

SCIENCE.

A gentleman in Brussels claims to have contrived a perpetual clock. It was started in the latter city about one year ago, and up to a recent date is said to have been running perfectly. An up-draught is obtained in a tube or shaft, by exposing it to the sun. This draught turns a fan, which winds up the weight of the clock until it reaches the top, when it actuates a brake that stops the fan, but leaves it free to start again after the weight has gone down a little, and thus the power is stored for keeping the clock in motion.

TRIMMING THE ELEPHANT'S FEET.—The whole of a day was spent recently at Bridport, Conn., by five men in trimming the feet of two elephants. The operation is performed, the New Haven Register says, once on the road, once in the fall, and again in the spring. The sole of an elephant's foot is covered with a thick horny substance, which, as it grows thicker, tends to contract and crack, often laming the animal. At the time of trimming the elephant stands on three legs and places the foot to be operated upon across a large tub. Two men hold the leg down, and one stands at the animal's head to prevent him from turning. Then with a two-foot drawing knife one man shaves off great pieces of bone from the sole of the foot. The elephant holds the foot high of his own accord, seeming to understand what the men are doing, and after the operation he flourishes his trunk trumpets, and expresses sincere thanks.

Clean shells by boiling in lye half a day; then wash in fresh water till clean.

Preserve summer ribbons and silks by putting them away wrapped in brown paper; white paper, on account of the chloride of lime used in its manufacture, produces discoloration.

Preserve white satin dresses through the winter by wrapping them in blue paper, with brown paper outside, sewn together at the edges.

Prevent kerosene from burning dull and caking on the wick by keeping the oil until used, in a can tightly corked both at the neck and spout.

Drowned bodies and articles lost in the water may be discovered by constructing a float with a hole through the centre for the observer, who has a blanket over him to exclude the direct rays of the sun. At night an artificial light with a reflector may be used to advantage.

Fish may also be seen under water, while looking through a hole in the ice, by covering the observer so as to exclude the direct rays of the sun.

Extinguish the fire in a burning chimney, by first shutting the doors of the room, then throw on the fire in the fireplace a few handfuls of common fine salt. Close the fireplace and allow the muriatic acid gas evolved from the burning salt to pass up the chimney and put out the fire.

Make fire kindlers by melting three pounds resin in a quart of tar; when partially cooled add three pints saw-dust and as much powdered charcoal as can be worked in; while warm spread out upon a board; when cold, break up into lumps about an inch in diameter.

To make cream rise pour the milk into a broad flat dish so that the milk shall not be over an inch in depth, as the cream cannot rise well through a greater distance. Retain the cream in the milk by pouring the milk into a deep narrow vessel.

Make your own barometer by taking a long narrow bottle, dissolve in it two and one half drachms camphor in eleven drachms spirit of wine (alcohol); dissolve in another bottle thirty-eight grains sal ammoniac in nine drachms water and add. Cork the bottle and seal it with wax, then make a very small aperture through the wax and cork, with a red hot needle. In the prospect of a storm the liquid becomes disturbed and cloudy.

HEALTH HINTS.

HOT WATER FOR COLDS.—Dr. George R. Shepherd, Hartford, Conn., says, in respect to the use of hot water as a remedial agent in the treatment of inflammation of the mucous membranes, "I have used hot water as a gargle for the past six or eight years. In acute pharyngitis and tonsillitis, and in coryza, or cold in the head, if properly used in the commencement of the attack, it constitutes one of our most effective remedies, being frequently promptly curative. To be of service it should be used in considerable quantity (a half pint or a pint at a time), and just as hot as the throat will tolerate. I have seen many cases of acute disease thus aborted, and can commend the method with great confidence."

REMOVING WARTS.—A correspondent of the British Medical Journal states that he has found the application of a strong solution of chromic acid three or four times, by means of a camel's hair pencil, to be the most efficient and easy method of removing warts. They become black and soon fall off.

HOUSEHOLD.

The introduction of electricity as a substitute for lamps and candles on board ship is making rapid progress. There is one source of safety in this to the ship and passengers. All lights are put out at 11 o'clock. After this time people may talk in the dark, but there is no possibility of the reckless use of lights and lamps.

IMITATION WALNUT.—We have it on good authority, says an exchange that an excellent stain for giving light colored wood the appearance of black walnut may be made and applied as follows: Take Brunswick black, thin down with turpentine until it is about the right tone and color, and then add about one-twentieth its bulk of varnish. This mixture, it is said, will dry hard and take varnish well.

In one of the Lofoden Islands, off the coast of Norway, is a deep and tideless lake of considerable extent, connected with an inlet from the ocean by a short and shallow ditch. The important discovery has lately been made that this lake, though it contains so little salt that the water is not unpleasant to the taste, is stocked with herrings which not only thrive but breed there. They are so numerous that thirty tons of them were netted in a few days this season. The story is that they multiply faster and flourish better than in the sea, for the reason that the lake contain none of their natural enemies.

