

Notes and Gleanings.

Among the lands flowing with milk and honey in modern days, Denmark holds a proud distinction. The butter from her dairies brings higher prices in England than any produced by the British butter-makers or any imported from any other nation. The little kingdom on the north coast of the European continent exports also 2,500,000 pounds of honey every year.

The Klondyke mosquito is said to be the worst on earth, but here comes a Siberian traveller, Mr. Dobbie, who insists that the voluminous mid-Asian variety is hard to beat. Residents along the line of the Siberian road never seem to stray abroad without enveloping their hands and faces in thick veils. Whenever a mosquito enters a railroad car all the passengers with one accord make for it, and a period of restlessness and unusual activity supervenes until he is dead.

A Parisian angler was fishing on the river Seine recently, when a Newfoundland dog anxious for a bath, plunged into the river and hindered the fisherman, who beat the dog on the head with his rod, as soon as he came out of the river. The dog then attacked the man, who in defending himself fell into the water, and then forgetting his resentment, the dog plunged in after the man, caught him by the clothes and brought him safe to land, much to the discomfiture of the angler, and greatly to the amusement of the crowd.

There has just died in Stockerau, Bavaria, at the age of 28 years, a dwarf, Maria Schumann, who passed her whole life in the cradle where she slept her first sleep, twenty-eight years ago. Up to the day of her death this strange creature preserved the height and general appearance of an infant of a few months, but her intellect was normally developed, and nothing could have been odder than to hear this tiny babe in the cradle talk like an adult, with much vivacity and intelligence.

The youngest king in the world is Daudi Chua, King of Uganda, who is now about eight years. He holds his court seated on a scarlet throne, with a leopard-skin mat under his feet, and bearing in his hand a toy gun. The British exercise a protectorate over the young king and his kingdom, and have established for him a sort of parliament, which he opens regularly with much pomp. Little Daudi Chua speaks English and gives State dinners, at which there is a curious mixture of African and European foods and customs, though the royal table is supplied with fine linen, cut glass and silver brought from London.

A new tenement house has just been erected in Upper New York that is new in more ways than one. There is a big play-room on the top of the building, a large back yard with swings and all sorts of devices for the amusement of the children; and the owner offers to give a month's rent off whenever a child is born in the house, and two months for twins. A landlord who encourages large families is certainly something new under the sun.

One of the most remarkable railroads in the world is the Oroyo, in Peru, which runs from Callao to the gold fields of Cerro de Pasco. Commencing in Callao, it ascends the narrow valley of the Rimac, rising nearly 5,000 feet in the first fifty-six miles. Thence it goes through the intricate gorges of the Sierras till it tunnels the Andes at an altitude of 15,645 feet, the highest point in the world where a piston rod is moved by steam. The wonder is doubled on remembering that this elevation is reached in seventy-eight miles.

Korea has a regular medicine day, when systematic folk doctor themselves whether they want it or not. Should

the liver get out of order on any other day of the week it has to wait ratification until the proper medicine day comes round. An aged Korean's argument that this is as logical as the English custom of resting one day in seven, whether you want it or not, is a more practical criticism than it might at first seem, for Sunday is the recognized medicine day of many professing Christians, whose religion often goes wrong during the working week, and who wait for the medicine of Sunday work to set it right again.

The British census returns show that women are continuing to encroach on the fields of industry formerly reserved for men. The returns by occupations show that there are 86 women auctioneers, 6 architects, 39 bailiffs, 316 blacksmiths, 3,071 brickmakers, 3,850 butchers, 54 chimneysweeps, 1 dock laborer, 5,170 goldsmiths, 9,693 printers, 745 railway porters, 117,640 tailors, and 3 veterinary surgeons. That is all right for men are invading woman's domain, as shown by the milliners, dressmakers, tailors and other occupations which formerly belonged to women and are now entered by men. We need to go one step further, and that is to give one wage for the work done.

THE STUDY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

One of the wonders of the nineteenth century, and one of the grounds of hope for the future, has been the marvellous spread of the English tongue. Possibly very few who have not had their attention called specifically to it have any idea how the use of the English language has spread in the last hundred years; how few used it a hundred years ago, and how many use it now. The following table shows the state of affairs a hundred years ago:

In 1800 the relative order of the prevalence of these tongues was as follows:

1. French was spoken by 31,500,000.
2. Russian by 31,000,000.
3. German by 30,500,000.
4. Spanish by 26,000,000, half of them outside of Europe.
5. English by only 19,750,000, of whom 5,000,000 were in the United States, and 750,000 elsewhere.

