Spray of Petroleum Produces a Temperature of 3 000 Degrees Fahrenheit.

When the stockholders of the Massachusetts Cremation Society meet to hear the reports of officers and to review the second year of the society's existence, they will find that, contrary to the experience of most cremation societies, the second year of this one has been more successful than the first. In most societies the second year shows a falling off in the number of cremations, due to a fligging interest. After that the number of cremations has shown a steady increase. The Massachusetts society began the cremation of bodies Jan. 4, 1894, and in the first year eightyseven bodies were thus disposed of, some of them having been held for cremation from the last months of the preceding year. This year eighty-five bodies have cremated, an actual increase in number over last year of about ten.

Perhaps no more forcible argument has been made in favor of cremation as a mode of disposing of the bodies of the dead than the experience of the constructors who were engaged in the construction of the subway, who found it necessary to remove two or three hundred bodies along the Boylston street mail, and bury most of them together in trenches. The members of the society point to this fact as one of the most striking illustrations of the advantages of cremation. The growth of cremation has been slow, but it has been sure. The first crematory in this country was erected by Dr. Julius Le Moyne in Washington, Pa., in 1875. In the first decade only thirtysix bodies were cremated; in the second decade 264 bodies.

With a few exceptions, the stockholders of the Massachusetts society who have died within the past two years have had their bodies cremated. Of the 174 cremations by the Massachusetts society, however, only a few were of bodies of stockholders. Looking over the list of those cremated within the past year, one finds that all ages and classes were represented, and that more men than women were cremated. Two or three well-known clergymen, among them the Rev. O. B. Frothingham, were cremated, and among others may be mentioned the son of Dr. Le Moyne, who, as stated, was the first to start cermation in America. It is notable, also. that the body of one Catholic has thus been disposed of this year. Ten years ago a Papal edict pronounced lagainst cremation, but two years ago the interdict was removed, cremation now being sanctioned where the priest consents. Among the bodies cremated by the Massachusetts society were those of several persons who had died of contagious and malignant diseases. It is not necessary, under the method employed at the Forest Hills crematory, to take the bodies from the coffin, an advantage which can be plainly understood in the cases of persons who have died from contagious diseases.

Bodies have been sent to Boston for cremation from all parts of New England during the last year, and from points as far distant as Eistport, Me., Truro, N. S., and New York city, although there is a crematory at the last-named place. All who have visited the crematory to see the process applied to bodies of their friends or relatives have gone away satisfied of the advantages of cremation.

The number of visitors at the Forest Hills crematory within the past year has been very large, and a committee from Milwaukee, where a large crematory is soon to be erected, recently visited the Boston institution and decided to adopt the methods in use here. The Boston system differs from that of most other incinerators in that a spray of superheated petroleum is used, and a heat of 3,000 degrees can be secured. Under this system expensive coffics are unnecessary, and the body is not removed from the coffin, even if it is of lead, but goes directly into the retort. The crematory is always open for inspection, and on pleasant Sundays in summer has been visited by as many as 200 people in one

Reports of the financial officers to the stockholders will show that the organization is flourishing and has never had to borrow a dollar, The society has a small deficit, owing to incidental expenses, such as repairs, but the cost of running the crematory has been fully met, and the deficit will be made up by the saie of stock. The society has erected the walls of a chapel, which is to be a part of the completed cramatory an l hopes soon to sell enough stock to finish the building. It will take about \$10,-000 to put on the roof and finish the inside of the chapel, and it is hoped this stock will be taken soon after the next annual meeting.-Ex.

Maine's Wealth in Ferests.

The extent of the woods of Maine is a matter on which few people have any very clear idea. There are at the present time scm - 13 568,000 acres of forest in the State. These figures may not convey much to the ordinary mind, but the fact that one could take the States of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Delaware and hide them away in the forests of Maine ought to give some idea of the immense size of the Maina woods. The assessed valuation of this forest is \$35,250,000, but there is no doubt that much of the magnificent water power of the State is due to the effect of the vast forests around the head waters and sources of her mighty rivers. The value of Maine's forests is a thing that connot be estimated, and the above value is based simply on the lumber and land-Argus.

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DICTATOR AND YANKEE.

