

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It is stated that there are two cases of leprosy of the most loathsome type near Rothsay, Minnesota. Both are Norwegians and heads of families. None of the members of the family have the disease. Before leaving Norway both men were fishermen and lived almost exclusively on a fish diet, to which they attribute their affliction.

William Baxter, his two sons and a man named Douglas, living near Chattanooga, Tennessee, were bitten by a rabid dog on the 3d. Stephen Dietrick, of Camp Creek, was dying in a hospital in Cincinnati, on the 3d, of what was supposed to be hydrophobia. He was bitten by a pet terrier a few weeks ago.

While in a fit of delirium from diphtheria Frank M. Whitmore, a young business man of Pittsburg, blew his brains out with a shot gun on the morning of the 4th, during the temporary absence of his attendant. He was a member of the shoe firm of W. E. Schmetz & Co. He was 33 years old and unmarried.

A passenger train on the 4th stuck in the snow one mile west of Irons, Dakota. A brakeman was sent back to flag another passenger train approaching within half a mile from the first. The engineer, having his cab window closed, did not see the signal, and his train ran into the rear coach of the other, telescoping it. Most of the people in the wrecked coach got out before the collision, and the few who remained inside escaped with severe injuries. In all nine persons, including the engineer and fireman, were injured.

A four-year-old son of John W. Bailey, of Whitehall, Virginia, was fatally scalded on the 3d by falling into a pot of hot lard.

A telegram from San Francisco says detectives have learned that the murder of a Chinaman named Lee Wy, in the Chinese quarter in that city recently, was the result of one of those deadly feuds that are carried on by Chinese societies in this country.

The San Jap Company, a large and powerful organization, which made its own laws for the Chinese belonging to it, split some time ago into two factions called the Bo Sin Seer and the Kie Sin Seer. Some highlanders of the Kie Sin Seer faction killed two men of the Bo Sin Seer, and the latter faction commissioned a trusty cut-throat, named Leong Ah Tick, to avenge the slaughter of its members.

Leong Ah Tick accordingly killed Lee Wy, who happened to be the first Kie Sin Seer man who came in range of his pistol. After the latter murder a party from the Kie Sin Seer went to the headquarters of the Bo Sin Seer faction, and tearing down the sign over the door, chopped it to pieces. This is considered the greatest indignity that can be offered to a highlander's organization, and can only be wiped out by blood.

An locomotive on the Intercolonial Railroad exploded at Stellarton Station, Nova Scotia, on the 5th, killing three men and injuring several others. The engine was demolished and the station building was badly wrecked.

A passenger train on the Illinois Central Railroad ran into a freight train at Amboy, Illinois, on the morning of the 5th. Calvin Wood, the engineer on the freight train, was killed, and the brakeman fatally injured. It is said the yardmaster at Amboy left the freight standing on the main track with no red lights out.

One of a battery of eight boilers exploded at the Hubbard Iron Mill, in Hubbard, Ohio, early on the morning of the 5th, wrecking the boiler house and terribly scalding fireman William Siefert. The explosion occurred before the day force went on duty.

During the progress of a sale of furniture at an auction room in Teeswater, Ontario, on the 5th, the floor gave way, precipitating about seventy persons, together with a quantity of furniture, into the cellar. The fall was nine feet. Twenty persons were more or less injured, but none dangerously.

Christian Rudy, 65 years old, an inmate of the Poor House in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, was found dead in a field near that institution on the 5th. John Rudy, his son, was arrested on the charge of committing the murder. A blood-stained hatchet was found in his possession.

Dr. Eckles and Miss Ella P. Waldron were, on the 5th, held for trial in Boston on the charge of swindling people throughout the country by advertising "to furnish materials by which works of art could be produced at home." The materials furnished are alleged to have proved worthless.

