Floating Islands.

The island of Delos, in the Greek Archipelago, was traditionally said to be floating on the surface of the water, an object of sport for the winds, at the mercy of the waves. It was the power of Neptune, the deity who presided over the ocean, that rendered this spot stationary; and in order that it might remain so, he begirt it by two other islands, Mycone and Gyaros, which, as it were, hem in the place. Extraordinary as this narrative may appear, we have accounts in modern times somewhat resembling it; we must except, however, the interposition of Neptune. Floating gardens are very common in New Spain, of which there are two kinds. One glides upon the water, wafted by the capricious winds; others are attached to the shore. The principal flowers and roots consumed in the city of Mexico are raised in these small gardens. Baron Humboldt states it to be a highly interesting spectacle to observe "early in the morning, at sunrise, the provisions brought in by Indians, in rafts, descending the canals of Chalso and Istacabo. In them are cultivated beans, artichokes and cauliflowers, while the edges are ornamented with rose-bushes." The promenade in boats around these little islands is represented as being the most agreeable in the environs of Mexico. Should the proprietor of one of these erratic gardens find he has a disagreeable neighbor, he unties the chain that fastens his property to the shore, and with his hut and his habitation floats wherever he pleases. In China these rafts or floating islands are formed on the surface of their numerous canals and rivers, the whole of which teem, as it were, with life and vegetation. The ancient historians mention many of these curious islands, and the Greeks thought that the whole of the Cyclades once were floating. In the Tiber, the spot now occupied by the church of St. Bartholomew traces its origin to the circumstance of a quantity of corn, bound in sheaves, being thrown into the river by the indignant populace after the expulsion of Tarquin. The Tiber was at low water, the sheaves stuck in the mud, and when the river rose it deposited pieces of wood, trunks of trees, etc. At length an island became formed, which in the course of time was surrounded by a wall.

Several floating islands are found in Lapland. Near the gothic fortress of Castello Archione is a small lake containing several islands formed of plants matted or joined together. The peasants get upon them, and with long rods navigate themselves about. There are several also in the lakes of Conracchia, Garden and Kolk, in Osnabruck; and there is one in a subterraneous lake in West Friesland. Near St. Omer, in France, there are several, which move at the will of the neighboring farmers, who draw them near the shore to drive their cattle upon; and having done so, they unloose the cords and allow them to float at the direction of the winds. A similar phenomenon is to be seen in Lake Dochart, among the Grampian mountains; and a very remarkable one has within these thirty years three times emerged from the bottom of the Derwent, in the county of Cumberland. It is formed by the decaying aquatic plants. At the head of Esthwaite lake, Hawkeshead, there is a smaller sheet of water, known by the name of the Priest-foot, but connected with the other lake by a small outlet. Upon this there has been for many years a floating island, little noticed by tourists, and erroneously stated by some writers of "Guides to the Lakes" not to move or sail with the wind. In contradiction of this, it was never known since first it became a floating island to have remained stationary, or to be fixed for any length of time, till a few years back, when the heavy floods lifted one-half of it upon land. It was relaunched by some young men, who took advantage of the flood at that time to effect their purpose, and had the pleasure of sailing across the lake upon it. It was afterward moved from one lake to the other four different times; on one of its trips no less than fifteen persons were upon it. It is thirty yards long by five broad, and covered with wood of various sorts, which supplies the place of soils. This curiosity has not probably its equal in the United Kingdom. In Guayaquil, in the kingdom of Quito; in the river Congo, on the western coast of Africa; in the lake of Tivoli, near the hot baths of Agrippa—we find the seroving lands. The Congo is said to carry floating islands sixty or seventy miles out at sea. There are many in the Nile. One appeared several times in the sea of Azof, and in 1818 a small island emerged from the lake of Wallenstadt, in Switzerland, which had sunk a century before. On this occasion fêtes on an extensive scale were given.

Ramschneider's Hat.

Mr. Ramschneider and his friend, August Fitmatcher, were out walking and Mr. Ramschneider was boasting of the intelligence of his dog.

