

VERY OLD PEOPLE.

Some Remarkable Ages and Still More Remarkable Facts.

Mrs. Betsy Mason, of Mount Morris, N. Y., is just rounding a century of life. Laurel, Del., has lost its centenarian in the person of Grace, a negro, who has just died, aged 115.

Mrs. Gillespie, of Morgan county, Ky., is 106 years old, and walks two miles to church every Sunday.

Matilda Stevenson lived to be 105 years of age before she made a profession of faith, and was baptized at Paris, Ky., recently.

Rutha Simpers died in the Eikton, Md., almshouse, aged 110 years. She was born a slave, but had enjoyed fifty years of freedom, having been manumitted.

Mrs. Waty Clark, of Oswego, N. Y., still lives at the age of 106. She has been the mother of twelve children, and, until very recently, had her faculties unimpaired.

Baltimore loses another centenarian in Sarah Springer, who died recently, aged 103. She leaves thirty-one grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren.

A violent fall killed recently the oldest Indian of the Allegheny reservation, named John Lewis. He died at Salamanca just as he had completed a century of life.

The oldest lawyer in Scotland, Charles Winchester, died on March 27, just as he had entered his 100th year. He was born at Echt, in Aberdeenshire, on February 22, 1781.

Ada Township, Mich., sincerely mourns the loss of Ebenezer Swann, a farmer, and a most estimable man, who has just died aged 105. He was a native of Maine, but one of the oldest settlers in Michigan.

The proud mother of seventeen children, the eldest of whom is eighty-two years of age and the youngest forty-eight, Mrs. Brassett, of Grand Rapids, Mich., is just rounding a century of life. She is in good health, with unimpaired intellect.

According to the *Paris*, an actor who is a centenarian may be nightly seen at Toulouse. He is a comic actor named Graftot, and was born on the second of July, 1780, and made his debut when fifteen years of age, when the revolution was at its height. He is said to be still amusing.

When Hester Presbury died in Baltimore city the family of Streets sincerely mourned. She had long ago passed the century line, and had been a faithful servant, nursing the whole family, from their grandfather down. When the proclamation of emancipation set the slaves free, old Aunt Hester left the Streets and went to shift for herself. She leaves an orphan infant aged eighty.

The Madrid *Epoch* announces the death at Gijon, in Northern Spain, of a gentleman who was 112 years old. He successfully withstood the wear and tear of five successive marriages during his long life, and, indeed, wedded bliss may fairly be assumed to have agreed with him. His last wedding day was also the eighty-ninth anniversary of his birth, upon which festive occasion he espoused a comely maiden of "sweet seventeen," whose union with him resulted in the addition of two sturdy boys to his already numerous family of six-and-twenty sons, the fruits of his previous matrimonial alliances. Once, at the early age of fifteen, he was ill of a fever, since which he has known no malady or even inconsiderable ailment. For many years past he has eaten but one solid meal, at midday, in every twenty-four hours, his breakfast and supper consisting of a gill of raw spirits, swallowed at a draught and taken without food.

Mrs. Sarah Mosely, of Madison, Ind., was born in North Carolina February 15, 1770, and is therefore in her 111th year. One of her brothers, of whom she had seven, David Ballou, served seven years in the Colonial army during the war of the Revolution, and was captain and aide-de-camp to General Washington. He died subsequently of small-pox, and the pay due him was never received by his family, a fact that still worries Mrs. Mosely. Mrs. Mosely was playing with dolls when she was married, which was in her thirteenth year, and two years later with a child of her own. She reared ten children, the oldest living being eighty-six and the youngest fifty. When she was 100 years old she rode horseback and delighted in long walks. In that year she fell, injuring her thigh, and has since been unable to walk. In her youth she was the belle of Kentucky. Two years ago her hair, which at that time was whitened with age, returned to its original color—black.

