

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The complete destruction of the carcasses of animals that have died of contagious diseases is recommended by M. Girard. He would dissolve the bodies in cold, concentrated sulphuric acid.

The Russian geographical society has received a list of the localities along the coast of north-eastern Siberia where human beings may be found at different seasons of the year. It is hoped that the use of this list by future explorers may enable them to escape the sad fate of Lieut. DeLong and his companions.

Mr. J. E. Mitchell, in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, says about the grindstone: "All nations use it, and it is perhaps with all, the one piece of mechanism that bears the same form and is the same in principle. More or less directly it takes part in the greatest modern material enterprises; it has no doubt assisted to fashion the implements of many of the lost arts, and is still needed in many of the requirements of the arts of the present day."

Professor Huxley maintains that in fishing districts an acre of sea was more profuse in food production than an acre of land. Salmon river required protection. But in the case of the great sea the circumstances were entirely different. He believed that the cod, herring, pilchard, mackerel and similar fisheries were inexhaustible, and were entirely beyond the control of man either to diminish the number of fish or to increase them by cultivation.

Dr. John C. Thompson writes to the London papers to point out what ought to have been a well-known fact to Captain Webb, or any other experienced swimmer, that human strength or skill is of absolutely no use in foaming water, where the number of air bubbles is necessarily so great as to reduce the gravity of the water sufficiently to make it impossible for the strongest swimmer to support himself. Had this consideration received due weight Captain Webb's attempt might never have been made.

A curious fact about water is that it is the metal known as hydrogenium. When oxygen combines with iron it forms a reddish rust, and the metal becomes in time disintegrated. In this condition it is said to be oxidized. Now water is simply oxidized hydrogenium. This metal is present in the sun and all the planets in enormous quantities. Indeed it is said that the human body is composed of five and a half parts of water, mingled with some lime, iron, and certain salts. Chemistry has revealed to us many marvels, but none greater than the composition of common water.—*Demorest.*

Naming a Lake.

Years ago, it was discovered that a certain lake which had long been considered the head of the Mississippi, had no claim to that honor. The explorers found a new and smaller lake from which the great river took its rise. A discussion arose as to what name would be appropriate for it. The story is that it was decided in this way:

"Let's make a new name by coining a word," said an old voyager. "Some of you learned ones tell me what is the Latin for true."

"Veritas," answered a scholar.

"Well, now, what is Latin for head?"

"Caput."

"Now write the two words together by syllables."

The scholar wrote on a strip of birch-bark, "veritas caput."

"Read it."

The five syllables were read.

"Now drop the first and last syllables and you'll have a good name for this lake." And "Itasca" it was.

American Landed Principalties.

It is astonishing, says the *Troy Times*, what large farms in the United States are owned by titled Englishmen. Of individual owners there are Sir George Reed, 2,000,000 acres; Earl of Dunmore, 100,000 acres; Earl of Dunraven, 60,000 acres; Duke of Sutherland, 40,000; the next largest farms are owned by Phillips, Marshall & Co., 1,300,000 acres; heirs of Col. Murphy, 4,100,000 acres; H. Diston, 12,000,000 acres; Standard Oil Company, 1,000,000 acres; and scores of others. Nine men own a territory equal to that of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined. Then there are great railroad corporations, whose free gifts of land from profligate congresses amount to upward of 200,000,000 acres. Eleven of these corporations have been given 120,000,000 acres. The northern Pacific road has received the biggest slice, 47,000,000, and the grants have ranged all the way from 1,000,000 acres and upwards.

DRUNKARDS IN RUSSIA.

How Intoxicated Persons are Dealt With in the Czar's Dominions.
A gentleman who has lived for several years in St. Petersburg, Russia, said to a *St. Louis Globe Democrat* attache in reference to the liquor traffic in that country:

"There is no attempt at regulation, except that the government police, polizei, keep a sharp eye on all the vendors of vodka, and other intoxicating drinks. The dealer in Russian whisky is protected by the law and is answerable to the law. He dare not make use of his license to deal in vodka as a blind for robbery. Such things as you Americans call 'dives' are utterly unknown there. No man can be tempted to drunkenness and robbery while in a drunken state without punishing the dealer, which means deprivation of his license and a period of incarceration in jail with hard labor, followed, in extreme cases with a touch of the knout on his bare skin. The terror of this punishment makes each keeper of a vodka shop really a conservator of the peace; for, as soon as the liquor dealer sees that one of his customers is likely to get violently drunk, he turns him out on the street. And a man already drunk can get no more vodka."

