

## VERY ODD DISEASES.

### FILE CUTTERS IN ENGLAND HAVE LEAD POISONING.

The Danger That Lurks in Coal Dust—Firemen and Stokers Have Anthracosis—Brain-Workers May Blame Their Bad Habits, Not Occupation.

**F**ILE-CUTTERS in England suffer much from lead poisoning, because they cut the files by hand, resting the hand on a block of lead, says the San Francisco Examiner. In the United States files are cut by machinery and nothing is heard of lead-poisoning among the craft. Hatmakers are exposed to the danger of mercurial poisoning, a most distressing condition popularly known as "salivation." In the manufacture of hats a strong solution of acid nitrate mercury is used to promote the felting of the hair or fur, and the workmen who handle and shape the hats are especially exposed to the danger. Mercury is volatile at ordinary temperature, and the inhalation of its vapor or dust containing its salts produces increased flow of saliva, sore mouth, ulceration of the gums, loss of flesh, tremors, vertigo and other ills. Prevention in such cases is difficult, because the workmen will not take the necessary precautions. The methods are the same as for lead, prompt removal of vapors by exhausts, good ventilation and scrupulous personal cleanliness. Arsenic produces most of its evil effects in trades which employ colors which contain it, either as an essential constituent or as an impurity. Some of the aniline colors contain arsenic. The chief arsenical pigments are Scheele green (arsenite of copper) and Schweinfurth green (arsenite-arsenite of copper), but they also occur in some dull reds, such as in red-striped bed-ticking. The trades in which chronic arsenical poisoning occurs most frequently are the manufacture of artificial flowers and of fancy colored glazed paper for boxes, playing cards, etc. Dyers are also exposed to much danger from this most distressing form of mineral poisoning. The use of arsenic for coloring wall paper seems to have greatly diminished of late years and although it can still be found in many papers it is probable that in most cases it is an accidental impurity of the color used, a fact which does not, however, lessen the danger to which the workman is subjected. The same is true of certain of the employees engaged in the manufacture of carpets and dress-goods prints. Dust becomes a serious source of danger in many trades. Among leading fine coal-freemen, stokers, coal passers and coal dock laborers, etc.—the coal becomes deposited in the tissues of the lungs, producing what is known as miners' "lung," or anthracosis, while the similar deposit found in the lungs of those who inhale fine particles of iron or steel is known as siderosis. In grinders, file cutters, potters, glass polishers, wood and cotton spinners, quarrymen, stone cutters, lime burners, millers, brass finishers, copper beaters, aluminum rollers, gold beaters and burnishers tissue changes in the lungs are usually found after death. Microorganisms cause a very considerable part of the diseases which afflict men in any occupation. While no occupation specifically produces these organisms, yet some trades make the workmen more liable to attack than others. The bacillus of tuberculosis, which causes over 12 per cent of all the deaths, which occur in the United States, mainly affects those trades in which workmen are herded together in ill-ventilated rooms. One consumptive careless about his expectations may infect his fellows. Hence the large proportion of cases of this disease among printers, accountants and clerks, and the dressmakers, seamstresses and clothing workers, who are crowded into sweatshops in the large cities.

The preventive is in proper ventilation, disinfection of premises and cuspidors, in open-air exercise and the avoidance of positions in which the chest is cramped and constrained. The special dangers to the health of brain workers, that is, persons who use their brains rather than their muscles in their occupation, are due—first, to excess of emotions, especially anxiety, worry, etc.; second, to irregular habits as to eating and sleeping; third, to excess in eating, drinking, smoking, etc.; fourth, to want of physical exercise. \* \* \* The diseases to which brain workers are most liable—dyspepsia, insomnia, liver and kidney disorder, nervous irritability or prostration, irritable heart, apoplexy and paralysis, etc.—are by no means peculiar to them, as they are seen in idle loungers quite as often. They are due not so much to excessive brain work as to bad habits of various kinds. \* \* \* Generally the patient feels lumpy, the arteries are disordered, he feels as if he needed more air. The causes are many; too much tobacco, too little exercise, a moist air with low temperature and a cloudy sky. Under the circumstances there is nothing to do but drop the work, but avoid a stimulant.

