NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The disclosures made by the great English company promoter, Ernest T. Hooley, in the course of his recent examination in bankruptcy, of the bribery and corruption to which he resorted to impose his swindling schemes upon the English public, have called special attention to the whole business of company promoting in England, and to the use made of it to rob unsuspecting English investors. Among others the Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Charles Russell, took the opportunity of the recent Lord Mayor of London's call upon him, to make some wholesome remarks upon the subject, and upon the necessity of taking effectual measures to put a stop to the frauds practiced by men of Hooley's stamp.

The theory of company promotion is simple enough, and does not necessarily involve dishonesty. An individual, or a private partnership, owning a mine, a brewery, a manufactory, or a mercantile business of any kind, desires to sell it. He puts it in the hands of a promoter, who agrees to pay him for it a certain sum, partly in cash and partly in shares and debentures of a stock company which is to be formed to take it and continue to carry on its operations. The statistics of the past career of the concern, as shown by its books, or in the case of a mine, of its earning capacity as shown by the reports of expert examiners, are arranged and printed so as to exhibit the probable future profits of the company, an array of directors whose names carry weight is secured, and the company is launched. To create a market for its shares, sales and purchases of them are made on the Stock Exchange, and on the strength of the quotations for them thus obtained the investor is induced to buy them.

Of the hundreds of companies of this character formed during recent years in England, many have turned out to be very successful. They have paid large dividends, and shares in them now command much more than the original buyers paid for them. These successful ventures have been used as decoys for a far greater number of failures and even downright swindles. Lord Russell, in the speech we have referred to, asserts that, in seven years past, the British public has lost, through these fraudulent companies, $140,000,000, of which $40,000,000 represents money sunk in their debentures, and $100,000,000 paid for their shares of stock. He instances one case in which a business, for which a promoter paid but a little more than $3,000, was sold to the public for over $380,000; and another, in which a mine, said to be in Africa, was sold for $240,000 before it was even located, and which, when finally located, cost the promoter only $700, paid to an African chief. How Mr. Hooley gained millions by methods like these has been told by himself, as well as how he expended these millions, and more, in bribes and donations, which, after all, failed to save his schemes from shipwreck.

OLD-TIME POISONING.

Beautiful Girl Nourished on Poison and Her Kiss Was Death.

The poisoners of to-day are mere amateurs, if history is to be relied upon. In the good old times they were artists in the gentle practice of putting people out of the way, and studied quick and slow poisons instead of algebra and civil economy, their curriculum including many delicious little compounds unknown to our present chemists.

The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were the halcyon days of poisoning. There is no doubt that La Spara, and the, if possible, still more wretched hag, La Toffania, were as bad as you make them. The latter is said to have caused the death of over 600 persons. She used a preparation of arsenic which she sold under the name of "Acqua Toffana." It was a slow poison, the victim growing daily weaker and gradually dying of physical exhaustion. In France the most notorious female poisoners were Mme. de Brinvilliers, who was taught the secret of the "succession power" by Ste. Croix, which she successfully administered to her father and brothers, and the still more notorious Lavoisin and Lavigoreux, who, being ostensibly midwives, carried their poisons to high and low—married couples anxious to hasten the dissolution of the irksome tie or needy heirs wishful to accelerate the departure of rich relatives. A veritable mania for poisoning appears to have set in toward the middle of the seventeenth century.

In England poisoning was declared, by an act passed in the reign of Henry VIII., to be high treason, and those guilty of it were to be boiled alive. The most notorious case (the poisoning of James I., by Buckingham, is only surmise) of poisoning was that of Sir Thomas Overbury, in the year 1613. He had incurred the displeasure of Lord Rochester and his wife, and they had both vowed to be revenged on him. So after they had got him committed to the Tower they set themselves to poison his food by mixing arsenic and cantharides with it. For many months, though suffering intensely, he appears to have lingered on. At last a stronger dose than usual put an end to his miserable existence. The guilty couple, to the King's everlasting disgrace, were released after five years' imprisonment.

