

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

PROF. HIRAM FOREES, of the Stevens Institute of Technology, says that in fifty years from now two-thirds of the work now done by men and women will be taken off their hands by electricity.

STEEL shipbuilding for the traffic of the great lakes is in a highly prosperous condition. The size of lake vessels steadily increases; two ships of 6,000 tons burden are now on the stocks in South Chicago.

In the five years ending April 2, 1900, there will be 130 retirements in the army. The list includes one lieutenant general, two major generals, seven brigadier generals, forty-four colonels, seventeen lieutenant colonels, twenty-five majors and thirty-four captains.

ACCORDING to an English writer, who has made a recent football game played near London by feminine eleven an excuse for discussing the running powers of women, "even the most athletic of them can never rise beyond a compromise between a scuttie and a scamper." This phrase is certainly ungentle; if numberless legends, ancient and modern, are to be trusted, it is also untrue.

VERY few people understand the enormous scope of the operations of a modern railway company. There are now probably nearly 900,000 persons employed directly by the railways of the United States, and if any account is taken of the families dependent on many of these employes it will be seen that possibly 2,000,000 of the residents of this country derive their support from these companies.

A GREAT international exposition of industries and fine arts, authorized by the federal government of Mexico, will be inaugurated in the City of Mexico on April 2, 1896, and will remain open for a period of at least six months. This will be Mexico's first exposition. The exposition is to include all kinds of industrial, scientific, commercial and artistic productions, and to embrace, in fact, the whole range of human activity.

The English journals are concerned about the state of the Queen's health and are advising her to restrict her diet. Truth recommends her to give up tea, to eat as sparingly as possible of meat and fish, and to make luncheon her heaviest meal of the day. Queen Victoria has long been threatened with loss of the use of her legs, and as she is unable to stand erect at times without support, her attendants find it hard to dress her.

SALES of postage stamps by the Postoffice Department have long been regarded as furnishing a reliable indication of the condition of the business of the country. Official figures for the last three months of 1894, which have just been given out, show that more than \$19,405,000 worth of stamps were sold, this being the greatest amount ever sold in any quarter year. The officials regard this as irrefutable evidence that trade is rapidly recovering from the recent depression, and as good cause for general rejoicing.

THERE are at present in round numbers 180,000 miles of steam railroads in operation in the United States, but neither this fact nor the remarkable growth of the electric systems can be taken as meaning that the construction of steam roads in this country has approached anything like a termination. When the vast area of the country is taken into consideration, affording as it does ample room and the necessity for almost countless miles of new roads, and when, also, the demands for the transportation of heavy and varied traffic are not lost sight of, it will readily be seen that the construction of steam railways is in no danger of being discontinued, but that, on the contrary, there is a bright and profitable future for all those engaged in the industry, provided of course, that the long delayed revival in general business may be counted upon with any degree of certainty.

To bring the products of the West to the Atlantic Ocean and send them across to Europe as cheaply as possible is always being studied by wealthy men and companies. The latest plan is to build a ship canal from the great lakes to the Atlantic, using on the way the waters of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. These bodies of water will be joined by wide canals, twenty feet deep, which will have a steady flow to the Hudson, as the lakes are higher than the river. Beside carrying freight the company will supply towns and villages along the Hudson with pure water. Every year there are shipped 60,000,000 tons of freight from the West which could be taken through the canal. When the canal is in use ships will be loaded in Chicago and sent direct to foreign countries, saving the cost of loading cars and then unloading again into ships at New York. The canal might also be useful in time of war.

A HIGHLY interesting study of what a hundred years of war have cost France in human life has just

been made public by Dr. Lagneau, member of the Academy of Medicine of Paris, and is found in the Lancet. When the revolution broke out France's effective army was only 120,000 men. For the wars waged during ten years in Belgium, on the Sambre, the Meuse, the Rhine, the Alps, the Pyrenees, in the Vendee, and in Egypt, there were called out 2,800,000. At the census made in the ninth year of the republic there remained of these only 677,598. In killed and in dead by disease the wars of the first republic cost France 2,122,402 men. From 1801 to Waterloo 8,157,398 men scarcely sufficed to fill the blanks which, in an incessant war against combined Europe, France incurred at Austerlitz, Jena, Auerstadt, Friedland, Saragossa, Eckmuhl, Essling, Wagram, Taragona, Smolensk, Moscow, Lutzen, Bautzen, Dresden, Leipzig, and Waterloo. Under the restoration Louis Philippe, and the Second Republic, in spite of the war in Spain (1823), the conquest of Algiers (1830), and the taking of Antwerp, France passed through a period of comparative calm. The army numbered about 213,748, and the mortality averaged 22 per 1,000. In 1853-5 commenced the epoch of the great wars—the Crimea, Italy (1859-60), China (1860-1), Mexico (1862-5), and the disasters of 1870. In the Crimea, out of 300,268 men 95,615 succumbed; in Italy, out of 500,000 there died 13,673; in China 950, and in Cochinchina 43 per 1,000. The Second empire cost France about 1,600,000 soldiers. According to Dr. Lagneau's demographic tables the century from 1795 to 1895 witnessed the death in battle or by disease of 6,000,000 French soldiers.