### ROMANCE OF A RAZOR.

#### The Father Prized the Weapon Which Had Killed His Daughter.

A most conspicuous and tender instance of paternal affection was by chance brought to the attention of the writer a few days ago as he sat in a barber chair patiently awaiting the removal of the superfluous growth from a neglected chin, says the San Francisco Chronicle. While thus employed, a man, apparently a German, entered the shop and handed a razor to the barber, with a request that he would put it in order as soon as possible. "And," added he, "be sure not to lose that razor; I would not lose that razor for \$10." Naturally the barber was curious to know why so extravagant a value should be put upon an ordinary razor and inquired the reason.

"Why," responded the German, "that is the razor that the sailor killed my daughter with. You can see the blood spots upon the blade now. There they are. Those black stains are my daughter's blood. They will never come out. My daughter was a good girl. Ever since she was killed I never shave with no other razor. I love her so much. As long as I live I use this razor in memory of my girl." It is difficult to astonish an ordinary barber but this one was struck dumb for awhile. Finally he did recuperate sufficiently to exclaim: "Well, I'll be damned." The statement of the owner of the precious razor was found on inquiry to be quite true.

### IN THE TYROL.

#### The Customs Observed in Proposals Among the Peasants.

There is an old custom prevailing among the Tyrolese regarding proposals of marriage, says the Philadelphia Times. The first time a young man pays a visit as avowed lover he brings with him a bottle of wine, of which he pours out a glass and presents it to the object of his desires. If she accepts it the whole affair is settled. Very often the girl has not made up her mind and then she will take refuge in excuses, so as not to drink the wine and yet not refuse it point blank, for that is considered a gross insult, proving that she has been merely trifling with the affections of her lover. She will, for instance, maintain that the wine "looks sour," that wine disagrees with her, or that she is afraid of getting tipsy, or that the priest has forbidden her to take any; in fact, she makes use of any subterfuge that presents itself at that moment. The purport of these excuses is that she has not come to a decision and that the wine-offering is premature. This strange custom, dating very far back (according to one account it was known as early as the ninth century), is called "bringing the wine" and is synonymous with the act of proposing. Shy lovers, loath to make sure of their case beforehand, find it a very happy institution. Not a word need be spoken and the girl is spared the painful "no" of civilization. If any of the wine is spilled or ruffled glass or bottle broken it is considered a most unhappy omen; in fact, there is a peasant's saying for an unhappy marriage, "They have spilled the wine between them."

### BUSINESS FLURRY.

"I had an awful scare this morning; the whole office force ran out into the street."

"Was the building on fire?"

"No; the janitor's dog had caught a rat."—Detroit Free Press.

### SOME COSTLY THINGS.

The biggest price ever paid for a horse in America was \$125,000, given by J. Malcolm Forbes of Boston for Leonard Stanford's Arion, a trotter.

The costliest crown is that worn by the Russian czar on ceremonial occasions. It is surmounted by a cross formed of five magnificent diamonds resting upon an immense uncut but polished ruby. The ruby rests on eleven large diamonds, which in turn rest on a mat of pearls. The coronet of the empress is said to contain the most beautiful collection of diamonds ever massed together.

The largest price for a cane was bid at an auction in London of the walking sticks which were once the property of George III. and George IV. It was \$18, or \$90, and was given for a cane of ebony, with a gold top, engraved "G. R." and with a crown, and also containing the hair of the Princess Augusta Elizabeth, Mary Sophia and Amelia, and inscribed, "The Gift of the Princess Mary, 1804."