A despatch from Bangor, Maine, says that Peter Bennett, aged 80 years, a wealthy farmer living at Newport, had a distrust of savings banks and always kept a large amount of money in the house. On the evening of the 4th robbers beat him and escaped with \$32,000 in bills and gold. Eugene McCarthy, the burglar who shot Dr. Theodore R. Hornblower, the well-known druggist of Jersey City Heights, New Jersey, about two months ago, was on the 5th, sentenced to 18 years imprisonment by Judge Lippincott.

Frank Klein, the chief of a gang of train robbers who went through a train near Little Rock four years ago, on the Little Rock, Mississippi and Texas Railroad, has been arrested near Muskogee, Indian Territory, and taken to Fort Smith. He says he has been hunted and haunted for four years and was in fear of his life and is now greatly relieved.

James Funk shot and killed his wife and attempted to commit suicide at the Logan House, in Wilmar, Minnesota, on the evening of the 5th. Funk is a railroad brakeman, and, it is said, has been leading a dissipated life. His wound is not fatal. John B. Johnston, one of the wealthiest citizens of Wichita, Kansas, shot and killed his wife on the 6th and then committed suicide. The cause assigned is despondency, the result of prolonged sickness. He arranged a trip to California, and was to have started on the 8th.

Robert Sommers, when returning from a funeral in Mount Vernon, Kentucky, on the evening of the 5th, stopped at the residence of "Bud" Abner. There he found Garrett Hampton talking to his wife. He drew a pistol and shot Hampton dead. A U. S. Marshal and two deputies, a few days ago, made a raid upon "moonshiners" on Sand Mountain, near Gadsden, Alabama. An illicit distillery was seized, and George Kirk, an escaped convict, who had been sentenced to 99 years imprisonment, was killed. The body of Thomas Downing was found under the snow in the woods near Chilton, Wisconsin, on the 6th. It is supposed he was murdered, as he is reported to have always carried a large amount of money on his person. Frederick Riley, aged 10 years, was arraigned in Jersey City, New Jersey, on the 6th, on a charge of atrocious assault and battery, and was held for trial. He put a boy named Jones, 4 years old, on a stove in St. Joseph's Home. Although badly burned, he is recovering.

James Wilson, alias James Halan, and Judge Walcott were arrested in Luzerne county, Penna., on the 6th, on the charge of making and circulating counterfeit dollars. Wilson was arrested in an old boat cabin at Mill Creek, and on his person was found a brace of revolvers and a lot of counterfeit coin. In the cabin was a full set of counterfeiters' tools and materials. These men are said to be the leaders of a gang or six, who have been passing counterfeit money throughout the State.

On the evening of the 5th a band of robbers went to the house of the Williams brother, colored, near Lake Mississippi, it is supposed to punish them for misdemeanors. On arriving at the house they ordered the colored men to open the door, and on their refusal broke the door down, when the colored men fired upon them, killing two white men named Benjamin Griffith and John McCrany. The Williams brothers made their escape.

The local election in Louisville was held on the 6th. Less than 20,000 votes were polled in a registry of 30,000. Charles D. Jacob, regular Democrat, was elected Mayor by a plurality of about 4000 over A. V. Avery, Republican. Hoke, the Independent Democrat, had an insignificant support. It is reported that many arrests were made of persons using money at the polls.

A man named Long, a field laborer, with his wife and three children, have lived for several years in a log cabin on the bank of Rowan Creek, near Kenton, Kentucky. On the evening of the 4th, it was discovered that the bank of the creek had caved in, carrying the cabin with it into the water. None of the occupants have been seen since, and it is supposed they have been lost.

A scaffolding at the top of the water tower in course of construction in Thomasville, Georgia, gave way on the morning of the 6th, and at the same time a huge centre column, which reached some distance above the top of the tower, fell, carrying down with it one side of the lower. Seven workmen went down seventy-five feet in the debris. The killed are: M. Rommedell (white), Joe Moore (white), Simon Wells (colored). Fatally hurt: Joe Jabian. The others were badly, but not mortally hurt. Several men on the opposite side of the tower clung to the roof until rescued by a fire company with ladders.