One of the most curious points connected with poison is the fact that nations and individuals have been known to thrive on it. Mithridates, King of Pontus had poison for his daily food. In the Gesta Romanorum we read that "the Queen of the North, having heard of the great proficiency which Alexander the Great made in learning, under the tuition of Aristotle, nourished her daughter, from her cradle, on a certain kind of deadly poison, and when she grew up she was considered so beautiful that the sight of her alone affected many with madness." The young lady was sent to Alexander, who, of course, fell madly in love with her. Aristotle, who knew of the plot, warned the King, who thereupon commanded a criminal whom he had condemned to death to kiss the girl. Scarcely had the man touched her ruby lips before "his whole frame was impregnated with poison, and he expired in the greatest agony."

In the present day it is well known that the peasant girls of Styria consume large quantities of arsenic to add to their personal charms. It is a common habit also among men. It is said to improve the complexion, to promote digestion and to strengthen the respiratory organs. The worst of it is that when once you have commenced taking the drug it means death to leave it off.

THE OTTER.

The otter is the fastest swimming quadruped known. In the water it exhibits an astonishing agility, swimming in a nearly horizontal position with the greatest ease, diving and darting along beneath the surface with a speed equal if not superior to that of many fishes.

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

HOME-CURED PORK.

As the farmers who buy their meat at the grocery usually pay double what it would cost to put it up from their own herd, and as by the exercise of proper care they can have better meat and that which they know to be healthy, and as the season when the farmers can keep fresh meat for some time and when the year's supply can be cured is approaching, it seems a timely topic to write upon now, writes Waldo F. Brown. My first suggestion is that the farmer should always put up pig pork and if the pigs are fed until five months old mostly on muscle forming food such as bran, oats, and oil meal it will give a larger per cent of lean meat and a sweeter and better flavored article. I have followed this plan for many years and find the meat very much better than from old and over fat hogs. A pig that will dress from 150 to 175 pounds is a better size than a larger one and for fresh meat during October and November, pigs four or five months old that will weigh one hundred pounds or even less make excellent meat. If three or four farmers living near each other will arrange to exchange meat, and will kill at different times they need not pay any money to the butcher for at least six months of the year. During October and a part of November the meat should be cooled with ice and before it is tainted put into a sweet pickle made with one pound of sugar to each two pounds of salt and three gallons of water. This pickle must not be used twice but fresh pickle made each time meat is put down. If the meat is thoroughly cooled and kept under the brine it will keep for two weeks or more during fall weather. I would not kill the pigs that are to be cured to furnish the summer meat until the weather is cold and usually it is best to defer it until December, but keep the family supplied with meat by exchanging with neighbors up to that date. See that all meat is thoroughly cold before salting. Every family should have a supply of pickle pork as it adds to the flavor of many kinds of vegetables to cook them with a small piece of sweet pork. I prefer a stone jar to salt the pork in, and they can be bought of any size up to twenty gallons for about 10 cents a gallon. Select the thickest and fattest pieces for pickle pork. Cover the bottom of the jar with an inch of salt and then pack a layer of meat set on edge as tight as it can be put in, then another inch of salt and another of meat till all is packed, and cover the tops with salt. Fit a cover so it will settle down on the meat and loose enough so that it can be taken off and put back easily; put a weight on it and then make a brine as strong as possible and when cold pour it over the meat. The brine should be several inches above the meat so that when a part of a layer is taken out it will still cover all of it, for if any is above the brine for a long time it will get rusty and strong. Pork pickled in this way will keep perfectly the entire year and fill a useful place in the family. For meat that is to be smoked I use sugar with the salt, one pound of sugar to two of salt, and if the meat is to be put in pickle, two gallons of water to each three pounds of the mixed salt and sugar. Salted in this way the meat should remain in the pickle for five weeks. I prefer, however to cure the meat that is to be smoked by what is called the ten day process of curing, which is a dry curing plan. I have cured my bacon in this way for four years, and some of my neighbors for many years longer, and we have always had the meat just right, neither too salt nor too fresh and of excellent flavor. One advantage of this plan is that one need not be to the expense of buying a tight barrel to salt the meat in. I use sugar barrels, costing 5 cents each, always using two and transferring it from one to the other each time it is rubbed; this changes the bottom pieces from the bottom to the top and equalizes the salting. The plan of curing is to weigh the meat and for each one hundred pounds take four pounds of salt, two pounds of sugar, I prefer the granulated sugar because it will mix easier than soft sugar, and one ounce of saltpeter. Mix thoroughly, divide it into three equal parts, and apply to the meat. First, however, the meat being thoroughly cooled should be rubbed with pure salt and allowed to lay one day to get the blood out of it, and then the curing process begins, which means that the meat must be rubbed carefully with the mixture on the flesh side, and especially at the end where the bone is cut off. As each piece is rubbed pack it in the barrel and three days later rub with another third and transfer to the second barrel and at the last rubbing three days later, put the last of the mixture on it and the tenth day from the beginning of the curing process hang it up and smoke it, or if liquid extract of smoke is to be used, which I have used for many years with satisfaction, make the first application of it and a week later a second. If smoked by the ordinary plan keep the fire up so as to finish it in about a week. The best plan for keeping the meat through the summer, I think, is to wrap each piece in paper, several thicknesses, and then put it in strong paper sacks and hang it in an airy attic. We have kept our meat in this way for many years with perfect satifaction. Often the sspare ribs, back bones, and other pieces of the trimmings, are kept until they become spoiled, or the family eat to excess of them because they do not know how to keep them from spoiling, but we find that through the cold weather they can be kept in a weak, sweet pickle, and will be as good as fresh. Use the pickle recommended above for the fall, one pound of sugar, two pounds of salt and three gallons of water. This subject is so important that we ought to hear from others about it and especially as to the best plan for keeping sausage through the spring.