The most expensive royal regalia in the world are said to be those of the maharajah of Baroda, India. First comes a gorgeous collar containing 200 diamonds, arranged in five rows, some of these as large as walnuts. A top and bottom row of emeralds of equal size relieve the luster of the diamonds. A pendant is composed of a single brilliant called the "Star of the Deccan," and there are garnets, necklaces, bracelets, rings and chains to match. The maharajah's own special carpet, ten by six feet in extent, made entirely of pearls, with a big diamond in the center and in each corner, cost \$1,500,000.

**Natural History Kindergarten.**  
Why do the little birds hop so gayly around the kitchen door?  
Because they want something to eat.  
Why does the cat creep slowly toward the open kitchen door?  
Because she wants something to eat, too.—Hemlockville Journal.

## THE EARTH IS FLAT.

### AT LEAST SO THINK THESE DELUDED ENTHUSIASTS.

Are Making Preparations with a View of Proving the Correctness of Their Theory—Would Revise the School Maps.

**E**XPERIMENTS are soon to be made on the coast of Florida for the purpose of demonstrating that the earth is not round, but flat. Strange as it may seem, there are still a great many people on this terrestrial ball who deny that it is a ball of any sort. The celebrated Professor William Carpenter, who died in Baltimore, last September, was by no means the last of his faith.

In a picture of the earth as these unique theorists believe it to be—or some of them—for they do not all agree the "South Pole" is seen as a wall of ice surrounding the circular earth. This conception certainly fits well with the idea of the vastness of the southern wastes of ice which have turned back all explorers.

The hardy searchers for glory have come much nearer to the North Pole, and have made the region around it seem small and familiar compared to that at the South, which is the true

## EATS EGGS BY THE DOZEN.

### Ernest Miller's Strange Appetite for Hen Fruit.

Ernest Miller of San Francisco is the champion egg-eater of the world. He has just proved his right to the title by devouring seventy-eight eggs at one meal, says the New York Journal.

This is by no means the extent of Miller's powers. He demonstrated the fact as long ago as July, 1895, when he ate this bill of fare in its entirety: Twenty-eight eggs, a plate of soup, a huge dish of macaroni, a large portion of stuffed veal, a three-pound tenderloin steak, a loaf of French bread and a liberal amount of Neufchatel cheese. In addition to these solids Miller drank three cups of coffee and several glasses of water. It was the first time he had given real evidence of his enormous capacity for food. Miller has no desire to pose as a freak, and indeed has none of the appearance of one. There is nothing gross about him. He is not stout but of athletic frame and possessed of great strength. It is said no man in the employ of the Clay street (San Francisco) marketmen, for whom he works, can perform anything like the amount of labor that he finds a matter of ease every day. In dissecting a beef or any other animal that is food for humanity he is in the first rank of experts. Miller had always given evidence of a good appetite but never really tested his power until the enormous meal described was devoured by him, as the result of a wager with Joseph Werthimer, one of his employers. When Werthimer lost his bet he concluded to try Miller in another way, so he bet him \$25 to \$12.50 that

he couldn't walk to the San Francisco almshouse from Clay street and return, a distance of eleven and one-half miles, within three hours. During the course of this walk he was to smoke six strong cigars. This feat Miller accomplished easily. "I did not know what I could do in the line of smoking when I started," said he, "I speeked away like a locomotive getting up steam in a hurry, until I came to the end of the second cigar. I had to smoke them down to a stump of less than an inch. The walking part of the contract was as soft a snap as the smoking. I reached the almshouse in just one hour and three minutes after leaving the starting point. The trip out was largely up-grade, and if I had wanted I could have made the return in about three-quarters of an hour, but I took it easy coming back and stopped at several places to take a drink. The half-dozen cigars were nearly all smoked when I got to the almshouse."