A piece of meat stuck in the throat of Philip Smeltzer, a salesman, in New York, while eating his dinner on the 7th and he choked to death.

A boarder at the Stevens House, in New York, who had registered as "John Blyn," was found dead in his room on the 7th, having taken laudanum. A letter in his pocket read: "My dead life is due to my father, who has brought ruin on all of us. He resides at Tyngton, Surrey, England. May God never allow me to meet him again. I have loved my mother, E. F. Selts." The deceased was about 35 years of age. William Morton, colored, committed suicide in Louisville, on the 7th. Before the war he was a slave of John B. Crittenden. The suicide is attributed to the result of the municipal election in Louisville, on the 6th. Morton sold his house, horse and wagon, and all his possessions, and bet the proceeds upon Avery, the Republican candidate for Mayor. Daniel Burtmann, 22 years old, an emigrant, attempted to drown himself at Castle Garden, New York, on the 7th. He had loaned \$20 to a deserted wife, who was a fellow passenger, and who was without money, to search for her husband. She found him living with another woman, and was unable to repay the money. This left Burtmann penniless and despondent.

At the public school at Beeson Creek, Ritchie county, West Virginia, on the 6th, a scholar named Davis dangerously stabbed the teacher, Creed Wilson. Davis had been told that he would be whipped for an infraction of the rules. Two masked robbers entered the house of J. H. Wolf, near Piqua, Ohio, on the evening of the 5th. As they burst open the door Mr. Wolf fired with a shotgun and killed one of the men. He was a young man and supposed to be a canal boatman. His companion escaped. Grant Garrett and "Cul" Waggoner had a fight with revolvers at Berryville, Arkansas, on the 6th. Garrett was killed and Waggoner fatally wounded. The fight was the result of a feud which has thus far cost four lives. Several families are involved.

A freight train on the Grand Trunk Railway broke in two on the evening of the 6th, while descending the grade near Goodell's Station, Michigan. The front end was side tracked at the station, and while returning for the rear portion the engine came in collision with it. Harry McGowan, a brakeman, was killed, and engineer Jeffrey and fireman McKay injured. The engine and cars were wrecked. The New York Express for Montreal on the Saratoga and Champlain Railroad, ran off the track at Whalonburgh station, New York, on the morning of the 7th. The two baggage cars and one of the coaches caught fire which communi-

ated to the depot and that building and the cars were destroyed. No one was injured.

Peter Smith was arrested in Wilkesbarre, Penna., on the 7th, on the charge of passing counterfeit money. He is said to be a member of the gang of counterfeiters, two of whose members were arrested in the same city on the 6th. Joseph Farhart was arrested in Indianapolis, on the 7th, on the charge of raising a money order from one dollar to eighty. It is thought he has been working a similar game at other places. The postal authorities have information of raised money orders in Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, St. Louis and Chicago. Farhart is a person of fine address, about 35 years old. Frank Patten has been arrested at Newport, Maine, on suspicion of having committed the assault upon and robbery of \$32,000 from Peter Bennett. Patten and his wife, who is Bennett's granddaughter, live in Bennett's house. They say that when they heard the pistol shot Patten jumped from the window and ran for help.

A telegram from Fort Worth, Texas, says that, after months of watching and pursuit, the ringleaders of the famous Brooking gang of thieves and train robbers were placed in jail on the evening of the 6th. The entire ranger force of the Pan Handle, in command of Captain McMurray and the Sheriffs of three counties, with their deputies, have been at work on these cases for nearly a year. The robbers lived in caves, and were well organized.

On the morning of the 8th, Tracy, the missing bookkeeper, returned to his home in Mansfield, Ohio. He said "he had been out hunting and was very tired." Physicians say "it is a case of temporary aberration of mind."

A freight train on the Northern Pacific Railroad was wrecked near Kimberly, Minnesota, on the 8th. Two brakemen, named Kline and Holmes, were killed, and the engineer was badly scalded.

John Rider and William Nichols, young miners, were killed on the 8th by falling slate in a mine near Brazil, Indiana.