"See here," he said, "I place my hat here in this fence corner; I conceal it under the brush and dried leaves. We will now walk on. We pass down the lane, we turn this corner, we stroll by the woods. I send Bismarck back for my hat. See, my friend, he comprehends me. He flies through the woods, he speeds down the lane, he disappears around the corner. Presently he will be back again before I have time to catch cold in my head."

It was true, as Mr. Ernest Ramsneider had said. The intelligent dog, readily understanding what was wanted, sped down the lane and flew around the corner to get the hat. But he did not get it all the same, for just as he flew around the corner a wary though not an affluent tramp, who had watched the circus from afar, was in the act of appropriating Mr. Ramschneider's new hat unto himself, and when the dog got up in short range he fired a clay-cold clod as hard as a door knob at that faithful animal with a force that knocked a howl out of him as long as a clothes-line and sent him wailing and weeping back to his astonished master. And when Mr. Ramschneider and his friend hastened to investigate they found under the brush an old hat that had lived in more ash-heaps than you could count in a week, and so greasy in its general appearance that Mr. Ramschneider wouldn't touch it with his cane. Far away, beyond the distant fields, they saw the sunlight shining on Mr. Ramschneider's five dollar hat, and the tramp of the dusty highway was jogging along under it. But Mr. Ramschneider walked home bare as to the head, which is of the bald, baldy, and he hasn't got out of bed yet with the cold he caught.

Interstate Commerce.—Defeat of the Reagan Bill.—The Substitute Proposed.

The Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives at Washington, decided on February 13th, by a vote of nine to six, to report a substitute for the Reagan bill. That objectionable measure is practically defeated by this action. The new bill proposes to make the same laws which are applicable to railroads engaged in transporting freight between different States also apply to the operations of steamboats, lake vessels and other watercrafts. It provides for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners who are to have supervision of the entire subject of the transportation of freight from one State or Territory into or through other States and Territories, and to examine into any complaints that may be made by the public of unfair action on the part of common carriers of any class that are engaged in this important business. Unjust discrimination is forbidden under severe penalties, and in case any of the transporters or transportation companies fail to redress any substantial grievances brought to the attention of the commissioners, proceedings are authorized in the United States courts. If the proposed new law is found to be not fully effective in furnishing remedies for any of the real evils that have grown up in connection with the management of transportation between different States it is made the duty of the Commissioners to suggest additional legislation, and to obtain and furnish to Congress all information relating to the operations of railroads that is likely to prove useful and important in this connection. This bill provides much more appropriate and just methods for accomplishing such reforms as may be needed than the Reagan bill and with some amendments may be acceptable to the transportation interest of the country: or at any rate, will serve as a basis for action, should the plan suggested last winter be adopted by Congress, and definite legislation be deferred until a commission of experts shall be able to thoroughly investigate this complex subject and report their mature judgment upon the matters at issue.

There is no question that a more intelligent conclusion could be reached in this way, and one that would be more valuable to all the interests involved. On general principles tentative legislation is hardly to be recommended where it involves the traffic of forty millions of people and capital aggregating forty-five hundred millions of dollars.

About Piano Playing.

The same piano played upon by different pianists exhibits effects and a variety of tone that cannot help but cause wonder in those whose perceptive faculty are on the alert. The power and diversity of touch is something wonderful, and words fail fully to explain what the ear quickly notes. The finest toned piano, in the hands of some performers, appear harsh and tinny, leaving an impression upon the listener that the manufacturer has been very unsuccessful in his efforts to produce "a mixed, sonorous and melodious quality of tone." On the other hand, we find some few players possessing a touch so exquisite and sensitive, that even a well-worn instrument is made to exhibit a sympathetic and singing quality of tone, beside an unexplainable charm and grace added thereunto. What is denominated "spirituality" no doubt is at the bottom of all such peculiar manifestations, although different qualities of animal matter may have a share in the production of such mysterious effects. "The art of phrasing" can no doubt be taught mechanically, as well as the "art of singing," but it the innate something is not part and parcel of the individual, how can the phrasing be anything but mechanical? Even in these days of wonderful execution and of the ever increasing number who actually acquire it, the old maxim, *poeta nascitur non fit*, is equally as true as centuries ago. So few pianists look beyond an "irreproachable technique," because so many pure mechanics make music a business now. So long as they can execute five hundred notes a minute they are happy, and view with something akin to contempt the composer who demands from them the playing of only four hundred and ninety a minute. A composition must be difficult and "full of sound," else modern pianists will most assuredly pass it by on the other side. To hammer away is much easier than to play with a truly soulful effect, because the former may be acquired, the latter, however, never. When music is viewed as business only, true art can but greatly suffer.