### STORIES ABOUT BIRDS.

#### A Raven with a Distinct Sense of Humor.

It is not fair for cats and dogs to carry off all the glory, says the London Spectator. Allow me to tell two stories from my own personal experience of gratitude in a goose, of humor in a raven. I was walking one day with a friend through his poultry-yard, when a goose hurried up to him, fondly rubbed its neck against his trousers, and followed him about everywhere. He told me that he had once rescued it from being done to death by its feathered companions because it had a broken wing. Could any unfeathered biped have shown greater affection? May we not say with Wordsworth:

"Alas! the gratitude of men Hath oftener left me mourning."

And now for the raven. I had been taking duty lately in the tower for my friend, the chaplain, when my slumbers were disturbed by the raucous croaking of a venerable raven of unknown antiquity, but, by all accounts, the oldest inhabitant there. By his jaunty hopping about under cannons and shady trees he clearly shows that he considers the entire precincts to have been provided for his comfort by a grateful nation. On returning one day from luncheon with the governor, to whom I complained of the sleep-destriving noises, I found my gentleman perched on the back of a garden-chair. I solemnly admonished him of his offenses against the church. He listened calmly, without sound or movement. When I concluded my harangue, he turned up his right eye to me and deliberately winked. I fled.

### Terror to Evildoers.

Judge Parker of Fort Smith, Ark., who died a few weeks since, was known for a long time as the "Hang Judge of Arkansas." During his twenty years' service on the bench as judge of the western district of that state 154 persons were convicted in his court for capital offenses, eighty-four of whom were hanged. It is related that on one occasion a United States deputy marshal was on the way to Fort Scott with a quartet of particularly villainous law-breakers, when he was stopped by a mob, which proposed to give the prisoners short shrift and a long rope in Judge Lynch's court. "I am taking them to Fort Smith," said the deputy, "and they will be tried before Judge Parker." This satisfied the mob, which dispersed with the exception of ten of its members, who accompanied the marshal as a guard. The four malefactors were tried, convicted and hanged in due time.—St. Louis Republic.

### The Ring.

The only ring my love doth wear Is just a little circle where The warm blood colors on her cheek And doth our first, light kiss bespeak.

And when I see that rosy sign, And when her gentle eyes meet mine, I know we need no golemith's art To bind us closer, heart to heart.

—The Cosmopolitan.

As late as the year 1545 the people of France entered complaints against caterpillars, and had laws to stop their devastations.

## JAPAN'S NEW STAMPS.

### Are of Artistic Design and Beautifully Engraved.

However strongly the adherents of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps may feel on the subject, of stamps made for collectors—"gum pads," the out-and-out philatelist calls them—they will be sorely tempted to invest in the new commemorative issue of Japan, says London Sketch. All the "advance notices" of the new stamps have spoken of them as "war stamps," but this they do not purport to be. They are avowedly issued in commemoration of two princely Japs who died heroic deaths in the fight with China. To this extent they are war stamps and it is not improbable that the Japanese, under the cloak of mourning, are indulging in a little jubilation by postage stamps, in which case the new issue has perhaps been properly described. The issue consists of only two values—2 sen and 5 sen; but of each value there are two types, in order, we suppose, that the nation's grief shall be bestowed upon the late Prince Kitashirikawa and the late Prince Kitashirikawa, with scrupulous impartiality. As this is a special and, strictly speaking, unnecessary issue of stamps, which will be on sale at all Japanese postoffices side by side with the ordinary issue, it is safe to say that there will be some tall kicking on the part of philatelists. If, however, it is Japan's object to make money by the issue, it must be allowed that Japan is not grasping. The total face value of the set is but 7d in English money. The stamps, of artistic design and beautifully engraved, form a vivid con-