"But suppose the drunken man kicks up a row, what then?"

"He is taken in charge by the police and taken to the station-house. His punishment then follows as a matter of course. No matter whether he be rich or poor, whether he belong to the noble or to the working class, he must serve eight hours in the street-sweeping gang. At six o'clock in the morning succeeding his orgie, he has offered to him a lump of bread and a glass of whisky. He may or may not accept of the proffered municipal hospitality, but when 7 o'clock strikes he has to go out on the street gang, and with broom and spade make the Nevskoi Pevspekt, or any other street he may work on, as clean as a new pin."

"But do they make no difference between gentlemen and workmen?"

"None whatever; yet there is a difference generally. The gentlemen who are found drunk on the streets at night, usually have black clothes. They are marked on the back with a great white Greek cross, a cross big enough to be seen half a square away. The moujik, or workmen class, who, at least in summer, are found with their dirty white shirts covering their shoulders, are marked with an equally conspicuous black cross. This is the only difference, and, if a gentleman be with white or light-colored clothing on him, he gets, also, the black cross. They are all classed as drunkards, and treated without reference to their rank."

"But you said these men have to do eight hours' work on the street. Do you mean that they are kept eight hours without any rest?"

"No; the street-sweeping gangs are accompanied by wagons, which carry the tools, something like your hoodlum wagons, and they also carry provisions. At 12 o'clock, noon, each gang is halted, and from the wagon is offered to each individual, a second lump of bread, accompanied by a Dantziger herring. This luxurious fare can be eaten or left, just as it suits the principal parties concerned. The moujiks all grasp at the offered food; occasionally you will see a gentleman in dignantly spurn it. But all have got to go to work again as soon as the gong sounds, and they must work three hours longer. At the end of the eight hour the wagon comes along and picks up the tools and material that belong to the government, and the order is given to the drunkards to scatter. They go off; they have been thoroughly punished for the indiscretion of a night, and the streets of St. Petersburg benefit by the indiscretion."

Blowing His Trumpet.

The following, which is a verbal translation of a Chinese inkmaker's shop-bill equals anything in puffing—an art now brought to astonishing perfection. "At the shop Tae-shing (prosperous in the extreme)—very good ink; fine! fine! Ancient shop, great grandfather, grandfather, father and self, make this ink; fine and hard, very hard; picked with care, selected with attention. I sell very good ink, prime cost is very. This ink is heavy; so is gold. The eye of the dragon glitters and dazzles, so does this ink. No one makes like it. Others who make ink, make it for the sake of accumulating base coin and cheat, while I make it only for a name. Plenty of A-kwan-tsae (gentlemen) know my ink—my family never cheated—they have always borne a good name. I make it for the 'Son of Heaven,' and all the mandarins in the empire. As the roar of the tiger extends to every place, so does the fame of the 'dragon's

jewel' (meaning his ink). Come, all A-kwan-tsae, come to my shop, and see the sign Tae-shing at the side of the door. It is Seou-shwuy street (Small Water street), outside the south gate."

FIGHT WITH A CUTTLE FISH.

An Old Grand Banks Fisherman's Tough Yarn.

"Yo see, I shipped for a cruise on the coddler Laughin' Dolly, for no pay and a share o' the proceeds. We sailed from Gloucester and had tolerable luck; then gettin' out o' bait, we put intew Hare Bay—that's on the coast o' Newfoundland—and I reckon we jest got in in time, for it let on tew blow from the east'ard and banged and hampered for a like o' three days. At the end o' that time we got the water butt intew the dory and me and my mate, Long Tom Sigstree, pulled in for a little cove to lu'ard, where it was smooth water and good landin'. In we went a hoopin', when jest as we were goin' through the gut o' the cove it kinder shoaled like and we come to with a rush, and we were broadside onto the worst lookin' creetur yer ever see or heard on."

