

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

One third of the human race speak the Chinese language.

The Queen has been photographed 634 times since her succession.

It would require 12,000 cholera microbes to form a procession an inch long.

Twelve years ago one sailor in every 106 who went to sea lost his life; now only one in 256, it is said is lost.

Pope Leo has never set foot outside the precincts of the Vatican during the whole thirteen years since his accession to the Papal throne.

The average quantity of beer brewed out of Europe is 830,668,815 gallons in the United States, 36,258,940 in Australia, and 4,956,020 in Japan.

Lightning is zig-zag because, as it condenses the air in the immediate advance of its path, it flies from side to side in order to pass where there is the least resistance to its progress.

Impartial writers say that the gold contained in the medals, vessels, chains, and other objects preserved in the Vatican would make more gold coins than the whole of the present European circulation.

Professor Henry Drummond, the noted scientist, presents a curious idea in evolution, to the effect that man was originally amphibious, and that his ears are a survival of the remote period when he had gills and could breathe under water.

There are 110 women lawyers in the United States, and eight of this number have earned the right to practice before the Supreme Court. To acquire this it is necessary to have practiced for three years at the bar, without a flaw in that career.

Accidents to sleep-walkers can be easily prevented by laying upon the carpet, by the side of the sleep-walker's bed, a strip of sheet-metal—iron, zinc, or copper—so wide and long that when he puts his feet out of bed they will rest upon the metal. The coldness felt will awake him thoroughly and he will go to bed again.

The hottest region on the earth's surface is on the south-western coast of Persia, on the border of the Persian Gulf. For forty consecutive days in the months of July and August the mercury has been known to stand above 100 degrees in the shade night and day, and to run up as high as 130 degrees in the middle of the afternoon.

Cats have for some time been known to be the means of conveying the infection of diphtheria, and now they stand arraigned on another charge of a similar nature. A surgeon has just distinctly traced an outbreak of scarlet fever in a house to the intrusion of a cat from an infected household, and it is even said that a case has come under the notice of a medical officer of health in which small-pox was so conveyed.

Women who want to marry should turn their eyes toward Johannesburg, in South Africa. There are at least ten men to one woman there. Every moderately attractive woman marries inside of a few months after landing. It is impossible to keep servants or feminine employees of any sort. Typewriters, nurses, cooks, maids, gardeners all melt quickly away before the warmth of South African wooing.

Through cholera and other diseases, the Mohammedan pilgrimage to Mecca this year cost the lives of more than thirty thousand people in the space of twelve days. Medieval pilgrimages to Jerusalem were probably the cause of not a few plague epidemics. It is a healthy sign to find a Mussulman doctor and employee of the Egyptian Government, in a treatise on the pilgrimage, demanding, if not its total suppression, at least a considerable modification.

There is a large factory in a small town near Chicago, employing about 100 workers, which is given over to the manufacture of articles from wasted animal blood. At certain seasons of the year this unique factory uses quite 10,000 gallons of fresh blood per day. It is first converted into thin sheets by evaporation and certain chemical processes, and afterwards worked up into a variety of articles, such as combs, buttons, ear-rings, belt-clasps, bracelets, etc. Tons of these articles are sent to all parts of the world every year.

One of the most useful additions that have recently been made to the equipment of some of the Newcastle (Eng.) policemen is the pocket telephone. It is handy and light, consisting of a combined mouth-piece and ear-piece, with about a foot or more of wire attached, an affixing pin, and a small key. This apparatus is to be used by the officers in connection with the fire alarms placed at various parts of the city. Instead of breaking the pane of glass in case of a fire occurring in the neighborhood—as an ordinary individual would have to do—the policeman opens the door with his key, places the affixing pin in a socket provided for it in the lamp, and is in direct communication with the fire brigade.

The quantity of rain falling at any place is estimated by means of a very simple piece of apparatus known as a rain-gauge. The most common form of rain-gauge consists of a copper funnel, the area of the mouth of which is accurately known. The rain collected in this funnel flows into a graduated measure, which can very easily be constructed by anyone out of a small glass tumbler or beaker by pasting on its side a narrow strip of paper, carefully marked off into inches, half-inches, quarters, eighths and sixteenths, or into inches, tenths and twentieths. Supposing that the area of the mouth of the receiving funnel is five times that of the graduated measure, then a depth of 5 in. in the measure would represent a depth of 1 in. on area equal to that of the aperture of the funnel.

