

The number of the blind in the United Kingdom according to the last census was 32,296, being at the rate of 879 blind persons per million of the general population as compared with 950 in 1871, 964 in 1861, and 1021 in 1851. The decrease in blindness would thus appear to be gradual but steady, even allowing for the fact that many who have very defective sight and are practically blind object to return themselves as such.

The highest statistics which have ever been reached in the annals of suicide were recorded at Berlin. Fifty-nine persons attempted to quit "this mortal life" in one month, and thirty-eight among them were successful. One boy, twenty women and thirty-eight men made up the number. Twenty-two sought death in the water, fourteen by hanging, twelve through bullets, five by poisoning and two by jumping from windows.

The practical extermination of the buffalo in a little over twenty years is one of the most curious results of the rapid developments of the West. A generation ago the buffalo roamed over the Western plains in countless thousands, but the skin hunters soon began their deadly work. From 1868 to 1872 it is estimated they slaughtered three and a half million buffaloes simply for their hides. The result of this warfare was that the animals were driven from their regular feeding grounds and in a few years became very scarce. Now it is estimated that there are not over 750 head on the continent, and these are all domesticated.

"Why don't the English buy our wheat?" read a well-known New York Produce Exchange broker from the *World*. "The answer is simple enough," said he, "for any child to understand. The output of Russia is supplying England, and if Russia falls short India supplies the deficiency. Thousands upon thousands of bushels of wheat are shipped by India to England and her colonies every year, and each year the supply grows larger. The cost of transportation from Russia to England is not so much as from this country, and England is buying where she can get what she wants the cheapest. That accounts for it, and the idea of sending a committee of brokers across the water to investigate and find out why the market for our wheat is so dull is all bosh. Their own sense should tell them the reason."

The debt of Canada has grown to \$285,000,000, an increase of \$12,000,000 within the last year. The public improvements for which much of this large debt was incurred are still public burdens instead of sources of revenue, as was expected when they were building. The population of the country increases slowly, except among the French settlers in the Province of Quebec, whose increasing numbers are a source of distress to many in other provinces. Between 1861 and 1881 more of the foreign-born population of Canada came over to the States than arrived from Europe. There was an actual decrease of foreign-born population within those twenty years of 100,000, though 500,000 came from the old countries. Since 1881 there has been a large removal of native-born Canadians to the States lying along the border. The Boston *Cultivator* considers that all these facts point toward ultimate annexation with the United States. This country is too big and too attractive for another nation to be successfully organized along side of it. Despite Canada's effort to keep trade for us, it inevitably gravitates this way, and she cannot prevent it.

The introduction of leprosy into our own country is traced by Dr. Morrow to four separate and distinct sources. It was carried into Louisiana by the Acadians, into the Northwestern States by Scandinavians, along the Pacific coast by Chinamen, and emigrants from the West Indies brought it to the Southern Atlantic coast. Forty-two cases were recently reported at New Orleans and one hundred at Key West, while numerous other concealed cases are suspected as existing in different parts of the Union. Dr. Morrow therefore regards the extensive spread of leprosy in this country as a possibility strong enough to require the adoption of legislative measures for the isolation of every leper, and to prevent the immigration from foreign countries of those who have in their systems the seeds of the frightful and so far incurable malady. Contrary to the opinion of many foreign physicians of eminence, he maintains, from his personal observation of leprosy in the Sandwich Islands, that there is "the most abundant and conclusive proof of its eminent contagiousness." If that is the case, of course, every leper is dangerous, observes the *New York Sun*. Nor is it safe to assume that the susceptibility to leprosy is extinguished by civilization. As Dr. Morrow says, the spread of leprosy in the Sandwich Islands has been coincident with an advanced civilization of the natives.

"I am cutting a swell," as the surgeon remarked while lancing a boil.

A VALUABLE TREE.

A COCOANUT WHOSE FRUIT IS OF AN ENORMOUS SIZE.

Where it is Found—How it Grows—Its Strange Appearance—Many Uses to Which it is Put.

On a map the Seychelles group of islands are represented by a dot not larger than a pin head yet there are thirty of them, and one, Mahe, is eighteen miles long and from three to five miles broad. They lie nearly in the Indian Ocean and just south of the equator. These islands abound with interesting subjects to the student in natural science, but among them none is more wonderful or striking than that famous tree, the Coco de Mer. Nowhere else in the world can this tree be found except on the islands of this group. At one time Curieuse and Praslin were covered with the trees, but travelers who have recently visited the islands say that the vegetable wonder has vanished from the first, but is plentiful on the second. One of these explorers was Colonel Nicholas Pike, for seven years United States consul at the island of Mauritius, which is nine hundred miles distant, and to which colony the Seychelles group belongs. In describing his impressions of the tree, he says: "The first appearance of the curious Coco de Mer is disappointing, and at a distance looks quite disreputable for so famous a tree. Imagine a tall thin stem towering up over a hundred feet, with a great ragged head of green and withered leaves. The impression is not favorable, a common cocoon tree is handsomer. These, however, are the male trees; the females are rarely over sixty or seventy feet, and not being so high, are less exposed to the winds. When about twenty or twenty-five years old, before the stems begin to rise, it is certainly one of the loveliest productions of the vegetable world, and here it is seen in all its beauty."

