

The question of coeducation is being passionately discussed in French circles.

Utah has 1,035,200 acres of land irrigated artificially, and 2,518,700 acres susceptible of similar improvement.

An article in the London Times states that the best wages paid a letter carrier in that country is \$4.50 a week.

Recent figures show that the total value of matches made and consumed throughout the world is but little short of \$200,000,000.

In 100 home families in New York, on the average, are found sixty-three that hire their home, fifteen that own with incumbrance, and twenty-one that own without incumbrance.

"In the United States three-fifths of the entire wealth of the country is owned by 31,000 persons--less than one-twelfth of one per cent. of the population," asserts the Farmers' Tribune.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has decided to gradually do away with the service of interpreters at the various agencies, etc., and to employ instead the Indian children who have been educated at the expense of the Government.

Twenty-five miles of the Congo Railroad in Africa, forming the first section between Matange and Kenge, are now completed. The work has cost \$100,000 a mile. The line will be ninety-three miles long in all, and will connect the immense waterways above Stanley Falls with the sea.

Since Florida orange groves have turned their attention to the developing of early and late kinds of fruit, it is possible to have oranges here all the year through, states the Philadelphia Presbyterian. With the aid of cold storage, the presence of fruit on the table is much more common than it used to be.

Iceland can hardly be considered as a new country, admits the Washington Star, for it was colonized before the Vikings made an excursion to the North American coast. Yet attention is now being directed to the resources of the island, and projects for development are being planned and pushed with the vigor usual when a new land has been opened for settlement. An English syndicate has secured a concession to build railways, and a line of steamers is to be established to run all the year between Iceland and Liverpool. The export sheep trade is the incentive that has given life to these commercial projects. Iceland's geographic position is such as to suggest it as a field for American enterprise.

It is encouraging to know that the scientific application of electricity to therapeutical work is gaining ground rapidly. Not only are medical men themselves actively investigating the subject, but electricians like Edison, Tesla, Elihu Thomson, A. E. Kennel, J. J. Carth and others, are devoting considerable time and study to it. American medical papers contain many notes on new lines of work, and even the more conservative English press finds space to record advances in the electro-therapeutic art. The London Lancet contains interesting references to the very successful use of electricity in curing trigeminal neuralgia, and to long continued treatment of cases of tic douloureux, which is practically the same ailment.

The Director of the United States Mint has estimated and the Secretary of the Treasury has proclaimed the value of foreign coins, as required by Section 25 of the act of August 28, 1894. The changes made are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Coin Name and Value. Includes Bolivians of Bolivia, Peso of Central American, States, Hankwan tael of China, etc.

The estimate of the value of coins of the countries having a single silver standard is made up on the average price of silver for the three months ending September 29, 1894, viz: \$0.64127. There has been added to the list the Tien-Tsin and Che-Foo taels of China.

AN ANSWERING THOUGHT.

If man be but a mere sojourner here-- A borrowed presence from some distant sphere, A passing shadow 'twixt a smile and tear-- A thing of fleeting breath, command, Then, O ye heavenly choristers, draw near, And tell me what is hope.

A MODERN WITCH.

HERE is something uncanny about the girl. I cannot make her out, and Charlie Vanderveer puffed viciously at his cigar. "Why, the other night I was up there, she started in by reading my palm, and ended by hypnotizing me. By Jove, Tom, I was frighten'd--absolutely frighten'd."

"What, the palmistry or the hypnotism?" "Both; and the frightening thrown in."

"Well, you will see her to-night, and can then judge for yourself. Here we are, now." Saying which they walked up the broad steps of a comfortable looking brown stone mansion and were ushered into the drawing room by a stately looking butler.

Miss Morgan was as charming a girl as one would care to meet. She had beauty, numerous accomplishments, and, incidentally, wealth. Within the past few years she had developed a craze for anything bordering on the mystic or supernatural. At first it was palmistry, but recently it had developed into mind-reading, hypnotism and ingeniously planned, though entirely unscientific wanderings of the astral body.

After the first introductions and perfunctory conventionalities, the conversation was turned to the subject of hypnotism, and Bradford volunteered to become a subject with foolhardy daring "just to see what the sensation was like," as he weakly explained.

Overjoyed at the prospect of a new victim to experiment upon, the young hostess offered him an invitingly comfortable looking arm-chair, while she, seating herself before him and taking his hand in hers, directed that he should look steadily into her eyes. Bradford did so, while Miss Morgan fixed her lustrous eyes on his as though she would look him through and through.

