Notes and Gleanings.

-China has a national biography which is devoted entirely to women and contains about 24,000 names.

-Soil brought up from the 326 foot level in one of the Belgian coal mines has grown weeds which are unknown to botanists.

-The Southern Pacific Railway will soon have in use an electric engine that uses no wire, carries little coal and water, makes no dust, and can pull a train at a rate of a hundred miles an hour.

-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.

-Among the latest fads of the Summer girls are sunburned initials on their arms. Short sleeves, initials cut from back court plaster, and affixed to the arm, and the sun will do the rest, leaving the letters in pink and white on the sunburned skin.

-A man was recently lost in Australia and after wandering about for four days came across a telegraph wire. He was too weak to go farther, so cut the wire and awaited results. Before long a party of men were sent out to find the break and discovered the man in time to save his life.

-A hot spring that flows at the rate of 18,000 gallons a minute has been encountered in the great Simplon tunnel between Italy and Switzerland. The tunnel is over twe've miles long, and is all done save 260 yards. It is yet a problem whether the hot spring will permit the work to go on.

-The hairpin come from Painswick, a village in the Stroud Valley, England. There is the greatest hairpin factory in the world. Strangely enough, this factory employs only 300 persons, the machinery used being automatic and requiring but little attention as it grands miles of wire into tons of hairpins.

-A movement for the abolition of Sunday excursions is becoming widespread in many sections of the United States. All the stronger railway companies are said to favor it, purely on economic grounds, as the Sunday excursion crowd is usually difficult to handle with safety and not desired by the residents of the places to which excursions are carried.

-It is said that the continual emigration of Roman Catholics from Ireland has so depleted the Roman Catholic Church in the island as to alarm the priesthood, and has led to the organization of an Anti-emigration Society. It does not appear that the population, as a whole, is decreasing; those leaving the island are, for the most part, Catholice who can not get a living there, and their places are taken by others not committed to the church.

-It is said that in Norway a bucket of water is always placed within reach of a horse when he is taking his allowance of hay. "It is interesting," says the writer of the incident, "to see with

what a relish they take a sip out of one and a mouthful out of the other alterrnately. A broken-winded horse is scarcely ever seen in Norway, and the question is whether this mode of feeding has not a beneficial effect in preserving the anima's respiratory organs."

-Bacteriologists have discovered microbes which are of great service to man as scavengers, and a system has been inaugurated in Britain by which two classes of microbes, one living without air are made to purify the sewage of the cities, and the filthy water after passing through septic tanks comes out clean and pure. The discovery of M. Louis Pasteur has made possible the work of Donald Cameron, of Exter, England, who has so perfected the system that the sewage water passes in a pure state from the septic tank where the microbes have been at work into the river and purifies it. It is a wonderful fairy tale which we are giad to read of Nature's tiny scavengers.

THE BIBLE AS WRAPPING PAPER.

How the Scriptures. Were Introduced into an Armenian Village.

The work of sowing the Bible throughout the Turkish Empire from Constantinople to Begdad is beset with peculiar difficulties. There is, it seems, a most · ridiculous censorship of the Bible. It is a curious illustration of prejudice that the "seditious" word "Macedonia' occurrring in the New Testament should excite suspicion and mistrust at the Sublime Porte!

In Armenia, too—to give this group of Turkish vilayets its common namethe distribution of Bibles is especially difficult. And yet that it is eagerly read by the natives when it falls into their hands may be gathered from this story told by one of the Bible-men. A copy of the Word of God was given to a patient in the American Hospital and by him carried to his home in a village. Here an Armenian priest took it from the man, and having torn it to pieces threw it into the street. A grocer, seeing it lying there, picked it up and took it to his shop where he began to use it as wropping paper. So for a time olives, cheese, candles and other things sent forth from that store were wrapped in pages upon which were printed the "Words of Life." In this way one Bib'e was scattered about through that village and was read by many whose interest was so far aroused that they began asking for more of the same book. The result was that when the colporteur next came round, over one hundred Bibles or portions of the Bible were sold in that village.—Sowing the Bible, in Everybody's Magazine for January.

THE MAGAZINES.

The Duke of Argyll has long been a regular contributor to The Youth's Companion. For the issue of December 20th he has written an informing article on the powers and duties of the Governor-General of Canada. Having formerly held the appointment himself, the Duke speaks with authority as to the influence which the viceroy is able to exert, if he is a man of tact and ability, in promoting the internal welfare of the Dominion and strengthening

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the attachment of the people to the Grey, the new Governor-General, illustrates the article.

Lippincott's Magazine. sends New Year's greetings to its readers through well filled pages. The leading story bears the stamp of distinct originality. There are several short stories. "The Culture and the Care of Palms" answer just the questions people ask about how to get the best results with house-palms. Bliss Carman is among the poets of the number.

The January number of the Methodist Magazine begins its thirty-first year in an improved and somewhat enlarged form. Illustrated articles are a pleasing feature. "The Lessons of the World's Fair" has twenty-two engravings; "The Social Work of the Salvation Army" has thirteen; "The Present Emergency in Missions," by Dr. Sutherland; "War, Its Substitutes and Cure," by Dr. Courtice; a strong Canadian serial and New Year's poems and stories make up a very attractive number. November and December numbers given free to new subscribers. Toronto: William Briggs. \$2.00 a year; \$1.00 for six months.

The puzzling question of how Russian words should be transliterated into English is considered in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for January, 1905, by Mr. Herman Rosenthal, of the New York Public Library. The letters of the Russian alphabet are shown with their English equivalents, and the rules presented for the transliteration of Russian words into English, as followed by the best authorities, both in this country and in England. "What the People Read in Austria and Bohemia" is the title of the article in the series on the periodical literature of the world.

Everybody's Magazine for January has another instalment of "Frenzied Finance." The narrative, which is full of exciting and tumultous episodes, brings to a close the first part of Mr. Lawson's story. The tremendous interest attaching to these extraordinary articles has brought hundreds of thousands of new readers to Everybody's. The January number is an entertaining issue, containing readable short stories and several articles of social importance. The first instalment of "Experiences of a Nursery Governess" appears in this number.

Notably rich in illustrations, the mother country. A fine portrait of Earl January St. Nichelas sets a very high standard for the numbers to follow through 1905. "The Practical Boy" is proving a delight to handy and active lads, and "How to Study Pictures" is of profit and pleasure to grown-up lovers of pictures as well as to young folks. "The Triumph of 'Duchy'" is a story of winter sport. "Lucy's Shopping" is a pretty tale for girls. "A Strange Pocket-Book" has the additional merit of being "a true story."

> From the point of view of uniqueness, the star article in The Century for January is Helen Keller's "Chat About the Hand," illustrated. Miss Keller's article is an anomaly in literature, being an account by one who is deaf, dumb and blind of the way in which she uses the hand as a medium of communication. An article on "London in Transformation," with pictures, shows that London has entered upon a new era of building. Besides the second part of "Sandy," in the serial, there are seven short stories.

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