German Officers.

It is said that German officers are undoubtedly the most highly educated in the world. They can only get promotion by assiduous study, and they take a professional pride in a culture that places them immeasurably above their men. In this respect they truly form an aristocracy. Again, they have a strict code of honor which is kept in force by dueling, and which lays upon them the necessity of being very correct in their behavior, not only toward each other, but toward civilians. A German officer can only fight a duel with a man who is socially his equal, and he is expected to fight whenever he is insulted, so that if he gets dragged into a disreputable brawl with an inferior, he finds himself in a dilemma from which there is no escape except by throwing up his commission. Some years ago a Prussian officer had his face slapped in the streets of Coblenz by a baker; he drew out his sword and cut down his aggressor like a dog there and public opinion took his side, for had he let the affront pass he must have left the army; as it was he got tried by court-martial and was sentenced to a month's imprisonment, not for killing a baker, but for having a street quarrel with such a person. Among officers, duels are pretty frequent, and yet not quite so frequent, as seems to be imagined. A punctilious respect for hierarchy, a close observance of the forms of social etiquette, tend to minimize the chances of quarrel; and then there are courts of honor before which disputes must be laid before the permission to fight is given, so that a mere truculent bravo could not win himself a reputation at the sword's point, nor tease his comrades by his impertinence. Generally speaking German officers are polite to a degree which far transcends the proverbial courtesy of Frenchmen, while toward civilians they practice a refinement of etiquet which is intended to put a proper distance between themselves and interlopers. In Germany the uniform of an officer is more respected than it is in any other country except England; and it confers prestige per se. Everybody knows that in donning his epaulet the German officers gives ball for his honor, and may be relied upon to act uprightly in all possible contingencies. Scandals about money matters are extremely rare among the officers; and this is the more creditable to them as no attempt is made to hush up such affairs when they do arise. The offender, whoever he may be, is at once brought to book by his Colonel, and if he cannot clear his honor, he is promptly ordered to resign.

AGRICULTURE.

TESTING COWS FOR THE BUTTER DAIRY.—If the object of the dairy is to produce butter, then each cow must be tested for yield and quality of butter. This can only be done to any proper effect by churning each cow's cream for at least one week, keeping also the weight of her milk. The percentage of cream is not a reliable test; as from the same cows at one time 2 1-2 lbs. of cream will produce a pound of butter, and at another, 4lbs, of cream are required. Only actual churning of cream can determine the yield of butter. In selecting a herd wholly for butter, it is hardly worth while to keep a cow of whose milk it requires more than 25 lbs. for one of butter. It is also objectionable if the butter should be light-colored; but if the quantity and quality are otherwise satisfactory, it is better to retain her, for the color is easily remedied. These individual tests for butter are as well made during the first month after coming in; for as the season is then usually cool, the milk of each cow can more easily be handled separately. In testing for butter, a cow that ought to be discarded in a cheese dairy might be quite worthy of being retained in a butter dairy. One cow may produce more butter from 4,000 lbs. of milk than another from 6,000 lbs., and each of these cows should be put in her proper place. A cow is not worthy of a place in a butter dairy that does not yield 200 lbs. of butter per year; and the aim should be to reach 300 lbs. a cow. One had much better keep 10 cows that produce 3,000 lbs. of butter, than keep 15 cows to reach the same amount. Almost every dairyman, by proper tests will find some of his cows that ought to be disposed of, as unprofitable for one branch or the other of dairying. There should be no hesitation when he learns the facts; for an unprofitable cow only adds to the labor, and deducts from the profits.

