The Mining World.

More than 4,000 stamps are at present in operation in California.

The aggregate capital of the 526 Australian mining companies floated in London in 1895 was £33,796,594.

A shipment of 150 tons of copper from the Ducktown (Tenn.) mines has been made to Swansea, Wales.

An American exploring syndicate is developing some newly-acquired mining properties in Ecuador, South America.

Green salad plants that are eaten uncooked should be washed in plenty of salted cold water. The salt will kill any germs that may have settled upon them in the dust of the market, or any parasite that has fastened upon them in the garden.

Hammock cushions this year are of outdoor materials. They are of June rose leaves, of pine needles, of acorns broken, and of dried leaves. They are of hops, of dried spearmint, or the gathered ends of all the flowers of the field and garden, tossed in the sun and made fragrant by salt and spices.

The fashionable wedding gift for the bridegroom to make to the bridesmaids is a pendant watch in enamel, of a hue to correspond with the tone of the sollette.

Ribbon sale is to be cultivated in these days, when all summer gowns are dependent largely upon ribbons for their prettiness.

It is almost impossible for a girl who is in love to make a good cake. She is sure to get it too sweet.

Solid Petroleum.

It is reported in Science that Monsieur De Humy, a French naval officer, has invented a process by which petroleum can be converted into solid blocks, as hard as anthracite coal. Common petroleum oil, it is asserted, has been thus solidified, and the blocks, in burning, give off intense heat and are slowly consumed. One ton of solid petroleum used as fuel is said to be equivalent to thirty tons of coal. The comparative cost of the two forms of fuel is not given.

Giant Plants on Mountains.

Recent explorers of the Caucasus Mountains have reported the existence there of a peculiar race of gigantic herbaceous plants growing at a height of nearly 6,000 feet above sea-level. Plants belonging to the same botanic families, but growing at the bottom of the valleys below, do not attain an extraordinary size. For instance, a species of campanula—our ordinary harebell is a campanula—grows only two feet high in the valleys, but on the mountains it reaches a height of six feet, and its stem becomes thick and rigid, like that of a small tree.

Armies on Ice.

Army engineers in various countries have calculated the thickness of ice necessary to sustain certain weights. Ice two inches thick is deemed strong enough to bear a man's weight, according to a summary of the army rules on this subject published in "Engineering Mechanics," and on such ice infantry may march if the distance between each man is properly spaced. Cavalry and light field guns can cross ice four inches thick. Six-inch ice will sustain heavy field guns; eight-inch ice artillery batteries with horses; and ten-inch ice "an army or an innumerable multitude." On fifteen-inch ice railroads have been laid and operated for months at a time.

The Fluoroscope.

Mr. Thomas A. Edison has invented an apparatus, called the fluoroscope, by the aid of which a surgeon, instead of photographing with the X rays the bones or other hard substances concealed under the skin and flesh of a patient, may actually see them. The machine depends for its action upon the fact that the X rays possess the property of rendering luminous certain substances, which chemists call fluorescent. Mr. Edison first determined, by experiment, that the best fluorescent substance for this purpose was calcium tungstate. The tungstate is spread in a smooth layer upon a piece of pasteboard which forms the bottom of a small box, having holes for the eyes at the upper end. A Crookes tube, enclosed in another box, is excited by a current of electricity, and if the hand, for instance, is to be examined, it is placed upon the box containing the tube. The observer then looks into the viewing box, whose tungstate-covered bottom is placed directly above the hand, and sees, with startling distinctness, the bones and joints, showing as dark and delicately graduated shadows, while the flesh is only faintly visible. The reason the bones appear is because they intercept the X rays, and thus prevent the tungstate surface from becoming fluorescent where their shadows fall.

The Banners of the Sun.

The expedition which will go from the Lick Observatory to observe the eclipse of the sun in Japan next August will carry a novel photographic machine to picture the great coronal streamers that are seen around the sun when its globe is hidden behind the moon. The sun's corona has been photographed during previous eclipses, but as its light is much stronger near the sun than at a greater distance, the photographs have invariably been overexposed for the brighter part of the phenomenon when so timed as to catch the image of the fainter parts; and, conversely, the outer portions of the streamers have been lost in the photographs when the exposure has been made short enough to give a good image of the bright inner portion. Mr. Burckhalter, of the Chabot Observatory, Oakland, who will accompany the expedition referred to, thinks he has contrived a machine that will equalize the exposure for all parts of the corona, and thus enable him to get a perfect photograph of the wonderful display around the sun during the eclipse. The principal feature of his invention is a rotating diaphragm, driven by clockwork and provided with a peculiarly shaped hole for the passage of the light, whereby the faint outer part of the corona will get a much longer exposure than the brilliant inner part.

Astonishing Statements.