"First I thought it was a spider; its arms was a-lyin' in the air over us and some a-hangin' on tew the boat, and the cretur seemed to be actually a-tryin' tew come aboard. Ye see, it had grounded on the shoal and we'd plumped right intew it, and I'm a master hand at sight seein', but I was took all a-back, and the first I knew one of its arms was around the oar. Whish! came another, takin' Long Tom around the boot and yankin' him clean off his feet. He whipped out his knife and cut it off, and it fell in the boat, a-twistin' jest like a snake. Another came a-lyin' along, and took me in the neck, cuttin' jest like a knife, and all this time we wur a-whackin' and jammin' at the creetur to keep him out of the boat. But its legs was kivered with suckers and it kinder came on. Right between the legs we saw a pair o' bills a-workin' up and down jest like these are, while the creetur was a pumpin' ink and water from a sort o' spout jest like a steam engine, so't we was black from head to foot and the water all araound. I got my oar up like a harpoon, and was jest goin' to jam it in the head, when a wave took the dory, gave her a lift, and over she went, chuckin' me right intew the cretur, and I'll swan to life I never was so near meetin' Davy Jones before or since. I tried to jump clear, but the boat knocked me down, and the first I knew I felt a grip on my boot and I see the animal had me by the leg; bit clean through leather, leg and all, and for a minute I was all wound up, and I reckon if it warn't for Tom I'd been cleaned out sure. The water wasn't over two feet, and he jumped clear o' the cretur, and then shovin' the boat clear he jammed the squid in the head with an oar four or five times and hauled me out, and yaou can bet yer port money I was a physical wreck so far as looks goes—all scratched up."

"Wall, we righted the boat, and then I was bound tew see the creetur; so we dragged it in shore and spread her out, and how long do you reckon on it was? Forty-eight feet tew an inch, and the worst lookin' thing I ever clapped my eyes on. The body was jest like a big bag, about twelve foot long and soft like jelly. The tail looked like the fluke of an anchor, but the head was what took me. The eyes on it were black and as big as saucers, and from around 'em branched off ten legs, kivered on one side with suckers, with edges o' 'em jest like razors and saws, and every time one struck ye a kind o' air-pump piston arrangement sucked the air out and pressed the sucker right intew ye. Two of the arms was the longest—I reckon about thirty foot—and it was them the cretur was hangin' by when we ran afoul o' him—kinder swingin' by 'em like hawsers. Wall, tew make a long story short, I was laid up for a couple o' weeks with the bite on my leg, and I reckon I can show some o' the scratchin' yet. We cut the animal up for bait and it filled about ten good cod tubs, and must have weighed 1,800 pounds."

—*Philadelphia Times.*

Not the Mail Boat.

"Please, sir, is this the mail boat?" inquired a lady holding a letter in her hand, of a gentleman who was standing on the deck of a Mississippi steamer.

"I guess not, madame," replied the gentleman, somewhat embarrassed; "I just heard the captain say she would leave in half an hour, so I guess it must be a female boat."—*Statesman.*

The immense crematory in Rome is in almost daily use. Cremation is daily becoming more popular, and bids fair soon to dispose of more corpses in the Italian capital than old fashioned burial.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Good for Baby.

Here is something for the young mother who must tend baby and sew: Make a large square pillow, and for this, hen's feathers will answer if the feathers of the goose are too expensive; cover it with bright colored calico or bits of cretonne; when completed lay it on the floor and put baby on it on his stomach. He will amuse himself in many ways, and often learn his first lessons in creeping here. He will lie and pull or kick at the flowers on the carpet, and will kick and roll and gain strength in his limbs; and an occasional accident caused by his getting too near the edge will not frighten a baby who has proper spirit and determination.

Grandparents.

Nobody who has been active and useful enjoys the feeling of being laid on the shelf. Grandfather's step is uncertain, his arm less vigorous than of old, but he possesses a rich treasure of experience, and he likes to be consulted. It is his privilege to give advice, his privilege too at times to go into the field and work with the youngest, renewing his youth as he keeps bravely up with hearty men not half his age. Grandmother does not want to be left out of the household work. When the days come for pickling and preserving, and the domestic force is pressed into the service, who so eager as she? It is cruel to overrule her decisions, to put her aside because "she will be tired." Of course she will be tired, but she will enjoy the fatigue, and rest the sooner for the thought that she is still of use in the world.

Alaskan Women.

The matrons of high fashion and the swell damsels of the Thlinket tribes never make a canoe voyage without smearing themselves well with the black dye that they get from a certain wild root of the woods, or with a paste of soot and seal oil. On sunny and windy days on shore they protect themselves from tan and sunburn by this same inky coating. On feast days and the great occasions, when they wash off the black, their complexions come out as fair and creamy white as the palest of their Japanese cousins across the water, and the women are then seen to be some six shades lighter than the tan-colored and coffee-colored lords of their tribe. The specimen woman at Juneau wore a thin calico dress and a thick, blue blanket. Her feet were bare, but she was compensated for that loss of gear by the turkey red parasol that she poised over her head with all the complacency of a Mount Desert belle. She had blacked her face to the edge of her eyebrows and the roots of her hair; she wore the full parure of silver nose ring, lip ring, and ear-rings, with five silver bracelets on each wrist, and fifteen rings ornamenting her bronzed fingers, and a more thoroughly proud and self-satisfied creature never arrayed herself according to the behests of high fashion.