SALT AS A FERTILIZER.—There is a wide difference of opinion among farmers as to the value of salt when applied to the land as a fertilizer. This diversity of opinion renders all light on the subject, a necessity. One farmer recently in speaking of it, said that it could not be used to advantage, unless refuse or cheap lots were purchased. Another, equally practical, says that he has used it freely and with profit. Some complain that it kills the grass when applied to grassland. A writer says: My experience in the use of salt leads me to the following conclusions: It keeps the land cool and moist. It neutralizes drouth. It exterminates all soil vermin. It prevents potato rot. It glazes and stiffens straw, preventing crinkling and rust. It keeps the ground in such condition that the berry of all kinds of grain fills plumply, however long-continued the hot and dry weather may be. This same gentleman argues that these results will not be obtained by the use of a handful; it must be liberally applied. He applies a barrel to an acre on his meadows and would sooner double the dose than apply less. Gardens should be salted liberally, for by so doing you will have no worm-eaten radishes, maggoty onions, club-footed cabbages, or any other vegetables injured in it, by worms, grubs, or any vermin that infest the soil.

DOES IT PAY TO WINTER TURKEYS.—the general practice in the poultry districts is, to fatten the early broods of Turkeys for Thanksgiving and the later ones for Christmas, and to send each lot to the market in a lump. The advantages of this are, that the warmer weather of autumn is favorable for fattening, and less food is consumed. The money also comes in a pile, and much labor is saved. But occasionally we find a farmer who feeds his turkeys straight on through the winter, selling in small lots, when he can get his price. When we ask him for his reasons, he tells us that there is always a difference in selling farm produce at the buyer's price, and in selling it at your own prices. The turkey crop is mainly disposed of at Christmas—and he can always get a better price if he waits until February and March. The turkeys are all the while growing, and are wanted in the village markets at reasonable paying prices. There is also a good demand for them as breeders in March and April.

AN EFFECTIVE GATE-FASTENING.—The gate is hinged, and swung in the usual manner, except that it is best to use hinges which will allow it to swing either way with equal ease. Plant the gate posts so that the gate will swing past. Then take a piece of inch iron, either square or round. Let it be three times as long as one side of the square scantling used at the end of the gate. Bend it, in a forge, to a shape similar to the upper part of a letter T, or like three sides of a square. Cut a notch in the post at any desired height, and fasten this iron in by a staple, so that when lifted up the gate slips past either way, but when dropped it clasps the end of the gate. If properly cut, the notch will keep it from dropping past a horizontal point, and cattle will hardly find out how to open it.

FOOD FOR POULTRY.—Any of the roots—as potatoes, rutabagas, turnips, carrots, etc., when boiled and mixed with corn and rye meal—make an excellent and economical daily food for poultry. Fowls are fond of this diet, it works very kindly with them.

BONE dust is a lasting manure, and will continue to fertilize plants for years, when not ground too fine.

An Electrical Store.—An electrical stove has astonished the natives of Valley View Station in the Far West. The proprietor recently undertook to put some wood in the cooking range, and he received such a severe electric shock that he dropped the lifter and staggered back with an exclamation of surprise. His wife then attempted to take a stew pan from the fire, and fell to the floor. About this time the hired hands came in to get dinner, but it was found impossible to take anything off the stove. Charley Palmer, the stage driver, attempted to manipulate a coffee pot from the stove and sprang two feet in the air with a yell of pain. Con Dense thought it would be the easiest thing in the world to move the pot of cabbage, when he was landed in the corner of the room and made no further attempts. The stew pans were finally removed from the stove by Mr. Curtis, who encased his hands in sheepskin gloves. Many theories were advanced to account for the presence of so much electricity. Mr. Curtis finally observed that the current was strongest during the prevalence of strong winds, and this led him to infer that the electricity was generated from a windmill, which was about fifty feet from the house. The fluid reaches the stove pipes by the means of a wire which is fastened to the windmill. When the windmill stops there is no electricity in the stove, but after it make half a dozen revolutions it is not safe to handle utensils on the range.

A Wise Reform.

The habit of administering quinine in powerful doses, as an antidote to malarial maladies, was once dangerously common. Happily this practice has undergone a wide reform. Not only the public, but professional men have adopted, not wholly, of course, but largely, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters as a safe botanic substitute for the pernicious alkaloid. The consequences of this change are most important. Now fever and ague sufferers are cured—formerly their complaints were only for the time relieved, or half cured—the remedy eventually failing to produce any appreciable effect, except the doses were increased. A course of the Bitters persistently followed, breaks up the worst attacks and prevents their return. The evidence in favor of this sterling specific and household medicine is of no ambiguous character, but positive and satisfactory, and the sources whence it proceeds are very numerous.

