

Notes and Gleanings.

..The Prince and Princess of Wales are the possessors of nineteen pianos, every one of which was a wedding present.

..The trouble with most people is the same as that of the mouse who gazed green-eyed at the elephant and bragged of what he would do if he were in the elephant's skin.

..The college of Confucius in China is the oldest in the world, having been in existence over 3,000 years. In the big temple are 300 great books in which are the names of the 60,000 graduates of the institution.

..The British government has seized three islands in the Pitcairn group, regarding them as valuable in view of the prospective building of the Panama Canal. This action was taken to forestall the French government.

..The cathedral of Toledo, Spain, is in danger of crumbling. Some cracks have been discovered in it, and, according to the experts, it is doomed to a fate like that of the Campanile at Venice. The government has sent architects to try to save it.

..There are 300,000 Mormons, chiefly in the United States, who keep 1,400 missionaries in the field, constantly recruiting their ranks and making converts from among the people in all the countries and cities of the world.

..For a year the use of phosphorus matches has been prohibited in Sweden. The new law has resulted in the invention of a match by the engineers, Landin and Jernander which has been named the "repsticken," or wet surface. It is said to be less poisonous than a safety match.

..According to the *Woman's Tribune* the proportion of women criminals to men criminals in the United States is a little less than five per cent. in the District of Columbia to none in Wyoming and Idaho; Wyoming still keeps its proud position of having no women among its criminal population. In 1880 there were seventy-four criminals in the territory, two of whom were women.

..The discovery of a rare metal called polonium, is almost as interesting as that of radium. Like the latter, it is very rare, and has been secured only in minute quantities, at great cost. It has power to arrest a strong current of electricity, and barium, platinum and zinc blend when placed near it in a darkened room, and glow with a greenish light.

..The German government has prohibited further experiments with plague germs. It was moved to this action by the death from plague at the Berlin hospital of a young Viennese physician, Dr. Milan Sachs, who caught the disease in Dr. Koch's bacteriological laboratory for infectious diseases. The laboratory is isolated, and great precautions are taken to prevent the escape of the germs through the doors and windows.

..A South Dakota merchant announces that "three beers a day will take into your home in one year: One barrel of flour, 50 pounds of sugar, 12 pounds of corn starch, 10 pounds of macaroni, 10 quarts of beans, four 12 pound hams, 1 bushel of sweet potatoes, 10 pounds of rice, 20 pounds of crackers, 100 bars of soap, three 12 pound turkeys, five quarts of cranberries, 10 bunches of celery, 10 pounds of prunes, four dozen oranges and 25 good beefsteaks." Quite a load to get on three beers.

..Solid rubber tires, instead of pneumatic, on the rear wheels of heavy automobiles, have lately been successfully tested. The experiments were made because of the necessity for frequently repairing the pneumatic tires, and their great cost. The result shows a large gain in tractive power in climbing hills. A vehicle that could not climb a hill with a full set of pneumatic tires did so very easily when solid

tires were put on the rear wheels. At the same time, there was no uncomfortable increase of vibration.

..Dr. Sargent, of Harvard, says the finest living example of physical culture he knows is a young mulatto, T. E. White, who works at the rope-walk at the Charleston navy yard. These are White's measurements: Height 5 feet 8 inches; weight, 151 pounds; chest (normal), 36.6 inches; chest (expanded), 39.8 inches; waist, 31.6 inches; hips, 35.8 inches; thigh, 21.6 inches; calf, 15.2 inches. upper arm, 14.6 inches; forearm, 12.8 inches. He's a finer specimen in some ways than the Apollo Belvidere. His strength is amazing. Sculptor Kitson is going to use him as a model.

..A number of young men in an Ohio town recently thought that they would have a good time with a tramp if a good specimen could be discovered. The right sort finally came looming up out of space and was captured. He was given a bath, shaved, his hair was cut and he was then decorated with a new suit of clothes. A fire was started and the young men told the tramp that they were going to burn his old clothes. He had undergone the previous painful operations with a worldly-wise smile, but at this announcement he began to fight. The reason was discovered by the police, who found \$1,400 in bills sewed in the lining of the ragged coat.

..There is reported from France a new process of making brick from sand that bids fair to revolutionize the brick-making industry. The sand is mixed with clay and lime, pressed and steamed. In the course of the process, chemical changes take place, the lime uniting with both the clay and the silica and forming a hard cement stone that is superior to any pure clay brick.