## ENGLISH AS SHE IS JAPPED.

### Curious Signs on Shops and Canned Goods.

The Rev. Masazao Kagaren brought me a present of a tin of native preserved apricots put up at Nagano, bearing the inscription, "This apricots is very sweetest," says the Rev. Walter Weston in "Mountaineering in the Japanese Alps." Another tin—I think it was a sort of Japanese beef extract—was still more remarkably inscribed. "All the medicines of our company used to sell are not only manufactured of the pure and good material, but also, unless the article are inspected by the superintendent, they not sealed. It is true that their quality is best. If there was suspicion about it, trust an official examination. If even in the slightest neglect the result is not good, our company should be responsible for it. Beware the trade-mark sealing-wax and wrapper of our company." In this connection I may remark on the curious signs in English (?) composed in cheerful independence of outside help. I have seen the equivalent of the English "Managing done here" rendered "The machine for smoothing the wrinkles in the trousers" and "Washman, ladies only"; "Clothing of woman tailor, ladies furnished in upper story"; "Instructed by the French horse-leech" (this adorned the door of a veterinary surgeon and referred to the tuition under which the gentleman was trained).

### SOME LATE NEW THINGS.

The use of a crossed drive chain, running over a driving pulley and an adjustable idler pulley and then around a pair of drums attached to the front and rear axles of the car, to be used instead of toothed gearing in propelling the car, has just been patented. The power used is electrically.

An invention which will prove useful to ticket agents or any one having a large number of tickets to be disposed of rapidly is a case to hold the ticket, in the side of which is a spring slide, which when pushed toward the end of the box brings the ticket out through a slot one at a time, one side wall of the box being held by springs in order to keep the tickets pressed against the slide.

One of the most novel excavating machines of recent date has been patented by a North Dakota man, and consists of two immense earth augers, attached to a portable upright frame and operated by power, the augers bringing the earth to the surface, where it can be shoveled to one side. When the excavation is deep enough the machine is moved forward to a new section of ground. Another style of the same machine has a horizontal auger for boring under street crossings, etc.

To prevent corrosion of collar buttons by contact with the neck, a recently patented button has the back made of cork.

A reversible-mail bag receiver and deliverer, for use on single-track railroads, has an upright rod placed in the center of the car doorway, which can be turned in either direction by the mail clerk, the upper portion having an arm for catching the mail bag and the lower part a projecting hook to deliver a bag to a receiver at the side of the track, the action of catching the bag on the upper arm releasing the bag on the lower arm.

For use in cleaning a new device consists of two brackets, fastened to the side of the window frames, to which a seat or platform is attached, on which a person can stand to reach the upper part of the window.

**No Fixed Rule.**  
"You can't set down no fixed rule o' conduct in this life," said old Wiggins, the Barley Mow orator. "Samson got into trouble 'cause he got 'is hair cut, and Absalom got into trouble 'cause he didn't.—Th-Bits.

### NEWSPAPER WIT.

"Big accident at the theater last night." "What?" "Scene shifter fell off the roof of Elsinore Castle and crushed Yorick's skull."—Philadelphia North American.