DOMESTIC.

PATCHING, STITCHING, ETC.—The operation of patching is one requiring far more skill than does the making of a new garment, and, when well executed, may save the purchase of many a costly one; the most expensive robe may, by accident, be torn or spotted, the first day of its wear—and the piece inserted in lieu of the damaged part is a patch. If a figured material, the pattern must be exactly matched; in all cases, the insertion must be made without pucker, and the kind of seam must be such as, though strong, will be least apparent, and the corners must be turned with neatness. So of darning—much instruction is necessary as to the number of threads to be left by the needle, according to the kind of fabrics; then there is the kind of thread or yarn most suitable, to be determined. Where the article is coarse, the chief attention is directed to expedition; but a costly article of embroidery or muslin can only be well darned with ravelings of a similar muslin. The stocking-stitch is neither more difficult nor tedious than the darn, yet how many pairs of stockings are lost for want of knowing it, when a hole happens to be above the shoe. Practice in lace-stitches is desirable, particularly for repairing lace of costly description; the deficiency of a single loop, when lace is washed, often becomes a large hole during the operation, and the beauty of the lace is destroyed. The shawl-stitch is also important, for by employing it with ravelings from the shawl itself, the most costly ones can be repaired with great perfection.

BAKED MACKEREL.—Wash and clean three or four mackerel, divide them down the back, and one across, making four pieces of each fish. Arrange these pieces compactly in a pie dish in layers, with three or four bay leaves, six shallots sliced, a dessert spoonful of pepper-corns, half that quantity of pimento berries, eight cloves and a little white pepper. Make a sauce with half a pint of good stock, a wineglass of vinegar, one teaspoonful of mushroom catsup, and the same of anchovy and Harvey sauce, with a teaspoonful of Worcester sauce and soy. Bake in a moderate oven with a cover on the dish until the fish is quite done; take it from the sauce, and place it on the dish you intend serving it on; strain the sauce and pour it over the fish. Serve it cold, garnished with sprigs of parsley or fennel. Fish cooked in this way will keep good for two or three days if left in the sauce and covered over.

ALL DISEASES OF THE BLOOD.—If Vegetine will relieve pain, cleanse, purify, and cure such diseases, restoring the patient to perfect health after trying different physicians, many remedies, suffering for years, is it not conclusive proof, if you are a sufferer, you can be cured? Why is this medicine performing such great cures? It works in the blood, in the circulating fluid. It can truly be called the Great Blood Purifier. The great source of disease originates in the blood; and no medicine that does not act directly upon it, to purify and renovate, has any just claim upon public attention.

BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING.—Slice a stale loaf of baker's bread rather thin, crust and all, and butter lightly on both sides; butter a baking-dish and flour it lightly; lay a single layer of the slicks of bread all over the dish, sides and all; wash and pick one-half pound of currants, pick and stone one-half pound of raisins, and slice very thin two ounces of citron, and mix thoroughly, and scatter thinly over the bread and butter; then build it up this way; make a mixture of four eggs, a quart of milk, and one-half pound of sugar, and pour cold into the dish which has the bread, currants, &c.; put the baking dish in a pan of water, and let it cook for three-quarters of an hour in a moderately-heated oven. Eat hot or cold.

SNOWDEN PUDDING.—Prepare one pound of sponge-cake batter in the following manner, to be baked in a thin sheet: To one pound of eggs, weighed in the shell, put one pound of pulverized white sugar and ten ounces of flour. Flavor with the juice and grated rind of a fresh lemon, or if that is not accessible, a teaspoonful of pure extract of lemon. When baked, and while hot, spread over the cake a layer of some nice preserves, strawberry or rasberry jam being especially nice for the purpose. Make it into a role as neatly as possible, and strew with powdered sugar. Serve with sweet sauce.