An Amusing Story of Guzman Blanco and a Hustler from the North. A gentleman who went to Venezuela

some years ago to secure a contract from the Government tells an interesting story of his experiences with Gazman Blanco, who was then the autocrat of that country. For three or four months he was kept dangling around the Casa Amarilla (the yellow house,) in which the President resides, and finally told Guzman that he wanted a final answer. Guzman turned to him with some impatience and said:

"Come to my country house at Antimino at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning and we will close this matter up."

"I'll be on hand, your excellency," was the reply.

The next morning he was called at 4 galloped out to Antimino, and was at the Dictator's residence before the clock in the parish church struck 6. To his surprise he found twenty or thirty people waiting to be received, and some of them men of importance, while the President sat upon the porch sipping his coffee and reading the morning paper. It was considerel a dreadful breach of etiquette to interrupt the great man when he was reading, and there was not a person in the entire company who dared do it. They simply stood around or sat by where he could see them and awaited his summons. But the Yankee marched boldly up to the porch, and said: "Good morning, General."

Guzman Blanco looked up in surprise from his paper, but the Yankee, knowing his temper and peculiarities, did not wait for him to speak.

"In my country, General," he said, "it is not the custom for people to get up so early, but it is also a point of honor to meet an engagement promptly, and you see I am here on time.'

"Have you had your coffee?" asked Guzman. "Yes, sir; at the hotel a few minutes

"It must have been miserable stuff You ought to taste mine. I use none but what I grow on my own plantation, and always

carry it with me, no matter to what part of the world I go, and ringing the bell he ordered a cup of coffee and a roll for his But the latter did not propose to waste

time, and immediately said: "You did me the honor to say yesterday that you would close up that matter at our interview this morning, and I have come prepared to do

"I wish my people were as prompt as you. Our great fault as a nation is procrastination. It we were as energetic as your countrymen Venezuels would be a richer and more productive nation," and with that they went into business.

For an hour the details of the concession were discussed, and, being agree1 upon, the President dictated to his stenographer the terms of the contract. Then turning to his guest he said: "My secretary will write this out and to-

morrow we will sign it." "I would prefer to have the documen: signed now," was the Yankee's reply. "You have just said that the fault of your people was procrastination. and I propose that we avoid it this morring."

The secretary looked up in amazement. He had seen men sent to the calaboose for less, and evidently expected that the Dictator would call a policeman to take the Yankee in charge. Guzman was a little angry at first, but, seeing that his guest was not abashed, smiled and said:

"That is a near way of applying my philosophy to your own interest. We will wait until the document is written and

Handing a cigar to the Yankee he lit one himself and sat down for a chat while the secretary was writing. In a moment or two the Director-G neral of Police tapped at the door and said that he wanted to see the President concerning a matter that required his instant attention.

"You will have to wait until I am through with this Yankee." was the Dictator's reply; "he is teaching me the way they do business in the United States."-Chicago Record.

Loved the Colored man.

The peculiar case of a young woman trying to prove that she has negro blood in her veins will come up this week in court in Muncie, Ind. The young woman is the daughter of a prosperous white farmer in that place, and there has never been any suggestion that she was other than of pure white blood, and there is said not to be the slightest ground for her claim now. But she fell in love with a full-blooded negro, and was married to him by a colored minister last week. It is unlawful in Indiana for white people and colored people to intermarry, and the couple were arrested and for unlawful marriage. The girl declares she is of colored blood, and will try to prove her allegation in order to keep her husband, and to keep him and herself out of juil. She is a decided blonde and of attractive face and manners.

Some Worms Are Cu lous.

The most curious creature of the worm family is the diplozoon, a singular parasite which intests the gills of several species of fish, particularly the bream. Each individual diplozoon has two distinct bodies, united in the middle so as to form a perfect St. Andrew's cross, each half of the creature containing precisely the same kind o f organs, viz, an alimentary canal, a venous system, reproductive organs, etc

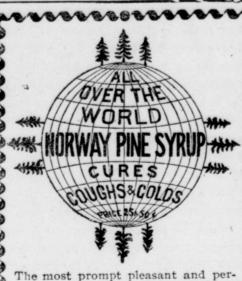
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The Singular Mistake that Broke Up the Circle of the Golden Garter.

A remarkable thing happened in connection with the organization of the Circle of the Golden Garter in the corset factory in Shelton Conn., recently. The girls employed there are interested in secret societies, and it occurred to one of them to organize an association with a secret ritual, signs, grips, and passwords. She consulted her fellow employees, and they all agreed to join it. After work, one afternoon, they got together and signed a constitution, nearly fifty names being secured. It was proposed to meet for organization last week, when the orginator of the circle was to submit the ritual and other details. The question of a badge was brought up at this meeting, and, as it was thought best to have the badges ready to give out on the night of institution, the question was settled then with little difficulty. A golden garter made of silk, was adopted with a unanimity that was surprising. when it is considered that all were young women.

