

SCIENCE.

A remarkable discovery has been made accidentally in Dakota. It is a new fuel, an oil saturated rock inflammable as the best canal coal. The discovery was made in Mix county, and happened in this way; Some men were blasting a ledge, when a piece of the rock fell into a fire near by and was quickly in a blaze. A pile of three bushels of the rock was set on fire and burned freely. This petroleum rock is soon to be tested on the Milwaukee R.R., as fuel for locomotives. A piece of the rock about as big a hickory nut was tried in a retort recently by a Yankton scientist, and found to contain three drops of petroleum. The inflammable property of the shale comes from this oil. It is said that the same material abounds along the Missouri River.

THE BRIGHTEST STAR.—The brightest star in the sky in February is Sirius, or the Dog Star. This star was long regarded as the nearest to the earth; but careful observations have shown that there are at least five stars whose distance is less. The size of Sirius is computed to be two thousand times larger than that of our sun. The light and heat emitted by Sirius are estimated to be one hundred times greater than from our sun. Light, passing with the amazing velocity of 185,000 miles in one second, requires upwards of fourteen years to reach the earth from Sirius, which is, doubtless, the central sun of a planetary system vastly larger than our own. If a cannon ball, flying at the rate of nineteen miles in one minute, could be fired from the earth to Sirius, it would require no less than two millions of years to cross the vast space. And yet Sirius, though the brightest star, is only one of the myriads of self-luminous bodies which are visible on a clear winter evening. The Pleiades, which guided the mariner before he discovered in the Pole Star a never-setting guide; Castor and Pollux, the presiding deities of the early navigators; the galaxy of stars, shining like a girdle of brilliant jewels, and the varying Algol, all give variety, beauty, and sublimity to the sky when snow mantles the landscape and icicles reflect the light of the thousands of worlds which sparkle in the clear, cold midnight sky.

In the sublime inspired poem of Job, the question is asked: "Is it not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!" And David, the sweet singer of Israel, when calling upon men to praise God, in the one hundred and forty-seventh Psalm, exclaimed: "He telleth the number of the stars. he calleth them all by their names."

Prayer is the outlet of the saints' sorrows and the inlet of their support.

HEALTH HINTS

APPLES AS FOOD.—A raw, melon apple is digested in an hour and a half, while boiled cabbage requires five hours. The most healthy dessert that can be placed on the table is a baked apple. If eaten frequently at breakfast with coarse bread and butter, without meat or flesh of any kind, it has an admirable effect upon the general system, often removing constipation, correcting acidities and cooling off febrile conditions more effectually than the most approved medicine. If families could be induced to substitute them for pies, cakes and sweetmeats, with which their children are frequently stuffed, there would be a diminution in the total sum of doctor's bills in a single year sufficient to lay in a stock of this delicious fruit for the whole season's use.

SOMETHING ABOUT TEETH.—Why do some people's teeth come out more readily than others? The reasons for this are probably many. About the middle of the last century, Peter Kalm, a Swede, visited America and wrote sensibly about what he saw. He observed a frequent loss of teeth among settlers from Europe, especially women. After discussing and rejecting many modes of explanation, he attributed it to hot tea and other hot beverages, and comes to general conclusion that "hot feeders lose their teeth more readily than

cold feeders." Mr. Catlin, who years ago had an interesting exhibition of Indian scenery, dresses, weapons, etc, noticed that North American Indians have better teeth than the whites. He accounts for the difference in this strange way, that the reds keep the mouth shut, whereas the whites keep it open. The teeth, he says, require moisture to keep their service in good working order; when the mouth is open, the mucous membrane has a tendency to dry up, the teeth lose their needed supply of moisture, and thence come discoloration, toothache, doloureux, decay, looseness and eventual loss of teeth. Mr. Catlin scolds the human race generally for being less sensible than the brutes in this respect, and the whites especially in comparison with the red. We keep our mouths open far too much. The Indian warrior sleeps, hunts and smiles with his mouth shut and respires through his nostrils. Among the virtues attributed by him to closed lips, one is excellent—when you are angry keep your mouth shut.

NATURE'S RESPIRATOR.—The season of cold, raw, damp, and foggy weather is upon us, and many will be its victims. Among other causes, the inhalation of cold, and especially of dirty air, must take a high place. Man is however provided with a safeguard against this danger. The double passage to the lungs, through the nose and through the mouth, suggests some difference in use, and this becomes certain when we find such a difference in the two routes as actually exists. The air passing into the lungs through the nose in quiet respiration is warmed as it passes over the lower turbinated bone with its very vascular mucous membrane, while, as the cavity is so narrow, it is also to a great extent filtered, and in this way deprived of its two dangerous characters even before it reaches the larynx. Those, therefore, who in the cold and in the fogs wish to avoid catarrhs, should be careful to inspire only through the nose. With most, this will require some practice, but it will be well repaid. Some, too, will find the impure air of a winter fog very irritating to the nasal mucous membrane, and thus a demonstration of the irritant properties of the suspended matter which in breathing through the mouth gets free access to the lungs may be obtained. Those who are especially anxious to preserve their voice—as preachers, singers, and judges—stand in special need of this precaution, which is as effective as it is simple, and has many and great advantages over all the artificial respirators yet invented.—The Lancet.