To make starch for colored articles, muslins, gingham and calicoes, dissolve and add to every pint of prepared starch a piece of alum the size of a nutmeg. By this means the colors may be kept bright.

To make starched clothes waterproof dip them, after being well starched, in a bath of chloride of zinc at a temperature of about sixty degrees Fahrenheit, and iron. The starch will remain in the clothes for several successive washings.

THE SOUTHERN WAY OF SERVING CHICKEN.—Joint a chicken and boil gently in a deep saucepan, with just water enough to cover the chicken. For one chicken allow half a pint of uncooked rice; boil this, and after the chicken is tender remove it from the pan and add the rice to the gravy; season with pepper and salt. Many cooks add two small slices of bacon to the water in which the chicken is boiled, to help flavor the gravy; but remove the bacon before serving the gravy. When the gravy has boiled up, and after being thickened, as usual, take the rice out with a long-handled strainer, place it on the platter, and lay the chicken on the top. Send the gravy to the table in a gravy boat.

RICE CUSTARD.—Put a quart of milk into a tin pail placed in a kettle of boiling water, add three table-spoonfuls of sugar and three table-spoonfuls of ground rice, stirred up in cold milk. Boil for fifteen minutes, stirring often; add a small pinch of salt. Put into tea-cups,

first wetted with cold water, after flavoring it with essence of almond or vanilla. Take a pint of milk and boil it, add the beaten yolks of three eggs and sweeten to taste. Stir constantly for eight minutes; strain and set away to cool. When ready to serve, turn out the rice from the cups into a glass dish, pour the custard over them. Put some raspberry or strawberry jam on the top of each cone. Beat up the whites of eggs with sugar, place between the rice and over the custard.

FAIRY GINGERBREAD.—One cupful of butter, two of sugar, one of milk, four of flour, three fourths of a teaspoonful of soda, one table-spoonful of ginger. Beat the butter to a cream. Add the sugar gradually, and when very light, the ginger, the milk in which the soda has been dissolved, and finally the flour. Turn baking pans upside down and wipe the bottoms very clean. Butter them and spread the cake mixture very thin on them. Bake in a moderate oven until brown. While still hot cut into squares with a case knife and slip from the pan. With the quantities given a large dish of ginger-bread can be made. It must be spread on the bottom of the pan as thin as a wafer and cut the moment it comes from the oven.

Mince pies.—Take four pounds of beef, boiled, and chopped fine; pick and chop two pounds of suet; wash two pounds of currants and one of raisins; grate the peel of two lemons, and put in the juice; pound a spoonful of dried orange peel; slice an ounce of citron, and chop twelve large apples; mix these together, with three pounds of sugar, a pint of sweet cider, to make it a proper thickness; put in mace and nutmeg to your taste. If the cider is not sweet you must put in more sugar before the pies are baked; cut several places in the top of each with a pair of scissors.

VARIETIES.

Hissing means different things according to where you happen to be at the time. In West Africa the natives hiss when they are astonished; in the New Hebrides when they see anything beautiful. The Basutos applaud a popular orator in their assemblies by hissing at him. The Japanese, again, show their reverence by a hiss, which has probably somewhat the force of the 'hush' with which we command silence. Goese hiss to drive a way their enemies. English speaking people follow their example.

A sensible thing in the way of railway tickets is shortly to come into use, and certainly not before some reform in that direction is needed. The great bore of travelling, has always been the various annoyances incident to the bit of paste-board which is supposed to distinguish the bona fide traveller from others. Henceforth, travellers will buy their tickets, much as they buy postage stamps, one stamp representing one mile everywhere and always. By this plan everything will be simplified and the trouble of 'stop overs,' and run-out tickets obviated.

What we are at home is a pretty sure test of what we really are.

'I don't take much stock in proverbs,' said Brown to Jones. 'For instance, look at the oft-quoted one:—A friend in need is a friend indeed.' Now, most of my experience with friends in need has been that they wanted to borrow. Give me the friend that is not in need.

It is all very well for a man to believe that the earth revolves on its axis, but when he becomes thoroughly convinced that he is himself the axis the less you have to do with him the better.

Young man, are you prepared for what is in store for you? Leap year has already come.

Religion is the final centre of repose; the goal to which all things tend.

What unthankfulness it is to forget our consolations and to look only upon matters of grievance, to think so much upon two or three crosses as to forget a hundred blessings.—Sibbes.

This is a story hard to believe: A Boston woman had a dog which, when it or its friend the cat wished to go into the kitchen, stood by the door and allowed the cat to jump on its back. The cat could then reach one paw over the latch, and by pressing the other paw on the thumbpiece was able to open the door. The cat would then drop on the dog's back, and ride into the kitchen in triumph.

A lie has no legs; it may wobble for a while with hard-whippings, like a top, but as soon as truth gets a good look at it, it reels, and lies flat on its back.

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AYER'S SARSAPARILLA has cured me of the inflammatory Rheumatism, with which I have suffered for many years. W. H. MOORE. Durham, Ia., March 2, 1882.

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