

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

It is stated that the authorities at Scotland Yard are now engaged in subjecting a polished electric lamp to practical tests, to ascertain if it will stand the necessary wear and tear of the service.

In South Africa the warmest month is February and the coldest is July. The temperature is not as trying as that of Central Europe. The rainfall for the year is light, varying from five to 20 inches.

The German army authorities are experimenting on a cotton stuff as a material for balloons. It is treated with rubber before being used. The fabric is said to have great strength, and is better than silk which is apt to generate electricity.

Professor R. S. Woodward of Columbia university, in a recent paper shows reasons for thinking that the earth's atmosphere extends to a height varying with the distance from the equator. At the equator he estimates the height to be 26,000 miles which diminishes to only 17,000 miles at the poles. But of course, beyond a few hundred miles above the ground, the density of the atmosphere becomes so slight that its effects are imperceptible.

The discovery of two Belgian chemists, Hoho and Lagrange, whereby iron may be brought to a white heat by dipping it in water, is attracting much attention in Europe. A metal vessel is partly filled with water and connected up to a source of electricity supply giving 30 amperes of current. The other pole is attached to the iron rod provided with an insulated handle. The water offers great resistance to the passage of a current through the combination, a very high electrical potential being thus generated in the neighborhood of the iron rod, whereby the water is rapidly decomposed, and a temperature of 1200 to 1500 degrees is set up within a period of 20 seconds.

In the last 60 years the speed of ocean steamers has been increased from eight and one-half to 22 and one-half knots an hour. Ships have been more than trebled in length, about doubled in breadth, and increased tenfold in displacement. The number of passengers carried by a steamship has been increased from 100 to nearly 2000. The engine power has been made 40 times as great, while the rate of coal consumption per horse power per hour is now only about one-third what it was in 1840. The weight of the machinery per horse power has also been very greatly reduced. Were the engines of the Campania proportionately as heavy as those in use 60 years ago, they would weigh about 14,000 tons. In other words, machinery, boilers and coal would exceed the total weight of the ship as she floats today.

The Art of Dining Out.

If the hostess can catch no comet she must be contented with meteoric wits, who make up for real brilliancy by saying what they do say quickly and spontaneously—with the punsters, in short, and such hair trigger intellects. Failing these, the last class above the bores-positive are those well-meaning diners-out who load themselves with stories for a dinner as a soldier goes into an engagement with a belt full of cartridges. They may not get a chance for a shot very often, but, given an opening, their fire is accurate and deadly till the last round is gone, when they are at the mercy of a more inventive wit. Yet even these weltersweights have their place at the table, for we must have bread as well as wine.

It was one of Lewis Carroll's pet fancies to have a dinner table in the shape of a ring, and half the guests seated inside, upon a platform which revolved slowly around the circle till each one had passed opposite every guest seated on the outside of the table. But this would break up many of the little secret schemes for which the modern dinner is planned, and many a young man would suddenly find himself flirting with the wrong lady across the board. —Gelett Burgess, in Harper's Bazar.

Hunting Rabbits in Nebraska.

Boys in Nebraska, a ferretless country, carry with them, when hunting, a coil of hose about an inch in diameter, which they pay out down a rabbit hole until the bottom is reached, meanwhile drawing the mouth of a sack over the hole. A cheerful shout down the hose brings the rabbit out at his best pace, plump into the sack. The hose evidently does the business as quick as the ferret, with no vexatious delays.

The Appropos Sneez.

"How did he acquire that fine Russian accent?" asked one linguist. "Very easily!" answered the other. "He made a deliberate practice of putting too much pepper on his omelet." —Washington Star.

The children of the Berkeley, Cal., public schools are required to bring their own cup, towel, and soap to school, to insure the best of sanitary conditions.

Use of Electricity for Surgery.

An electrically driven saw has been found to be of great use in surgery. The shaft upon which it is run is connected with the motor by a flexible spiral coil encased in a braided sheath, the whole being three feet long. The saw is not connected directly with the end of the shaft, but is attached to it through a right-angle bevel, so that it operates in a plane with the end of the shaft, which makes it more convenient for handling and puts it in a better position for use. The machine has already been extensively used in the larger hospitals in this city, and operations which have been usually fatal with the old handsaw have been successful with the new one, delicacy of cutting being its chief advantage.

Just So.

"What is an island?" asked the teacher, addressing her interrogation to the class in geography. "An island, ma'am," replied Johnny Broadhead, a studious lad who had Porto Rico in mind, "is a body of land entirely surrounded by politics." —Puck.

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Above Prejudice.

The story of the honest Swiss, who was too busy to leave his farm, and begged the neighbor who was bringing suit against him kindly to plead for both parties, has an amusing parallel in the judicial history of Connecticut.

A certain justice of the peace, wishing to bring suit against a citizen, consulted the statutes and found that suits of such a character might be brought before any justice of the peace.

"Well, then," thought he, "I'll just try the case myself."

Straightway he made out a writ against his adversary and signed it.

On the day set for trial, the defendant appeared with counsel. Both gentlemen, not unnaturally, objected to the constitution of the court.

"Why," demanded the justice, "do you deny that I am a justice of the peace?"

The lawyer would not contend this point, but argued that such a construction of the law was against all sense and reason.

A vigorous altercation ensued, and then the judge remarked that not for the world would he have two gentlemen suppose him governed by any personal considerations. "I will, therefore," he added, gracefully, "render judgment against myself, and then appeal to the Supreme Court."

"But the mischief of it was," said the justice, relating the story afterward, "that when my judgment got to the Supreme Court, it was unanimously reaffirmed."

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Mrs. Joke-Smith—What's the matter with him?

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