

Notes and Gleanings.

A bushel of wheat, by actual count, has been found to contain 869,720 grains.

Neither frogs nor snakes live in Alaska, but toads are frequently to be met with.

In the Province of Samaria, Russia, 405,000 persons get their subsistence from less than three acres of land per capita.

The largest tree in the world lies broken and petrified at the end of a defile in northwestern Nevada. It is said to be 666 feet long.

For the first time in the history of the country a woman lawyer was recently admitted to a Norwegian court and permitted to conduct the examination of witnesses.

The German Emperor has more servants in his employ than any other monarch. Altogether they number more than 3,000, about two-thirds of them being women.

In Japan there is absolute toleration in matters of religion, and the state gives no support to any. Yet there are still in the country 80,000 Shinto priests and 111,000 Buddhist priests.

With a population of about 2,500,000, Paris has fewer than 100 negroes within its limits. It is claimed that the colored population of all France is less than 550.

Women in Russia are to be given the chance of taking up agriculture as a regular profession. The government is founding an agricultural high school for women, whose students will administer the crown domains on equal terms with men.

A series of experiments with radium, startling in their scope, has been undertaken at the university of California. An attempt will be made to turn the skin of the negro white. The X-ray is to be used in conjunction with the radium in the experiments, and the effect of the combined rays of the two on the coloring cells of the body will be determined.

The day of large families is not wholly over. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jewett, of Talcottville, Conn., was lately born their seventeenth child, in less than twenty-four years of married life. They promptly decided to call him Theodore Roosevelt. In the family is one pair of twins; thirteen of the children are alive.

The American Bible Society, with headquarters at New York, is in straits through lack of funds. The benevolent receipts for the past year have fallen \$50,000 below the average for the last ten years, and unless large contributions are received within this month, the work will be seriously curtailed, and some fields abandoned. A strong plea is being made to the public, which it is hoped will yield large returns.

There is a painful lack of variety in the names of Denmark's kings. For 388 years they have all been Christian or Frederick. This is not the result of accident, for Danish law provides that Christian must be succeeded by Frederick, and Frederick by Christian. So every Danish prince, no matter what other names he may receive, always has Frederick and Christian attached to him.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT JAPAN.

Japan with her 47,000,000 population has 4,302,623 pupils in her elementary schools, or 91 in every thousand; while Russia, with 130,000,000 population, has only 4,193,594, or 32 in every thousand.

Japan has 4,852 post offices, equal to one post office for each 9,700 people; Russia has only 6,029, or one for each 21,500 people.

Japan has a commercial marine of 734,413 tons, against Russia's 632,812 tons.

Japan raises sufficient agricultural products to feed her own people, and leave a good quantity for export.

Japan had a foreign commerce in 1896 of \$145,000,000, while in 1903 it was \$313,000,000, more than 100 per cent. increase in seven years.

Japan has gold, silver, copper, lead, tin, and mercury in abundance, besides coal and iron.

Japan has every kind of manufacturing—cotton goods, telescopes, microscopes, watches, knives, spoons, electric machinery, matches, clocks, woolen goods, and a host of other lines. In 1870 manufacturing in Japan was almost nil; now she has over 8,000 factories of various kinds.

Japan runs her railroads with native labor entirely, from the general superintendent down, including the train dispatchers.

Japan has over 3,000 miles of railway and 1,500 miles of telegraph lines in operation.

Japan is mining over 2,000 tons of coal per day, nearly 1,000,000 tons yearly, and the supply is of fine quality, apparently inexhaustible. Twenty-five years ago the output was only 300 tons per day.

Japan has 201 cotton mills, with 887,000 spindles. Including cotton growing, this industry employs 1,000,000 people.

Japan does weaving in 660,408 dwellings or establishments, containing 924,123 looms, and employing 1,042,866 persons.

Japan has 573,000 men in its regular army, besides an immense number in the reserve and militia.

THE STUDENT CONFERENCE.

