

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Wm. BIGELOW went from California to Michigan to prove that his wife was one of the "Green-heirs," only to discover that hers was a different family of Greens. He felt so himself.

GENERAL SIR GARNET WOLSELEY says that one secret of the superiority of Japan's military system is that the profession of arms is held in high regard, while in China the lowest classes only are recruited into the army and soldiers are rather looked down upon.

At the last monthly sitting of the magistrates at Holbeach, England, there were no cases to be tried, and the chairman was presented with a pair of white gloves in recognition of the event. It was the first occurrence of such an event in fifty years, if indeed it had ever happened before at Holbeach.

SOMETIMES a good thing happens to a woman by accident. Mrs. L. E. Castle, of Callender, Ia., has just been qualified to act as justice of the peace by chance. Her husband runs a drug store in her name, and thus her initials were used on the ballots instead of his. As there was no law against her acting as justice, she has been sworn in.

PLEASURE loving as they are, the Japanese are capable of asceticism, as in the case of the schoolboy who refused to eat cake at a party. His reason was that he had to earn his own living and didn't wish to get the taste for luxuries.

HERE are statistics which should fill the hearts of all opponents of the new woman with glee. The Birmingham (England) registers show that for the year 1894, which was remarkable for the appearance of the new woman, was also remarkable for an alarming increase of crime among women. It is assumed that all other centers where women are actively engaged in wage earning pursuits show a proportionate increase.

A NEW peril to the profession has been discovered by Prof. Demosthenes, of Bucharest, who writes to the Bulletin Medical warning his brother doctors against receiving fees sent to them by patients suffering from contagious diseases. Such money, the learned professor points out, ought to be kept in a pocket-book of metal, which can be sterilized by heat.

JUDGE JOHNSON, of Milwaukee, has sensibly decided that a check given to a woman's husband is not a payment to her. The case was that of Susan Marrigold, who agreed to sign away her dower right in a piece of land sold by her husband to the Cadahys for \$500. The purchasers gave her check to her husband, and the court held this was not sufficient.

A WELL known horseman has discovered a fact in natural history which may not be generally known. It is that all four footed beasts, in making the first movement in walking, running or any sort of forward motion, always employ the left hind leg as a starter. Even a child, if put down on all fours, and bidden to advance in that position, will make the first move with his left leg, his hands at the time occupying the place of an animal's forelegs.

The London Statist contains an article on the "Command of the Sea," written by T. Lloyd, in which the curious argument is advanced that in case of a war England "would in many respects be infinitely better able to bear the cost of a great conflict than the United States was thirty years ago, because," remarks the writer, "in the first place, the money which the government would require to borrow would be raised at home. Consequently the debt charge would not be a drain upon our resources; it would be merely a transfer of wealth from one portion of the people to another."

PORTS rave over tropical isles of Eden, but as far as white men are concerned there is no paradise in the South seas without its drawbacks. Robert Louis Stevenson thought Samoa was the ideal place, but that opinion was largely due to the fact the climate suited him. Americans or Europeans who are in good health do not fancy Samoa, as one is apt to contract some curious maladies. Many white men have fallen victims to elephantiasis and other terrible diseases. Now comes a report that a deadly kind of malarial fever is slaying hundreds on the islands. Civilization promises in a few years to reduce the Samoans as seriously as it has affected the Hawaiians.

THE Age of Steel says that the Mississippi river commission is considering the subject of dredging the Mississippi river along its entire navigable length. Experiments have been made with a dredge which is used in Germany for similar purposes, and the best results have been obtained. On the Charakas bar, below Cairo, a new channel was made, having seven feet of water, where there was four and one-half before. Above Cape Girardeau, the same excellent results were obtained in the face of adverse conditions. It is thought that the outlook for the

establishment of a permanent dredging force is good, and that soon river-men may look for a clear channel from St. Louis to the gulf at all seasons of the year.

It was stated last year that out of the 70,000 college men in this country and Canada, 38,000 were church members, and the remaining 32,000 were not. Next statistics were furnished by the Young Men's Christian associations established in some hundreds of colleges. Since that report, however, thirty-six new branches have been formed, giving larger returns, though the average is not so good. Three hundred and thirty-five college associations show that 32,000 men are church members in the colleges which have associations and about 48,000 are not. There are said to be altogether 200,000 men in the institutions of higher learning on this continent, so that, assuming the same proportion, there are probably 85,000 church members out of 200,000 college students.

