

The Columbus Journal.

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WHOLE NO. 1,000.

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POPULAR SCIENCE.

USEFUL HINTS ON MATTERS OF EVERY DAY OCCURRENCE.

Treatment When Foreign Bodies Are Swallowed—Preventive Medicine of Tobacco.
The "Potato Cure"—A Nervous Remedy.

Considering the frequency with which foreign bodies are swallowed, especially by children, more attention should be given to such cases than is generally known. A variety of such methods have been advocated, but just now the so-called "potato cure" appears to be the most popular. One physician not long ago reported that he had successfully applied it with the best results in three cases. One was that of a 6-year-old boy, who had swallowed a small weight; another, that of a girl, 9 years old, who had swallowed a nail; and the remaining one, that of a woman who had swallowed a set of keys. He fed the patients for three days on nothing but potatoes. This treatment is a method in vogue among the pickpockets in London, who, swallowing their booty, live on potatoes until the stolen articles have passed down; and out of the body.

THE TOBACCO HAZARD.
Probably much the larger proportion of physicians are smokers, and doubtless the force of their example is felt more or less by laymen, who are nearly always that tobacco habit can be very injurious since those who indulge know most of its evil effects. This view of the matter is by no means justified. Because physicians smoke is no reason why others should be encouraged to do so. Every general practitioner ought to be a non-smoker. He who does is much safer from infection than he who is strictly temperate in that respect. Clothing well impregnated with the fumes of tobacco is a poor conductor for disease germs. The fumes of tobacco are decidedly "antiseptic" in character, and "antiseptic" is decidedly unfriendly to them. The germs of many diseases infect through the air passages. He who smokes does not furnish favorable conditions for their lodgment. According to The Scientist, Dr. Hajek, of Vienna, has declared that smokers are less liable to diphtheria than non-smokers in the ratio of about one to three; and Dr. Schiff says that smoking is forbidden in the bacteriological laboratories, because it is known to harbor the bacillus of diphtheria in the various culture media. We think Dr. Hajek does not go far enough, and believe that the physician who takes a "good smoke" before he is exposed to a diphtheria patient, and another as soon soon as he leaves him, is practically safe from infection.

Not a few clergymen are quite prolific in inventions of new remedies and methods of treatment of disease. Such seem to entertain the idea that their professional training has made them unusually discerning in matters physical as well as moral. One of the latest contributions from this source is a remedy for insomnia. The agent recommended as a cure is the peanut, and is so called that it be eaten freely before bedtime. The value of the peanut lies in its fixed oil, which amounts to more than 20 per cent. This oil has about the same medicinal qualities as olive oil. Chemists endeavor to use it in pharmaceutical preparations, but do not do well with it. It has been used for various purposes in the arts, as for oiling machinery, in the manufacture of light wood, etc. If the peanut has a good effect in insomnia, it can be attributed to its fixed oil, pure and simple. And there are any number of other foods which would be preferable, for peanuts, as usually sold, are very difficult of digestion, and if eaten freely at bedtime for several nights, would be likely to bring on a severe case of dyspepsia. Let those who would use the peanut in insomnia try bread and milk; it will be just as serviceable as a remedial agent.

The extent of injury which man can suffer from a red live is simply marvelous, as the following case shows. It also offers some evidence of the skill of surgeons of the present day. A Parisian, aged 30 years, swallowed a wooden spoon. Twelve hours after he felt severe pains and had a sensation of burning food in the neighborhood of the stomach. In a short time the spoon could be felt just a little above the navel. The following day his physician, Le Deste, cut down and opened the stomach, but found it empty. He then made an incision on the spoon and easily extracted it. Now, in this case, the spoon bored through the walls of the stomach, and finally passed out of it into the abdominal cavity, some twelve or fifteen hours after it had been swallowed. The tear in the wall of the stomach healed up with exceeding rapidity, and, although that organ was taken out and carefully examined when Le Deste opened it—forty-three hours after the spoon had been removed—no trace of the tear could be found. Local physicians were called in, but their marvelous feat about this case was the wandering about of the spoon in the abdominal cavity without setting up inflammation. The operation lasted a little over two hours, including the chloroform and speedy recovery took place. In itself there was perhaps nothing wonderful for gastroscopy is now quite frequently performed. In some reports this case was no more interesting than that of a man who swallowed a false tooth. A man swallowed a false tooth, which did not pass down into the stomach, but remained lodged in the lower part of the passage to it. The attending surgeon opened the stomach, extracted the tooth and removed. The speedy recovery took place.—Boston Herald.