GRAFTING.

The question whether it is wise to use for grafting purposes the lengthy shoots which often spring from large limbs in the centre of apple trees, was recently asked Joseph Meehan. He answers affirmatively, saying: There is an impression that trees raised from such shoots are longer coming into bearing than those from wood from other parts of the tree; but who has ever tried experiments to prove it?

Some years ago, when rose growing was being initiated on a large scale, it was a much discussed question whether or not it was wise to propagate from the strong shoots from the centre of rose bushes which grow and grow, yet do not flower. It was decided by some of the largest growers of that day that this blind wood is just as good as any other part of the bush. Neither the water sprout of the apple nor the blind wood of the rose is of the nature of a variation. Both contain the essential characteristics of their types, without any tendency to vary.

Were these shoots variations, the result would be different. Many a tree and plant does show branches varying in character from the type, and, certainly, propagating from these shoots would result in perpetuating the variation. In many an orchard may be found an apple or other fruit tree which does not bear as well as others of its kind do. I should not care to progagate from such a tree. Varieties have occurred in this way in ornamental trees, a branch developing some new character, which nurserymen have fixed by propagating from it. An apple branch may have different looking fruit from the rest of a tree without a thought by any one that it is a permanent change. Were grafts from this sort to be taken, in many cases a new sort would be the result.

CHEAP POULTRY FEEDS.

When grain gets wet and becomes musty or otherwise damaged, unscrupulous millers work it up into mixtures for poultry feed, and we are probably safe in saying that it is wise to avoid those mixtures for that reason. They are usually offered cheap because they are "cheap;" and they are cheap because they are low in nutritive value; that is, they do not supply the food elements which fowls require. That is the reason they are offered cheap. Cheap food is poor food, and the man who feeds his fowls cheap foods, foods that are poor in nutrition, must expect them to be poor fowls. A fowl cannot lay eggs when fed on these poor, cheap foods, and it is folly to expect them to. Eggs are extremely rich, and to secrete the elements which go to make the egg, a fowl must be well supplied with these elements. Don't fed cheap food and expect your fowls to lay well.