FRUIT PUDDING.—One cup molasses, one cup sweet milk, one of suet, chopped fine, or a half cup of butter, one of raisins, half cup currants, two and a half cups flour, half teaspoon soda; mix well and add spice to taste, and steam two hours.

STOP it at once. If you see your nurse giving the baby either Laudanum, Paregoric or any soothing remedy containing opiates, stop it at once. If you want a good medicine for your children, get Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup, warranted to contain nothing injurious, but safe and efficient. Price 25 cents.

LEMON JUMBLES.—One of flour, one pound of sugar, five-eights of a pound of butter, four eggs, the juice and grated rind of a lemon, and as little flour as will enable you to make the whole into small cakes with your hands. Bake quick.

TO CRYSTALIZE GRASSES.—One pound best alum, powdered; half a gallon of soft water; boil until dissolved; dip the grass in the solution, and allow it to remain six or seven hours; remove and dry in the sun.

DRIED APPLE CUSTARD.—One pint of dried apples, mashed and strained; two eggs beaten with he apples; sweeten and spice to taste; add a half tumbler of cream or rich milk. Bake in paste, and when done cover with a meringue.

FEATHER CAKE.—One egg, one cup of sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, half a cup of milk, one and one-half cups of flour, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, half a teaspoonful of soda. This combination makes a nice cake. Eat fresh.

A STATISTICIAN (batchelor of course,) insists that courtships average three tons of coals each, and we would add, scores of bad coughs and colds; but then every prudent gallant is provided with a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. Price, 25 cents.

TO DIE HAIR AND FEATHERS GREEN.—Take of verdigris and verditer each one ounce, one pint of gum-water; mix them well together, and dip the hair or feathers into the mixture, shaking them well about.

TOOTH POWDER.—Mix together equal parts of powdered chalk and charcoal, adding a small quantity of powdered Castile soap and you have formed the best tooth-powder that can be used. It keeps the teeth and gums of a beautiful color, and prevents decay.

TO REMOVE MARKING INK STAINS FROM LINEN.—Dissolve cyanide of potassium in a little water, and soak the linen in it for a short time; or cyanuret of potassium dissolved and applied with a brush.

SO INSIDIOUS are the First Approaches of Consumption, that thousands remain unconscious of its presence until it has brought them to the verge of the grave. An immediate resort to Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, upon the first appearance of Cough, Pain or Soreness of the throat or Chest, would very generally preclude a fatal result, or, in case the symptoms indicate the presence of latent Consumption, would tend to subdue the violence of the disease, and thus materially assist in prolonging the life of the patient. Use the Expectorant therefore when you take a Cold, and by so doing prevent the necessity for its use in more dangerous complaints.

HUMOROUS.

Two of those ornaments made of plaster of Paris, flavored with sugar, were bestowed upon an urchin, with the usual warning, "Don't eat them, whatever you do. They will poison you." For some time they were regarded by him and his younger brother with mingled awe and admiration; but one day their mother missed one. "Tom," said she to the owner, who was just setting forth for school, "what have you done with that figure?" "Giv'd it to Dick," was the reply; "and if he is living when I come home. I mean to eat the other one myself."

THE mysteries of a baby's toilet were altogether new to little four-year-old, and he carefully watched the bathing and dressing of his little cousin. When the little powder box was open, and the fluffy brush was about to be used underneath the baby's chin and other places, he exclaimed, "O'h, aunty, let me see you salt her."

A LITTLE girl observed her mother measuring cloth by holding it upto her nose with one hand and reaching out to arm's length with the other. She assumed a thoughtful aspect, and, after cogitating a few moments, asked, "How can you measure cloth that way? Can you smell a yard?"

"GENTLEMEN," said an auctioneer, with true pathos, "if my father and mother stood where you stand and did not buy this stewpan—this elegant stewpan going at $1—I should feel it my bounden duty as a son to tell both of them they were false to their country and false to themselves."

THE mystery that a Rockland boy desires the advancing years to unfold is why he is always rushed off to bed when he is not in the least degree sleepy, and made to get up when he is so sleepy that it seems as if his whole system was clogged with pitch.

MRS. PARTINGTON SAYS.—Don't take any of the quack rostrums, as they are regimental to the human cistern; but put your trust in Hop Bitters, which will cure general dilapidation, costive habits and all comic diseases. They saved Isaac from a severe extract of tripod fever. They are the *ne plus ultra* of medicines.

