

SCORED A SHINING SUCCESS.

The Iowa Board of Health Makes Some Interesting Experiments.

IT DOES NOT GROPE IN THE DARK.

But Promptly Applies Scientific Tests to the Solution of a Few Light Problems—Gleaming Evils Remedied.

Lamps Trimmed and Burned.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—The Iowa state board of health has two hobbies—contagious diseases and kerosene oil. In its busy devising some scheme to head off diphtheria, scarlet fever, etc., it is studying the matter of illuminating oils, how to give the people assurance that their oil is safe, and how to use it properly after they get it. The assistant secretary of the board, Mr. L. P. Andrews, is the bright particular genius who does the most of this pro bono public business, and he does it well. He takes special delight in investigating and experimenting upon the different properties of the subject before him, and his conclusions are after very valuable and of great public service. For several months he has been studying the lamp problem. A great many complaints come to the office that inferior kerosene was being sold through the state. As there is a very rigid system of oil inspection carried on under the direction of the board of health, he became satisfied that the trouble was not so much with the oil as with the way in which it was being used. So he procured a large number of burners, lamps and wicks of different varieties, and of different quality, and made some thorough tests. His conclusion is that the most of the trouble complained of arises from the improper use of oil, and not from the oil itself. His investigation have been embodied in a circular which is soon to be issued by the board for public information. He discusses first the different kinds of burners, and what is best according to the Iowa standard. This is a kerosene that, when heated to 105 degrees Fahrenheit, will not throw off a vapor which will ignite when brought in contact with a flame or lighted match. That is what is known as the Iowa flash test, and is the only test which "goes right to the heart of the matter," as it is sometimes called, indicating the degree of heat at which oil placed in an open vessel will ignite and burn without the aid of a wick, is not reduced to a gas, and if it is not reduced to a gas, it will not ignite. Oil having a flashing point of 105 degrees to 110 degrees will give better illumination, burn more evenly, and give less soot in ordinary lamps than an oil with a flashing point of 120 degrees or 125 degrees. The highest quality of kerosene is the most and heavier the oil, and consequently the more sluggish is the capillary action. Having settled the oil question, the circular passes with the work of refinements. It gives suggestions about them. It recommends that they be of metal with no feeding place except for the wick, and that the wick should be large in diameter and shallow, not exceeding two and one half inches in depth, so as to bring the flame as near the oil as possible, to secure an even and steady flame. With deep lamps the wick will fail to raise the oil when half consumed, and imperfect wicks will result in the residue of the wick being filled and cleaned every day, and once each week be entirely emptied of the contents, to remove the soot and sediment. This will enable the burner to burn with a half filled lamp to pass away safely. The circular especially cautions the public against lighting a lamp burning with the wick turned down. An air current will cause the chimney to break. The wick, tub will become greatly heated and the lamp will be filled with a dangerous vapor, liable to explosion in about fifteen minutes. Some general suggestions are made as to the style of the wick, and the results. The burner, says the circular, should be adapted to the oil to be used, whether heavy or light, and the wick should be constructed for draft and ventilation for the escape of vapor from the vapor chamber of the lamp. Burners should be kept perfectly clean and free from any accumulation of soot, gummed and clogged burners can be easily cleaned by boiling a few moments in alcohol. Concentrated sulphuric acid will clean many other suggestions as to lamps, oil, and things pertaining thereto, are made in this circular. They are very useful and valuable, and if the people of Iowa will carefully observe them, lamp explosions will be almost unknown, and everybody will get better light and more of it.

The "Q" Retrenchment.

Burlington, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—The work of retrenchment has actively been entered upon by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy management, and will be extended where a dollar can be saved. On April 1 all shopmen, trackmen, bridge carpenters, and other laborers with whom ten hours now constitute a day's labor, will be cut down to eight hours a day, equivalent to a 20 per cent reduction in pay, and all such employees whose services are not demanded by the most rigid necessity, will be dismissed. Not less than 250 men will be thrown out of employment in Iowa alone, while an equal number, probably, will be displaced in Illinois, with proportionate reductions in Missouri and the west. The two main line passenger trains which were to have been taken off on Sundays, commencing a week ago, but which were then continuing, will positively be discontinued on Monday, one being cut off this evening and both of them every Sunday from now on. This reduction alone will curtail the train service a thousand miles, and will necessitate passenger trains, now doing a local business between this city and Creston on week days, will be dropped, and the same service will be run on slow time and made to earn their way, instead of being run on expense, as they now are. The end has not yet been reached, however, and it is deplorable, if possible, to keep expenses within the limit of the receipts as fixed by the Iowa commission. The state will probably see a financial force will probably some before long, though not positively announced as yet.