The leaves of the Coco de Mer are winged and palmated, and when the stem is just rising above the ground, in favorable situations, they attain a length of fifteen feet exclusive of the petiole, which is of an equal length and twelve feet wide, but both diminish in size as the trunk increases in height. This is a necessity, as the tall thin stem could not support a head of such large leaves and the heavy fruit which the tree bears. Travelers often give the natives small sums of money, for which they will climb the trees and swing upon the great leaves—a feat attended with much danger, considering the great height of the leaves from the ground.

Before the leaves unfold they are covered with a thick cottony substance, which is used for mattresses. When about thirty-five years old the tree begins to blossom. After three years from fecundation, the fruit has attained its full size. It can be cut with a knife in this stage, but gradually becomes hard and black, but it is seven or eight years from time of fecundation before it is ready to fall. The double nut, with the husk around it and when fully developed, is about the size of a bushel basket. The meat of the nut is agreeable eating, and tastes like the cream of charlotte russe. The shell of the nut is used by the natives for scoop buckets, and is put to a variety of other uses. These immense nuts used to be found floating in the Indian Ocean, and gave rise to any number of fabulous stories in regard to their origin. It was claimed by many that they grew in the sea, but this claim, of course, was easily refuted; but, nevertheless, this peculiarity is kept in remembrance by the name which the tree bears, Coco de Mer, or cocoonut, of the sea.

When the nut falls to the ground, the first act in the future tree's life is perhaps as wonderful as anything in its future history. It takes nine months after planting before the germ is ready to start, when it shoots out from the nut and creeps along the ground, drawing nutriment from the ground as it goes. When a distance of some twenty feet has been covered, it begins to shoot upward and to put forth leaves, each leaf requiring a year's elaboration in sun and air before the next appears. If the nut does not fall germ downward and meet the ground so as to draw substance from it, after an ineffectual struggle for some few feet on the surface all vitality is exhausted, and the vegetable baby dies from the heat of the sun and the lack of moisture. Another remarkable fact regarding the Coco de Mer is that it rests in a perforated bowl which in form resembles a colander. A great number of rootlets radiate from the trunk and run through holes in the bowl and then extend into the earth, sometimes for thirty feet. When violent winds blow, as they frequently do in this region, the tree, being tall and slender, with a great bunch of heavy leaves and nuts forming a great bouquet on its top, bends over until it seems as if it must fall, but rights itself again, its long roots seeming to act like elastics, which draw it back into position again.

The numerous uses to which the leaves of the Coco de Mer can be adapted has led to the wholesale destruction of trees. The Mahometans use them to weave into praying mats, and they regard them as having a special sanctity. These leaves are very beautiful in their unfurled state, their edges being of a delicate green and the laminae of a clear pale straw color. Beautiful fans, artificial flowers, hats, ladies' work-baskets, and other articles are made from them.

The expanded leaves are also used for thatch, and when folded together and pinned with little skewers of bamboo will hold nearly a bushel of fruit. The petiole is used for palings and often for rafters, being strong and durable. The trunks are split and used for palisades and for boards for the end of houses, and pieces are hollowed out and used for gutters.—*Scientific American*.