"A Pleasant Dream" on Cuba.
"Did I know that the legend 'El Platanillo' which has appeared on different United States coins, was never authorized to be so placed by law?" said a numismatist. "It was first used in that way in 1798. There was no United States mint then, but there was a private one at Newburgh, N. Y., and the motto placed in this form, 'Union-E Platanillo,' was stamped upon it. The coin is worth about \$2,000, and only two

A HANGING POSTPONED.

CHANFRAU'S TWO EFFORTS TO LAY A PENNSYLVANIA TOWN.

A Big House Prevented by the Failure to Hang a Man as Per Programme—His Indulging in a Rape—The Heavy and Ablest Rural Manager.

Some few years ago I piloted Frank Chanfrau over the Pennsylvania circuit, and as it was my first experience on the "road" I was particularly anxious that the tour should be a success, not only for my immediate benefit, financially, but also for the purpose of creating a reputation with other stellar attractions which I proposed to take over the same territory later on. I also desired to stand well with the local managers, enabling me as would, to make advantageous arrangements as to terms, etc.

APPEARING IN HIS WRATH.
The "country" manager, as a rule, is a peculiar individual, combining, as he often does, the various duties of janitor, bill poster, ticket seller and scene-shifter. He is usually a clever fellow, and as his expenses are almost nothing, he easily earns a handsome income, no matter how small the business may be for the week. In any case, when a doctor was called in to see if life was extinct in the man, he was astonished to find himself in presence of a double suicide, the monkey's body being stretched beside that of his master, with the revolver clamped between his fingers. It is stated that the animal picked up the pistol after his master had blown out his brains and imitated what he had just seen done, sending a bullet through his head precisely as the man had done.—London Standard.

The Volta Battery.
At the very beginning of the present century Volta, stimulated by Galvani's recent discovery of what he called "animal electricity," invented the voltaic pile, or "crown of cups." We now speak of an equivalent arrangement as a voltaic battery. Without attempting to trace out the path of discovery and invention pursued by Volta, it will be sufficient for our purpose if we make clear the general construction and action of such an apparatus.

If a plate of zinc and a similar one of copper be nearly immersed in water containing a little sulphuric acid, which may be held in any suitable vessel, no color worthy attention will be apparent so long as the metals do not touch; but if they be brought in contact, or be joined by means of a conductor, bubbles of hydrogen gas will at once appear on the surface of the copper, and the zinc will more or less rapidly dissolve to form zinc sulphate with the acid.

Flinty of Oil.
The fear that there would be an oil famine in the near future has been expressed again and again; but the figures given by the Oil City Derrick and endorsed by Bradstreet go to show that the Pennsylvania and Virginia belt alone is practically inexhaustible. So far as the yield from this tract of 304 square miles has been over 340,000,000 barrels. The estimate is that the possible future yield will be in excess of 2,000,000,000. This estimate makes no reference to the fields that exist in Canada, in Colorado, California and elsewhere, both at home and abroad. The yield per square mile has been for fifteen years 1,000,000 barrels. There seems to be no reason to fear that the oil supply will fall before its substitute is fully established.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Chanfrau's Literary.
Mr. Andrew Carnegie's library is a suite of four rooms. One of these is a bathroom, where Mr. Carnegie can cool off an enthusiasm in a moment, or reinvigorate himself with a convenient sitting room, and a small room for a secretary. Here the habitable universe is suspended in maps, any spot of which can be immediately unfolded for the owner's inspection. The fourth room is a luxuriously furnished office, overlooking the rear of the Cornelius Vanderbilt house, and across the way to ex-Secretary Whitney's portal. The library proper, a large room in the center of the house, is decorated by the Association of the Friends of the Library, and contains the best of the literature of the day. The room is a masterpiece of architecture, and contains the best of the literature of the day. The room is a masterpiece of architecture, and contains the best of the literature of the day.

SLAVE TRADE IN AFRICA.