The Digging Up of Ancient Troy. The St. Petersburg *Golos* has received a letter from the celebrated archaeologist, Schliemann, dated at Athens, which contains this interesting piece of information: I have just returned from Asia Minor, where I have at last finished that digging out of Troy which I began in 1870. During the last ten years I have struggled with great difficulties, among which perhaps the most troublesome has been the amount of debris under which the ancient city was buried. It has been necessary to dig down and up the ground for more than sixteen yards below the surface. But I am fully recompensed for all my trouble. I found the remains of seven different cities; the last of them was Ilium of Homer. That city was built by Æolians, banished from Greece by the Dorians in the eleventh century before our era. In one of the buried cities I found many statues of Minerva with the owl's head, whence her name of Glaukopis. In another city were found many images of the divinities. But the most interesting and important of all discoveries is, of course, the city of King Priam. Every article found in the ruins of that city bears unmistakable signs of having been destroyed by fire in a time of war. There were discovered many remains of human bodies in full armor. I dug out and cleared away the debris from the entire wall that surrounded the city, and also from all the principal buildings. Now I am finishing a large volume in English describing with full details all my discoveries and containing 200 illustrations of the most important of the discoveries. My Trojan collection is now in London, but at the end of this year I shall take my villa in Athens, which is fireproof, built only of marble and iron. I have received large offers for my collection from the United States, England, France and Germany, but I cannot part with it for any money in the world.

A Great Catch of Wild Pigeons.

A correspondent of the *Forest and Stream*, describing a pigeon roost in Michigan, says: The morning and evening hours are best for catching, as then the flights are on. I saw two hundred and eighty-seven taken at one spring of a single net, over a bed of mud to which the birds had been baited for some days by sprinkling salt over the mud. On these beds no decoys are used, the baiting being sufficient. The pigeons would eat greedily of the salted mud. On the occasion I speak of we arrived at the roost just before daybreak. The birds were well baited, and I expected to see a fine catch, as no net had as yet been sprung over that bed. With the first streaks of light we could hear the flutter as they lit in the trees about the bed. As the light increased they came faster and thicker, until soon the trees were alive with them, and the woods were filled with their calls. Soon a single pigeon dropped on the bed, and had hardly folded its wings before others began to pour from the trees in a stream. When they seemed to be standing on each other's backs and you could see nothing but pointed tails sticking up, and while they were still flying down on to the bed, we both looked at the line with all our eyes. There was a loud swish break, and the net sprang over, the lead line knocking feathers from those still in the air and in the way of the net. We rushed from our cover, and while I stood in astonishment at the boiling mass under the meshes, the netter proceeded to fasten down the corners of the net and remove the birds to the coops.

It requires the most skill to trap pigeons as they are flying over a net, a flyer (pigeon with its eyes sewed shut and a light weight fastened to its legs) being first thrown in the air to attract the attention of a passing flock, and a stool (a pigeon trained to act as if alighting) being industriously worked to induce the flight to strike upon the bed when the net is sprung.

The catch per day per man ranges from nothing to fifty or sixty dozen. No shooting is allowed within five miles of the roost proper. Good shooting (for those who wish to shoot nesting birds) can be had outside these limits, as the birds fly several miles for food, passing some points continuously, at some hours of the day.

This roost was thirty miles long, varying in width from one to five miles. There were three hundred men engaged in the business at one time that season, and as a result of their work I saw one hundred barrels of dead pigeons alone shipped in one day from the little village of Shelby.

A Lively Bolt of Lightning.

Mr. Frank E. Higbee, who lives on the Chicago road, about six miles from South Bend, Ind., gives this account of the freaks played by lightning at the house a few nights ago. Mr. Higbee says he and his wife and child were sleeping in one bed, and his cousin, Miss Lucy Higbee, in an adjoining room. All were sound asleep when the building was struck. Mr. Higbee was awakened by a noise which sounded as if the whole house was falling about him. He jumped up and struck a light, and found more debris than he supposed it was possible to make out of his house and furniture.

The clock was thrown from the mantel and lay smashed on the floor; the cook-stove was broken and the bottom knocked out; the parlor stove was tipped over and one leg broken; the pipes and elbows of both were burst out and flattened out of shape, and looked as if they had been heated red-hot. Miss Higbee's bed was badly racked and splintered; a castor was knocked from the dining-table; the cupboard was broken and the lids torn from all the cans in it, and many of the cans thrown to the floor; a bottle of bining was broken and the liquid thrown on the walls; the carpet was torn up and little shreds of it scattered all over the house; a short, there was scarcely an article of furniture in the rooms that was not misplaced or damaged.

Bricks from the chimney were scattered about, mixed with plastering from the walls, and the laths of the ceilings were partly forced from their places and hanging down into the room. The sashes of the north windows were broken, and parts of them and the glass were found several rods away from the house. Mr. Higbee says it is evident the lightning entered the house through the chimney, and then scattered in a score of different directions. It filled the house with a sulphurous smoke that was so suffocating that the inmates of the house had to get out of doors as soon as possible.