Twenty Questions About Electricity.
Q. How strong a current is used to send a message over an Atlantic cable? A. Thirty cells of battery only. Equal to thirty volts.
Q. What is the longest distance over which conversation by telephone is daily maintained? A. About 750 miles; from Portland, Me., to Buffalo, N. Y.
Q. What is the fastest time made by an electric railway? A. A mile a minute by a small experimental car. Twenty miles an hour on street railway system.
Q. How many miles of submarine cable are there in operation? A. Over 100,000 miles, or enough to girdle the earth four times.
Q. What is the maximum power generated by an electric motor? A. Seventy-five horse-power. Experiments indicate that 100 horse-power will soon be reached.
Q. How is a break in submarine cable located? A. By measuring the electricity needed to charge the remaining unbroken part.
Q. How many miles of telegraph wire in operation in the United States? A. Over a million, or enough to encircle the globe forty times.
Q. How many messages can be transmitted over a wire at one time? A. Four, by the quadruplex system in daily use.
Q. How is telegraphing from a moving train accomplished? A. Through a circuit from the car roof inducing a current in the wire on poles along the track.
Q. What are the most widely separated points between which it is possible to send a telegram? A. British Columbia and New Zealand, via America and Europe.
Q. How many miles of telephone wire in operation in the United States? A. More than 170,000, over which 1,055,000 messages are sent daily.
Q. What is the greatest candle-power of arc light used in a lighthouse? A. Two million, in lighthouse at Housholm, Denmark.
Q. How many persons in the United States are engaged in business depending solely on electricity? A. Estimated, 250,000.
Q. How long does it take to transmit a message from San Francisco to Hong Kong? A. About fifteen minutes, via New York, Canso, Penzance, Aden, Bombay, Madras, Penang and Singapore.
Q. What is the fastest time made by an operator sending messages by Morse system? A. About forty-two words per minute.
Q. How many telephones are in use in the United States? A. About 800,000.
Q. What war vessel has the most complete electrical plant? A. United States man-of-war Chicago.
Q. What is the average cost per mile of a transatlantic submarine cable? A. About \$1000.
Q. How many miles of electric railway are there in operation in the United States? A. About 400 miles, and much more under construction.
Q. What strength of current is dangerous to human life? A. Five hundred volts, but depending largely on physical conditions.—*Scribner's Magazine*.

Nut-Bearing Trees.

The idea advanced by a prominent horticulturist—never to plant any tree except it produce some nut or fruit valuable for the sustenance of man or beast—is eminently practical and worthy of commendation. We know of a fruit grower who saves his grapes and strawberries from the depredations of birds by planting rows of ordinary black mulberry contiguous to his strawberry patch and figs around his vineyard.

It is a good time now to look about and select trees from which you desire to propagate, and make a memorandum of their location, so that when the time for gathering comes they will not be forgotten.

Nuts may be preserved for spring planting by laying them on an elevated piece of ground, covering lightly with earth, and securing them from depredations by placing plank on the top of the bed. They should not be bedded too deeply or in any place where water will stand.—*New Orleans Times-Democrat*.

CURIOUS FACTS.

An ice mine has been discovered on the Pacific coast.

Printing was introduced in England, by Caxton, in 1471.

Wisconsin pearls have been declared by jewelers to be worthless.

London streets were first lighted with oil-lamps in 1681, and with gas-lamps in 1814.

If a Brazilian girl should walk with a gentleman not her relative in the daytime, it would ruin her.

The number of insane persons in the care of New York city is close upon 5000 and increasing.

An editor has been chosen President of the Mexican Congress, which means Vice-President of the Republic.

British soldiers not in possession of swimming certificates are forbidden to enter boats for purposes of recreation.

An Elmira (N. Y.) school teacher, aged forty-five, has just married one of her former pupils, aged twenty-four, whom, in his school days, she many a time soundly whipped.

The Korean does not have the trouble of carrying his umbrella in his hand. It is like an ordinary umbrella in general shape, only it is smaller and has no handle. It is made of oiled paper and is worn on the head over the hat.

Three school boys of Sompeo, Cal., thought they'd have fun this vacation playing gold-mining. So they began on a worn-out claim on the beach near Point Sal, and in twenty-four days, working not more than eight hours a day, made \$240.

A business firm in Chicopee, Mass., offered a prize for the best guess as to the number of marbles in a big boot exhibited in their window. A shoemaker of the town, anxious to win the prize, made a boot, as he thought, of the same size, and filled it with marbles. Then he counted the marbles, and gave the number as his guess. He was over 2000 out of the way.

In 1816 it took just one bushel of corn to buy one pound of nails, now one bushel of corn will buy ten pounds of nails. Then it required sixty-four bushels of barley to buy one yard of broadcloth, now the same amount of barley will pay twenty yards of broadcloth. It then required the price of one bushel of wheat to pay for one yard of calico, now one bushel of wheat will buy twenty yards of calico.

The horses on some of the stage routes in Nevada are trained to wear snow shoes. After an animal becomes used to them he can travel four or five miles an hour, where it would be impossible to go that distance in a week without them. The shoes are made of thin steel plate, and measure about nine by eleven inches. The horses are shod with long heel corks, which go through the snow shoes and prevent their slipping going up and down hill.

By a new process, the rubber in the milk collected from India-rubber trees is now coagulated instantaneously. The operation is so simple that any native can carry it out at the foot of the tree which he has been bleeding; and thus, instead of carrying large cans of milk of great weight, and entailing great loss on the way, he simply carries in the sack solid rubber, which, on his arrival at camp, can at once be prepared for the market and shipped.