The New Chief Justice.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—A pleasant incident connected with Judge Given's promotion from the district bench of this county to the supreme bench, was the presentation to him of the chair which he used here for nine years in the court room of this city. At the suggestion of the local bar the board of supervisors made him a present of the chair and put a suitable silver plate upon it with an appropriate inscription, showing that he began to sit in that chair in 1870 as judge of the circuit court. He served until the circuit court was merged into the district court, and then he served on the district bench, where he retained the same chair he had used so long. He now has it at his home. At the ceremony he gave a short address, but as an honorarium it will command a great value in the Given family. The new chief justice is taking hold of his work very firmly. He goes to court twice a day and puts in several hours hard work in catching up with the delayed business of the court.

The Kennedy Case.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—The Kennedy case at Dubuque still hangs fire. His attorneys think that his sentence is to be commuted to imprisonment for life. But the governor denies that he has made any promise to that effect. Some misunderstanding arose over the governor's recent visit to Dubuque. The attorney for Kennedy visited the governor asking for a meeting to confer in regard to the case. The governor delegated his private secretary to listen to any proposition that might be made, but did not give any assurance that the request for commutation would be granted. It is thought that if the attorneys for Kennedy see that they are not going to succeed in their case, they will appeal to the supreme court for a rehearing, and the legal formations, connected with the application, will be made by the attorney for the Governor Larrabee's term, and then they may have a chance at a new governor. So it is likely to be some time before the Kennedy case is settled.

Interesting Meetings in Prospect.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—Much interest is being felt in southwestern Iowa in the meeting of the Blue Grass league, which is to be held at Creston, April 16. Adams, Adair, Appanoose, Clark, Cass, Decatur, Fremont, Lucas, Madison, Montgomery, Mills, Page, Pottawattamie, Taylor, Union, Warren and Wayne counties are especially urged to send representatives. The object of the meeting is to confer on the advantages of soil, climate, water and natural resources in these counties, where the blue grass especially flourishes. Another meeting next month of state interest is the Grand Army encampment at Burlington, April 9. The attendance promises to be very large, and the citizens of Burlington are making preparations for a hospitable reception. The governor and most of the state officers will probably attend.

A Popular Idea.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—The idea of having the old soldiers present flags for the school boys is a cherished one in many of our schools. It began at Mt. Pleasant, when the Grand Army post there gave a flag to the high school. The practice has been repeated in several cities. The members of the Crocker Post G. A. R., and the Crocker Women's Club of this city, have just decided to present a flag to the high school of this city. The building is not quite finished, but when the dedication takes place a prominent feature will be the presentation of a regulation United States flag to the young Americans who are fast coming on to take the place of the veterans who are as rapidly passing away.

A Curious Suit.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—A rather curious case is pending in the district court of this county, and will be heard next week. Sarah F. Enoch is the plaintiff, and she is suing for the return of a ring which she claims to have lost. The ring is a diamond ring, and she claims that she lost it in the city of Des Moines. She is suing for the return of the ring, and she is also suing for the value of the ring. The case is a rather curious one, and it is expected that it will be heard with interest.

The Des Moines Ball Club.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—[Special to The Bee.]—The members of the Des Moines base ball club are expected to assemble here in a few days. Another player has recently been secured, and the team is expected to be a strong one. The club is expected to play a number of games in the city, and it is expected that they will be successful.

SHE KISSED HIM.

How Mme. Fursch-Madi Expressed Her Gratitude to Her Lawyer. Mme. Fursch-Madi gave Lawyer Hummel two smacking kisses at the close of the trial of the singer's case against Mrs. Thurber and the other members of the American Conservatory of American Music, in which the lawyer made an argument that won for the plaintiff a verdict of \$10,000. Mme. Fursch-Madi had a contract to teach the American Jenny Lind's "budding Patis" in the city of Des Moines for two years at \$10,000 a year. After the first year there was a misunderstanding, and Mrs. Thurber discharged the madame on the charge that she was inducing the pupils to take private lessons from her. The teacher gave many of the old pupils private lessons.

AN INCOME OF FIVE DOLLARS A MINUTE.

That Did Not Last. The death of Mrs. James S. McCray, at this place, recalls an interesting reminiscence of the oil region, says a Franklin (Pa.) special to the Philadelphia Record. Mrs. McCray owned a small farm on top of Oil Creek, near Petroleum Center, Venango county, for which they paid \$2,000. In October, 1870, Keefe & Watson struck a flowing oil well on lands adjoining it, and McCray's share of this production gave him an income of \$5 a minute, night and day. It was offered \$500,000 for his farm but would not accept it. He did not sell his oil as fast as produced, but built iron tanks and stored it for still higher prices. He was offered another \$500,000 cash for his 100,000 barrels he had in tanks, but was offered an even \$5 a barrel. The market soon afterward dropped much below this figure, and a large part of McCray's oil was destroyed by lightning. Some of it leaked and ran into the creek, and he sold what was left for \$1 a barrel. McCray has been the victim of many sharpers, but he has still enough of his property left to live at his ease. He is now an old man, and the death of his wife leaves him alone.

She Kissed the Winning Jockey.