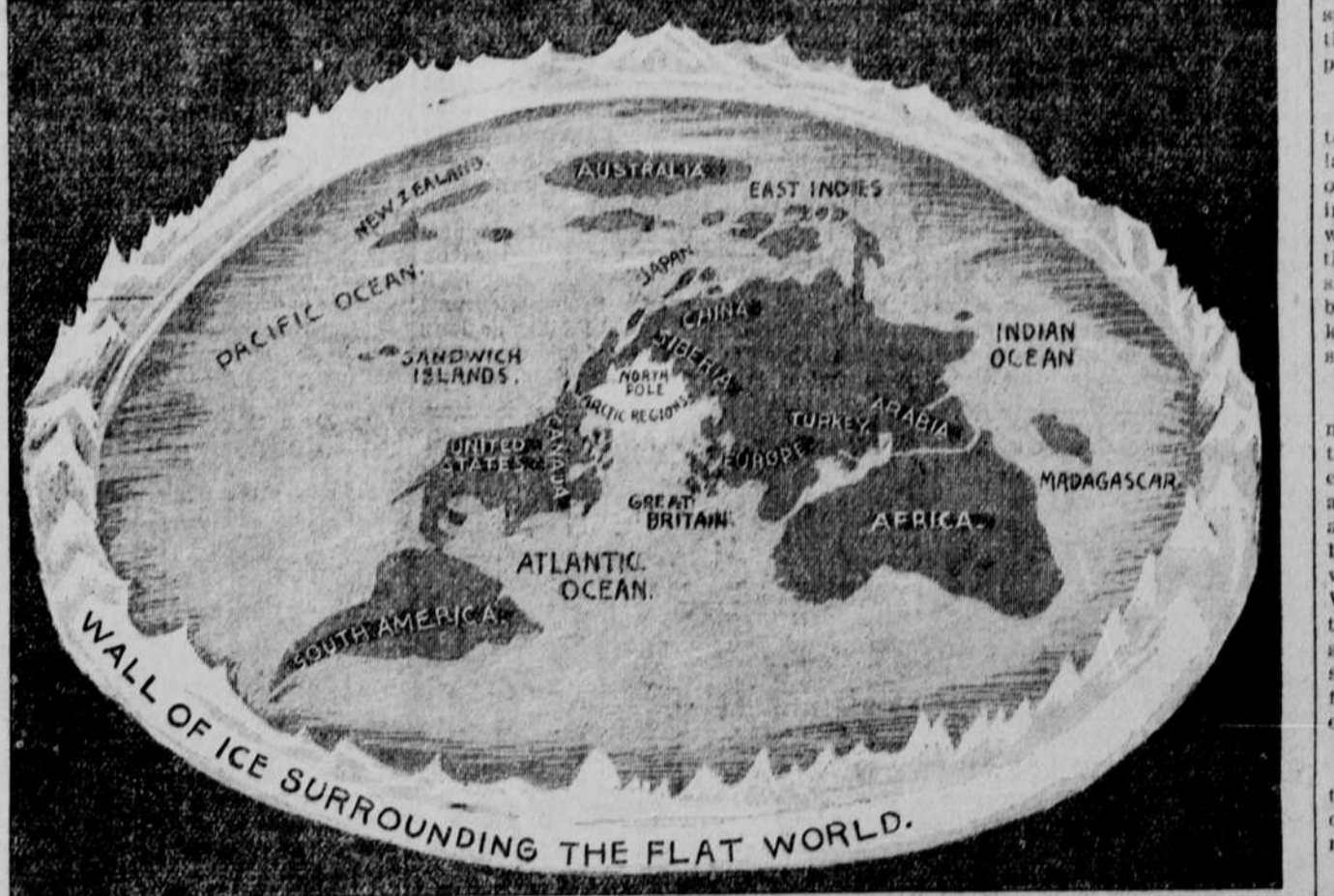
"I shall hold him in sweet remembrance," said the potentate of Bwiplo. He could hardly have done otherwise. Even at home the young missionary had been spoken of as one of excellent taste.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Watts—Does your wife believe the stories you tell her to account for your being out so late? Lushforth—She does. "How in thunder do you work it?" "I tell her I was busy getting drunk."—Indianapolis Journal.

Two or three young women who are interested in it were discussing the other. "Did you ever see anything like the color of her cheeks?" "And yet some men admire them. One said to me the other evening that they looked just like peaches." "The idea! What did you answer?" "I said that he was probably right; that Mabel was noted for being good at still-life studies."—Washington Star.

An uptown girl of very tender years came home from a neighbor's house eating a large banana. "I ain't agoin' to play with Mabel no more," she promptly announced. "Why?" asked her mamma. "Cause she called me names." "Why, what did she call you?" "She called me a banana snook." "A banana snook? Why'd she call you that?" "Cause I snooked her biggest banana." And she went on eating it.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Statistics show that there are fifty sardine factories in Maine, with 5,782 employees.



IF THE EARTH WERE FLAT THIS IS HOW OUR SCHOOL MAPS WOULD LOOK.