Avoid All Injurious Habits.

Tea drinking is an injurious habit, and nervous people should be careful in the use of it. It is not a food, it is not a tonic, and it drunk strong it may be as baneful in its effects as brandy would be. Anyone who feels as if they were a bundle of nerves should give up both tea and tobacco, and use Mearns' Kidney and Liver Cure, which will help them to exist in comfort without them.

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SOME FACTS ABOUT MONEY.

Gold and Silver and Their Relation in Value to One Another.

Gold does change in value, but less than any other commodity or material. Gold and silver are not like other commodities in responding to the law of supply and demand, for there is very little loss of gold and silver. The work they have done one year they can do a second and a third year, and almost indefinitely. So an increased demand for gold finds always practically as much gold on hand as there was before the demand began, plus any increase of stock from the mines. So, too, a decreased demand has practically no effect on the stock of gold, which cannot be destroyed or sold at "bargain rates." There is some change in the value of gold. It decreased after the discovery of America, when the Spaniards captured Mexico and Peru; it decreased again after the discovery of gold in California and in Australia. But, compared with a day's work of an unskilled laborer, the value of gold has changed less than that of any other commodity.

By free coinage is meant the coinage of silver at the mints without charge to the owner of the silver bullion. At present the United States buys a lot of silver bullion each month which it does not coin. The "silver men" want coinage to be free to their metal. By a ratio of "16 to 1" is meant a ratio established by law by which 16 ounces of silver shall be equal to one ounce of gold; "10 to 1, 20 to 1, 25 to 1" mean ratios of 18, 20, 25 ounces of silver to one of gold. Sixteen to one is the legal ratio in the United States. 28 to 1 is about the market ratio.

They have no pound notes in England now, though they have them in Scotland and Ireland. The smallest bank note in England is for \$25, a five-pound note. All amounts less than \$25 are settled in gold and silver coin. In France the smallest bank note is for five francs, though a note of that denomination is seen very seldom; the smallest note in current use is for 50 francs, \$10. Amounts under 50 francs are settled in gold and silver coin.

Convict Life in Brazil.

Two hundred miles from the north-east coast of Brazil and three degrees south of the equator is the island of Fernando Noronha, which is used as a penal settlement by Brazil. It is five and a half miles long by a mile and a quarter broad. There are eighteen hundred convicts in the settlement, guarded by only sixty soldiers. Of these, one thousand are divided into ten companies of a hundred each, under the command of a sergeant, himself a convict. They live in out-lying villages, and are employed at work in the fields and plantations, and tend the sheep and cattle. The rest live in the town, and are engaged at different handicrafts in the workshop, or fish in catamarans, the native Brazilian canoe too roughly built to escape in, being merely two or three logs bound together and propelled by sail or paddle. All have to work for their food and clothing, which they obtain from the Government stores in proportion to the work performed. Some of the convicts themselves are allowed to keep private stores, where their fellows may purchase any little extras they require beyond bare necessities. Convicts of good behaviour are allowed to have their wives on the island, should they be willing to come. There are two schools, one for the children of officers and soldiers, and one for the children of convicts; the teachers in both cases are convicts. At the age of twelve the sons of convicts are sent to a military school at Pernambuco. The girls are allowed to stay on the island with their parents if they wish to do so. Little difficulty is experienced in the management of the convicts, punishment for ill-behaviour being detention in the penitentiary, flogging, or, in extreme cases, banishment to Rat Island, a small uninhabited island about a mile long in the north-east of Fernando, where its occupants would have to keep himself alive by fishing.

Professor Blackie's Amende.

A delightful story is told of the grand old professor of whom Edinburgh is so proud. Professor Blackie was lecturing to a new class with whose personnel he was very imperfectly acquainted. In answer to some direction given by the lecturer, a student rose to read a paragraph, his book in his left hand.

"Sir!" thundered Blackie, "hold your book in your right hand!"—and as the student would have spoken—"No words, sir! Your right hand, I say!"

The student held up his right arm, ending piteously at the stump of the wrist.

