SURPRISING INCREASE IN STROKES THE PAST FIFTY YEARS.

Result of the Vast Volumes of Smoke and Vapors Thrown Ont Into the

Atmosphere. The researches of Professor von Petzold, Karsten Weber, and others have proved that the number of damaging strokes of lightning has considerably in creased during the last fifty years, and this increase cannot be explained by the theory that, owing to the growing num-ber of houses, factories, etc., the number of lightning strokes increased proportion-ately; to the contrary, this number ought to decrease, as every building, even when not protected by a lightning-rod, effects an equilibrium of the opposite electric po-tentials, and, therefore, the number of lightning strokes ought relatively to de crease with the growing number of buildings. This, indeed, is proved by the fact that in the space of one year occurred but thirteen cases lightning strokes against buildings in the country. We, therefore, have to take this natural phenomenon

100,000 buildings there cities, twenty-three strokes on from another point of view, and to con sider the ratio of damaging or other strokes to the number of buildings in a certain district. This ratio, called by the German naturalists blitzgefahr (danger from lightning), increased in the kingdom of Bavaria from 1844 to 1882 threefold (according to records o: insurance companies even tivefold), and other countries show the same increase. As in nature each phenomenon must have its cause, the question arises: To what cause is due the above-mentioned facts? And this question not only is of scientific interest, but also of great practical importance. A great many theories have already been advanced to explain this phenomenon; among others, that, owing to the decrease of the woodland, houses are more and more made the projecting points of a certain area, and, therefore, attract the lightning; beside, this decrease effects a greater rise of temperature in summer, and, in consequence, more numerous thunder-storms. Others find the cause of it in the large increase of such constructions as gas and water works, weather-cocks, etc. But this theory does not explain why, especially, country houses, which commonly lack these kind of constructions, are mostly exposed to danger by lightning. Admitting that these causes

may to some extent explain the increase

of danger from lightning, they are not sufficient to fully show the surprising in-

crease of strokes during so short a period.

There must be a more general and funda-

electrical intensity during a thunder

storm be so strongly increased that a larger number of lightning strokes pass

over to the earth than was the case here-

tofore? It is not so much the increasing

number of thunder-storms as their greater

force which produces the increased

danger.

mental cause. Through what can the

As the main cause we now point out the enormous increase during the last fifty years of factories, railroads, steamboatsin short, of all constructions filling the atmosphere with smoke, vapors and particles of dust of every description. When we consider that every day thousands of locomotives, thousands of steamers go around the earth, that thousands of factories of all kinds daily emit enormous quantities of smoke, vapor and dust into the air, that, especially in cities, the large number of houses produce immense quantities of smoke and dust, the assertion will not seem incre lible, that there is certainly a hundred times the smoke, dust and gases absorbed in the atmosphere that was fifty years ago. Already with the naced by the impure state of the atmosphere may be noticed. Go through the coal districts of Manchester, England, through those of Pennsylvania, through the cities of Essen, Germany, and Pittsburg, Penn., and you will notice a layer of vapor constantly hovering over them; the air is filled with foul gases, and every object is more or less covered with the settling particles of dust.

These conditions being established, we have to consider their relations to the violence of thunder-storms. To give the reader a better conception of this relation we will briefly discuss the theory of a thunder-storm and the origin of electricity thereby developed. Friction Path Stepped on an Insect, and the latter is now generally accepted to be the cause of the electricity in a thunder-storm. Friction between air and particles of ice (according to Luvine), or between air and molecules of water (according to Andries), is the main cause of that elec-When beside these factors particles of dust are filling the atmosphere the development of electricity is highly increased. It is the ejection of steam and ashes common to the phenomenon which causes the thunder-storms attending to it assume an exceedingly violent character.

That the pyramid of Cheops is ren-dered electrical by the whirling dust of the desert may here also be mentioned. It is nothing but the friction of the grains of sand on the surface of the pyramid that causes electricity to originate.

The author of this essay claims that the rapid, enormous, and lasting devel-opment of electricity during thunder storms cannot be otherwise explained than by a purely mechanical cause, analogous to the mechanical force of the hydro electrical machine. Now, as our atmosphere contains so much more dust than in former years, the fact must be or great influence regarding the intensity of electrical phenomena during thunder storms; from the same reasoning are explained vol-canic eruptions. That this increased force of thunder storms must manifest itself in the greater violence and a more dangerous character of lightning stokes not.' will be evident to the reader. But there is another cause to be mentioned. It is an established fact that air containing solid particles has a conducting power in regard to electric currents far superior to that of pure air. In our day, therefore, where these molecules of dust and solid particles fill the atmosphere to a greater extent, the latter has become a better conductor, and favors a direction of the lightning strokes toward the more impure layers in the vicinity of the carta, and, therefore, the earth itself .- Chicago

Arkansas has a colored State agricultural society.