The One Woman Live-Stock Reporter.

Miss Middle Morgan, the much-written-about live-stock reporter of the *Times* and *Herald*, says a New York letter, has bought a lot of property at Staten Island and is going to build a cottage there. The cellar is already dug and the foundation stones are laid, but the work has got no further along for several months. Miss Morgan is a specialist, so she is well paid for her work. If she should strike, she would, no doubt, get what she demanded at once, for it would be hard to find even a man to take her place. I have not the pleasure of Miss Morgan's acquaintance, but I have seen her hundreds of times and heard her talk. She has a rich Irish brogue and talks very well. She is quite a lady, and tramping about the stock-yards of Communipaw has not robbed her of any refinement. So far as appearance goes she looks rough, not so much her face as her dress and figure; but she is as gentle, I am told by those who know her, as the most delicately-nurtured belle, and, I have no doubt, a great deal more tender-hearted; but you wouldn't think so to see her lunging about in her short skirts and big shoes, utterly oblivious to the gaping crowd.

Fashion Notes.

Sashes remain in favor. The foulards are very handsome and stylish. Children now wear black stockings on all occasions. A passing fancy is to have a bed-spread of cretonne. Plain white flannel remains in favor for boating purposes. A novelty in bedspreads are covers of Turkish toweling. Lambrequins are as diverse in style and material as are draperies.

A "velvet season" is predicted for the fall and winter season of 1883-4.

Yellow ranges in all shades from pale canary to amber and gold brown. French grays, drabs, browns and garnet are colors most talked about now.

Straight portieres of crash, worked in outline embroidery, are used for bedrooms.

For travelling and useful wear, fine cloths with narrow lines and checks are proper.

One form of engagement ring consists of a circle of small diamonds and sapphires alternating.

It is claimed that all dances will soon go out of fashion, with the exception of the waltz and plain quadrille.

The small capote and crescent-shaped bonnets will be much worn in the fall. Each dress will have its particular hat.

Some pretty auburn bonnets have appeared in plaited dull-gold cord, edged with gathered velvet and trimmed with rings.

Some of the women at the hotels at Long Branch this year are trying to introduce the fashion of using paint and powder again.

The bird craze has come again. All varieties of the feathered tribe are in demand, from pigeons, sea gulls and paroquets to birds of paradise.

New laces are offering in white, cream and black-and-tan shades. There are, also, laces that show embossed silk figures on net backgrounds.

French women are exhibiting some striking costumes at the sea shore—such as gowns, embroidered and pointed over with cocks and partridges in the size and natural colors.

The fashion for buckles as ornaments on dresses and bonnets, is increasing. Steel appears to be the favorite material for these, though beaded and chiele effects are also shown.

Jerseys continue to grow in popular favor. Good silk ones can now be bought for a song, and they are most convenient and economical, as they can be worn with almost any undershirt.

The lace and embroidered yokes worn this summer by women and girls on the majority of their morning dresses are decidedly vulgar, as they do not cover as much of the bust as is necessary for decency.

Rough-and-ready straw hats in white, crimson and blue, trimmed with white mull, dotted Swiss, gauze, veiling, and sometimes rosettes of narrow satin ribbon, are still much worn at all seaside and mountain resorts.

Hats or bonnets are not worn at all at any of the fashionable seaside resorts after 6 o'clock in the evening. The women cover their brainless heads with fancy lace hoods and pretty "fascinators" crocheted out of Iceland wool.

Sunlit Rooms.

No article of furniture should be put in a room that will not stand sunlight, for every room in a dwelling should have the windows so arranged that sometime during the day a flood of sunlight will force itself into the apartment. The importance of admitting the light freely to all parts of our dwelling cannot be too highly estimated. Indeed, perfect health is nearly as dependent on pure sunlight as it is on pure air. Sunlight should never be uncomfortable to the eyes, and walks should be in bright sunlight, so that the eyes are protected by veil or parasol when inconveniently intense. A sun-bath is of more importance in preserving a healthful condition of the body than is generally understood. It costs nothing, and that is a misfortune, for people are deluded with the idea that those things can only be good and useful which cost money. But remember that pure water, fresh air and sunlit homes, kept free from dampness, will secure you from many heavy bills of the doctors, and give you health and vigor, which no money could procure. It is an established fact that people who live much in the sun are usually stronger and more healthy than those whose occupations deprive them of sunlight. And certainly there is nothing strange in the result, since the same law applies with equal force to nearly every animate thing in nature. It is quite easy to arrange an isolated dwelling so that every room in it may be flooded with sunlight some time in the day, and it is possible that many town houses could be so built as to admit more light than they now receive.