There were not a dozen whole bricks of the chimney left, and some of the bats were thrown a distance of five or six rods. One of the bricks struck Mr. Higbee on the knee and this was the only injury done to any one of the inmates, although all of them were slightly shocked. The wonder is that they were not killed outright. One peculiar feature about the occurrence is that every piece of steel and iron about the house is magnetized. Mr. Higbee first discovered this while using his knife to drive some glazier's points in a window sash. He then tried the knives and forks, scissors, a bayonet, his wife's corset steels, and found that all were heavily charged.

Habitual Headache.

Dr. Treichler, a German physician, has lately made some much-noted comments on habitual headache among young people, a trouble which he avers is largely on the increase. He is inclined to attribute it to excessive intellectual exertion, often caused by the fancy of parents for having a great variety of subjects taught, and more especially to night work, which, he says, produces in the brain the same condition as would be produced in the muscles, if, after a long day's march, a mountain-climber were to continue walking far on into the night, and were to repeat this day after day. Dr. Treichler's letter has elicited from a London physician a statement that he has sometimes found the brain to be growing faster than the skull which contained it. What seemed like great stupidity was for a time the result, but in time the skull effected its enlargement, and the brain was relieved. One of the dangers most likely to occur in schools arises from the fact that the same lessons are necessarily allotted to all in a class, and while they entail no effort of intellect on the part of one, may be a frightful labor to another. It is the dull, laborious pupil, we suspect, who oftentimes is the most injured by school pressure, and it should be the study of the teacher to recognize him or her, and afford aid and encouragement.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

New York Fashions.

A violet shade is to be in vogue this season. The handsomest tissues and most beautiful combinations are made in this color. Rich brocatelles in two shades of heliotrope are in preparation. There are also mauve-colored satins with small bunches of violets, which are arranged like the madras ficus so much worn last summer, with the center and wide borders. Many suits are to be made in this style. The "tissu Montmorency," a new material, is covered with designs of handsome cherries and leaves. The groundings is dark garnet or bronze color. The material is arranged in different-sized bands, divided by light threads. Showy toilets for young ladies are made of this goods, and it is also much employed for sun-shades. Surah and foulard continues to be the favored materials, as they are light and soft and admirably suited to all kinds of drapery.

Postilion basques and "tournures" are daily gaining in favor. With this year of wat in the fronts are pointed, and the sleeves cut over the hips, while the backs forms postillon coats. The waists are smaller than ever, requiring corsets of the very best make.

Satin, which hitherto has been reserved exclusively for winter toilets, is now extensively used on spring and summer dresses. These have puffs of satin down the front, and draperies and platings. The trimmings, when combined with Pompadour foulards and plain surah, are very light and suitable for summer wear, and have a totally different effect to that produced when combined with such goods as velvet vicogee. Colored faille and broadened taffetas are in high favor. With the new fancy fabrics in use, aprons are made of satin, either in the color or the groundings, or in one of the colors of the design. This style is useful for making over old dresses.

Plain linen and batiste dresses, which cannot be worn as they are, may be made over in pompadour designs with the same materials. Blue, gray, and straw colored linen dresses may be combined with percale satinettes, and the old-fashioned waists replaced by the Watteau cascade. The plain skirt has a short train and puffing of the fancy fabric. The most important characteristic of the making, over of these old dresses is that the new goods do not affect the old. There are so many shades now in use that this is not a difficult matter to accomplish. Satin inserted platings are very extensively used. They are placed between the side pieces of the waist, on the middle of the basque, between the breadths of skirts on the sleeves, and, in fact, on all parts of the dress. The "soufflet," as this plating is called, consists of a fan-shaped plating, arranged in seven plaits fastened close together on the top and left loose on the lower part.

In the outer garments in wear at present, a style has been brought out which was all the rage six or seven years ago. It is a kind of "Marianne" garment, with the addition of varied trimmings. The double pelerine has a large opening for the arm to pass through. The lower part of the garment is plaited. This small cloak is of English chevot on woolen reps, and is used for shopping purposes and demit-toilets. It must always be of some fancy goods, and is often lined with red surah. The collar is sometimes made to match, and is sometimes of velvet in the color of the garment. The "étrangère" cloak is of satin, lined with heliotrope colored satin. The seam is cut up in the center of the back. The seam of the sleeve passes over the shoulder and terminates on a line with the seam under the arm. A piece is cut out to form the sleeve. The trimming consists of bonde platings and jet fringe. On the sleeves are satin ribbon bows. The "manteau Colibri" is of black sicilienne. It consists of two pieces joined in the back seams. The fronts close to the waist, from which point they are taken back and joined under a black satin bow, with passementerie cords and tassels. The garment is trimmed with ruffled lace and beads.