"Sir, I have nae right hand!" he said—and his voice was unsteady. Before Blackie could open his lips, there arose from the class such a terrific storm of hisses as one perhaps must go to Edinburgh to hear; and by it his voice was overborne as by a wild sea. Then the professor left his place and went down to the student he had unwittingly so hurt; and he put an arm about the lad's shoulders and drew him close; and the lad leaned against his breast and looked up at him as though Divinity itself had stooped in compassion.

"My boy," said Blackie—he spoke very softly yet not so softly but that every word was audible in the hush that had fallen on the class-room—"My boy, you'll forgive me that I was over rough? I did not know—I did not know!"

He turned to the students, and with a look and tone that came straight from his great heart, he said—

"And, let me say to you all, I am rejoiced to be shown I am teaching a class of gentlemen!"

Scottish lads can cheer as well as hiss and that Blackie learned abundantly. Then and many a time thereafter.

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There is something wrong somewhere, if you feel spiteful and envious whenever you see another woman wearing a better bonnet than you can afford.

"Shorter" Pastry and "Shorter" Bills.

We are talking about a "shortening" which will not cause indigestion. Those who "know a thing or two" about Cooking (Marion Harland among a host of others) are using

COTTOLENE

instead of lard. None but the purest, healthiest and cleanest ingredients go to make up Cottolene. Lard isn't healthy, and is not always clean. Those who use Cottolene will be healthier and wealthier than those who use lard—Healthier because they will get "shorter" bread; wealthier because they will get "shorter" grocery bills—for Cottolene costs no more than lard and goes twice as far—so is but half as expensive.

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MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

Among the notables at Lucerne this summer is Mary Anderson-Navarro, with a devoted husband in attendance.

Miss Amye Reade, a niece of the novelist, Charles Reade, has followed in the footsteps of her uncle to the extent of writing two novels, "Rudy" and "Zerma."

Lady Tryon has declined to accept the pension of £600 a year to which she is entitled. She had intended to place it at the disposal of the trustees of the Victoria fund, but as the sum collected for that purpose was ample, she has simply declined the pension.

Herr Pollak, who claims to be the fastest talker in the world, is on exhibition at the World's Fair. He has a meaningless list of 20,000 words, which he says he can repeat in forty minutes, and he offers a prize of 40,000 florins to any stenographer who will take him down.

Another of Queen Victoria's oldest servants has just died. This time it is Mr. W. H. Gower, who was "yeoman of the silver pantry" at Windsor Castle. Yeoman Gower had been in the Queen's service for over half a century and was much esteemed by his mistress.

Empress Elizabeth of Austria lately built, at an enormous cost, a magnificent marble villa at Corfu and christened it "L'Achilleon." Her majesty has made the following codicil to her will: "I wish to be interred at Corfu, near the river, so that the waves can continually break on my tomb."

Adelina Patti is coming over for another "farewell tour of America." She has arranged to sail Oct. 28, on the Lucania. She has undertaken to appear at forty concerts, for which it is said, she is to receive the sum of £40,000. Her first appearance will be on Nov. 9 in New York.

It is to be feared that the Infanta has been spoiled by her taste of the land of the free, for she is reported as having a little lark in London. She has been living "in-cog" in a furnished house, riding in the park on a hired horse, and shopping on foot. Her two small boys, Princes Louis and Alfonso, have been with her.

In connection with the Kaiser's recent visit to England and his frequent absence from home, there is a good story told of his little son, Prince Eitel Fritz, who has just reached the mature age of ten. "Papa," once remarked the little fellow, "is always away from home. It is a good thing mamma remains with us, else there would be nobody here when the babies are born!"

Edison prefers to employ women to carry out the details of his electrical inventions, and credits them with more quickness and insight about the mysteries of machinery than men have. He is credited with saying that women "have more sense about machinery in one minute than men have in a whole lifetime," and proves the sincerity of his faith by keeping 200 women on his payroll.

The Woman's Library at Chicago contains 7,000 volumes in sixteen languages and represents twenty-three countries. It is to be placed in the permanent Woman's Memorial Building, which is to be erected in Chicago, and will form a nucleus for the collection of the literary work of women in the future, as well as through its catalogue soon to be issued, a complete bibliography of woman's writings up to the present