A dynamite bomb was discovered on the steps of the Reformed Church in Irvington, New Jersey, on the 8th. The fuse had been lighted, but from some cause the fire had been extinguished before it reached the explosive.

An unknown person stole a horse and carriage on the evening of the 6th belonging to Philip Young, who lives near Sunbury, Penna. The horse was a young one and had never been driven before. In driving down the road the horse ran away and jumped into the canal, taking the carriage with him. He was found on the morning of the 8th the body of a man was found in the canal near where the horse was discovered. There is no clue to his identity.

The Norwegian bark S. E. Bulon, from Minatitlan for Queenstown for orders, laden with mahogany, was lost on the Tortugas on Nov. 30. Her crew were taken to Key West, Florida, on the 8th, by wreckers.

James Mullen, of Silver City, New Mexico, an old miner, and late candidate for Governor of the Territory, dropped a pistol on the 8th, which was discharged, fatally wounding himself.

A telegram from Chicago says: John Swain and Tony Senz, aged 11 and 9 years respectively, broke through the ice on a skating pond at Lake View, on the 8th, and were drowned.

Christian Denning, a prominent Anarist in Chicago, hanged himself on the 8th, through grief for the execution of Spies and his companions. A large man, with black hair and whiskers, who registered at the Vandye House in New York on the 8th, as John Racheier, of Pittsburg, committed suicide in his room by swallowing bitter oil of almonds. He had neither money nor letters on his person.

A despatch from San Antonio says President Cleveland's message has caused widespread dissatisfaction in Texas. The main industry of Western Texas is wool raising, and those who have their money invested in it declare the President "has delivered them into the hands of the Philistines," and that steps will be taken to form a national organization to combat the removal of wool on wool.

In the Virginia House of Delegates on the 8th, a joint resolution was adopted—90 to 1—directing Virginia's Senators and requesting her representatives in Congress "to use their best efforts to secure the repeal at an early day of the entire internal revenue system of taxation, and, failing in that, to secure, if possible, the repeal of so much of the system as imposes a tax on tobacco in any of its forms, and upon spirits distilled from fruits."

After a number of weeks spent in the investigation of the causes which led to the Chatsworth, (Illinois) train wreck, the Illinois Railroad and Warehouse Commission has submitted to Governor Oglesby a report stating that in their opinion the "train would not have been destroyed if the bridge had not burned before the train reached it." They found no evidence to show that the burning was the work of an incendiary, but held that the railroad is inescapably for neglect in failing to inspect the condition of the track and bridges in advance of the train. They say that the poor financial condition of the road does not relieve it of the responsibility.

A scaffolding at an ice house near Alton, Illinois, fell on the 8th, killing Frederick Grohman and injuring seven others, three dangerously.

A despatch from Wilkesbarre, Penna., says Henry Anderson a prominent Democratic politician, was dangerously injured on the 9th by the premature explosion of a blast in the Haddock mine.

Thomas Ellis, Jr., of Montrose, Iowa, who was being sued for divorce by his wife, went to her house on the 8th and shot her, inflicting a fatal wound. He then killed himself. August Leister shot his wife in Au-

gust last at Rock Hill, Pennsylvania. He was tried at Doylestown on the 6th and she testified against him. He was convicted and sentenced to six years' imprisonment. On the evening of the 8th Leister committed suicide in his cell in the Doylestown jail by hanging himself with a towel. A few days ago a travelling corn doctor, giving the name of William De Chine, left Nebraska City, Nebraska, in company with several rough-looking characters. On the 9th his dead body was found near Peru. It is supposed he was murdered and robbed, as he was known to have considerable money in his possession. George Bechtel, proprietor of the Mount Etna Hotel, in Reading, Penna., was on the evening of the 9th, stabbed by Frederick Gauster. Bechtel, it is thought, will die. Gauster escaped.

Alfred L. Flacker, confidential bookkeeper for Secomb, Keheav & Co., oil dealers in Boston, was arrested on the 9th, on the charge of embezzling over \$9000 from his employers. Fast living is said to be the cause of his downfall.

