

SCIENCE.

ELECTRIC POWER.—Two men who endeavoured to enter the gardens of the Tuileries during the recent fête and display of fireworks by climbing over the fences incautiously made an effort to raise themselves by holding on to some wires forming part of the extensive system of illumination by electricity. Both received immediately a shock which rendered them insensible, and, notwithstanding the immediate assistance of a chemist in the adjacent Rue St. Honoré life was finally pronounced to be extinct. The identity of one of the victims, a youth of about eighteen years of age, had not been established. The other was a soldier.

FINE CASTING IN IRON.—On the State House grounds at Columbia, S. C., there is an iron casting commemorating the South Carolina soldiers who died in the war, whose names are inscribed on brass tablets at the base. A correspondent says: "The success of this casting consists of its perfect imitation of the living palmetto—the favourite tree of South Carolina. We have heard of this statue in other places, but had never been able to believe the stories of the flexible leaves bending in the breeze supposing this phenomenon an optical delusion, but such is really the case. The long, thin leaves of iron, life-like, even to the hair-like fibers of the twigs and branches, wave tremulously in every zephyr, and the whole tree, painted artistically, has so close a resemblance to the real tree as to deceive the acutest observer at the distance of five rods.

BIG-TREES.—According to the Minneapolis Lumberman the big trees of California will have to take a back seat. In Australia there has recently been discovered a specimen of Eucalyptus amygdalina, or almond-leaf gum, which has been accurately measured, and proves to be 380 feet up to the first branch, 430 feet to the top, and sixty feet in circumference "some distance" from the ground.

TO PRESERVE SEA-WEEDS.—Wash the sea-weed well in fresh water to remove the sticky saltiness which pervades it; then take a plate or shallow vessel, and having cut paper or card to the size required, place it under the specimen, and while under the water spread out the plant as naturally as may be, either with the fingers or a camel's hair brush. Raise the paper carefully into a slanting position to drain off the water. Have at hand a piece of board or very thick pasteboard, lay two or three sheets of blotting paper on it, upon which place the specimen, putting smoothly over it a piece of cambric or linen; then more blotting-paper, another pasteboard, and so on alternately all your specimens are arranged. Place on the uppermost board a weight. The blotting paper and cambric will require to be removed and dried every day or two, as much moisture exudes. When quite dry, the specimens can be arranged in a book according to the taste of the collector, with the names, date of finding, and locality written clearly below.—Outlook.

STAMMERING.—Read two hours aloud each day with the teeth shut. It may tire very much at first, but within a few days this passes away, and one begins to see an improvement in speaking. Reading in this way brings into action muscles which the stammerer does not use properly and keeps quiet the muscles which are used too much. I know a man who would not try it because the remedy seemed too simple. He finally read in this way for three weeks, two hours each day, and then on account of business could only read twice a week, but he was entirely cured within two months. Do everything to keep up the general health and expand the lungs. It requires patience and perseverance, but stammering can be cured.

EUROPE A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.—In the year 800 after Christ, what was the state of Europe? The Goths, the Vandals, the Franks, the Huns, the Normans, the Turks, and other barbarian hordes, had invaded and overthrown the Roman Empire,

and had established various kingdoms upon its ruins. These hordes of savages had destroyed, not only all the works of civilization, but civilization itself. Ignorant as they were of everything that distinguishes and elevates human nature, they broke up the schools, ruined the monuments, abolished arts and manufactures, prevented commerce, and reduced the conquered nations to their own condition, inaugurating in the completest manner the reign of brute-force and mental darkness. If they afterward espoused Christianity, they molded it to their own savage superstition, till at last naught was left to the divine dispensation but its name, to cover the most degrading idolatry and demonism. At the time we begin our specific examination we find that in the then so called Christian nations—

There existed no science worthy of the name, no schools whatever. Reading, writing, and ciphering, were separate and distinct trades. The masses, the nobility, the poor and the rich, were wholly unacquainted with the mysteries of the alphabet and the pen. A few men known as clerks, who generally belonged to the priesthood, monopolized them as a special class of artists, they taught their business only to their seminarists, apprentices; and beyond themselves and their few pupils no one knew how to read and write, nor was it expected of the generality, any more than it would be nowadays that everybody should be a shoemaker or a lawyer. Kings did not even know how to sign their own names, so when they wanted to subscribe to a written contract, law, or treaty, which some clerk had drawn up for them, they would smear their right hand with ink, and slap it down on the parchment saying, 'witness my hand.' At a later date, some genius devised the substitute of the seal, which was impressed instead of the hand, but oftener beside the hand. Every gentleman had a seal with a peculiar device thereon. Hence the sacramental words now in use, "Witness my hand and seal," affixed to modern deeds, serve at least the purpose of reminding us of the ignorance of the middle ages.—Popular Science Monthly

