

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Items Which Will Prove of Interest to Our Readers.

A case of hydrophobia of spontaneous origin in man is said to have been discovered in Paris recently.

A number of traveling parties have been created by the French for foreign lands and collect information useful to science, commerce and navigation.

The eye of a rabbit has been successfully transplanted into a human subject. The movement and appearance of the natural eye was excellently secured, vision not being expected.

The schools of Austria have forbidden using paper ruled in square or diagonal lines, as such paper has been found to injure the eyesight of the pupils. In future only paper plain or ruled straight across is to be employed.

Attention has been called to the fact that the streams in certain cultivated portions of northern Texas now run during the part of the year when they were formerly dry. This is not attributed to any change in the rainfall, but to a more even absorption of water over the cultivated areas.

In Japan, according to a Government report, 533 earthquakes occurred during the nine and a half years preceding December, 1884. The record is evidently incomplete, however, as Prof. Milne has been able to trace an average of an earthquake a day in Nagasaki, in the extreme south of Japan.

The curious and remarkable discovery is reported that a South American shrub called "aliza," exudes a juice that acts so powerfully in stopping flows of blood that when a knife is smeared with it and used for surgical operations the largest vessels may be severed without any hemorrhage.

A meteorological station is about to be established among the highest mountains of Mexico, at an altitude of nearly 20,000 feet above the sea level. An access to such a place is difficult and often impossible, the recording apparatus will have to be made almost independent of human attention, and, as far as possible, all the instruments will be made to run a year without stopping.

French experiments on the transmission of power by electricity have resulted less successfully than was hoped. Theoretically the plan is feasible, but it is found to be more economical and practicable for manufacturing purposes to use the power directly at the source of supply. Modern railway facilities make it cheaper to transport goods than power, with its attendant loss of fifty per cent.—not to mention its uncertainties.

A member of the London Microscopical Society has described a case illustrating the value of the microscope as a detective agent. Fraudulent additions had been made to a bond, and the ink being darker than the original, the forger traced over the whole writing to give it a uniform shade. Under the microscope the difference between the added portions and the original was clearly discernible, and the forgery was established.

Experience on French railways has shown that the double poppy is the best plant at present known for consolidating, by the interlacing of its roots, the loose soil of an embankment. The usual grasses and clovers develop slowly, but the double poppy grows through two weeks to give some protection to the slope, and within three or four months its roots, ten or twelve inches long, retain the earth far more firmly than those of any grass or grain.

Commenting on Lieut. Greeley's discovery of coal within the Arctic Circle, in Greenland, Mr. W. Mattieu Williams expresses himself as dissatisfied with the prevailing notion which demands a sub-tropical climate for the formation of carboniferous deposits. He has himself described the deposition of coal that is in actual progress at the present time in Norway, within four degrees of the Arctic Circle, and believes that many such deposits may be found much farther north. No very violent alteration of climate, therefore, need be assumed to explain the Greenland coal.

In a paper read before the Royal Meteorological Society of London, Dr. Woelker stated that the first step toward a scientific investigation of the influence of forests upon climate was taken by the establishment of the Bavarian Forest meteorological stations. This example was followed by Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy and other countries. In general it has been found that in during the warmer season the earth and air temperatures are lower in the forest than in the surrounding woodless places; that their variations are less and that their relative humidity is greater. A discussion of the question shows that in the western portions of the Old World extensive forests materially influence the temperature of neighboring localities, and that the normal increase in temperature from the Atlantic Ocean towards the interior of the Continent is not only interrupted by their influence, but the summer is made cooler in regions situated farther in the interior than those nearer the sea.

Hence, forests exert an influence on climate that does not cease at their borders, but is felt over a greater or less district, according to the kind, size or positions of the forests. It follows that man may considerably affect the climate by clearing forests in one place and planting others in another.

We Boon That Science Has Conferred has been fraught with greater blessings than that which has accrued to the inhabitants of materialistic portions of the United States and the Tropics from the use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. The experience of many years has but too clearly demonstrated the inefficiency of quinine and other drugs to effectually combat the progress of intermittent, congestive and bilious remittent fevers, while on the other hand, it has been no less clearly shown that the use of the Bitters, a medicine congenial to the botanic sources, affords a reliable safeguard against malarial disease, and arrest it when developed. For disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels, for general debility and renal insolvency, it is also a most efficient remedy. Appetite and sleep are improved by it, it excites rheumatic humors from the blood, and enlivens a circulation impoverished by malarial assimilation.

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