At that time English stood fifth in number of users among the civilized languages, and as is shown by the table, far behind some of the others.

Now the order is reversed, so far as English is concerned, and it stands at the top of the list, being spoken by far more people than any other civilized language, and probably by more persons than any tongue in the world. The users of English now number 130,000,000, seventy millions being in the United States, forty millions in Great Britain, and twenty millions in the British colonies. And recent and apparently near future territorial acquisitions of England and the United States will in no great number of years add many millions more to this number. For, doubtless in a few years the Transvaal and all the Dutch-speaking countries of South Africa and Hawaii and Cuba and Porto Rico and the Philippines will be added to the countries which habitually and officially use the English language, whatever may be our opinion of the process by which they come under such control. After English, German now comes second at a respectful distance, and the gap between the two is steadily widening. Russian comes close after German, and French comes a very decided distance behind Russian, and is not spreading at all rapidly. Last on the list comes Spanish, and it is the only one of them which seems likely to steadily lose in number of users.

At the present rate of increase, it looks as if in no very long time an English-speaking man would be able to make himself understood in almost any part of the world.

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AGRICULTURE THE SECRET OF JAPAN'S STRENGTH.

The same diligent genius that enables a landscape gardener in Japan to compass within a few square yards of land a forest, a bridge-spanned stream, a waterfall and lake, a chain of terraced hills, gardens of chrysanthemums, hyacinths, peonies, and pinks, a beetling crag crowned with a dwarfed conifer, and through all the dainty park meandering paths, with here a shrine and there a dainty summer house, has made it possible for the farmers of the empire to build up on less than nineteen thousand square miles of arable land the most remarkable agricultural nation the world has known. If all the tillable acres of Japan were merged into one field, a man in an automobile, travelling at the rate of fifty miles an hour, could skirt the entire perimeter of arable Japan in eleven hours. Upon this narrow freehold Japan has reared a nation of imperial power, which is determined to enjoy commercial pre-eminence over all the world of wealth and opportunity from Siberia to Siam, and already, by force of arms, is driving from the shores of Asia the greatest monarchy of Europe.

The secret of the success of the little Daybreak Kingdom has been a mystery to many students of nations. Patriotism does not explain the riddle of its strength, neither can commerce, nor military equipment, nor manufacturing skill. Western nations will fail fully to grasp the secret of the dynamic intensity of Japan to-day, and will dangerously underestimate the formidable possibilities of the Greater Japan—the Dai Nippon—of to-morrow, until they begin to study seriously the agricultural triumphs of that empire. For Japan, more scientifically than for any other nation, past or present, has perfected the art of sending the roots of its civilization enduringly into the soil.

Progressive experts of high authority throughout the Occident now admit that in all the annals of agriculture, there is nothing that ever approached the scientific skill of sunrise husbandry. Patient diligence, with knowledge of the chemistry of soil and the physiology of plants, has yielded results that have astounded the most advanced agriculturists of western nations.—*Harold Boice in the August Booklover's Magazine.*

What Others Say.

HIS ASSISTANT.

The greatest assistant that a minister of the gospel can have is a consistent Christian life keeping step with his sermons. People are apt to remember the man long after they have forgotten his message.—*Baptist Commonwealth.*

THEY ARE SPOILED.

Undue parental indulgence spoils many a child. And the spoiled child will grow up to be no comfort to parents, to be very unhappy in its own mature years, and a general nuisance to those about it as it is growing up.—*Chris. Observer.*

NO USE TO ARGUE.

It is unwise to argue with an infidel, a theosophist, or a Dowitee. As a rule, such people can believe about four times as much as they can prove, and can prove about four times as much as sane people can believe.—*The Telescope.*

WHAT THEY PAY.

Taxes to support penitentiaries and work-houses are penalties which the innocent pay for the guilty.—*United Presbyterian.*

TO BE PITIED.

Men and women who have not time to read a weekly religious denominational paper are really to be pitied. They are to be pitied, if the cares of this world are so many and so burdensome as to rob them of the time it would take carefully to peruse the columns of the only paper that brings them the news of the kingdom of heaven in general and of their own denomination in particular. All the more are others to be pitied, if they are Christians and members of a certain denomination, and yet give preference to all other papers of a purely secular nature to the utter neglect of that weekly visitor that is calculated to feed the mind and heart with wholesome food and to furnish that information that is welcome to those who really desire to see a growth of those principles which they hold dear.—*Canadian Baptist.*