HEALTH HINTS

HOW TO KEEP FROM DROWNING.—The human body weighs a pound in the water, and a chair will carry two grown persons. That is, it will keep the head above water, which is all that is necessary when it is a question of life and death. One finger placed upon a stool or chair, a small box or a piece of board, will easily keep the head above water, while his feet paddle to propel toward the shore. It is not at all necessary to know how to swim to be able to keep from drowning in this way. A little experience of the buoyant power of water, and faith in it, is all that is required. We have seen a small boy who could not swim a stroke, propel himself back and forth across a deep, wide pond by means of a board that would not sustain five pounds weight. Children and all others, should have practice in the sustaining power of water. In nine cases out of ten, the knowledge that a board that will sustain a pound weight, is all that is necessary to keep one's head above water, and it will serve better in emergencies than the greatest expertness of a swimmer. A person unfamiliar with the buoyant power of water will naturally try to climb on the top of the floating object on which he tries to save himself. If it is large enough, that is all right. But it is generally not large enough, and half of a struggling group is often drowned in the desperate scramble of a life and death struggle to climb on top of a piece of wreck or other floating object, not large enough to keep them all entirely above water. This often happens when pleasure boats capsizes. All immediately want to get out of the water on top of the overturned or half-filled boat, and are all drowned except those whom the wrecked craft will wholly bear up. If they would simply trust the water to sustain 99-100ths of the weight of their body and the disabled boat the hundredth, they might all be saved under most circumstances. An overturned, or water filled wooden boat will sustain more people in this way than it will

carry. It would keep the heads above water of as many people as could get their hands on the gun-whale. These are simple facts, easily learned, and may some day save your life.

THE FARM.

SHEEP.—It is said that foot-rot and other diseases to which sheep are subject occur much less often among flocks which are pastured on rather rough ground, and particularly where they have to climb hills to get their grazing. In Scotland, the great sheep country of Europe, the sheep are always found in greatest numbers among the mountain ranges. The famous Southdowns also have a rough country to pasture on, upon the steep, rugged chalk hills of the South of England.

The best time to make cuttings of flowering plants is when they are in bloom. They are then in their most active state of growth, and quickly strike root. After the stalks have begun to harden, so that they will not snap readily when bent, they will not root so easily.

Sow pansy seed about the first of September, in the open border; as soon as they have made their second leaves, transplant the young plants into the bed where they are to bloom. Make the soil rich as possible; protect the young plants during winter with a light covering of leaves; rake off in early spring, and a fine display is secured.

BLACK CURRANT BUSHES.—The Journal of Horticulture gives the following method of renewing the bushes of the black currant, which yields skantly after a few years of fruiting, as practised in the gardens of Burghley, the seat of the Marquis of Exeter.—The old currant bushes are made young again it would seem, by a very simple process. A certain number of them are cut down yearly, almost to the ground, they push strong growth, and in a year or two the inferior produce is replaced by splendid fruit. Some bushes that at a glance appear four or five years old, are perhaps five times that age—perhaps more. If the ground is not dug but dressed with manure and soil annually, black currant bushes may be kept profitably for generations, as they bear cutting down about as well as willows, and like willows afterward grow vigorously.

WE HAVE seen the suggestion that the harness should always be removed from tired animals when they are taken to the stable for the noon rest. With the fatigue of the morning tasks, the sweat and consequent discomfort, the harness becomes irksome, and it is an act of mercy to remove it while the poor animals are resting at midday.

BEE LAW.—A Philadelphia magistrate recently announced the law as saying that the ownership of swarming bees is vested in the original possessor only so long as he can keep them in sight.

THE HOUSE.

To give a delicious flavor to lamb, which is to be eaten cold, put in the water in which it is boiled, whole cloves and long sticks of cinnamon. To one leg of lamb allow one small handful of cloves and two or three sticks of cinnamon. If the lamb is to be roasted, boil the cloves and cinnamon in water and baste the lamb with it.

SUCCOTASH.—Take a pint of shelled lima beans (green), wash, cover with hot water, let stand five minutes, pour off, place over fire in hot water, and boil fifteen minutes, have ready corn from six good-sized ears, and add to beans; boil half an hour, add salt, pepper, and two table-spoonsful of butter. Be careful in cutting down corn not to cut too deep; better not cut deep enough; and then scrape; after corn is added watch carefully to keep from scorching.

TO MAKE GOOD COFFEE.—One large cup of coffee, one cup of cold water, one well beaten egg, mix thoroughly; add four cups of cold water and place over the fire. After it reaches the boiling point allow five minutes to finish the boiling process; strain and serve immediately.



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