Toilets for half-mourning wear are made combining black and gray faille. The puffed apron is generally of plain black faille, while the draperies are of the grayish silk. The gray train is narrow. The waist is of black faille and the vest of gray. The black sleeves have gray cuffs. Any mourning dress made of faille or foulard may be arranged in this manner.

A toilet for deep-mourning may be of epingline and English crape. The skirt is trimmed with a deep, plaited flounce, over which is a band of crape. The front of the tunique is divided into two parts. One of these forms the apron and crosses a second piece, which is smaller and forms a panel on the left side. The tunique is trimmed with a band of crape. On the side of the tunique is a large crape bow, with falling loops. In the back is a puff trimmed with crape. The cachemire jacket is trimmed on either side in front with a broad bias crape band, and a cording of the same borders the basque and pockets. On the back of the basque is an inserted crape plating. The turned-down collar is of crape. The long sleeves are trimmed with two bias bands and a piping of crape. The hat matching the suit is a small capote covered with English crape and trimmed around the crown with a crape braid. The crape veil, thrown over the back of the bonnets, is not long.

Baby dresses are trimmed more than ever with embroideries. The drawers have a deep trimming of embroideries; the petticoats have four flounces, and the deep-worked collars are to be seen on all dresses. English dresses are worn by children up to their twelfth year, with draperies and scarfs, which seem to divide the dress into two parts, one forming the skirt and the other a loose-fitting tunique. For these dresses many vests and plastrons are made in bright colors. Spotted foulards and Madras ficus, with deep borders, are made in suits for little girls. Suits are made for babies, from three to five years of age, of white, blue or pink sicilienne. These consist of microscopic directorio redingotes, with triple collars. The fashions in children's hats are large Legerhorn straw, not quite so large, however, as were worn some years ago. The brims are raised in different parts under either a bow, bouquet or a feather.

A Bride in the Land of Romance.

A Persian bride, when first brought, is a queer little body, fattened up with rice and sweets for the occasion, and sadly besmeared with cosmetics. Collyrium has been put upon her eyes, and they are also elongated by some means, so that they may have the shape of

almonds. Her hair is dyed of a con black by indigo, or of a reddish-brown by indigo and henna mixed with it, according to her own fancy, or that of the broker. Her eyebrows are plastered and painted so thickly that they look like a large piece of court-plaster cut into arches, and stuck upon her face. I say a large piece, because they are joined artificially by a thick line across the nose. Her cheeks are painted in excessively bright colors, and two shiny locks of hair, gummed together, and stuck flat on each side of them, in the shape of number sixes placed the wrong way. Her hands and feet, finger nails, and toe nails, are dyed a light mahogany color with henna. She has no bare shape or figure than a bolster. Poor little thing! she plays such tricks with herself generally that at twenty she is an old woman, with her skin all shriveled and burnt up by caustics and poisoned pricks of needles. This old under-sized creature waddles about the apartment of her new lord in the finest and largest trousers possible to be made.

She wears a smart embroidered jacket with short sleeves, and a pretty chemise of some light white material, embroidered with gold threads; but her arms and neck are bare. She hangs upon her little person as many jewels, gold coins and trinkets as she can possibly get at. She is especially fond of pearls and diamonds, but is not particular as to their beauty or value. A diamond is a diamond for her, whatever its shape or color may be. She is very fine, but never elegant. Her mind is entirely uneducated. She has neither education nor accomplishments; but she has a good deal of flowery talk about roses and nightingales, with an undercurrent of strange roundabout wit and drollery. There is an utter want of delicacy and modesty in her conversation. She knows a great many things which she ought not to know; and, child as she is in years, she would outwit the wisest man who ever wore gray beard.

A Ceremonious Nabob.

I have told you, writes an English traveler, very little about the nabob (of the Carnatic), although no day passes without messengers from him—in the morning to inquire how I slept, and in the middle of the day to present a gift of fruit and flowers. He insists on my seeing these messengers with great silver sticks and returning my salaams by them, which is a great and grievous bore twice a day. After my first visit he sent me a dinner of at least fifty dishes, each of which was brought on the back of a black damsel. This feast was displayed on the floor of the colonnade, and I was brought forth to see the embroidered covers taken off, and to admire the cook-shop.