When molded the bricks descend into a steam bath, having a capacity of 5,000 bricks, where they are kept under steam pressure (of six kilograms) for only six hours. The process of manufacture is then complete. The production of the factory is 20,000 bricks per day, which is "far from supplying the demand for them," a fact which is regarded as "certain proof that the brick of sand will supplant the brick of clay."

RAIN.—Speaking of the terrible drought still prevailing in Australia, H. E. Russell, the government astronomer of Australia, claims to have made the discovery after long and careful search among astronomical records that the moon regulates the rain. Astronomers of the different Australian colonies have indorsed Mr. Russell's theory. Mr. Russell says:

"I speak positively when I say I have found the moon controls the rain. My researches extend for thirty-six years. Briefly, when the moon is moving south there is plenty of rain; when it is moving north there are years of drought—so there are alternate wet and dry periods, the wet lasting nine years and the dry ten. So that long beforehand preparations can be made for the coming drought." Astronomers the world over are invited to investigate Mr. Russell's assertion.

WIRELESS NEWS.—The first daily paper depending entirely upon wireless telegraphy for its news, has just been started on the island of Santa Catalina, off the coast of Southern California. This paper, *The Avalon Witness*, publishes every morning the telegraphic news of the world, boiled down, of course, which is sent across from the wireless station at San Pedro, on the mainland, thirty miles away. When the boats cannot run in bad weather, the wireless impulses, undismayed by the storm, travel swiftly and surely over the waters.

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FREDERICTON, N. B.

General Religious News.

—The German Baptists of America contributed over fourteen dollars per member last year to the Lord's work.

—The Bible School of the Temple Baptist Church, Brooklyn, of which Dr. Courtland Meyers is pastor, is said to be the largest Baptist Sunday-school in the world, numbering 2,470. It has eight departments, including the home and infant departments.

—The directors of the Northfield Extension work have leased Carnegie Hall, in New York city, for every Sunday night in July, and a vigorous mid-summer revival is planned. Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, who has filled a very prominent place in the Northfield programme since the death of D. L. Moody, is scheduled to speak at these meetings.

—The home mission work of the Baptists of the North in the United States is one of grand proportions. The total income for 1903 was \$621,387, leaving a deficit of \$27,885, of which about half was carried over from the previous year. There are invested funds yielding income of \$1,394,382, and school property worth \$964,000. The society includes in its work the education of the freedmen of the South, and church building, as well as direct mission work. It has missionaries among fifteen foreign races in America, besides carrying on work among the Indians and the Mexicans, Cubans and Portoricans. The reports of the missionaries show 5,883 baptisms, and 8,177 received by letter and experience. If all the increase in churches, assisted by the Board, were counted, it would amount to 30,000.

—Just at this time, when the United States General Assembly has dispersed, it is well to recall the growth of the Presbyterian church. According to the latest reports, the number of members received on the confession of faith was 63,318, as against 65,889 in 1902. The number added by letter is 42,823, which is about the same as last year. The total number of communicants is 1,059,130, as against 1,045,338 last year. The enrolment in Sunday-schools is a trifle over that of last year, being 1,066,399. The amount expended for

congregational purposes was \$500,000 over last year, and the gain in home and foreign mission contributions was over \$100,000. The grand total contributed for all purposes was between \$17,000,000 and \$18,000,000. During the year, 132 new churches were organized, 82 were dissolved, 3 were received from other bodies, making a total gain of 53. These figures convey a very faint impression of the vast amount of work that has been done by this great church during the year.

RACE SUICIDE.

Racial sterility is certainly possible. It seems to conflict with the principle of natural selection, as fertility might be supposed to have a high selective value. Natural selection, however, can only select—it cannot originate variations. If the size of the head is more variable than the size of the pelvis and is equally important for survival, the increasing difficulties of child-bearing are not inexplicable on the theory of natural selection. If sterility increases we assume that the conditions of the environment have altered too rapidly for variation and natural selection to keep pace with them. Indeed the existing conditions may be due in part to our interference with natural selection. There is so far no positive proof of race senescence in man. On the contrary we know that Italians and French Canadians have large families, though there is as much reason for them to suffer from radical exhaustion as the inhabitants of France, and the Chinese seem to stand in no danger of extermination. But we know that animals bred for special traits do tend to become infertile, and selection for our own civilization may have the same result. Physicists tell us that the earth may be uninhabitable in 20,000,000 years, it may be uninhabited by man in twenty centuries. The *Popular Science Monthly* for May, from which these sentences are taken, contains several articles on the question of race-suicide and race senescence.

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