

In London an electric sculpturing machine, the sole rights of which they have purchased from a Mr. Bontempi, of Naples. The workman is seated on one side of the machine. In front is a plaster cast, and with one hand he guides a rod backward and forward over the plaster. A revolving steel drill protrudes from the machine two feet away, and another further on. In front of each of those drills is fixed a block of marble, and a jet of water is played on the point of each drill. Every movement of the rod in the workman's hand is followed by a similar movement on the part of the drills, which rapidly cut away the surface of the marble until it corresponds with the surface of the plaster."

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT FOR THE New York World further says that when he saw the machine it had roughly cut the face of a classic poet out of the marble, and was at work on the side of the head. Some superabundant stone having been rapidly cleared away, the rod was applied to the fillet binding the poet's hair, and in a few minutes the ribbon was reproduced in marble. The rough outline of the hair then made its appearance, every lock being hewn out of the hard stone with astonishing celerity and marvellous fidelity. This machine can sculpture two busts simultaneously, and this number is capable of considerable increase. It is believed that the invention will have a great influence on the future of sculpture.

A STRANGE FUNERAL RECENTLY TOOK place at Kishineff, Russia, at which place, it will be remembered, outbreaks against the Jews took place not long ago and many Jews were killed by mobs. The New York Times says: "During the troubles in Kishineff, thirty of the parchment scrolls, containing the Jewish law and held in the holy ark at the synagogue and taken out only on great occasions, either of mourning or of joy, were so mutilated that it was decided to bury them with the honors of the dead. Accordingly, a great ceremonial was arranged and carried out on August 2, which is the 9th day of the Jewish month of Ab. It was on this day that the temple at Jerusalem was destroyed, and it is therefore observed with great ceremonial by the Jews. But the ceremony of the funeral made it an extraordinary day among the people of Kishineff. The scrolls were placed in vases, on which was written the story of the massacre, and followed by great crowds to the cemetery, this cemetery being the one near where the massacre took place. The scene of the funeral, recalling as it did thoughts of sorrow to the Jews, is said to have been moving, the crowd weeping while the rabbis conducted the ceremony."

TRAVELERS IN THE ALPS AND OTHER mountainous regions of Switzerland will recall the pretty mountain flower known as the "edelweiss." For some time it was feared that this flower would become extinct, owing to the great demand for it. Recently a dealer in Zurich advertised for 125 pounds of the flower and this prompted a writer in the New York Herald to say: "The trade in this pretty Alpine flower has within the last few years developed into quite a large industry in Switzerland. It is extensively used for funeral wreaths and some time ago a large wreath was made here composed entirely of edelweiss, the value of the flowers being over seventy-five francs. It may be added that a fairly extensive allied industry is the manufacture of artificial edelweiss. The disappearance of some of the rarer Alpine flowers is continually being reported in the Alps, and edelweiss in particular is altogether extinct in some places where it was abundant not many years ago."

A QUAIN CUSTOM OF ANCIENT ORIGIN IS about to terminate in London. According to the New York Tribune, "London bridge pays taxes for imaginary houses on it. At any rate, it still yields the rates and taxes of the houses which the old bridge supported. A correspondent of the City Press explains that when, about the year 1756, it was decided to clear the houses from the bridge, certain taxes and tithes survived, and have been paid ever since by the Bridge House Estates to the rectors of St. Magnus and St. Olave churches. Not less than £60,000 has been paid to these two parishes since the decrepit houses which formerly yielded them were pulled down. They survived not only the houses, but the old bridge itself. And now there is a movement to stop this serial ghost story of taxation. But it is certain that the stoppage can only be effected by regular commutation or some other equitable arrangement."

SO FAR AS KNOWN, THERE ARE VERY FEW factories in this country for making artificial flies for bait, and of these few, one is situated at Stevens Point in Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Sentinel, which makes this claim, also says that the factory is owned and operated by a woman and all of the employes are girls and women. The Sentinel adds: "Miss Carrie Frost, who is the proprietor, learned how to make artificial flies from her fishermen father and uncle, who learned in England and have always been enthusiastic sportsmen. She herself can choose her bait and cast and catch as well as any, and frequently indulges in the sport. She made her fly hooks so well for her father and uncle that their friends clamored for her work, and when she soon had so many orders that she could not fill them she began to employ and teach a few girls to help her. After that she undertook the manufacture of fly hooks as a regular business. She rents a long, low one-story building, originally put up for a bowling alley. Here she employs from sixty to seventy girls, who, working all the year around, turn out 3,000 and 4,000 flies every day. Miss Frost herself manages the whole business, sees to the ordering of supplies, teaches the girls how to do the work, fills her own orders, keeps the books, and, when she wants an extra good one, makes it herself."

THE BERLIN UNIVERSITY HAS FITTED out an expedition to hunt for and capture a huge bird that has for many years been reported as extinct, but recent reports encourage the belief that it is yet to be found far in the interior of Madagascar in Africa. Prof. Krause has been appointed as the head of this expedition and has already started on the hunt for the giant bird. The Berlin correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "The scientific name of the giant bird is Aepyornis, and it was supposed to be extinct up to a short time ago, when one of its eggs was found on the southwest coast of Madagascar, swimming in a river that had carried it from the interior. This egg was 16 inches high, measuring 12 inches in diameter. It was sawed apart and its contents filled a liters vessel, being the equivalent of 190 chicken eggs. The weight of the egg was 27 pounds and the shell measured 6 millimetres in diameter. Madagascar being a tropical country it must be assumed that the egg was laid no more than eight days ere it was found, as otherwise it would have gone putrid. For that reason the Berlin university fitted out an expedition to hunt and capture a giant bird and find out all about its life and condition. The bird is supposed to be between 14 and 15 feet high."