WHEN Yukichi Fukuzawa, the great Japanese teacher and pamphleteer, first visited the United States, some thirty years ago, he purchased out of his slender means a copy of Webster's American dictionary of the English language. The book became the instrument by means of which the storehouse of western scientific and technical knowledge was first unlocked to the hungry Japanese intellect. The soldier, the missionary, and, above all, the merchant, have hitherto been recognized as the advanced guard in the invasion of barbarism by the forces of civilization. It is time that the lexicographer should receive his due. Let missionaries arm themselves with dictionaries and make a still hunt for heathen scholars who need such books. The Japs are intelligent enough to know what they want.

THAT no less than 23,000 people should have perished last year in the Indian province of Bengal from snake bites shows how little progress has been made by science toward the discovery of some antidote for the poison of these reptiles. The trouble is that the poison of nearly each species seems to affect a different organ of the body. Thus the bite of a cobra seems to paralyze the lungs, while the poison of the dabola produces terrible convulsions. From time immemorial physicians of every clime and race have devoted their energies to the discovery of cures for these bites; but judging from the heavy list of casualties from this source alone in Bengal, the most highly civilized province and possessed of the best system of medical supervision of all English colonial dependencies, it would seem that all efforts in this direction have been abortive.

FRUIT is not valued for food as it should be. The common notion is that it is too watery to be of great value, except as a relish. The grains that are nearly free from water are depended upon for nutrition. The chemists tell us that most kinds of fruits average 83 per cent. water and only 17 per cent. of solid dry matter. How, it may be asked, can men live on food with so little substance as this? But milk has 87 per cent. of water and is very nearly a complete food. It is much more a complete food than whole dry grain would be. Neither flour nor grain can be well used unless cooked. For this water is added. Then, in eating bread or puddings, or whatever else is made from flour and meal, more water is drunk. If it isn't, the food constipates and does not digest properly. One way or another the human system requires a large percentage of water, as, indeed, it is itself largely composed of water. Fruit has a considerable proportion of sweet. This is as nutritious as starch, and more easily digested. When starchy foods are eaten they are changed to sugar by the gastric juices. So far, therefore, the sugar of fruits is already partly digested.

Our Animal Friends, the monthly journal published by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is interesting itself in the welfare of animals in transit, from port to port, especially in the Atlantic cattle trade. It points out "the necessity which exists for better arrangements to prevent wanton cruelties to animals at sea, and the still greater necessity for demanding of shipowners in the cattle trade that they shall make arrangements to prevent needless suffering and destruction of property." Bills have been introduced in Congress for the correction of these evils, but thus far the matter has had comparatively little attention in either the House or the Senate. Our Animal Friends urges that Congress pass a bill providing for an international humane conference, at which the United States shall be represented by five delegates appointed by the President of the United States. It is further urged no remuneration be paid the delegates. "Man can be found," says Our Animal Friends, "who are competent and qualified to act as delegates to such a conference, and who would willingly give their time and services without remuneration. Men of the right stamp would desire to make the work as short and effective as possible. To propose the be-

stowal of five salaries of \$5,000 a year is to invite the candidacy of men of a very different stamp, whose view would be to continue their tenure of office as long as possible."

FOR eighteen years the city of Humboldt, Kan., has had no qualified municipal officers, although an election is held every year. The council meets without taking the oath of office. The mayor is merely chairman of a committee of citizens—the council—and the meetings of the committee are held regularly. Ordinances are passed giving the city marshal and the street commissioner power to keep the town orderly and clean. The council cannot handle any public money. The little money used by the council is raised by private subscription among the residents of the town. The city marshal is only a fiat functionary, so to speak, as are the street commissioner and the city clerk. In other words, the city of Humboldt is not a legal corporation, on the theory that having no qualified officers it cannot be required by the courts to cancel a bonded debt incurred eighteen years ago when a railroad was projected from Fort Scott to Humboldt. The road was graded, but as the expected tide of prosperity showed no sign of setting in, the tracks were not laid. The bonds were bought up by "innocent purchasers" for twenty-five cents on the dollar, and the people of Humboldt, having received no benefit from the railroad enterprise, declined to pay their creditors more than that proportion of the face-value of the bonds; hence the fiction of a city government which has existed for eighteen years. They have always been ready to liquidate their debt at twenty-five cents on the dollar, and now expect, as their offer has never been accepted, that in two years more the statute of limitations will release them from any obligation whatsoever, when the municipal officers will qualify as formerly.