A certain woman novelist writes in so amusing a fashion that the many blunders which mar her work are not discovered by the critical. In one of her novels will be found a horse winning the Derby three years in succession; guardsmen sitting up all night drinking hard, smoking perfumed cigarettes, gambling for fabulous sums, and starting forth in the morning after breakfast of ortolans and green Chartreuse, fresh as daisies and prepared to do deeds of prowess in the hunting field or at the covert side; and that great feat, too, performed by a man with a "tawny mustache and flanks like a greyhound," who, while snipe shooting, espies an eagle, "a dim speck in the ethereal vault." What cares he that his cartridges only contain tiny snipe shot? He bangs away with unerring aim, and "slowly the king of birds, with his glorious pinions outstretched, sinks at his feet a corpse." In another of her books a gentleman performs a similar feat, but this time, for the sake of variety, with a rifle bullet. An English novelist, in describing river side people says, "They go to church but three times in their lives—when they are baptized, when they are married, and when they are buried." It is only people in novels who go to be buried during their lives. Mr. Rider Haggard, in his "King Solomon's Mines," made an eclipse of the moon take place at the new moon instead of at the full, when the earth is between the sun and the moon.

A Public Reservoir.

I saw an interesting sight while in Venice. Entering a little square shut in by high houses, and, like most Venetian squares, dominated by the unfinished facade of a time-stained church, I noticed a singular activity among the people. They were scurrying in from every alley, and hastening from every house door, with odd-shaped copper buckets on hook-ended wooden bows, and with little coils of rope. Old men and women, boys, and girls, all gathered closely about a covered well curb in the middle of the square; and still they hurried on, until they stood a dozen deep around it. Presently the clock in the church tower slowly struck 8, and a little man forced his way through the crowd, passed his ponderous iron key through the lid, and unlocked the well.

There immediately ensued a scene of great activity. The kettles went jangling into it, and came slopping out again at an amazing rate, and the people trudged off home, each with a pair of them swung from each shoulder. The wells are deep cisterns, which are filled during the night, and it is out of amiable consideration for those who love their morning nap that they are given as good a chance as their neighbors of getting an unsoiled supply. It is the first instance that has come to my notice of a commendable municipal restraint upon the reprehensible practice of early rising. I found, on closer investigation, that the water was of excellent quality.

Training the Human Body.

By those who will exercise the requisite patience, the body and its various functions may be brought under perfect command. Even the vital functions of the body may be affected. There have been not a few exhibitors who could actually control the heart beat, making their pulses noticeably slower or faster according to their pleasure. The seemingly miraculous feats of acrobats are simply the results of continually placing particular sets of muscles under complete control of the will. We should do well to try to appreciate how important, to our physical being at least, the gaining of a complete control over bodies may be. The student who has before him a difficult passage or problem must, if he would succeed, exercise sufficient will force to place everything else in his mind second to the task before him. It is much the same in our daily life. Multitudes of petty things tend to make us forget our purpose in living, and if we are to rise above them, we must remember to unburden our minds of the "worries" that we may have room for the "realities." We must shun excitement of every kind. We must live an even, temperate life; and we can do this easily enough if we have gained perfect control over ourselves.

Not Quite Correct.

In telling a joke, it is well to understand it thoroughly. A party of men were wont to amuse themselves at table by relating anecdotes, conundrums, etc. Mr. Archer was always greatly delighted at these jokes, but he never related anything himself, and being rallied on the matter, he determined that the next time he was called upon he would say something amusing. Accordingly, meeting one of the waiters soon afterward, he asked him if he knew any good jokes or conundrums. The waiter immediately related the following: "It is my father's child, and my mother's child, yet it is not my sister or brother," telling him at the same time that it was himself. Mr. Archer bore this in mind, and at the next meeting of his friends propounded it. "It is my father's child, and my mother's child, yet it is not my sister or brother," throwing a triumphant glance around the table. "Then it must be yourself," said one of the company. "I've got you now," said he; "you are wrong this time; it is the waiter." A shout of laughter interrupted Archer, who perceiving the mess he had got into, acknowledged his error, and told the company that he would pay for the wine. It was his last effort.

Working Their Way.

During the past summer a number of students who are working their way through the Philadelphia colleges obtained employment as car conductors in that city, and proved to be reliable and trustworthy. A railroad official says that they were thoroughly honest, intelligent and polite, and as their desire was to earn as much money during the summer as possible, they were always willing to work extra hours and take out special cars. They lived economically, and have probably saved something like $130 each, which will go a good way toward paying their college expenses next winter. This item speaks for itself, and needs no comment.

An idle man is never welcome unless he has money to spend.

QUEERLY NAMED.

Some of Our Puritan Ancestors Had Remarkable Baptismal Titles.

The quaintness of the Puritan names of piety—not Bible names, but words or phrases of religious import—has long been recognized. In the days of Cromwell, contemporary jokes were rife among the "Malignants," in which such worthy Roundheads as "Fight-the-good-fight-of-faith Jones," "Help-from-on-High Robbins," and "Faint-not-Pilsbery," figured prominently, and were treated with scant respect. The names themselves were not burlesqued. They were so queer it would have been difficult to do so.