WISE WORDS

Loss of sincerity is loss of vital power. Who loses all the fault that is found? It is as great to be a woman as to be a man. Castles in the air are seldom furnished. Life is a riddle, to which the answer is death. Impudence is sometimes mistaken for liberality.

Chinese Victims of Consumption. That there is a large Chinese population in Boston is well known, and yet it is seldom that one hears of a death in the Chinese quarter. The fact among the Chinese residents is small as compared with those of other nationalities, and there is no way to tell the exact number of deaths among them, as they are recorded by the city officials under the head of miscellaneous nationalities.

The Eyes of a Portrait. How it is that the eyes of some portraits seem to follow a spectator around the room? It is thus explained: Suppose a portrait have its face and eyes directed straight in front, so as to look at the spectator. Let a straight line be drawn through the tip of the nose and half way between the eyes. On each side of this middle line there will be the same breath of head, of cheek, of chin, and of neck, and each iris will be in the middle of the whole of the eye.

The Horse Knew the Days of the Week. A Dexter (Mo.) man has a mare that knows several things, and among other accomplishments apparently can tell the day of the week. On Sunday the gentleman hitched up, and, having assisted his wife into the carriage, got in himself. He was busied for a moment in arranging the robes, and before he had taken up the reins the horse started out of the yard into the street. His purpose was to attend church, and, as the horse took that direction, he decided to let her go without guiding to see what she would do.

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WONDERS OF ALUMINUM.

NUMEROUS USES TO WHICH THIS TOUGH METAL MAY BE PUT. Its Cheapness Will Work a Revolution in Mechanical Construction--Process of Production a Secret.

ARTICLES made of aluminum, the bronze with which every clay bank abounds, can hardly be classed as novelties in goods," said a Maiden lane dealer in London, made of that metal. "The novelty now consist in the application. Aluminum ten years ago was only produced after an expensive and tedious scientific process. It was worth as much if not more than silver and the product was so small that it had no commercial standing, and was only made up into paper weights or fancy little trifles. To-day aluminum is a thoroughly established article of trade. Its cost in the bar or ingot is only one-twelfth of what it was twelve years ago, and the price will continue to steadily decline until it is as cheap as tinued iron, which it will ultimately supplant for a hundred uses. Every jewelry and novelty store to-day carries in stock an endless variety of articles for toilet, table and personal use which were formerly made of silver, or silver plate, but which are now made of aluminum. The prices are much lower than those which they supplant. Manufacturers buy the aluminum in bar, ingot or rolled sheet. The metal comes from Pittsburgh, one center near that city turning out about ninety per cent. of the output in the United States.

The process by which cheap aluminum is produced at its present price is a jealously-guarded secret. Experimental plants are in operation all over the country, and the secret must sooner or later become common property. Then the aluminum age will dawn. House furnishing stores are already displaying all manner of cooking utensils made of the light, tough and non-tarnishing metal, and cuspidors made of it are quite popular. It is also being used extensively for bath tub linings and for outdoor signs in place of zinc or brass. Wire and tubing of all dimensions are on the market.

A gentleman representing the principal aluminum reduction works of the country stated yesterday that the coming year will witness the production in the west of the product of at least fifty per cent. The building of ships of heavy burden of aluminum is among the probabilities. In the clay banks of the country the practical scientist sees the house building lumber of the future.

In 1890 aluminum cost \$17 per pound; in 1886 it had declined to \$8. Then the electrolytic method of reducing the ore was invented, and in 1889 the ruling price was \$4. Then it began to replace brass, German silver and nickel. The price had fallen in 1891 to \$1.50 a pound, and with this year dates the introduction of aluminum as a commercial staple. In 1893 the new metal was as cheap as copper. The prevailing price is today from fifty-three to sixty-three cents per pound, in 100-pound lots, according to quality, and fifty to fifty-eight cents in ton lots.

All the steel-workers of the country use large quantities of the new metal as an alloy. The use of aluminum was the secret of the wonderful flexibility and strength of the Damascus blade. The German Government has done much to encourage its use. Pontoon bridges have been constructed of it. Aluminum shoe pegs are alone used in the making of shoes for the army. It has been found especially valuable in the fitting of torpedo boats. A rowboat weighing 146 pounds has a carrying capacity of a boat weighing 800 pounds in other metal. Bicycle frames are made of it. Lamps made from it do not explode. Oil. Food cooked in aluminum vessels cannot scorch.