After Hughy Poney had landed Fountain a winner for the third race at Guttenberg yesterday, says the New York Morning Journal, he started for the jockey room, but before he reached it an excited lady rushed after him into the paddock, and, before Poney could reach the gate, she had kissed him by way of congratulation. It is said she had won a lot of money on the victory of Fountain, whose party are said to be his relatives.

See Hooper's 33 pictures this week.

REST FROM THEIR LABORS.

With Laurel Wreaths Upon Their Buijing Brows.

DOUGLAS COUNTY'S STATESMEN.

They Arrive Home and Tell of the Work of the Session—Some Good Legislation Accomplished.

Hon. Richard Berlin Talks.

"Thank God the legislators are home," said Hon. Richard Berlin yesterday afternoon to a reporter for The Bee. "I feel somewhat tired and am now here for a rest. I am glad that we are through with the session, although I formed many close attachments while in the Capital city. We had a lovely feast last night, and when the boys shook hands to depart for their respective homes there was a feeling of regret that they were over their contingents. They hated to part. "Perhaps it would have been better to the state and city had we never met, on account of the submission question. The submissionists have a little the best of us, considering the moral side of the question, and whether electors are to determine whether it will be prohibition or high license, I think the probability will be decided. From a business point of view, Omaha stands submission. "There were several good bills for Omaha and Douglas county passed while we were in session. Among them is a bill for the removal of non-resident aliens to hold property within the corporate limits of cities and towns; and also providing for the foreclosure of mortgages by non-residents, and against them. This will get more money into the town and help our city. "Another good measure was the bill for the establishment of a park system in Omaha. It is not exactly what is wanted, but I find in all legislation there is more or less compromise. A good park system, we got, for God knows we need a park system bad enough. The present measure is a good start and is the foundation of a good system. "I also consider the bill for divorcing the element from politics by the establishment of a good civil service system. I believe, however, that the law as approved by some of the liquor men, but I am confident that the law will prove beneficial and will be recommended by members of the bar. He worked hard for the passage of the bill. "We got a measure through for a better system of drawing jurors. It is proposed thereby to raise the standard of jurors, and think it right to say so. Mrs. Freed desires to have a section of the law dissolved as a protection against a technical charge of bribery.

A Wonderful Musician Who Was Not Appreciated Until After His Death.

The names of Bach and Handel throw a flood of glory over the eighteenth century, says a writer in the Youth's Companion. They were both born in 1685, Bach at Eisenach, Handel at Halle. But though Bach was twice at Halle, the two great masters never met. In a prosaic century these two great men united in their own sphere of activity, and their work, which brought about the revolution from the Italian art of Palestrina to the music of the present day. But their destinies were widely different. Handel, during his own lifetime, enjoyed an overwhelming popularity; but Bach, who had no such success, died in poverty. The mind of Handel was more deeply imbued with the modern spirit, and he began to produce marked impressions fifty years after his death, and but for the influence of Mozart and Mendelssohn his music might possibly even have been forgotten. It has been said that "music owes to Bach as great a debt as a religion owes to its founder." Johann Sebastian Bach, one of a great family of musicians. His father taught him the violin, and he was more important, inspired him with those deep Protestant feelings of piety which influenced all his life. Unhappily, however, the boy was left an orphan at the age of ten, and became the property of an elderly pastor, an elder brother, Johann Christoph, who was then organist at Ohrdruf. The little Sebastian learned his exercises with a skill and perfection which he has rarely equalled. He was constantly surrounded by his father, and perhaps, also, by his mother, who possessed a manuscript volume of music which he constantly studied, and which Sebastian longed to see. His father, however, refused to lend it. The precious book was locked up in a railed cupboard; but the little hand could pass through the rails, and when opportunity offered, Sebastian could not resist the temptation to peek at the book, and copy it surreptitiously. His progress, however, was very slow, as he could only work at it in the evening, and—since he was allowed no candle—on moonlight nights. Still, with heroic perseverance, he mastered his chances when he could, he was able in six months to copy out the much-coveted book. His task was hardly achieved when his brother discovered he had been copying, and with cruel tyranny demanded the return of the book, and so laboriously made, Sebastian gave it up with tears, and saw it no more till the year 1698, when he was thirteen years old and his brother died. The quantity of getting a start at all. That seedling with timothy and clover, with rye in the fall, or with flax in the spring, is the most generally successful. Some have had good results from seeding with grass alone in the spring, but the general experience seems to be that seeding with the above named grasses on prairie soil is unprofitable, owing to the time required to get a good stand of tame grass, and the uncertainty of getting a stand at all. That seeding with timothy and clover, with rye in the fall, or with flax in the spring, is the most generally successful. Some have had good results from seeding with grass alone in the spring, but the general experience seems to be that seeding with the above named grasses on prairie soil is unprofitable, owing to the time required to get a good stand of tame grass, and the uncertainty of getting a stand at all. That seeding with timothy and clover, with rye in the fall, or with flax in the spring, is the most generally successful. 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