GERMS THAT COST FORTUNES.

Chelsea's Remarkable Industry, the Raising and Nurturing of Deadly Bacilli.

Did you ever hear of a germ collector? Did you ever consider it likely that sane persons would scheme and plan and devise methods for the most successful propagation of bacilli? It's a fact. Not so many persons are connected with this remarkable industry as make their living raising prize puppies. In fact, one rarely hears of the doings of a germ fancier. We all know and tolerate the souvenir spoon collector and the fiend who begs to mutilate our foreign mail for the sake of the stamps on the envelopes. Even the silkworm grower is regarded with equanimity so long as he doesn't leave his cocoons lying around where they might suggest the demon children of strong drink. But the germ raiser! He's a novelty.

Across the Atlantic, however, there are certain persons who are never happy unless they are teaching the young idea in germs how to spread and multiply and do stunts on a bed of agar jelly. Now and then the germs go on strike, and then there's a poisonous time in any old town they honor with their presence. Something like this happened a short time ago in Vienna. A choice and carefully nurtured collection of bubonic plague bacilli thought an exit was about due, and they passed out of the sight and keeping of their masters without so much as a by your leave. The owners of the collection complained bitterly of the ungratefulness of germs in general and of the bubonic plague bacilli in particular. No amount of persuasion, however, could induce the wanderers to return.

A GERM HATCHERY.

They make a regular business of raising deadly germs in England. The manufactory, or hatchery, or incubator, or creative ground, is attached to the British Institute of Preventive Medicine, at Chelsea. When the heads of bacteriological departments of hospitals, members of the Royal Microscopic Society and private scientists and medical experts in general, wish a particularly fine specimen of disease producer, they go to Chelsea and inspect the collection.

No one but a total abstainer has any business in that place. The pupa of hydrophobia is a neat looking stranger to meet on a dark night. He is a wriggling, rod shaped bit of protoplasm, and he looks the part of madness maker. Then there is the trichina spiralis, tiny but powerful; and the responsible producer of scarlet fever, the stodgy micrococcus. When one of those fairylike germs gets an introduction to the human system he brings along his family and there's a new case of scarlet fever in town. The consumption bacilli looks like miniature eggs. All the germs are bedded in agar jelly and stained with analine dye, so as to be the more apparent to those who come to look and maybe to buy.

The things are sold in what is called "colonies." It is astounding what stiff prices they bring. Take the bacillus indiscus ruber, for instance. When you want a colony of those choice germs it costs you fifty dollars. They are found only in the stomachs of certain monkeys, and they are the aristocrats of the gathering. Scarlet fever micrococci are the canaille of the establishment. Cheap! Two dollars and a half will buy all the germs necessary to start an epidemic of scarlet fever. Typhoid fever germs are twice as expensive, but they rank as the plebeians in the department.

It costs a good bit to take away a leprosy germ colony from the Institute—$25 is the figure—but then the purchaser has something choice in the bacilli line to brag of to his friends. The especially selected colony of the bacillus of conjunctivitis, typhus, costs $40, which would bring the price of a pint measure of these interesting creatures up to $1,000,000.

The men who work on the germ farm have to be as careful of their charges as a mother is of her children. All the implements and the gelatine must be sterilized, else there will spring up a growth of rank germs of no value and of constant danger to the life of the expensive articles.

ABOUT LORD DUFFERIN.

Probably no man living has filled such a wide range of high offices and won so many distinctions as Lord Dufferin. Although he only took a pass degree at Oxford, he is now a doctor of four universities. He has won the coveted Knighthood of St. Patrick and the Grand Cross of the Bath, the Star of India, St. Michael and St. George and the Indian Empire, in addition to a Marquisate and membership of the Privy Council. He has been ambassador at the courts of Russia, Turkey, Italy, and France, and Governor-General of Canada and of India. Lord Dufferin has been a Minister of the Crown as Under Secretary for India and Chancellor of the Duchy, and has also earned a reputation as a writer, speaker and scholar, which would more than satisfy an ordinary ambition.