Two men have been placed in jail in Farmington, Maine, on the charge of committing the East Newport robbery in Bennett's house. It is said that a large amount of the stolen property was found in their possession. Some of the bank bills recovered were smeared with blood.

William Lynch and John Williams, said to be professional cracksmen, escaped from the jail in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on the evening of the 8th, by sawing the bars of their cell windows.

While A. P. Chamberlain and his wife were attending a fair at Concord, Massachusetts, on the evening of the 8th, his residence was visited by burglars and articles amounting in value to from \$12,000 to \$15,000 were stolen. The servants were in the house at the time.

United States Marshal Jones received by mail at his home in Topeka, Kansas, on the evening of the 8th, a small tin box. When opened it was found to contain enough nitro-glycerine to have blown up the building. No clue to the sender or his motive can be given.

A telegram from San Francisco says Lee Way, the Chinaman killed in a faction quarrel between the Bo Sin Seer and Gie Sin Seer Societies, was buried on the 8th. The faction to which he belonged made a great demonstration and invited an attack from the enemy, but the police were out in force and had a Gatling gun in readiness to quell a street battle. All white persons were warned to keep out of Chinatown. The grave of Lee Way was covered with offerings of roast duck, pork, and baskets of rice, while handfuls of money were thrown into the huge fire by the grave "to give the slaughtered partisan a good start in the other world."

60th CONGRESS.—First Session.

The first session of the Fiftieth Congress opened on the 5th. In the Senate all the Senators were sworn in, including Mr. Turpie, of Indiana, without objection, excepting Mr. Faulkner, of West Virginia, whose case was referred, by agreement, to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. A protest against the admission of Mr. Faulkner was presented by Mr. Lucas his Democratic contestant. In the House, John G. Carlisle was re-elected Speaker, and made a speech dwelling upon "the imperative necessity of such a moderate and reasonable reduction of the tariff as would guarantee the laboring people against the effects of financial depression and at the same time not deprive them of any part of the just rewards of their toil." The organization of the House was completed by the election of the other officers nominated by the Democratic caucus. Both houses, after appointing committees to wait upon the President, adjourned.

The President's message was received and read in both Houses of Congress on the 6th. The Senate adjourned immediately after the reading of the message.

In the U. S. Senate, on the 7th, a letter was received from the Secretary of the Interior saying that an appropriation of \$77,495 is required to complete the publication of the final report on the census of 1880. A resolution offered by Mr. Plumb was adopted asking the Commissioner of Agriculture whether any person in the employment of his department experimenting on the manufacture of sugar from sorghum had obtained or applied for a patent or patents connected with such manufacture and growing out of such experiments. Mr. Farwell asked leave to introduce a bill to perpetuate the national banking system, but Mr. Culom pressed a resolution he had offered to adjourn, saying that the rule was when bills are introduced before committees are appointed to have such bills laid on the table, and that created unnecessary work. The resolution to adjourn was agreed to.

In the U. S. Senate on the 8th, after the reading of the journal and the reception of a few department communications, adjourned.

HOUSE.

In the House on the 6th, several amendments to the rules were introduced and referred. Among them was one by Mr. Dingley, of Maine, providing that, pending a motion to go into committee of the whole on the House Calendar, a motion shall be in order to designate the particular bill to be considered; also, one by Mr. Johnson, of North Carolina, providing that when any motion to amend the revenue laws is under consideration any amendment thereto or substitute therefor, whether it refers to internal or customs revenue, shall be in order. Mr. Dingley also introduced a proposition for a committee of thirteen on Navigation and Fisheries. The reading of the President's message was listened to with great attention, and its conclusion was greeted with applause. The House then adjourned until the 8th.

THAT HIGH FRENCH TOWER

The Idea Abandoned Because Workmen Would Not Go So Far Up.