A YOUNG lady who came in last week to advertise for kitchen help said with a sigh and a wring of her dainty gloved hands, "Oh! I do hope we'll get one soon. For it does almost break my heart to see mother wash dishes, with her rheumatism, too."

LAND-STEWARD (to tenant farmer)—"Well, Giles, what are you going to sow in here?"

Farmer—"Aint 'zactly made up my mind, sir; but if we could put in a few stewards and land agents—they seems to thrive best on the land now-a-days!"

THE salary of the Czar is $17.40 a minute. It seems good pay when one does not remember that his principal occupation is that of being shot at by some of his beloved subjects.

The price of soap is rapidly advancing. A year's supply of DOBBINS' ELECTRIC bought now at old price will be a very judicious purchase.

IT was said of an inveterate drunkard that he had met with afflictions, and drank to drown his grief. "Then," said a bystander, "his grief must know how to swim."

A HEN will set on a nest of eggs for days without a murmur; but let a man set on a dozen eggs but for a minute and he will use fowl language enough to fill a barn-yard.

SHORT skirts are now worn for dancing dresses, and the gentlemen are no longer obliged to wait for the ladies to sidetrack their trains before they can pass.

'DUBLIN'—No, it doesn't require a man with a car-load of brains to stand behind a hotel counter, and wear an alleged diamond, and not know anything.

MOTHER SHIPTON'S prophecy is supposed to be about four hundred years old, and every prophecy has been fulfilled except the last—the end of the world in 1881. Buy your Carboline, a deodorized extract of petroleum, the great natural hair restorer, before the world comes to an end.

'ULSTER' is a curious name for a young lady, but that is what an Irvington young man calls his queen. We suppose because he is so wrapped up in her.

BEFORE marriage a girl frequently calls her intended "her treasure," but when he becomes her husband she looks upon him as "her treasurer."

A PEORIA woman sneezed her jaw out of place lately, and the married men of the place have been buying snuff ever since.

"DOES ye keep nothin' but dry goods here?" "Yes, ma'am." "Thin where will I be after goin' for a watered silk?"

THE THROAT.—"*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" act directly on the organs of the voice. They have an extraordinary effect in all disorders of the Throat and Larynx, restoring a healthy tone when relaxed, either from cold or over-exertion of the voice, and produce a clear and distinct enunciation. *Speakers* and *Singers* find the Troches useful.

THERE are pianists so expert in variations that they can play all around a melody without ever hitting it once.

THE illicit distiller down south thinks it is the early revenue officer that catches the worm.

BONES are hard to digest and are not suited to stay the stomach—unless used in a corset.

THE husband who devoured his wife with kisses, found afterwards that she disagreed with him.

IT is surprising how many people there are in this world who do not like to work between meals.

'BLESSED are the peacemakers,' said the small boy who dropped a costly vase.

"NONE but the brave deserve the hair," is the way the Indians put it.

CORNS and bunions give the feet a knobby appearance.

PINAFORISM—Better late than hardly ever.

Americans Traveling Abroad

will find all of Dr. Pierce's Family Medicines on sale in all principal drug stores and at the London branch of the World's Dispensary, Great Russell Street Buildings. Golden Medical Discovery is a most potent alterative or blood-cleansing elixir. It dispels all humors and cures blotches, pimples, eruptions, king's evil, or scrofula, enlarged glands, swellings, internal soreness, ulcers, and virulent blood poisons that, unremoved, rot out the vital machinery. Dr. Pierce's Pellets (little sugar-coated pills) are an agreeable and most cleansing cathartic; remove offensive and acrid accumulations, thereby preventing fevers and kindred affections. World's Dispensary Medical Association, proprietors, Buffalo and London.

MERCHANTS, READ THIS.—To those subject to ills incident to the vexations of business life, Dyspepsia, and a feeling of debility and fretfulness, we say, without equivocation, take Simmons' Liver Regulator. This remedy is unequalled in the cure of Piles, Constipation, Bad Breath, Sick Headache and Bilious Complaints. The Regulator is free from any injurious mercurial substance; not disagreeable; can be taken at any time, without interfering with business or pleasure. It is so gentle, safe, and such a good digester, that it is often used after a hearty meal to settle the food and relieve any apprehension that the meal may disagree with you.