QUEER NAMES FOR BICYCLES.

The advent of bicycles into China has aroused a great deal of superstition among the lower classes, and there is a legion of communities in the Celestial Empire where a cycler cannot attempt to ride his wheel except at the risk of his life, for the Chinamen regard the machine as an evil spirit. Among the numerous names the Chinese have given to the noiseless steed are "gogma," meaning "a path from abroad;" "feitschai," or "flying machine," and "tsuntsun," which means "automatic wagon." The more timorous are the most original, with their title of "flying dragon."

UNDERNEATH LONDON.

Visit to the South London Railway's New Underground Works.

The members of the Institution of Junior Engineers visited the northern extension works of the City and South London Railway, the other day, says the London Daily Mail:

The programme of the visit included an inspection of the tunnels, shafts and sites of stations, and the "underpinning" of St. Mary Woolnoth Church, which latter is regarded as a very fine bit of engineering.

Descending the shaft of an underground railway is all very well when there are lifts, or even staircases, but when one goes down an iron funnel some 80 feet or 90 feet into the bowels of the earth by means of a series of quivering ladders, or a temporary staircase, there is a difference. The visitors did not seem to mind, however, but went down boldly.

At the bottom of the shaft, amid a tangled debris of clay, boards, bricks and segments of iron rings, weighing half a ton or so, and just sufficiently invisible in the hazy light to catch the toes and shins of the unwary, the crowd halted and gazed up the funnel, at the summit of which a tiny spot of daylight showed gleaming white

ABOVE THE GLOOM.

Like the cells of some great beehive, the cast-iron rings rose one on top of the other up and up, until looking for a few minutes one began to wonder how far they really did go.

The air was quite good here, but there was a touch of mustiness about it when the party dived into the tunnels. Here, in blackness which was only just relieved by the faint gleam of electric bulbs, labourers were toiling with ceaseless energy. Tiny rails carried the little trucks, which removed the debris from the workings or transported materials for building the shell which will contain the lines. In one tunel they were chipping the blue clay away in soft chunks, replacing it as they moved slowly forward with rings of iron. This was where it was impossible to use a boring shield.

At another spot men were putting in position the white tiles with which the whole of the tunnels will eventually be lined, and everywhere one walked cautiously over creaking boards, between the cracks of which the light flickered on running water, with a suggestion of uncanniness. From the tunnels the visitors were led up dusty ladders, and by back breaking passages which needed a gymnastic training to negotiate successfully, to view the subways by which the public will some day pass from one station to the other.

It was all a nightmare of half-naked workmen, chaos of building materials, and winking electric sparks in the blackness.

IT WAS WARM TOO.

The lift shaft which runs down underneath the floor of the church, and from the bottom of which one can see in the hazy gloom above the roof of that sacred building was a source of admiration to the visitors. They talked with animation of the marvellous way the foundations of the church had been underpinned, and then they climbed up ladders, interminable ladders, from which it meant giddiness, and an "all gone" feeling to look down, and entered the church through the flooring.

That was the end of the tour proper. Thereafter there was nothing to see, but a sort of fascination kept one hanging about discussing the time it would take to complete the remaining 130 feet of tunnel which will finish the extension and join St. George's Church in the Borough to Finsbury Square, and a hundred and one little details of the vast work. Six months is the time computed for its completion, and no doubt by that time it will be possible to reach the stations by a more comfortable, if less exciting, route than can now be done.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

At Drayton Beauchamp, in Buckinghamshire, there was a curious custom known as "Stephening." It was the ancient practice of the inhabitants of the village to repair to the rectory on St. Stephen's day, the day immediately following Christmas, and eat as much bread and cheese as they chose and drink as much ale as they thought proper at the expense of the rector. The custom gave rise to so much rioting that he discontinued it and distributed an annual sum of money instead. In the olden time it was the custom of the rector of Great Barr in Staffordshire on every Christmas day to give to all persons calling at his house as much bread, beef, mustard and vinegar as they could eat. A money payment is now made in place of the eatables. The inhabitants of North Clifton were formerly free from ferry dues, and in consequence tthe ferryman and his dog were indulged with a dinner each at the vicar's at Christmas. The ferryman also on that day received of the inhabitants a prime loaf of bread.