The Northfield Student Conference will be held at East Northfield, Mass., July 1 to 10. This Conference has been held upon the invitation of Mr. D. L. Moody and members of his family each summer since 1886 under the direction of the Student Department of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations. Its purpose is to build up the Christian life of students and to train them for leadership of the varied organized Christian work of their institutions. It is attended annually by about 700 men, from 130 colleges and preparatory schools. The daily programme consists of morning and evening platform meetings, normal Bible classes, conferences on college Young Men's Christian Association work, and life-work meetings on Round Top. The missionary feature under the direction of the Student Volunteer Movement for foreign missions is always prominent, and consists of normal classes for training in leading home and foreign mission study classes, a missionary institute for the discussion of methods and missionary addresses. Among the speakers for this year are Rev. G. A. Johnston Rose, of Cambridge, England, Rev. Charles Cuthbert Hall, D. D., of New York, Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes, Jr., of New Haven, Rev. R. A. Falconer, Halifax, Mr. Robert E. Speer, Mr. John R. Mott and S. H. Hadley, of New York. This is one of a series of seven Conferences which are held annually for the students of different sections of the country. The training at these Conferences of from seventeen hundred to two thousand of the strongest Christian men for leadership of the Christian work in the institutions for higher learning in the United States and Canada has a marked influence on the religious life of the colleges of these two countries. For information address C. L. Boynton, 3 West 29th St., New York.

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CANCER INCREASING.

Leading surgeons and physicians of New York say that cancer is the most prevalent disease in the United States. They declare, too, that it is rapidly increasing all over the civilized world and that they are still utterly in the dark as to its cause or its cure. In the last 24 years, as shown by statistics, it has doubled in prevalence in the United States, and is today claiming more victims than consumption. The surgeon's knife is the only remedy accepted by the most skilled members of the profession, and that treatment must be applied very early to insure against a return of the disease. Several prominent surgeons said recently that the disease was a much more serious question than the average person realized and made doubly so because of the fact that it may attack any person without warning, and once developed physicians are powerless to cope with it understandingly.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Review of Reviews* for May provides a group of articles on the Russo-Japanese war and cognate topics. In addition to the editorial treatment of the events of the month in "The Progress of the World," there is a sketch of Admiral Togo, written by a Japanese, followed by "Fifty Years of Japan," from the pen of a Japanese journalist, who sums up in this paper the striking progress of his people during a half-century. There are also brief summaries of "What the People Read in Japan," "The Effect of the War on the Internal Affairs of Russia."

The six summer numbers of the *Canadian Magazine* will contain 600 pages of 700 words each, or a total of 420,000 words. They will contain many excellent stories and numerous bright articles. The subscription is \$2.50 a year or \$1.25 for six months; in advance.

Canadian periodicals are forging to the front. The *May Canadian Magazine* is an attractive number. The most ponderous article in the issue is "Independence and the Treaty-making Pow-

er," by Professor de Sumichrast, of Harvard, who mildly protests against any radical change in our present relations with the Colonial office. The character sketches of the month include "Hon. J. I. Tarte," "George Meredith," and "Edith Wynne Matthison." Each sketch has a portrait. The short stories are by Theodore Roberts, Captain J. W. Fuller, Winnifred Boggs and Guy de Maupassant. "Woman's Sphere," has something to say about the class of houses found in Quebec and Montreal. The book department contains a sketch and portrait of Norman Duncan, a Canadian writer.

A characteristic of *Everybody's Magazine* is the versatility in its contents. Two salient features in the May issue are of much importance. One is on the Great White Plague, Consumption; the second, the subject which the Methodist church is debating—the relation of Christianity to amusement. Cardinal Gibbons, Bishop Greer, of New York, Dr. Parkhurst, Dr. MacArthur have contributed opinions. It may not be generally known that one-third of all the people who die between the ages of twenty and thirty die of consumption. *Everybody's* has an article which tells in plain terms how to cure consumption if you have it, how to cure it, and how to avoid giving it to your fellow. There are eight stories in the May number.

The *May Lippincott* is out, and is full of interest to the readers of fiction.

The persistency with which Mr. Chamberlain's figure appears in the cartoons attests his place in the public eye. A brilliant estimate of his possibilities entitled "Mr. Chamberlain's Future," is re-published from *The Fortnightly Review*, in *The Living Age* for April 30.

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