Cornets and flutes made from pure aluminum are as sweet in tone as if made of silver. Many kinds of surgical instruments are made of it. The metal is three and a half times lighter than copper. Spun into fine thread it will enter into the manufacture of draperies. Already "silk worms" have been shown as proof of the possibilities in this line.--New York World.

How Pepsin is Prepared.

Pepsin, which in various forms is so largely used as a remedy for indigestion and stomach trouble, is obtained from the membrane that lines the stomach of various animals, that of the hog being most largely used. The fresh stomachs are deprived of their fat and divested of their outer coating, cut open, gently washed with cold water and macerated for several days in a pickle. This pickle is composed of water thirty parts and hydrochloric acid one part, and requires frequent stirring. The liquid is next strained and filtered clear through coarse paper or allowed to stand twenty-four hours and then poured off. Common salt is then added and thoroughly mixed with the liquid. The pepsin rises to the top, and after standing is skimmed off. After this it is drained in a strainer, then submitted to strong pressure to force out all that is possible of the saline solution. Next it is carefully dried in warm air without other heat. The resultant constitutes the crude pepsin, which is used for making pepticin, etc. Purified pepsin before drying in water acidulated with hydrochloric acid, then adding just sufficient salt to separate it from its solution. It is next washed gently with cold water and drained, pressed and dried rapidly on glass with gentle heat.--New York Telegram.

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America's Dead Sea.

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Some Rare Gems.

Another gem, beautiful and interesting in itself, which is occasionally sold for the true ruby, is the red zircon, also called jargon and jacinth or hyacinth. Jewelers call these accords "jacinth rubies" and charge accordingly. The gems of all colors, the pure white ones being hard to distinguish from diamonds, on account of their wonderful fire. Chrysolite is just as white, but it is like glass compared with a diamond or jargon.--New York Journal.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Corundum is worth about \$200 per ton. Hose of aluminum is now used in Germany. Sugar alone will sustain life for a considerable time. Only one out of every fifteen persons has both eyes in good condition. An airpump is said to have been devised which sweeps a room by sucking the dust all out of it. A spoon in a glass filled with hot water prevents the breaking of the glass, because the metal readily absorbs a large part of the heat of the water.

Russia, reports to the State Department that of 793 cases treated at the bacteriological station for a year for hydrophobia by the Pasteur method, but six died, all children. The snow huts of the Esquimaux are the warmest dwellings that can be constructed in polar regions, because snow is the poorest conductor of heat that can be found there and keeps the warmth of the fire within. Sir Andrew Clark, late President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, advised that each mouthful of food should receive thirty-two bites--that is, one for every tooth--if one wishes to avoid dyspepsia.

Professor William Harkness, of Washington, states the magnitude of the solar system as 5,578,400,000 miles measuring across the diameter of Neptune's orbit, while the radius of the earth's orbit is 92,797,000 miles, with a possible error either way of 59,700 miles. The use of the electric current in the treatment of disease is extending, as shown by the large attendance upon and widespread interest in the second annual convention of the National Society of Electro-therapeutics in New York City. Physicians of the old schools of practice now use electricity for many troubles.

Cocaine is one of the most useful drugs known. Its use was demonstrated on the eyes of animals by Koller, of Vienna, not many years ago, and it is now indispensable to the surgeon. Cocaine applied to the eye entirely removes sensibility, and allows the most delicate operations to be painlessly performed. It is also used in operations on the nose and larynx, which otherwise could only be performed with great agony to the patient, for the administration of chloroform in these cases is impossible.

Moving Mountain.

A traveling mountain is found at the Cascades of the Columbia. It is a triple-peaked mass of dark brown basalt, six or eight miles in length where it fronts the river, and rises to the height of almost 2000 feet above the water. That it is in motion is the last thought that would be likely to suggest itself to the mind of anyone passing it; yet it is a well-established fact that this entire mountain is moving slowly but steadily down to the river, as if it had a deliberate purpose some time in the future to dam the Columbia and form a great lake from the Cascades to the Dalles, says a writer in Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine. In its forward and downward movement the forest along the base of the ridge has become submerged in the river. Large tree stumps can be seen standing dead in the water on this shore. The railway engineers and brakemen find that the line of railway that skirts the foot of the mountain is being continually forced out of place. At certain points the permanent way and rails have been pushed eight or ten feet out of line in a few years. Geologists attribute this strange phenomenon to the fact that the basalt, which constitutes the bulk of the mountain, rests on a substratum of conglomerate or of soft sandstone, the deep, swift current of the mighty river is constantly wearing away, or that this softer subrocks is itself yielding at great depths to the enormous weight of the harder mineral above.

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