A BRUTAL BUSINESS THAT SEEMS TO BE ON THE INCREASE.

The Attraction of a Slave Market Depleted with Painful Experiences—The Flag of a Great Republic Put to a Base and Degrading Use.

No one who understands how human life is estimated by savage peoples will doubt the shocking and revolting accounts of travelers regarding this phase of the traffic; and no one who knows what an Arab's heart is made of will make any discount over the exaggerated accounts of an explorer, as he listens to the following chapters from a search diary typed in London by Caroline Lavergne.

MAN'S DEGRADATION.
"The men who appear the strongest, and whose escape is to be feared, have their hands tied, and sometimes their feet, in such fashion that walking becomes a torture to them, and on their necks are placed yokes which attach several of them together. They march all day; at night, when they stop to rest, a few handfuls of raw 'sorgho' are distributed among the captives. This is all they eat. Next morning they must start again. But after the first day or two the fatigue, the sufferings and the privations have weakened a great many. The women and the aged are the first to fall. These, in order to strike terror into the hearts of the natives, are thrown on the ground in the convulsions of death. The terrified terror immediately resumes its march. Terror has indeed even been in the weakest with new strength.

Each time some one breaks down on the march, the captives are made to witness the agonies of death. At night, on arriving at their halting place, after the first days of such a life, a not less frightful scene awaits them. The traffickers in human flesh have acquired by experience a knowledge of how much the captives can endure. A glance at those men who will sink into a stupor when they are subjected to a severe punishment, and who are then left to their fate, shows that they are not without a certain amount of endurance. The fact of this increase, for a time denied, then doubted, has at last been reluctantly admitted, even by the government of England. In a government blue book for 1887, published in London, the coast reports that "the slave trade has been very active of late. On the 10th of Sept. (1887), Capt. Gising captured three dhows and brought two hundred and four slaves to Aden." The consul at Santhal writes (September, 1887) to the Marquis of Salisbury: "There is a marked increase in the slave traffic carried on under the protection of the French flag. The consul further states that dhows carrying French crews were constantly seen in the Gulf of Aden, and that the islands, Mayotta and Madagascar, loaded with slaves. In June, 1886, Brig. Gen. Hogg, dated from the Aden residency, wrote to the Bombay government: "I have the honor to bring to the notice of your excellency the fact that I have from time to time received reports of the activity of the slave trade from the neighborhood of the Gulf of Aden, and I deem it my duty to inform your excellency of this fact with a view to such action being taken as may be deemed advisable." From "Slavery in Africa," by Professor Henry Drummond in Scribner's.

Slaves Progress in Great Britain.
Some interesting statistics have recently been compiled concerning the number of criminal commitments in England, by comparison with former times. It seems that thirty years ago when the population of England and Wales was about 19,250,000, the average number of penal servitude sentences was 3,580. At the end of 1887, when the population had risen to 27,750,000, the average number was only 900. On the last day of 1889 there were 11,650 persons undergoing sentences of penal servitude in England and Wales, out of a population of 21,861,000. In July, 1888, with a population of nearly 20,000,000, the number of convicts actually in the country was 1,621. This showing is justly regarded with much satisfaction by the press and those interested in the moral progress of the nation.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The Cyprus Trade.
A Cyprus trade in Somalia, Lombardy, is said to have been standing since the time of Julius Caesar. Napoleon, in making a road over the Simplon, deviated from a straight line that he might not be obliged to cut it down. Cyprus wood is very enduring, and for this reason, no doubt, it was used for mummy cases and staves. Flinly tells us a statue of Jupiter from Cyprus, which was repaired after standing for 600 years. In Turkey this variety is a rule to plant a tree of this variety at every interment. Cyprusus, a beautiful wood, was transformed into a cypress by Apollo that he might grieve the time of the cypress is an emblem of mourning.—Vick's Magazine.

Frenchman's Remembrance.
One of Napoleon's veterans, who survived his master many years, years ago to recount with great glow how he had once picked up the emperor's cocked hat as a review, when the latter, not noticing that he was a private, said, "Carefully, my captain." "In what regiment were you?" "I was in the 1st regiment of the Imperial Guard." "Thank you, my captain," "In my guard, for I see you know how to be promoted." The newly made officer received his commission next morning.—San Francisco American.

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