I made my salaam, and the repast was devoured by Lord William's body guard. The present of a dinner is an established custom in the East. The nabob is a very fat, thick-bearded person, about thirty. At my first visit he received me at the door of my coach, having bargained that I should do the like when he returned my visit. He embraced me as soon as I was out of the coach with most affectionate hugs, saying each time: "How d'ye do, governor general?" This I thought a very suitable salutation at our meeting, but it seemed less and more appropriate at my departure, when, at the coach door, he repeated the four embraces, with "How d'ye do, governor general?" four times again.

During the reception he sat on a sofa in a great hall, in which was also the musnud or throne, on his right side, Lord William on his left. Then our interpreter made us mutually happy by assurances of each other's perfect health, and the nabob returned thanks to God for the health of the king, the queen, the Prince of Wales and the princes and princesses, the court of directors, the house of peers, and all the members of the house of commons, every one of whom I assured him I had left in the most blooming health.

We were then still more deeply affected by our extreme attachment for each other, and by the singular felicity of beholding each other's faces. Many other similar affairs of state were transacted between us, and when the painful moment for parting arrived, his highness dropped a few drops of attar of roses on my handkerchief, then sprinkled me profusely all over my best Vienna embroidered coat with rose-water, saying affectionately that he knew he was spoiling my coat (but what is a coat to the effusions of friendship?). Then he put on my neck a garland of white flowers, gave me two packets of betelnut and then two roses.

England's Agricultural Depression

Mr. James Caird, the eminent agricultural authority, in a letter to the *London Times* on British agricultural prospects and American competition, says: It may be useful to show the pressing need for the early removal of every impediment which unnecessarily hampers us in the competition to which we are now exposed. Nothing like the present depression in agricultural interest has been seen since the repeal of the corn laws. In nine years there have been seven defective wheat harvests, the last culminating in intensity and including in its grasp a part of the animal in addition to the other produce of the land. In England where the bulk of the wheat crop is grown, there has been lost in these years a fourth more than a whole year's wheat crop—a loss to the wheat-growers of more than thirty millions sterling, with no compensation in higher prices. The introduction of foreign meat and cereals is of immense benefit to the consuming classes of Europe. American statesmen believe they are rapidly gaining control of this trade and can maintain it even at lower prices. It must be met by the production here of articles which will not bear long storage or carriage, such as milk, fresh butter, early meat, vegetables, hay, straw, potatoes and the sugar-beet. Grass farms, dairies and market gardening—all the interests in land, whether of the owner, occupier or laborer—must be disenfranchised. The control of the dead land must be removed. The sale and transfer of land must be simplified and cheapened. Encumbered and unwieldy estates will then be broken up and subdivided to form numerous small properties. The drain of agricultural labor and capital to the United States and Canada, which has already commenced and which nothing can prevent from continuing and increasing, will alter the existing conditions of agricultural property in England. Our agriculture must adapt itself to the change, freely accepting the good it brings, and skilfully using the advantages which greater proximity to the best market must always command.

TIMELY TOPICS.

Professor George L. Vose, of Bowdoin college, Maine, who is regarded as an authority upon such subjects, says that over 200 railroad bridges have fallen within the past ten years. He attributes these "accidents" either to the selection of bad material, faulty construction, and imperfect supervision, or all of these causes combined.

The great map of the moon, completed by Dr. Julius Schmidt, of Athens, after twelve years of labor, shows 32,856 craters and ring-like formations on the lunar surface, and 348 rills and clefts. Dr. Schmidt estimates that the number would be increased to 100,000 craters in a complete chart, showing the moon as seen with a magnifying power of 600.

The *American Journal of Science* has been giving Edison's electric light a thorough investigation, and its conclusion is as follows: Provided the lamp can be made either cheap enough or durable enough, there is no reasonable doubt of the practical success of the light, but this point will evidently require much further experiment before the light can be pronounced practicable. That Mr. Edison will finally overcome the difficulty, however, no one who knows him can doubt.

Dr. Carpenter considers it possible that at some remote geological period a connecting strip of land may have existed between Europe and America, and that New Zealand, Tasmania and South America may have been linked together by ridges of dry land, while Madagascar may have been joined in a similar manner to the African continent. Geologists have supposed that a great continent, which they have called Atlantis, once existed between Africa and America, but Dr. Carpenter regards the evidence of it as very unsatisfactory.