"Having been a great sufferer for many years from general Debility and Indigestion, I concluded to try your valuable medicine (Simmons' Regulator) in small doses and found it to be what it was recommended for. You can use my name at any time you wish in its praise.
J. F. DUMAS, Merchant, Hadlock, Ga."

Protection From Rust.—Various means of protecting iron from rust, have been suggested: (1) Universal means of protection, *i. e.*, keeping iron effectively and durably from rust, under all circumstances; there are none at present; the problem is still to be solved. It must be doubted whether Barff's process is an advance in this direction; but, beyond all doubt, inventors who hold up their methods as under all circumstances equally operative, are like charlatans who profess to cure all kinds of disease with one medicine. (2) The success of the protective methods at present available depends, above all, on a suitable selection according to the circumstances to be dealt with. A means of protection proved to give good results against atmospheric influences is by no means, therefore, adapted for preserving iron against the action of fresh or sea water, and conversely. (3) In use of the same means of protection under like conditions in different cases, the greater or less efficiency depends as well on the good quality of the materials used as on the careful execution of the work. The most common method of protective compositions especially requires careful supervision in this respect.

Ice and Water.—A cubic foot of ice contains about one-eleventh less water than a cubic foot of water. Water is composed of one volume of oxygen to two of hydrogen, or by weight eight parts of the former to one of the latter. These expand when freezing to fill the same space with less weight. Water below the temperature of its greatest density is an exception to the general law of expansion by heat and contraction by cold. But for this wise provision of the Great Lawgiver, the rivers, or even the ocean, would be frozen solid, and the earth would be uninhabitable. Water continues to contract by the application of cold until it touches 39.2 deg. Fahr., when the law is reversed, and from that point it expands and goes on expanding under whatever reduction of temperature. This is the reason why crockery and even iron vessels are broken by the freezing of water in them. The expansive force of confined water at and below the freezing point is something tremendous, and it will explode a rock like a charge of gunpowder.

TWO ORGANS.—Regulate first the stomach, second the liver: especially the first, so as to perform their functions perfectly and you will remove at least nineteen twentieths of all the ills that mankind is heir to, in this or any other climate. Hop Bitters is the only thing that will give perfectly healthy natural action to these two organs.

Artesian wells are becoming very numerous throughout California, fresh ones being dug daily as well for irrigating purposes in the farming lands as for general water supplies in San Francisco and other cities. They cost from $250 upward, and some furnish 250,000 gallons of the purest water daily. In the San Joaquin Valley they are very numerous, eleven being in full flow within a tract three miles by a mile and a half in extent, and yet their proximity to each other and the digging of new wells does not diminish their flow at all, a thing that is not the case everywhere. The novel experiment has been tried of forming an artificial lake with this water and breeding fish in it, and it has been found that the fish thrive as well in this water drawn from subterranean sources as any other.

The Amphioxus, a fish-shaped animal of a very low grade of development, which affords Haeckel one of his firmest stepping stones in the lively work on evolution, has been the subject of very interesting observations on the part of Henry J. Rice, at Fort Wool, on the Chesapeake. He had the good fortune to find two males, a ripe female, and twenty young. The animal stands on debatable ground between the vertebrates and inverlebrates, and received its name from its shape. Amphioxus is the Greek of Mr. Yarrel for "sharp at both ends." Descriptions of the habits, structure, and development of this curious primitive animal are being issued in the American Naturalist by Mr. Rice.

System of Ventilation.—There are two distinct modifications of indirect radiation, one where all the heating surface is placed in a chamber, and the warmed air distributed through air ducts and impelled by a fan in the inlet or cold air duct. The other where the heating surface is divided into many parts, and placed near the lower ends of vertical flues leading to the rooms to be heated.

Paper Negatives.—The paper is covered with collodion containing an iodide, floated upon a silver bath; washed, and floated upon a tannin solution. In order to render the paper negative transparent it is dipped into a solution of castor oil thinned with alcohol.

Wanted.

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