There is a very pleasant custom connected with the parish of Cumnor in Berkshire, the church of which is a vicarage and a beautiful specimen of the venerable parochial edifices of that kind in England. On Christmas day after evening service the parishioners who are liable to pay any tithes repair to the vicerage and are there entertained with bread, cheese and ale. It is no benefaction on the part of the vicar, but claimed as a right on the part of the parishioners, and even the quantity of good things which the vicar brings forward is specified. He must have four bushels of malt brewed into ale and small beer, two bushels of wheat made into bread and half a hundredweight of cheese, and whatever remains unconsumed by the vicarage payers is distributed next day after morning prayers among the people.

There was a very curious custom observed at Paddington church, in London, which partakes of the character of Christmas charity. At 8 o'clock on the morning of the Saturday before Christmas it was usual to throw a quantity of bread and cheese from the steeple of the church among the populace. The assemblage on the occasion was generally immense, and a great scramble took place. The custom had its origin in the will of two poor sisters, who, traveling to London to claim an estate in which they succeeded, and being much distressed, were first relieved in Paddington. The custom was kept up until a few years since, when a less objectionable mode was adopted for the distribution of this charity. It is given in bread and coal by the minister and parish officers to the poor of the district.

BOUGHT HIS OWN BOOTS.

A good story is told of an old-fashioned miser. He was never known to have anything in the way of new apparel but once; then he was going on a journey, and had to purchase a pair of boots. The stage coach left before daylight, so he got ready and went to the hotel to stop for the night. Among a whole row of boots and shoes in the morning he could not find the old familiar pair. He had forgotten the new ones, and he hunted in vain. The coach was ready, so he looked carefully round to see that he was not observed, put on a nice new pair that fitted him, then called a waiter and told him the circumstances, giving him ten shillings for the owner. But the owner never called at the hotel. The miser had bought his own boots.

Rheumatism

You May Be Relieved of the Pains and Aches of This Disease.

The way is plain; it is no experiment; thousands have been cured and say they now have no symptoms of this disease. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the medicine they took and it is the medicine you should take if you wish to be cured. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures rheumatism when other medicines fail because it neutralizes the acid in the blood and thus removes the cause of the disease. Give it a fair and faithful trial and you may depend upon a complete and permanent cure. Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is Canada's Greatest Medicine. Sold by all dealers in medicine. Price $1.

Hood's Pills are sure, mild, effective. All dealers, 25c.

WINTER WRINKLES.

In a Bad Way.—They say his conscience troubles him so he can't sleep nights. Nights, man? Why, he can't even sleep in church!

Aggravating.—She—Where have you been until this hour in the morning? He—You wouldn't know where the place is if I should tell you.

Little Freddy—Ma, didn't pa say there was always room at the top? His Mother—Yes, indeed, my child. Then, may I have another piece of pie?

The Day After—Grogan—I'm feeling terrible to-day. Horgan — Congratulate you, old boy. You must have had a mighty good dinner, yesterday.

Penelope—It's dreadful! Papa wants me to marry a man I have never seen. Perdita—That's nothing. My father wants me to marry a man I have seen.

Defined.—Bobby—Popper, what is a respectable fortune? Mr. Ferry—One big enough to make its owner's opinions on any subject entitled to respect.

Contingent Circumstances.—Has Mr. Bilden a good memory? Well, replied the discreet friend; I must say it depends somewhat on whether he's owing or collecting.

He—So Jack has made a century run. He will have something to boast of now. She—yes, but he didn't require it. He could boast just as vigorously of something less important.

The Judge—You must stop these interruptions! I won't allow you to waste the time of the court! The Prisoner—But, my lord, you know I have got no lawyer to do it for me.