M. Lamarre is the originator of an improved military projectile, a fire ball, for the purpose of throwing a strong light on the enemy's position in the night time, the principal object being to prevent the digging of trenches or the accomplishment of other military operations. Shortly after leaving the cannon, the Lamarre fire ball discharges a light sufficiently bright, and lasting long enough, to enable guns to be pointed at the works. The projectile has also a grenade, which explodes after a certain time, thus keeping the enemy away, and preventing their interference with the light.

Adam Wagoner was about the most popular old man in Gallipolis, Ohio, but he was a confirmed swearer. The community was frequently shocked by his language, but liked him for his kindly heart. His nephew, Philip, owed him a grudge, and took advantage of his failing to injure him. Whenever he cursed outrageously before witnesses, Philip had him arrested and fined under the law against profanity. This went on for several years. At length the justice before whom the cases came refused to inflict another fine. Philip was maddened by the failure of his old device, and killed the old man on the spot with a pistol.

By an official return relating to English merchant shipping, lately issued, the number of sailing vessels employed, both in the home and foreign trade, has diminished from 19,090 in 1860 to 16,449 in 1870, the tonnage being 3,552,245 in the first year, to 3,918,676 in the last. The height of prosperity for England's merchant fleet was in 1865, since which year there has been a marked falling off. On the other hand, the number of steamers has augmented from 929 in 1860, to 3,580 last year, and the tonnage from 399,494 to 2,331,157. This increase of about six-fold in the tonnage of the steamers means more than a similar increase of sailing vessels would imply, for the effective power of the steamer as a carrier may be three or four times that of the sailing vessel, as the former will make three or four voyages to one of the other.

A Fair, Home has been established in Springfield, Mass. All persons afflicted in body or mind who have faith to believe that they can receive physical or spiritual help are welcome there, and the healing is secured through the prayer of faith, the laying on of hands, and sometimes anointing with oil. Patients are allowed to take their own course while in the house, and, as Miss Warriner says: "If they want a season of prayer while we are in the midst of doing our dishes, we stop right there and have it." Miss Warriner and Mrs. Risher are better known in Chiopee, as "Sisters Orpha and Rosa," having lived there together for nearly thirty years. Mrs. Risher's sister was healed by faith of a grievous disease of long standing, some few years since. They depend wholly on the Lord for their own support and that of the institution, and they have the impression that they will shortly be led by Him to move nearer the heart of the city.

The death, probably a suicide, of the stockbroker, Max A. Finst, whose body was found in the East river, New York, conveys still another moral touching Wall street. He had been a very bold and successful speculator on the exchange; had counted himself rich; he was as happy as a man can be who lives on a financial mine that may explode any moment and blow his fortune and contentment to pieces. For a year or more he had, as the phrase is, been on the wrong side of the market, and though he had not failed, nor lost credit, his losses so preyed on his mind that he gradually swung out of balance. He disappeared from his home; was seen afterward in a strange, bewildered condition, and next his body was taken from the water. Of course Wall street killed him directly, as it kills indirectly scores of men every year. He was young—only thirty-seven; he had a wife and two children whom he loved; he was genial and kind-hearted; he had many friends, in and out of the board, willing to help him over any rough places. He had much to live for, but the unconquerable desire to get more money after he had secured a handsome independence drove him to increased risks, to derangement, and to destruction. This distressing sort of history is continually repeating itself. The facts disclosed every day about the stock exchange are full of such sad lessons that they need not be enforced. The New York stockbrokers are supported by the losses of outsiders, and yet they have not the strength to keep out of the speculations which they see ruin others. Wall street is the great gambling hell of the continent, and draws the whole country by its mercenary fascination.

In Zurich, Switzerland, the use of a portable water power, so to speak, is being extensively used for household purposes. Firewood, for example, is to be sawn into convenient lengths for burning. A small sawing machine on wheels is drawn by two men to the front of a house. They connect by a flexible tube with the nearest hydrant; the water flows to the machine; the saw dances, and cuts up the wood with surprising rapidity. A portable turbine has also been invented, and employed in many places in the same city, in driving a Gramme machine for the production of electric light. Water is very abundant in Zurich; but there are other towns in which this domestic water power could be advantageously introduced. Where it is any object to keep a record of the water used an indicator showing the quantity might be affixed to the machine.