#### SELECT SIFTINGS.

Shears with two blades and a spring back were used in old Rome for clipping

sheep, hair and hedges. It is said that birthmarks may be removed by the use of a sunglass. It must be employed judiciously, so as not to dister the skin.

The precise length of the old Roman foot has not been distinctly ascertained, for though several foot rules of bronze have been found in excavations they all vary slightly in their respective dimen-

The bed of the ocean, says a foreign writer, is, to an enormous extent, covered with lava and pumice stone. Still more remarkable is it to find the floor of the ocean covered in many parts with dust of the meteorites.

### George Washington's Courtship.

Near the end of May, 1758, Washington was ordered by the quartermaster-general of the British forces to leave Winchester and make all haste to Williamsburg, there to explain to the governor and council in what a desperate condition the Virginia troops were as regarded clothing and equipments. Accordingly he set out on horseback, ac-

companied by his servant Billy Bishop. The two men had reached Williams ferry, on the Pamunkey river, and had crossed on the boat, when they met Mr. Chamberlayne, a Virginia gentleman, liv-ing in the neighborhood. The hospitable planter insisted that Washington should noon, and dinner would be served as asual, early, and after that Colonel Washington could go forward to Williamsburg, if go he must. Beside all that, there was a charming young widow at his house-Colonel Washington must have known her, the daughter of John Dandridge, and the wife of John Parke Custis. Virginia hospitality was hard to resist. Washington would stay to dinner if his host would let him hurry off immediately afterward.

Bishop was bidden to bring his master's horse around after dinner in good season, and Washington surrendered himself to his host. Dinner tollowed, and the afternoon went by, and Mr. Chambertayne was in excellent humor, as he kept one eye on the restless horses at the door, and the other on his guests, the tall, Indian-like officer and the graceful, hazel-eyed, animated young widow. Sunset came, and still Washington lingered. Then Mr. Chamberlayne stoutly declared that no guest was ever permitted to leave his house after sunset. Mrs. Martha Custis was not the one to drive the soldier away, and so Bishop was bidden to take the horses back to the stable. Not till the next morning did the young colonel take his leave. Then he dispatched his business promptly at Williamsburg, and whenever he could get an hour dashed over to White House, where Mrs. Custis lived. So prompt was he about this business, also, that when he returned to Winchester he had the promise of the young widow that she would marry him as soon as the campaign was over, -St. Nicholas.

### A Ton of Executive Officers.

A Washington letter to the Cincinnati Times-Star says. An assertion that the President and his Cabinet weigh nearly a ton would seem at first appearance rather a startling one, but it is not so far from the fact. Mr. Manning weighed at the time of his attack 225 pounds. He had gained over twenty-five pounds since he came into his position at the The President is not much behind him in weight. They are very much alike in figure, height, and general physical peculiarities. There are several of the Cabinet members who must weigh nearly 200 pounds each. Secretary Lamar is tall, broad-shouldered, and well developed physically, and must tip the beam at about that figure. Garland is a big man, very tall and muscular. He is not far from 200 in weight. Bayard is not far behind him, neither is Endicott. Vilas and Whitney must average up about 175 pounds each. Put the eight—the President and his Cabinet—on the scales, and you will find they do not fall many hundredweight below a ton.

### The Dog and the Insect.

A Dog which was Trotting Along a cried out

"Alas! you have so Wounded me that I can Neither Fly nor Crawl again!"

"In that case," said the Dog, after a Moment's Reflection, "it would not be Common Humanity on my part to leave you to a Painful and Lingering Death." And he thereupon Finished the Patient with a stroke of his Paw.

Moral-Some Folks are so Awfully Kind and Considerate, you know !-- Detroit Free Press.

In every land and clime, the merits of St. Jacobs Oil as the only conqueror of pain, are being acknowledged by the press and people.

The smallest man in Pennsylvania is Ellis Reinhart, of Goldsboro, He is twentyeight years old, thirty-three inches high, and weighs sixty-four pounds.

Three members of my family, says Mr. James A. Sample, Cash Room, office of the Treasurer, U. S., who were suffering from aggravating coughs, have been much benefited by taking Red Star Cough Cure. None of the ill effects so noticeable in other cough remedies, have followed the use of this.

A Chicago church is reported to have recently but up in the vestibule the sign Salvation is free, but the pews are

THE GRAND SECRET of female beauty is health the secret of health is the power to eat, digest and assimilate a proper quantity of wholesome food. Take VINEGAR BITTERS. It will cleanse the stomach, tone the vital organs, give a perfect digestion, purify the blood, clear up the complexion, and produce a state of genuine female loveliness, with which no cosmetic can compare.