No feature of the place for the great exposition of 1889 was so much talked of as the gigantic tower, 1,000 feet high, or twice the height of the pyramids of Egypt, designed by M. Eiffel, engineer of the department of arts and manufactures. Since the tower of Babel nothing of the same character has been attempted, and it was thought that scientific progress would permit the descendants of those whom God dispersed because of their impiety to carry out a similar design. The idea was to make an iron base, composed of four pyramids, each pyramid fifty feet a side. These pyramids were to be separated from each other by a space of 300 feet, and for stability to be anchored in solid masonry. At a distance of 250 feet above the ground these pyramids were to be united by a gallery fifty feet wide; the gallery, covered with glass, was to be reserved for the restaurants, saloons, etc. The next story was to have a room covered with glass, and this room was to be 100 feet square. The whole was to be surmounted by a glass dome, surrounded by a terrace, and from this terrace the exposition was to be lighted with electricity. It is time now to state that this tower was the idea of Lockroy, ex-Minister of Commerce and director of the exposition. He searched for the exposition's greatest attraction and found a tower. The four colossal pyramids may be seen at the Champs de Mars, but we fear that all who visit Paris in 1889 for the purpose of viewing the triumph of metallurgical art will be sadly disappointed, for the tower will never be finished. Money is not lacking, for the enthusiastic French would subscribe any amount to possess the highest tower in the world, but the difficulty lies in the errors of calculation. For 250 feet, until the first platform, there will be no obstacle, but the tower will then only rival Notre Dame. Should it reach the second platform its appearance would be most fantastic, but workmen cannot be found willing to go beyond a certain point. There has been a plan for the importation of negroes and Chinamen, but they might not be more willing than the French to hazard their lives. It was decided to inform the timid negroes or Chinamen that a scaffolding would protect them from all danger, but these plotters forgot that the poor negroes and Celestials would be obliged to construct the scaffolding themselves. During the Franco-Prussian war a French flag was planted on the spire of the Metz cathedral. The flag remained until it fell rag by rag, because not a German soldier was willing to risk his life by hauling it down. Besides, every tower vibrates even in a moderate wind, and because of the vibration at the great height proposed, workmen would find it impossible to rivet one piece of iron to another. What will be done? you ask. Nothing, only the tower will not be finished, and we who hoped to reach the dome in an elevator constructed like a Swiss railway, and from this dome to view the country for one hundred miles around; we who thought to see Compeigne and Rheims, Fontainebleau and Chartres, with the little villages, lost in the woods, and the rivers wandering through the valleys—we must content ourselves with a sight of Charenton and Neuilly, Auteuil and Vincennes. Instead of going seven times as high as the Column Vendome and standing six hundred feet higher than the top of Mount Valerien we shall probably find ourselves looking up to the Trocadero tower of the Arc de Triomphe.

But if there be no tower the attractions of the exposition will be very great. The Champ de Mars is already covered with vast constructions, and all work will be terminated at least six months in advance.

Building Umbrellas.

Notwithstanding the constant demand for umbrellas, comparatively few people really know how they are made. The so-called umbrella manufacturer does little more than put the different parts of the umbrella together. He buys the sticks, the caps, the ferrules and the steel ready made. The covering he buys by the piece, and it is the cutting and fitting of the covering which constitute his chief claim to the title of manufacturer.

The cloth is first hemmed; that is, the edges are bound, usually with a thin silk cord. The cloth is then given to the cutter who separates it into triangular pieces. Much care is used in cutting the cloth, and for his guidance the cutter employs a triangular tool very like a carpenter's compass, the size of which can be varied to suit the demands of the about-to-be umbrella. The triangles of cloth are then sewed together by machinery and stretched over and tied upon the frame. The caps and ferrules are fitted upon the sticks and the umbrella is then ready to protect unfortunate humanity from the dew drops of heaven.

Boiled corn is said to produce more pork than the raw kind, and of as good quality. The question to be considered, however, is not which is the more nutritious, but which is the cheaper, as the fuel and labor required to cook the corn must be deducted as expenses.