The longest and strangest of the combinations in use in Old England did not, fortunately, ever become popular in New England. Nevertheless the American colonies had their share. Our own Dr. Holmes has recognized this in his ballad of Puritan times, beginning with the father's invitation to his little son:

"Come hither, God-be-Glorified, and sit upon my knee."

And it was in a much later period than the colonial that a worthy person flourished, commonly known as Tribby Clap, but whose whole name was Through-much-tribulation-we-enter-the-kingdom-of-Heaven Clap. The brief surname follows its lengthy prefix as surprisingly as a clap of thunder.

But, apart from the rarer and longer combination names, any one reading much among old town records, or expert in antiquarian lore, is sure to come across names odd enough to make him pause to wonder whether the ancestors who bestowed them were so singularly sober-minded as to be without the sense of humor, or so excessively humorous as to name their children in jest.

Some of the names read remarkably like puns. For instance, one of a group of her ancestors to whom Mrs. Alice Morse Earle dedicates a recent book on "Colonial Dames and Goodwives" is Mistress Silence Heard. One wonders whether Goodman and Goodwife Heard noticed the effect of this conjunction when they named their baby, or did they do it on purpose?

Here are a few other names of the same kind, all duly recorded among the births and deaths, wills and land transfers of a few little New England towns: "Wait Long," "Temperance Waters," "Righteous Hope," "Lovey Sweet," "Submit Willing," and "Thankful Hart."

"Expect Little" of one village list offsets "Hope Much" of another. "Lively Smart" should certainly have been a forward child, but he died in infancy. One poor little girl, at least, we may be sure was named in ignorance by her parents, who were peaceable and respected people, though it is hard to imagine how they could have failed to perceive the bloodthirsty significance of her Christian name when united with her surname. She was christened "Desire Gore!"

Notwithstanding her forbidding appellation, a young man was found bold enough to ask her to change it, and she has to-day numerous descendants whose desires are not gory, but it is quite true that none of them is named for her great-great-grandmother.

Bred in Captivity.

The greater number of the lions exhibited to the English public have been born and readed in travelling menageries or caravans. When very young the cubs are taken from the lioness and given to a collie, Newfoundland, or other canine foster-mother. As a rule, a woman looks after both nurse and cubs, the task usually falling to the lot of the mistress of the caravan. When born the lions are like young cats. The little family is usually accommodated in a corner of the caravan, or in the trainer's private apartment. In their infancy the young lions are treated just like kittens. When they are able to walk they have the run of the place, play about, and seem to look for and enjoy the tit-bits and caresses that are bestowed upon them. They recognize for a long time the authority, so to speak, of the foster-mother, and are obedient to her wishes, even after they have considerably outgrown her in size.

He Had a Good Excuse.

A clergyman was on a Western trip for his health, and happened one Sunday to stop at a little Colorado inn, the keeper of which was also the superintendent of the local Sunday school. The superintendent was proud of his scholars, and persuaded his guest to attend that afternoon's session, and to put the pupils through a little examination. The lateer did as desired, and wound up with a short discourse on profane swearing.

"I hope," he added, "that none of you ever indulge in that wicked practice. I am sure," he continued, turning to the head boy, a sparkling urchin of ten, "that you never do it. Do you, my little man?"

"No—o, sir, I don't. The other day I did call Bill Smith a cussed fool. But he is, you know."

Addition to Our Navy.

Another formidable ship has been added to the active list of the United States navy. The double turreted monitor Terror has gone into commission at the Brooklyn navy yard. She is heavily armored and has four ten-inch guns in her turrets which will throw steel projectiles with accuracy and effectiveness nine miles. The Terror has a low free-board and her turrets are low, for which reasons she will offer a poor target for hostile men-of-war. She could bring all four of her guns to bear on a ship which, at a considerable distance, would have great difficulty in hitting her at all.

When an industrious man makes a dollar by hard work, the loafer starts the story that he made at least ten dollars, and stole half of it.

Household Trys.

Baking an omelet.

Soft water for making soap.

Broiled bacon, instead of butter, on beefsteak.

Putting sugar and flour, before the fruit, in pies.

A lump of alum to the vinegar in which pickles are scalded.

To make potatoes brown and crusty, cold boiled potatoes cut into drawn butter, and fried, turning like an omelet.—Good Housekeeping.

On the blue days when everything seems to go wrong just start out for a brisk walk and see if your spirits do not brighten.

Horsehair hats are as airy as lace and are not affected the least bit by dampness.

A simple method of table decoration is to place a single flower vase at the four corners of the table.

Ice tube and water ice tubs are more in favor than the old time ice pitchers.

A hint to the summer girl—ferns indicate fascination. A gift of a handful of them should be in leap year regarded equivalent to a proposal.

The Gentleman Was Rude.

A leader of the house who at one time held the office of prime minister, was noted for his indolent, gentle manner, and the soft drawl with which he sent stinging sarcasm home to his opponents. One of his long-suffering victims, however, dealt him a telling blow by complaining that the honorable member had been rude to him. "His manner," he asserted, "was not ungentlemanly, but it was less ladylike than usual."