Schoolhouses for Truants.

One result of the compulsory education law of New York, which has just gone into effect, and the enforcement of which is sure to be attended by many difficulties, will be the erection, or at least the establishment, in New York city of truant schools for the exclusive accommodation of habitual non-attendants or pupils who are insubordinate, disorderly or irregular in their attendance. If the law is to be strictly carried out, says the Washington Post, it will give a new impetus to the building of new schoolhouses all over the State, for there are numerous large towns where there is not room enough for the regularly enrolled pupils who are desirous of going to school, to say nothing of the truants.

The law requires that all children between 8 and 12 must attend during the entire period that public schools are in session, from Oct. 1 to June 1; that all between 12 and 14 must attend at least eighty consecutive school days during the same period, unless regularly and lawfully engaged in some useful employment of service, and that all between 14 and 16 must attend when not so employed, parents and guardians failing to comply with the law being subject to a penalty of \$5 for the first offense and fine and imprisonment for each subsequent offense. Under such stringent provisions it is obvious that the full purpose of the law will not be filled without more or less troublesome delay, but the fact that the State superintendent of education is authorized to withhold one-half the State school money from any city that fails to enforce the law to his satisfaction will help things into shape in time. Any failure on the part of the city of New York will lose for its schools the handsome sum of one-half of \$300,000, and this amount the city superintendent proposes to have applied toward increased accommodations for truants and the establishment of a farm school for youths of the incorrigible class.

A Legless Skater.

Charles Murphy, a legless man, was the central figure of attraction in the crowd of skaters on the Schuylkill canal, Reading, Pa. He glided backward and forward over the smooth surface, sitting on the skates and using his hands for propulsion. He entered a number of races and always came out first. Suddenly the ice broke and Murphy went down, and three men who were close to him were also carried into the water. A number of persons jumped into the large opening to the rescue. It proved a difficult task to keep Murphy afloat, the water he being unable to swim. After he had gone down the third time he was landed in an entirely exhausted condition. He was carried to a nearby house, where he was resuscitated after half an hour's work. Murphy, at the age of 10 years, had both legs crushed by being run over on the railroad. The limbs were amputated at the hips. He is now a voter and one of the characters of the city.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report. Royal Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

"Running the Gauntlet." The origin of "running the gauntlet" dates back to medieval times. The word "gauntlet," from the French word "glove," may simply the iron glove of a coat of armor, and it is thus directly associated with a military punishment where the delinquent had to run between the lines and the soldiers were only permitted to strike with the gloved hand—that is, the hand with the gauntlet on. But other etymologists derive gauntlet in the phrase from gantloep (Dutch gang, a "passage," and loopen, to run,) meaning a military punishment which consisted in making the culprit, naked to the waist, pass repeatedly through two rows of soldiers facing each other, armed with short sticks or weapons, with which they hit him as he passed.—New York Advertiser.

Forty Tons in One Block. The most enormous single block of granite ever quarried in this country weighs forty tons, and was cut in Henry B. Slaven's Blue Hill quarry, at Blue Hill, Me.

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The Bees to Blame. A Bristol (England) druggist, who was charged with selling beeswax adulterated with solid paraffin pleaded that the bees themselves were to blame. It appears that English hive owners place within the reach of the bees artificial foundations for making their comb. The result is honey with a decided admixture of paraffin. British India has over 2,000,000 square miles, and is about the equal in size to that portion of the United States lying east of the Rocky mountains. U7

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A Ripans Tabule. SHE WAS BLIND. A blindness comes to me now and then. I have it now. It is queer, I can see your eyes but not your nose. I can't read because some of the letters are blurred; dark spots cover them; it is mighty uncomfortable. I know all about it; it's DYSPEPSIA. Take one of these; it will cure you in ten minutes. What is it? A Ripans Tabule.

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