The Optimist—These franchise grabs could not occur if the guardians of the people's interests would keep their eyes open. The Pessimist—Instead of their hands.

A Minor Incident—Do you think, said the lady that is writing a book, that women ought to vote? Vote! echoed the Empress Dowager of China. I don't see why she would want to bother about a trifle like that.

What are you doin', you young rassal? said a farmer to a remarkably small boy, on finding him under a tree in his orchard, with an apple in his hand. Please, sir, I was only goin' to put this ere' apple back on the tree, sir; it had fallen down.

Tempted.—A Moralizer—How weak one is, and how easily one yields to temptation. A Husband—I should say so. My wife went to an auction last week to buy a stove and she bought a refrigerator.

A small boy in an elementary school on being asked what were the races that had dominated England since the invasion of the Romans, replied: "Epsom races, Ascot races, Newmarket races, and Doncaster races.

Clara—I don't think Grace cares very much for her husband. Jessie—Why? Clara—Well, he was detained at the office until eight o'clock one evening last week, and it never occurred to her that he might be killed or something!

Civilization is making remarkable advances, exclaimed the good-natured man. Yes, answered the friend in golf stockings, who had been reading the news from Europe. The only trouble is that so many monarchs are trying to be pace-makers, they're liable to have a collision.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to Cure. 25c.

WINE FROM BARLEY.

A large factory in Hamburg turns out annually about 250,000 gallons of artificial wine made from barley. This wine has been tested by the physicians of Germany, and is so highly approved by them that they recommend its use in the hospitals of that country.

A Corn Photographed by X Rays

Shows a small hard kernel, covered by layers of hard skin. Thist tiny corn causes keen pain. The only sure means of extracting it, without pain, in a day, is Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Sure. Yes? Painless? Yes. Cheap, Yes indeed! Try it.

QUEER FISHING.

In order to capture a fish a South American tribe whips the water with the wood of a tree which contains a substance having a narcotic influence on the fish, which are then readily caught.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD'S LAND.

Land which the Duke of Bedford pronounced as impossible to convert into really satisfactory pastures, except, perhaps, at prohibitive cost, was partly treated with Alberts' Thomas-Phosphate Powder, and Dr. Fream reporting on it last year concludes as follows:—"The portion of the field bordering on the road was occupied with exceedingly poor herbage, moss was plentiful, and there was an abundance of hawkweed, both of which are indicative of poverty of the soil. The inner part of the field, where Thomas-Phosphate Powder had been applied, had obviously benefited from the dressing, the herbage was greener and fresher and had been more closely grazed. In addition there was a marked development of clover and other leguminous plants. Hence, as a result of the dressing, it may be concluded that the condition of the soil was undergoing improvement, and that the gradual accumulation of nitrogen by the leguminous species will lead ultimately to the production of better and more valuable herbage."

The width of the leaves is 20 inches. A Bible, the leaves of which are considerably longer than the largest newspaper at present issued, would be a big thing to handle, and, when to this is added the fact that the covers are solid planks four inches thick, it will be understood that this costly Stockholm treasure is not exactly a pocket Bible.

TO LIVE IN THREE CENTURIES.

That is Now the Ambition of a Remarkable Old Woman of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh has as one of its residents a remarkable old lady, who, if she survives other fourteen months, will have lived in three centuries. Mrs. Roper, the lady in question, will enter her hundredth year on Dec. 29; she has a vivid recollection of the events that followed the victory at Trafalgar and of hearing people speak of the death of Nelson. In early life, when in domestic service in the Scottish capital with Dr. Liston, she frequently saw and spoke to Sir Walter Scott when he called on his friend the doctor. The old lady is fond of relating how on one occasion Sir Walter appeared greatly amused at an expression of hers, and repeated it. It occurred in this way: Dr. Liston, on leaving the house one day in company with Sir Walter and Sir William Allan, the painter, inquired where the cat was. Mrs. Roper replied that it had got out of sight again, and her master, being inclined to blame her for remissness, and remarking that she ought to confine it, his servant replied, that the only way she imagined this could be done was to put it in the wash house and "whummle a tub on it." Sir Walter laughed quite heartily at this, and remarked, "Quite right, my lassie. Whummle the tub on't—whummle the tub on't."