A Regular Bather.

"You must bathe regularly," said a physician, gravely, as he looked at the patient's tongue and felt his pulse. "But, doctor, I do," returned the sick man, "I go in swimming regularly every Fourth of July."

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

SIMPLE ELIXIR.—A very pleasant vehicle for the administration of medicines which are to be given in solution is prepared by mixing together two fluid ounces each of orange-flower water and simple syrup, adding half a fluid ounce of alcohol to preserve, and coloring with two drachms of compound tincture of cardamom. This will be found of service to the country physician who is obliged to dispense his own medicine.

A NATIONAL LACK.—Dr. Selden H. Talcott, superintendent of the New York state homoeopathic asylum for the insane, says that our national lack is that of recuperating sleep. Against the use of the so-called hypnotics in massive doses he protests, because the temporary benefits are heavily discounted by the evil effects which almost always follow. Two conditions oppose the requirements of sleep. These are hyperemia of the brain—stimulating it to undue activity, and playing the part of a whip and spur to a tired horse—and the opposite of hyperemia, excessive cerebral anemia. To relieve the former by rational methods, the blood forces must be enticed away from "their persistent assaults upon the cranial fortress." This can best be accomplished by filling the stomach with solid food, thus "furnishing temporary engagement for the pugilistic globules on other fields."

The food should be of the coarsest and plainest, else the remedy might produce an aggravation. Should excessive anemia exist, and a state of nerve irritability and trepidation be thus produced, take liquid food, such as hot milk, beef tea, and broths, about an hour before sleep is intended. This is of peculiar value to persons of sedentary habits, to those who take too little exercise, and to those who suffer from imperfect circulation. Sleep may usually be obtained, after a hard and irritating day's work, by a warm bath, a cold douche, and a brisk rubbing following that, just previous to retiring for the night. Fresh air should be freely supplied in every sleeping room; yet the sleeper should be protected from even moderate draughts; for these, though apparently slight at first, will produce chilliness of one portion of the body, while another may be overheated, and thus a disturbing inequality of circulation ensues. Beds should be firm in texture, level, and well elevated from the floor, for thus complete circulation around the bed is secured.

A Locust Invasion.

Wonderful is the account of a locust invasion of Syria, as related by Dr. William Thomson. He tells how, in the early spring, a flying squadron—the pioneers of the vast army—passed over the land, leaving it thickly sown with their eggs, lying in little masses, cemented together, scattered all over fields, plain, and desert ground. This done, these harbingers of woe vanished; but within a couple of months the very dust seemed to awaken to life and to creep. Soon these infinitesimal moving atoms developed into minute grasshoppers, who began their destructive existence, all moving forward in one general direction, a creeping, jumping mass of living particles.

Dr. Thomson describes his first view of this phenomenon. He was riding near Fulyeh, when it struck him that the side of the hill had a peculiar appearance. Riding up to it, to his amazement, the whole surface became agitated, and began to roll downward. His horse was so frightened that he had to dismount. Then he perceived that this animated dust was composed of myriads of minute locusts, so young that they could not even jump; but in their infantile alarm they rolled over and over, producing an effect like the movement of fluid mortar.

On another occasion he rode through a district where the work of extirpation was going on. It was near the plain of Acre, and a swarm of locusts had overrun the whole region. The governor of Kabul had summoned every man, woman, and child in the neighborhood to lend their aid in the common cause. The foe had not yet grown their wings, and, being unable to fly, were compelled to run in whatever direction they were driven. So the people formed a vast circle, beating the bushes and shouting, in order to frighten the insect host and drive them toward an isolated hill covered with dry grass. Soon the hill became black with the countless myriads which thronged it. Then the grass was set on fire in different places, and the flames, fanned by a strong breeze, soon spread over the whole hill, filling the air with an overpowering smell of roast locust. The same operation was performed at many different points in the neighborhood, with very excellent results.—*Nineteenth Century.*