

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Snake bites are said to cause the death of twenty thousand people in India during some years, so that in half a century almost a million people perish from this one cause.

It is marvelous how sheep and wool growing have increased in this country within the last fifteen or twenty years. In 1860 there were only about 23,000,000 sheep in the United States.

Scarcely any characteristic of the German emperor is more marked than his aversion to capital punishment. In the period from 1864 to 1878 only twenty-six out of 218 capital sentences were carried out.

"I sympathize," says Mr. Labouchiere in London Truth, "with the Birmingham butcher who has been condemned to one month's imprisonment for selling donkey as human food."

The increase of the meat and live cattle exportation from this country to England, is illustrated by the statement of the London Truth that during one recent week seven steamers arrived in Liverpool from America with cargoes of fresh meat.

The Russian government has begun to execute its schemes for colonizing the lower part of the Amoor province, adjoining the Chinese frontier.

A young lady in Chicago has some very practical ideas about missionary work. She is a student in the female Baptist missionary training school and is not yet twenty years of age.

A new use has been discovered for oyster shells. For years they have been used for the manufacture of lime as

manure, for decorative purposes, and in the preparation of a cheap imitation of marble; but it is now found that they cannot be better utilized than by being thrown in quantities into the sea.

In no other country are desertions from the army so numerous in proportion to its size as in ours, and in none is its cost per man so great. According to the last annual report issued by the adjutant-general, there were 3741 desertions during the year.

Speaking of boarding-house dead-beats, a New York correspondent adds that "the usual number of frauds and impostors is now pervading the city. Some of this class are admirably skilled in the art of imposition."

As an instance of what the Federal officers have to contend with in performing their duties, a little matter was developed in the United States land office at Santa Fe, N. M., recently, which conveys the idea precisely.

Senor Felipe Poey, a famous ichthyologist of Cuba, has recently brought out an exhaustive work upon the fishes of Cuban waters, in which he describes and depicts no fewer than 782 distinct varieties.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

The truly wise man should have no keeper of his secret but himself.

Tastes consist in the power of judging, genius in the power of executing. A narrow-minded man can never possess real and true generosity.

There is no doubt that thinkers govern the world, and it is quite as certain that the world governs potentates.

The way to avoid the imputation of impudence is, not to be ashamed of what we do, but never to do what we ought to be ashamed of.

The persons most anxious to add to their wealth are generally those who don't know how to make any good use of what they have already.

The best means to learn our faults is to tell others of theirs; they will be too proud to be alone in their defects.

These two things, contradictory as they may seem, must go together, namely dependence and manly independence, manly reliance and manly self-reliance.

Our best words will rule the world some day. Their meaning will flash out some time. Speak them boldly, and trust the growing soul of the race for future compensation.

Anything that makes the heart warmer, anything that makes the current of affection run fuller, anything that makes gratitude and love and honor and truth and reason stronger, makes the man stronger.

A Chinese Cemetery.

The cemetery seemed to be the most curious of all the sights connected with Chinadom in San Francisco. I came upon it in the course of a long stroll and was, as it happened, almost the only outside spectator to peculiar ceremonial rites on the annual propitiation of the spirits of the dead.

"The patient sits here. In this cushion to my left are stuck a score or so of those needles you saw being threaded. Each stitch only leaving two strands of hair; to facilitate the operation a number of needles must be at hand."

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Beautiful Indian Women. Many half-breed Cherokee women in the Indian territory, writes a correspondent, are cultivated in mind, beautiful in person, industrious in habit, and will compare well with the more favored woman in the North and East.

Artificial Eyebrows.

At a certain factory a number of young women were working at small tables, each table covered with little instruments and things, the like of which I had never seen before. At one table two girls were threading needles with fine, silky hair, and sewing them in little squares on a thin, transparent gauze.

"I begged him to explain the operation of giving a person eyebrows who was born without them, and leading me into a most elegantly furnished parlor in which was a large dentist's chair, he continued: "The patient sits here. In this cushion to my left are stuck a score or so of those needles you saw being threaded."

A Hundred Years Hence.

Some people often wish that they were dead, and if this involved their living by-and-by instead of now, how many will wish it, on reading the prophecy of the Rev. Mr. Fincke, an English clergyman who travelled much in America ten years ago.

Fashion Notes.

Daffodil and primrose brocades are imported. The shade of lilac known as "Ophelia" has been revived in veilings. Leather buckles appear among new ornaments for hats, bonnets and dresses.

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

The Professor's Rubbers.

"Tell us a story, Uncle Dmitri," cried three tiny voices at once, as two little Russian girls and a curly-headed Russian boy clustered around their uncle's arm chair.

Knowing by experience that the request would be granted, the rest of the company drew closer, and General Milutine began as follows:

"When I was about thirteen I used to go to school at the St. Vladimir lyceum. There were several of my chums in the same class, and a wild lot they were, always in some scrape or other; but the wildest of all was a lad from the Lower Volga. We used to call him 'Prokaznik' (Madcrap), and a very good name it was, for he couldn't be happy without playing some mad trick or other.

"On one occasion it was the old professor of mathematics at the lyceum who became Madcrap's victim. Among the professor's queer ways—and he had plenty of them—was his custom of going about, winter or summer, wet or dry, in a pair of enormous rubbers, whether to save his boots or from mere force of habit I can't say.

"Well, our friend Madcrap took it into his head to have some fun with the professor's rubbers. One afternoon he contrived to come up just as the professor had gone in, leaving his rubbers outside as usual.

"You may fancy the poor professor's dismay when, on slipping his feet into the rubbers and trying to shuffle away as usual, he found himself rooted to the ground, and unable to stir an inch. He struggled, twisted, tugged, jumped, and at last, thinking he was bewitched or struck with paralysis, he began to shout and scream till the whole place rang. Madcap and his chum, who were looking on from the stairs above, got scared, and ran to help him; but just then the professor gave a tremendous tug, and tore one of his rubbers almost in two.

"When the boys saw the old man look troubled, they began to think that he might not be able to afford a new pair, and they at once repented of their joke. Out rushed Madcap to a store round the corner, bought the best pair of rubbers in it, and put them into the professor's hands as he came slowly and sadly down the steps; and there were tears in the poor old man's eyes as he took them. But it didn't end there, for Madcap had a friend at the court in the shape of his godmother, the czar's own sister-in-law, and through her influence the professor got such a good appointment that I don't think he'll ever have to wear worn-out rubbers again."

"And what's become of him now?" asked all the three children at once. "His excellency the president of the Imperial university," announced a servant at that moment, throwing open the drawing-room door.

In came a tall, fine-looking old man in black, so erect in figure, so firm in step, and with such a clear, bright eye that required the evidence of his snow-white hair and wrinkled forehead to make one believe that he had really celebrated his eightieth birthday nearly six months before.

"Ha, Stefan Yakowitch" (Stephen, son of James, the usual form of address in Russia), cried General Milutine, springing up and grasping the new-comer's hand heartily. "You've come exactly at the right moment. Do you know, I've just been telling our friends here how you had your rubbers nailed to the floor by a mischievous young student at the St. Vladimir lyceum a good many years ago."

"What!" cried all the company, with one voice, "was the professor?" "The professor was our good friend President M—," answered the general, laughing, "and I was the young Madcap."—Harper's Young People.

M. Fourmant has proved that pork containing trichinae may still be salted after having been kept in salt for fifteen months.

Ungratefulness is a very notable of manhood.