EX - REEVE CRAGG

A Prominent Dresden Citizen Tells an Interesting Story.

How Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him of Rheumatism and Gout, After the Best Doctors and Many Medicines Had Failed.

Dresden, Dec. 12.—This town boasts a peculiarity of which its people may well be proud, as it proves beyond dispute, that they possess that desirable attribute, common sense, in no small degree. That peculiarity is the remarkable decrease in the number of cases of Rheumatism during the last few yers.

Eight years ago, Dresden was afflicted by that curse of modern civilization, Rheumatism, to as great an extent, as any other place of its size in the Dominion. To-day such a complaint is practically unknown here.

A clue to the means by which this desirable condition has been brought about may be found in the following statement, given for publication by W. G. Cragg, Esq., ex-reeve of the town, and one of our most prominent merchants.

"For eight years I was a martyr to Rheumatism, of the Inflammatory type, and during that period, my suffering beggared description. To add to my misery I was attacked by Gout. The best doctors failed to benefit me, and no good was done by the many patent medicines I used.

"At times I could not get about at all, and at the best, it was a severe task for me to make my way about my store.

"Hearing that Dodd's Kidney Pills had cured a Dresden lady of Rheumatism, I decided to try the medicine. Imagine my delighted surprise when I found myself growing better after having taken half-a-dozen doses. I used six boxes of the pills and am now as sound and well as ever I was. Dodd's Kidney Pills cured me. This I am ready and willing to swear to."

Dodd's Kidney Pills are the surest, quickest and best cure for Rheumatism ever known. They never fail. And they cost only fifty cents a box, at all drug stores.

MARRIAGE INSURANCE IN RUSSIA

A new kind of mutual fund was started in St. Petersburg last spring—marriage insurance. It is now in successful operation. Single women are the only members, who are recruited from year to year in separate classes. At their entry they pay one ruble about fifty cents, and whenever one of their number marries every member of that class pays an additional ruble. The assessment thus collected is offered to the bride to buy a trousseau. One restriction prevents new members from taking advantage of the older ones. No dowry assessment is called unless the girl has been a member in good standing for one year. Each class is permitted to have not more than 100 members, after that admissions are refused until vacancies occur by marriage, when new members are taken in at the option of the members.

Remember

We don't advertise for mere effect, but for business. We know that, if you are subject to cramps, that you should have a prompt, efficient remedy on hand. Nerviline—nerve pain cure—has a wonderful and immediate curative power. It relieves in one minute; it cures in five. Pleasant to the taste and the best known remedy for pain.

LAPLAND'S FIRST NEWSPAPER.

A decided novelty in the way of newspaper enterprise is announced from Lapland. The first paper in that country has appeared. It is written upon a single sheet of paper, and is published every Sunday at a town with an unpronounceable name. Up to the present the journal has only half a dozen subscribers, and every issue is welcomed with loud applause.

HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last fifteen years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

West & Truax, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.; Walding, Kinnan & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

TITLED THIEVES.

A Princess, a Countess, a Duchess and the daughter of a reigning Prince were among the 4,000 thieves, professional and unprofessional, who were arrested in Paris during the year ended October 31.

ALBERTS THOMAS PHOSPHATE POWDER

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Earn this valuable Watch, Chain and Charm by selling twenty Topas Scarf Pins, at 15 cents each. Send your address and we forward the Pins and our Premium List, postpaid. No money required. These Pins will almost sell themselves, for the Topaz has all the brilliance of the best diamonds, and has never before been offered at anything like this price. The Watch is neat in appearance, thoroughly well made, and fully guaranteed. Unsold Pins may be returned. Mention this paper when writing.

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