According to recent statistics, foreign emigration is steadily falling off. There is a notable decrease in German emigra-

### WISE WORDS.

A good name, like good will, is gained by many actions and lost by one,

Work to-day, for you know not how such you may be hindered to-morrow. "Not for ourselves, but for others," is the grand law inscribed on every part o'

He who is the most slow in making a romise, is the most faithful in the per ormance of it.

In studying character do not be blind to the shortcomings of a warm friend o

A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who

lants kindliness gathers love. Failure, after long perseverance, a much grander than never having a striv ing good enough to be called a failure.

Judge no one by his relations, what ever criticisms you pass upon his com panions. Relations, like features, ar thrust upon us; companions, clothes, are more or less our own selection.

No man was ever endowed with judgment so correct and judicious, in egulating his life, but that circum stances, time and experience would teach him something new, and apprise him that of those things with which he thought himself the best acquainted he knew nothing; and that those ideas which in theory appeared the most advantageous were found, when brought into practice, to be altogether inapplicable.

### Frands Upon Farmers.

The correspondents of the agricultural department send reports of various frauds that with more or less success are being practiced on farmers in different parts of the country. Agents for the sale of fruit trees, fertilizers, stoves, cooking ranges and various other articles succeed in many instances in selling their cares at two or three times their value, or retting the farmers' money for things that prove utterly worthless. The devices of getting a farmer's signature to some paper which can be changed into a negotiable note and sold for cash are too numerous to mention. A favorite ruse is to get him to act as agent for the sale of some article of farm machinery, leave some of the articles with him and take his receipt for them in such a form that, with or with out change, it can be used as a note for the money at which they are valued.

Another device is that of taking orders for some subscription book-in some cases the revised New Testament-and converting such orders into notes. Stil' another is the one operated by the pre-tended agent of a Bible or tract-society who presents himself at a farm house about dinner time and accepts an invitation to dine on condition that he may be allowed te pay for his meal. The society, he says, requires that he should pay his way, and to prove that he has done so he asks the farmer's signature to a form of receipt which he carries with him. course of time this receipt comes back to the farmer in the form of a note for some sum of money filled in by the plausi-ble swindler. A fighting rod agen agrees to put up lightning rods about a house for \$5, and presents a bill for \$105
-100 for the rods and \$5 for putting
them up. The collection of royalties on some patented article found in the farmer's possession, the sale of worthless receipts for the manufacture of fertilizers, the sale of rights for a worthless patent process for curing tobacce, the collection of fees by pretended officials, such we boiler inspectors, "the drive-well fraud," a variety of insurance frauds and the sale of worthless receipts for the cure of 'hog cholera" or other animal diseases, are among the numerous swindling devices mentioned by the correspondents of the department .- Washington Star.

Not a faded or gray hair to be seem after us-ing Hall's Hair Renewer.

A powerful remedy for lung troubles. Safe for young or old. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. PEAR trees in Florida are being ruined by spiders, which cat the buds.

"Be wise with speed;
A fool at forty is a fool indeed!"
So said Young. Straws show which way the wind blows, and there are a score of symptoms anyone of which shows the existence of catarth. Neglected, it will rob the bood of its purity and the system of its strength. Get Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It cures even long-standing cases, as thousands testify, and should be used for colds in the head, which often result in confirmed catarrh.

It is not unusual to see on perfect advantage.

It is not unusual to see on posters advertising church festivals in Penobseu county, Me., these words: "No flirting."

"O, it was Pitiful."

"O, it was Pitiful."

Of course it was! He tried one remedy after another, and finally gave up and died, when his life might have been saved by taking Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery"—the great "Consumption Cure"—which, if premptly employed, will soon subdue all threatening symptoms, such as cough, labored breathing, night, sweats, spitting of blood, etc., and restoring waning strength and hope, effectually stop the poor consumptive's rapid progress graveward. Is it not worth trying? All druggists.

A TRADE in gophers is springing up in New York. They are bought by the Chinese, who consider them a great delicacy.

Its thousands of cures are the best advertise-ment for Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

THE wealthlest resident of Reading Penn, has become listane because six men were killed in an accident in his mill.

The purelt, sweetest and best Cod Liver Oil in the world, manufactured from fresh, healthy livers, upon the seashore. It is absolutely pure and sweet. Patients who have once taken it prefer it to all others. Physicians have decided it superior to any of the other oils in market. Made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York.

CHAPPED HANDS, face, pimples and rough skin cured by using Juniper Tar Scap, made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York. If you need a perfect tonic or a blood purifier, take Dr. Jones' Red Clover Tonic. It speedlily cures all troubles of the stomach, kidneys and liver. Can be taken by the most delicate. Price 10 cents.