A French Army Punishment.
Much has been said of the hardships endured by the private soldier at our military posts, and of the severity with which little breaches of army regulations are punished. Uncle Sam's boys in blue, however, seem to be well off in this respect when compared to the soldiery of France. Among the troops of that country discipline is maintained with a severity that certainly seems to verge upon cruelty, as may be judged from what follows:
When a French soldier has been court-martialed and found guilty of an offense, he is sent to a military prison, where he lives on bread and water and has a heavy task set him every day. If he is rebellious, or refuses to do his work, the authorities have an ingenious plan for insuring that he shall perform a certain amount of hard labor.
He is marched into a cell into which there is a stream of water flowing, and furnished with a pump which affords the only means of keeping the water down. Unless he sets to work to ply the pump, the water rises higher and higher until he must either go to work or be drowned! In this way he has to spend the number of days for which he is sentenced, wet through, and pumping for his life. If he pauses to rest his arms, the pitiless water at once begins to gain upon him, and he has to redouble his efforts to keep it below the level of his chin. So many as ninety days of this terrible punishment may be inflicted on an obstinate prisoner.—*Argosy*.

There are 200,000 men, women and children in this country wearing artificial limbs, not including old soldiers.

A Sensible Man

World use Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs. It is curing more cases of Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup and all Throat and Lung Troubles, than any other medicine. The proprietor has authorized any druggist to give you a Sample Bottle Free to convince you of the merit of this great remedy. Large Bottles 50c. and \$1.

There are 156,000 miles of railroad in the United States. Within twenty-three years 121,000 miles of this have been built.

Her Face Was Her Fortune.
She was as pretty as a picture and so animated and lively that it did one good to look at her. She was all this but she is not now. Poor soul, the roses linger no more in her cheeks, the former luster of her eyes is gone. She is a woe-begone looking piece of humanity now. She has one of those troubles so common to women and needs Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It recuperates the wasted strength, puts the whole system right, restores the roses and the luster and makes the woman what she once was, bright, well and happy. "Favorite Prescription" is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

For all derangements of the liver, stomach and bowels, take Dr. Pierce's Pellets. One a dose.

The total number of paying visitors to the Paris Exposition up to recent date was 10,632,231.

If not above being taught by a man, take this good advice. Try Dobbin's Electric Soap next Monday. It won't cost much, and you will then know for yourself just how good it is. Be sure to get no imitation. There are lots of them.

The window glass production this year will be 3,238,880 boxes.

"The days of miracles are past." That may be, and yet some of the most wonderful things ever witnessed by the human family have occurred within the last decade. Not the least of these wonders is the success which the agents of R. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va., are meeting. Write them for particulars. They will show you how to work wonders.

CANTON, China, has fifteen Christian chapels.
If afflicted with sore eyes use Dr. Isaac Thomson's Eye-water. Druggists sell at 25c. per bottle.
A box wind matches fits to smokers of "Tansill's Punch" 5c. Cigar.

Out of Sorts

Is a feeling peculiar to persons of dyspeptic tendency, or it may be caused by change of climate, season or life. The stomach is out of order, the bowels do not feel right, appetite is capricious, the nerves seem overworked, the mind is confused and irritable. This condition finds an excellent corrective in Hood's Sarsaparilla, which, by its regulating and toning powers, soon restores harmony to the system, and gives that strength of mind, nerves, and body, which makes one feel perfectly well.

N. B.—If you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to buy any other.

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Apply Balm into each nostril. ELY BROS., 56 Warren St., N. Y.

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If you know how to properly manage them, for 25 cents in stamps you can procure a 106-PAGE BOOK giving the experience of a practical Poultry Raiser—not an amateur, but a man working for dollars and cents—during a period of 25 years. It teaches you how to select and cure diseases; to feed for eggs and also for fattening; which foods to save for breeding purposes; and everything, indeed, you should know on this subject to make it profitable. Sent for 25c. BOOK, "THE HOUSE," 134 Leonard Street, N. Y. City

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Every size Seal. For free price list send this paper and address JONES OF BINGHAMTON, BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

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FOR LAMENESS AND SWELLINGS.

In the Hip. Utica, Fulton Co., Ill., June, '88. Three or four years ago was taken with lameness in hip, was in bed part of time. Tried several doctors without benefit; was cured by three or four applications of St. Jacobs Oil. WM. HARRIS.

Always There. Palmyra, Mich., May 19, '88. Have used St. Jacobs Oil for lameness with impure blood, cured by external use of St. Jacobs Oil. Returns in five years. A. E. WHITMAN, Druggist.

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As applied at the Holland Medical and Cancer Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., removes Cancer in all its stages. Scores of patients speak in unqualified terms of praise of the success of this treatment. J. H. HOLLAND, N. Y. HOLLAND MEDICAL CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

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