THE MISSION OF THE CIRCUS.

An Educator in Athletics, Ethnology and Practical Science.

Every one in these enlightened days concedes that human nature imperatively demands amusement and recreation. The childish mind to which the world is yet fresh and interesting and the faded brain of the adult call with equal insistence for "something new and strange." Granted the necessity of amusement and the desirability of their being morally clean and healthful and instructive, the provider of such entertainments is a public benefactor and may reasonably ask for his wares the countenance of the church.

The so-called circus of to-day, which I regret to say, some exceptions, is a widely different affair from that of the past. When under proper management it is decorous and orderly in operation and composed of features which appeal to all ages, classes and conditions. While modestly submitting to bear the generic title of circus, a genuine tent exhibition under that name must comprise a menagerie and museum, the accumulating of which is necessitated by a diligent searching of the whole earth at an incredible pecuniary outlay. In the proper circus of to-day the athlete demonstrates the perfection of training of which the human body is capable. His feats of strength and graceful agility please the understanding as well as the eye, and if the average boy does stand on his head and practice turning "hand-springs" and "flip-flaps" with exasperating persistence for three weeks running after going to the circus, his physique will be all the better for it. The juggler shows the marvelous precision and the nicety of touch which can be acquired by patient practice. In the real circus of to-day the intelligent lover of horse-flesh will find the finest specimens of the equine race trained to do almost anything but talk.

Then the scientific mind is attracted by such strange examples of mechanism as the talking-machine, an ingenious duplicate of the structure of the human throat, giving forth under manipulation a very human if not a sweet voice. The ethnologist finds gathered together for his leisurely inspection representatives of notable and peculiar tribes civilized and savage, from far distant lands—types which otherwise he would never see, as they can only be sought in their native countries at the risk of life and at an expenditure of time and money possible to few. The menageries of wild beasts, birds and reptiles—comprising every curious specimen of animal life from the denizens of the torrid African jungle to those of the Polar regions—form a study that will impart more valuable information in two hours than can be obtained from reading books on zoology in a year.

California's Wettest Year.

The season of 1861-2 no less than 49.27 inches of rain fell in San Francisco. The downpour increased northward and diminished south of it. It was the wettest season reported since the American occupation. The Sacramento Valley was flooded to a great depth. The present season, so far, bears some resemblance to that of 1861-2. In the last mentioned period a long drought preceded the drenching rains. There was no rain in July or August. There was a little sprinkle in September to the extent of the one-hundredth part of an inch. There was no rain in October. But in November the long spell of dry weather was broken. The rain was not heavy at first. It took 12 days to drop 4.10 inches. In December the flood gates were opened and 9.54 inches fell in 16 days. This was followed by the unprecedented fall of 24.36 inches in 18 days in January. There were afterward 7.35 inches in 10 days of February and 2.20 inches in 11 days of March. The rains of the early part of the season came from the south in heavy showers. The great rains of January were cold and partly from the northwest. They were continuous and steady rather than heavy. The resemblance to 1861-62 so far is that there has been no rain in July and August. There was a small shower in September, but none since. What there is in such resemblances cannot, of course, be determined in the present state of our meteorological knowledge. But if it is in this case to continue much longer rain will have to come pretty soon, for we have passed beyond the middle of November.

How a Speech Was Nipped.

I was, at one time in my life, made president of a woman's club. I humbly trust that I presided with grace and dignity over that club, until such time as circumstances made it expedient for me to retire from the mad career of public service. In making the speech of farewell on that sad day, which severed my connection with my club, I proceeded smoothly and delightfully until some allusion started the tears, and the certainty that I had no handkerchief confronted me. I was just about to wipe my tears with the morocco case I held in my hand when one of the ladies, familiar with the strange fatality which had blighted my emotional life, passed me up a woolen shawl. No word was spoken, but my one opportunity to make an eloquent speech was fatally nipped, and all for want of a handkerchief again, for sentiment dies in a general laugh as flowers wither in a frost.