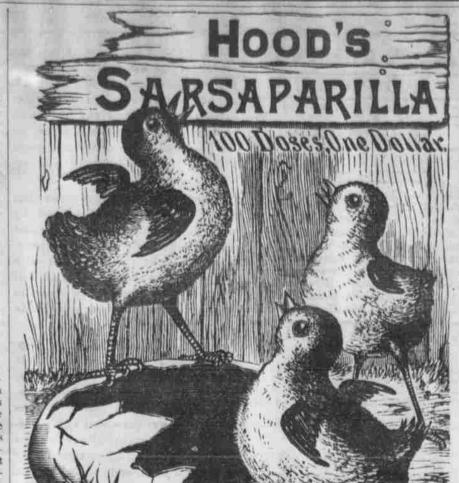
ONE of every five we meet has some form of Heart Disease and is in constant danger of sudden death. Dr. Kilmer's Ocean-Weed Heart Remedy regulates, corrects and cures. Price \$1.03.-6 bottles \$5.00.

Patent Corset Shoes Strengthen and support the ankles. For infants learning to walk they are invaluable. Send for catalogue. Nathan's, 221 6th Ave., New York,

No doubtful ingredients to do harm. Fresh Bops, Burgundy Pitch and Ghms in Hop Pinder, Hop Porous Pinders are sold by all druggists and country merchants. The best in the world. Relief is immediate, and a cure sure. Piso's Remedy for Calarrh. 50c.

A Braggist's Story.

Mr. Isaac C. Chapman, druggist, Newburg, N. V., writen us: "I have for the past ten years sold several greas of br. Wist. Hall's Balcan woo me Lowes, I can say of it what I cannot say of any other hedicine. I have sever heard a customer speak of it but to praise its virtues in the highest manner. I have recommended it in a great many cases of Whooping dough, with the happiest effects. I have used it in by own family for many years; in fact, always have a bottle in the medicine closet."



## Vigor and Vitality Are quickly given to evaluate of the body by Hood's Sarsaparilla. The bod is purified, enand general debility. I was run down, ate

good health again. My appetite has been good ever since taking the medicine, and I can cat a square meal with rolish."—Mrs. MOLLIE CUTTER, IIO Eleventh St., Covington, O.

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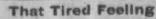
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Because the impurities in the blood should be expelled and that tired feeling evercome before the additional debilitating effects of warm weather are felt.

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The great and increasing popularity of Hood's arsaparilla has led some unprincipled men to use it as a bait to draw customers to their stores, and then by unfair representations endeavor to sell other kinds. It is unnecessary for us to caution those who have tried Hood's Sarsapa-rilla and know its peculiar merit. But to those who have never taken it we say, Don't be imposed upon. Insist upon having Hood's Sarsa-parilla and no other. The men who ciaim that their preparations are "as good as Hood's," by so doing admit that Hood's is the standard, and possesses peculiar merit which they try in vain to reach.

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The cause of dyspepsia is often due to elentary habits, rapid eating and negrected constipation, as well as to improper cod, the excessive use of stimulants, tea, offee and tobacco. Eating too heartily than tired is a frequent cause, but whatver the cause the remedy is plainly indicated. As everything taken into the stomch when weak and irritable proves a course of irritation, dyspepsia is the most ifficial to cure of the majority of chronic complaints; but Burdock Blood Bitters, y its direct action in regulating the bowles, ske sullating the liver to secrete healthy

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bile, and by its tonic and nutritive effects upon the system, and its general purifying action through the kidneys, the skin, the liver and the blood, soon restores the natural action of all the organs and thus makes the relief or cure of this inveterate disease a simple matter. From one to three bottles will relieve or cure the chronic cases of long standing.

Dyspepsia is, without doubt, one of the most prevalent diseases known to the American public, and is often mistaken for some other disease. When your appetite is variable, when you sense a faint, gnawing feeling at the pit of the stomach, unsatisfied craving for food, rising and souring of the same, heartburn, had breath, bad taste in the mouth, low spirits, headache, pain—sometimes in back, oftentimes palpitation of the heart, disinclination to effort—mental or physical, languor, lassifude, etc., etc., dyspepsia is the cause and should be immediately treated with some reliable remedy; such is B. B. Bitters. It will effect a permanent cure in brief time. Try it; test it thoroughly, and write us if you are not greatly benefited.

Space will not permit us to print any of the thousands of testimonials of those who have been cured or greatly benefited, but, to substantiate our statement that Burdock Blood Bitters is the best known remedy for dynamic, we append a sample dozen

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