its use for the purpose of extracting poison by incantation or absorption is from Chinese history. It has been used for centuries for this purpose, and is a specific. Of this there is no doubt. It is found in some places in Brazil, and in the Hartz mountains. It is a dark, porous looking stone, sufficiently porous to absorb, when in contact with poison or the atmosphere thereof, to entirely absorb it from the flesh or blood with which it is held in contact. It was known a long time ago by the Egyptians, and in France and England, also held in the possession of one of these precious stones as a token of great luck, and the means of acquiring property and benefits. It has long been used in Asia and Europe by diviners, soothsayers, and that class of persons who perform mysterious things. At least such persons have, by application of the stone the color of mad dogs, succeeded in absorbing poison from the bites of patients, and thus brought to themselves large rewards. They are very scarce, but are in existence. Some years ago there was one owned by a Jew in New York. There was one in 1860 in Richmond or Washington, and we believe there is one owned at the present time in Chicago or vicinity.

The origin of the stone is not known by any modern writer. So we will content ourselves with the fact that it is actually in existence, and is exactly what it purports to be—a stone that absorbs the poison transmitted by whoever or whatever is bitten by an animal suffering with rabies, or that is in the condition which is said to be mad.—*Pomeroy's Democrat.*

A WALKING FISH.—A singular "walking fish" is found near Sherman, Colorado, on the line of the Rocky Mountains, and 8,200 feet above the sea level. The fish is only partially amphibious and has four legs, which it uses when on land. In the water the legs double up, and a ring of fins around the neck, stand out like a ruff, and assist the fish to swim. Aquarium managers should look to this.

TO BORE through a hemlock knot with ease, wet your auger with turpentine.