During a recent performance in the Teatro del Giro, at Madrid, a madman forced his way into the house, armed with a hatchet, and contrived to climb from the auditorium upon the stage, where, brandishing his weapon furiously, he announced himself to the terrified audience as the "Avenger of Mankind." All attempts to remove him having proved in vain, and his fury momentarily increasing, a detachment of soldiers received the order to load with ball and fire upon him. A minute later the wretched man lay a corpse upon the stage, three bullets having passed through his head; and, this highly sensational dramatic episode having been thus brought to a close, the audience returned to their places, from which they had fled in terror when the madman made his first and last appearance upon the stage, and the evening's performances were resumed at the point at which they had been interrupted by "Mankind's Avenger."

Medical Properties of Eggs.

For burns or scalds nothing is more soothing than the white of an egg, which may be poured over the wound. It is softer, as a varnish, than burnt colloid, and, being always at hand, can be applied immediately. It is also more cooling than the "sweet oil and cotton" which was formerly supposed to be the surest application to allay the smarting pain. It is the contact with the air which gives the extreme discomfort experienced from ordinary accidents of this kind; and anything which excludes air and prevents inflammation is the thing to be at once applied.

The egg is also considered one of the best remedies for dysentery. Beaten up slightly with or without sugar and slightly cooled, it tends by its emollient qualities to lessen the inflammation of the stomach and intestines, and by forming a transient coating on these organs, to enable nature to resume her healthful sway over the diseased body. Two, or at most, three eggs per day, would be all that is required in ordinary cases, and since the egg is not merely medicine, but food as well, the lighter the diet otherwise, and the quieter the patient is kept, the more certain and rapid is the recovery.

It is stated within a few years that a certain oil, to be obtained from the yolks of boiled eggs, is of great use in curing cuts and bruises. This oil is obtained by cooking the yolks over a fresh fire. They are stirred constantly till seemingly on the point of bursting into a blaze, when it is found that a certain quantity of oil is eliminated from each yolk, and this strained and secured is said to have wonderful healing properties.—*American Poultry Year.*

Sea-Messengers.

The disappearance of the *Atalanta* has given rise to a suggestion in the *Pall Mall Gazette* that every sea-going vessel should be compelled to carry at least one of the so-called "sea-messengers." The sea-messenger is a cask made in various sizes of copper, in compartments; and, according to its size, letters, dispatches, ships' logs, jewelry and other valuables can be inserted in it. The cask can be quickly hermetically sealed so that no water can get in, and may then be thrown overboard with the assurance that it will remain afloat for a very long time. The advisability, however, of adopting a second suggestion, made by a correspondent of the *Standard*, that "if it is made law that every ship must carry a sea-messenger, there must also be an enactment that ships sighting one must, under penalty for omission, pick it up," is open to question. A handy steamer or well-found yacht might be able without much trouble to pick up a small cask; but it would often be very difficult, if not impossible, for an ordinary merchant vessel to do so. A captain, unwilling to delay his voyage to pick up a messenger, could always frame a plausible excuse for not doing so. At the same time, curiously, if no better motive, could generally be depended upon to insure that it would be done if possible.—*Pittsburg Chronicle.*

How Rice is Cooked in Japan.

A recent traveler in Japan says: They do know how to cook rice here, though, and for the benefit of grocers and consumers in the United States I investigated the matter. Only just enough cold water is poured on to prevent the rice from burning to the pot, which has a close-fitting cover, and is set on a moderate fire. The rice is steamed, rather than boiled, until it is nearly done; then the cover of the pot is taken off, the surplus steam and moisture are allowed to escape, and the rice turns out a mass of snow-white kernels, each separate from the other, and as much superior to the soggy mass we usually get in the United States as a fine meal is to the water-soaked article. I have seen something approaching this in our Southern States, but I do not think even there they do it as skillfully as it is done here and in the Northern States but very few persons understand how to cook rice properly. I am sure that if cooked as it is here the consumption of this wholesome and delicious cereal would largely increase in America.

A young pastor who has recently had a son born to him notifies a brother pastor as follows: "Unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given.—Is. ix. 6." It was written on a postal card. The receiver showed the message to a sister in his church. "Ah, yes," said the woman, after reading it, "it weighed nine pounds, six ounces." A mining company at St. Clair, Ill., dispensed with the services of a hundred men at \$1 a day by the use of labor-saving machinery; but they employed fifty men at \$3 a day to guard the apparatus.