AN INTERESTING EPISODE TOOK PLACE in Pittsburg, Pa., recently. On August 16, according to a correspondent of the New York World, \$8,500,000 passed through the streets known only to a few persons. The Pittsburg correspondent says: "The money comprised the contents of the vaults of the Tradesmen's and Columbia national banks, which were moving from their former locations to the new Farmers' Bank Building. The treasure was made up of specie, securities and the contents of the safe deposit vaults. It was all placed in huge sacks. In some instances two men were required to lift a sack. Two trips were made, and in both instances the wagons were filled. A score of city and private detectives were about the neighborhood to see that nothing happened to the treasure."

AN ENORMOUS INCREASE IN THE NUMBER of insane in England and Wales has been noted in recent years. A writer in the Kansas City Journal, speaking on this subject, says: "In 1859 the total number of insane was 36,762, or one in every 536. On January 1, 1903, the number had risen to 113,964, or one in every 293. The rate of increase has been greatest since 1894, the leap being from 92,067. In 1902 the increase over 1901 was 3,251. The total number of insane cases in 1902 was 22,581—over 400 a week. Of the increase over the preceding year 188 were private, 48 criminal and 3,015 pauper. The proportion of private cases is about the same now as in 1859, but the pauper rate has doubled. To drink is attributed 23 per cent of the male cases and 9.6 of the female. To heredity is attributed 18.8 per cent of the male cases and 24.6 of the female."

THOMAS A. EDISON, THE FAMOUS INVENTOR, has perfected a phonograph which, it is believed, will revolutionize the taking and producing of testimony and dictation. Mr. Edison claims that with two machines, one for recording and the other for reproducing, a single operator

can do the work of eight under the present system. The Orange, N. J., correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle says: "Although no larger than ordinary phonographs, the new device is different in many particulars. The record is nine inches long and half an inch thick and will take from eight to nine letters of ordinary length. Another advantage claimed for the record of the new machine is that it can be shaved 175 times, making its cost no more than the cheapest paper. The machine is operated by electricity. After the person dictating has finished his work the typewriter operator takes the record and transfers it to a phonograph at his desk. When he touches a button with his foot the machine begins to reproduce. The invention is not claimed to be an entirely new and untried one, but it has not been so thoroughly perfected that it could be profitably used for the purpose referred to until now."

NEWSPAPER READERS ARE FAMILIAR with the rigid censorship exercised in Russia as regards publications. The London Express recently gave a curious example of the use of this power in Russia in another direction: A manufacturer of sweets was in the habit of wrapping up bonbons in colored paper, which was covered with all manner of little pictures. One of these pictures was that of a landscape with a storm coming up from the sea. Underneath was the sentence, "The storm rages; it approaches nearer." These papers were confiscated by the censor and their further use forbidden under a heavy penalty, as it was thought that they were political propaganda.

FOR MANY YEARS THE FORTH BRIDGE IN England has been regarded as the largest bridge undertaking ever completed in that country. This fame is in a fair way to be eclipsed, however, by a new bridge that is to be erected over the Tyne at Newcastle, England. The Philadelphia Public Ledger says that the estimated cost of this structure is \$2,350,000, and adds: "The new bridge will be used for railway traffic only, and besides affording greater care and speed in working the railway lines concentrated at Newcastle, it will save at least \$100,000 per annum in locomotive power. The three main piers will be founded on steel caissons 40 feet long by 35 feet wide, sunk 69 feet below high water mark. The main bridge will be a steel riveted lattice truss, 1,100 feet long, consisting of three river spans each 300 feet long and two side spans of 240 feet. Each main span will include five lattice girders 320 feet long, 27 feet deep and 4½ feet wide, and each main girder will weigh over 300 tons. The four lines of rails on this bridge will be 110 feet above high water, with 83 feet headway under the girders."

A STRANGE STORY IS REPORTED FROM Oacoma, S. D., by the correspondent for the Chicago Tribune. This correspondent says that immediately preceding a heavy shower, nearly every kitten less than six months old in the vicinity died, apparently from the effects of some gaseous matter in the air. A bunch of eighteen cattle was seen coming from the flats, when eight of them fell to the ground. A farmer living near by ran out to them and found six of the eight already dead. John Morris, a stockman living on White river, reports the loss of six head in the same way. It is generally believed that the copious rains which have fallen since have neutralized whatever poison to animal life may have been in the air. It was a phenomenon heretofore unknown there.

THE LONDON DAILY MAIL RECENTLY ANNOUNCED that another of London's show places was to be taken away from that city. The building known as the original of the "Old Curiosity Shop," which was immortalized by Dickens, the novelist, has been sold to an American who intends to take it to pieces and re-erect it in the United States. According to a cablegram from London to the St. Louis Republic, the Daily Mail says: "Thousands have paid for the privilege of seeing the venerable edifice and of purchasing Dickens curios, caring but little whether the house written about by the master novelist really existed there, or, as many suppose, in Fetter Lane. Thirty-five years ago the observatory of a house in St. Martin's street was bought by an American syndicate for \$500 and shipped across the seas. The Yankees were delighted, for they thought they were purchasing the room which had been used by Sir Isaac Newton. Plenty of English people, however, knew better."