One of the charter members is considered an expert with the needle, and to her was given the contract for furnishing the garters. She purchased a large quantity of the material-how much is not made public-and set at work on the garters and kept at it industriously for several evenings. On the night of institution the garters were ready and the contractor took them with her to the place of meeting. Before the meeting was called to order one of the girls, a plump and pretty lass, proposed that they take a look at the new badges, as it would save time after the meeting opened. The idea met with approval, and the package of garters was opened and passed around, each one of the fifty girls taking ore-only one was to be worn, on the right leg-and examining the workmanship. This passed inspection and the maker was complimented on her skill. Then one of the girls, bending down, said she would try one of the garters on just for fun. She unbuckled it, passed it around her leg just below the knee, gave a look, grew rosy in the face, tugged a trifle, looked annoyed, and stood up again. "What's the matter, Mamie?" asked one of the girls who were watching h r.

"Nothing, only that garter isn't large e ough for me," said the young woman. Pea e hand me another."

It was passed to her, and again she bent down. The rosy cheeks grew relder and redde: as she tried to clasp the two ends together. She threw the badge of the order on the floor in a pet and walked into an adjoining room, where she conferred for a few minutes wi h the originator of the circle. That young woman came in and remarked that it would not be a bad idea to try on the garters and have each member select one that would fit. The suggestion was approved, and then began a remarkable scene. Forty-nine good-looking his friends, than when themshilessly and indiffergirls, none over 23 years old all bright and interesting, sat down on the floor put their feet up on chairs, stooped down, or assumed some other convenient po ition for putting on the garters. There were numerous ejaculations of wonder and surprise, while an occasional word of deeper meaning could be heard above the hubbub. At last som thing happened. One of the leaders threw her garter across the room and cried. Then another said something about scandalous. Another mentioned broomsticks. There was a general cessation of buckling on garters and each looked at the other in surprise.

"Say, Kittie," one of the girls said finally to the girl who had taken the contract to make the garters, "did you make the badges all of the same size?"

"Why, yes; I didn't think to vary them." "Well, do they fit your legs?"

"Yes; I made them by one of mine." "Well, then, you can wear 'em. There isn't one of the lot that will fit anybody else, and as for me, I'm proud of it!' and tears came into the speaker's eyes as she made a dash for her hat and cloak and started for the hall door.

This was the signal for the dispersing of the crowd. In ten minutes nobody was left in the place but the girl who took the contract, and she had fifty handsome yellow silk garters in a box which she didn't know what to do with.

The Circle of the Golden Garter hasn't organized yet and its prospects are mighty slim-slimmer than certain other things.

Considered it too Personal.

There is a law in France which embitters the life of every dramatic author, as it conters upon every French citizen the right of having a novel or play immediately suppre sed by the police if his name happens to appear in it. In their anxiety to avoid unpleasantness the parodists of the Cluny Theatre decided to designate the characters in a recent piece by numbers. The effect thus produced is somewhat peculiar, as, for

"Ah, charming 132 you are the mos adorable of a'l women." "And you are a flatterer, Count 18."

While the two are thus exchanging compliments, an elderly gentleman suddenly appears and calls out in a voice of thunder: "I have caught you now, Count 18. Are there any cowards in your family?"

ling in his shoes. "Gracious! Duke 53." "turn this gentleman out."

sprang to his feet. direction of the stage. "I will send you a summons."

The Duke answers in surprise : "What have you to complain of? Sev-

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"I have caught you now, Count 18. Are here any cowards in your family?"

"Gracious!" whispered Count 18, trembing in his shoes. "Gracious! Duke 53."

"Seventy-four!" exclaims the Duke, turn this gentleman out."

But at this point a fellow in the audience prang to his feet.

"That's really too bad," he shouts in the irrection of the stage. "I will send you a Lines to Digby and Annapolis and Charlottetown and Summerside, P. E. I., with nearly 600 agencies.

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'That's just it. It's the very number I bore when in juil, and I am not going to be degraded by having a servant dubbed with it."

Everybody had to give in to that argument. It was the law. The play was stopped then and there.—Pearson's Week-law.

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