For a cough or tickling in the throat take the juice of two lemons, the beaten white of one egg, enough powder or granulated sugar to make a thick paste. A teaspoonful of this mixture will allay the irritation, and cure a cough in its early stages.

A very simple relief for neuralgia is to boil a small handful of lobelia in half a pint of water till the strength is out of the herb, then strain it off and add a tea-spoonful of salt. Wring a cloth out of the liquid as hot as possible, and spread it on the part affected. It acts like a charm. Change the cloth as soon as cold till the pain is gone; then cover the place with soft dry covering till perspiration is over, so as to prevent taking cold.

TO CURE A COUGH.—Roast a lemon very carefully without burning it; when it is thoroughly hot, cut and squeeze into a cup upon three ounces of sugar, finely powdered. Take a teaspoonful whenever your cough troubles you. It is as good as it is agreeable to the taste.

A GOOD CURE FOR COLDS.—Boil two ounces of flaxseed in one quart of water; strain, and add two ounces of rock candy, one-half-pint of honey, juice of three lemons; mix, and let all boil well; let cool, and bottle. Dose, one cupful on going to bed, one-half cupful before meals. The hotter you drink it the better.

Many of our cares are but a morbid way of looking at our privileges. We let our blessings get mouldy, and then call them curses.

THE HOUSE.

CHICKEN PUDDING.—Cut up the chicken and stew until tender. Then take them from the gravy, and spread on flat dish to cool, having first well seasoned them with butter, pepper and salt. Make a batter of one quart of milk, three cups of flour, three tablespoonfuls melted butter, one-half teaspoon of soda, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, a little salt. Butter a pudding dish and put a layer of the chicken at the bottom and then a cupful of batter over it. Proceed till the dish is full. The batter must form the crust. Bake an hour, and serve with thickened gravy in a gravy boat.

There are more fowls and poultry consumed in the United States than there is beef or pork. This looks like a big thing, but the statistics show that such is the case. Look at the consumption of eggs alone; it is almost as great as that of pork.

THE FARM.

Why Farmers do not Succeed.

The Southern Farmer's Monthly contains the following admirable suggestions, which farmers should duly note: Why some farmers do not succeed: They are not active and industrious. They do not keep up with improvements.

They are wedded to old methods. They give no attention to details. They think small things not important. They take no pleasure in their work. They regard labor as a misfortune. They weigh and measure stingily. They are wasteful and improvident. They let their gates sag and fall down.

They will not make compost. They let their fowls roost in the trees. They have no shelter for stock. They do not curry their horses. They leave their ploughs in the field. They leave their harness in the dust. They put off greasing the wagon. They starve the calf and milk the cow.

They don't know the best is the cheapest. They have no method or system. They have no ears for home enterprise.

They see no good in a new thing. They never use paint on the farm. They prop the barn door with a rail. They milk the cow late in the day. They have no time to do things well. They don't believe in rotations of crops. They don't read the best books and newspapers.

POULTRY MANURE.—In reckoning the profit and loss of keeping fowls, it is seldom that any account is taken of the value of the scrapings of the poultry-houses. In fact, as poultry is usually bred, much of their manure is lost, while the farmer will pay \$20 a ton for the very same article that he is too careless to collect at home. At least once a week let the chicken-house be scraped out; put the scrapings in a barrel, with alternate layers of road-dust, and sprinkle a little plaster over all. Keep these barrels by themselves; mix the contents with coal-ashes in the spring, and use it on the corn-fields. It is equal to the best guano.

TOADS.—According to Professor Miles, toads live almost entirely upon slugs, caterpillars, beetles, and other insects, making their rounds at night when the farmer is asleep—and the birds too—and the insects are supposed to be having their own way. French farmers understand these facts so well that they purchase toads at so much a dozen and turn them loose.

VARIETIES.

"Are you feeling very ill?" asked the physician; "let me see your tongue, please." "It's no use, doctor," replied the patient; "no tongue can tell how bad I feel."

Darwin acknowledged himself matched when his little niece asked him, seriously, what a cat has that no other animal has? He gave it up after mature deliberation, and then the sly puss answered, "kittens."

Johnny was hit by a ball the other day. The bawl immediately came out of his mouth.

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