It is understood that the effort which was made toward the close of the last session of Congress to secure a new international commission for the consideration of the seal question, and with the view of preventing the entire annihilation of the species, will be revived at the beginning of the next session, when it is believed that Congress, having more time for considering the matter, will be favorably disposed toward action. It was urged when the bill was before Congress last session that there was great danger if the present regulations were allowed to remain in force another year there would be very few of the seals left to protect, but this view is not pressed now, and the opinion is expressed that even after this year's crop of pelts shall have been harvested there will be a sufficient nucleus remaining to allow a rapid increase in case these left are sufficiently protected. The experts on the question estimate that there yet remains about 800,000 seals in the American herd, and they expect it to be reduced at least one-third during the approaching season. This estimate allows for the killing of 100,000 of these seals in 1895. This is in excess of the number of American seals known to have been killed last year by about 44,000, but there are reasons for believing that the British sealers will enjoy some privileges this season which they did not have in 1894, and it is also surmised that they will make special effort to increase the catch, in view of the possibility of greater restrictions in the future.

The Bicycle in the Zodiac.

The next time the signs of the zodiac are revised room should be made among them for the bicycle. As they stand they are out of date. The bicycle has come to be about the most conspicuous and omnipresent vernal emblem, and it is more conspicuous and more omnipresent this year than ever before. Hordes of new adventurers—women adventurers in particular—have learned to ride it during the winter that is past, and are ready to seize upon the earliest days of warmth and sunshine to explore the parks and country roads. Since bicycling began an appalling amount of new knowledge has become necessary for the successful guidance of a family. One must know which bicycle is the best; what is the lowest sum it can be bought for; what sum any given second-hand bicycle is really worth; whether last year's machine will do for another season; and so on indefinitely. Briefly, the active participant in contemporary life must know bicycles, and if he is the father of a family his knowledge must be co-extensive with his parental responsibilities.

The peculiarity about bicycles which is most impressive, and also most afflicting, is that every bicyclist yearns to start the season with a brand new machine of the newest make. There is such a thing as being satisfied with last year's horse, and even preferring him to an untried quadruped, but improvements in bicycles are devised so much more rapidly than improvements in horses that bicycles get out of date much sooner. And then, too, when you buy a new bicycle you can know pretty definitely what you are getting, and when you buy a new horse of course you can't.

Very effective capes are made of a bright colored cloth, with an application of black cloth upon it traced with jet

MRS. WILLIAM S. RAINSFORD.

She is a Trustee of the Public Schools in New York. The broad views, brilliant oratory, and altogether prominent personality of the Rev. Dr. William S. Rainsford would make the appointment of his wife to the place of Trustee of Common Schools in New York a matter of interest, but Mrs. Rainsford has claims to fame quite separate from her distinguished husband. She has long been that best sort of student of educational matters—the loving and practical one, and has grown more and more interested in the theme of mental training which our public school system offers. She was one of the signers of the memorial recently circulated and presented to the Board of Education, asking that, as vacancies should occur in the various wards, two out of the five trustees allowed for each ward should be women, being a firm advocate of men and women working side by side wherever possible. This, she thinks, insures the most satisfactory advance and best results.

Mrs. Rainsford is of English birth, according to Harper's Bazar, and married Dr. Rainsford in London sixteen years ago, sailing with him for Canada, where they spent four years. Twelve years ago they came to New York.



MRS. WILLIAM S. RAINSFORD.

Mrs. Rainsford was the only woman to offer to fill the vacancy in her ward on the School Board of Trustees, this fact, as well as her appointment, being a surprise to her. She has made a close study of kindergarten work, in which she is a firm believer. Concerning our present system of public schools, she finds much to admire; many of the schools are excellent, but she believes there exists room for improvement in others.

Her appointment places in office a woman of just the sort that is needed. Mrs. Rainsford is not radical, but progressive; she understands the subject and enters upon her duties with a desire to co-operate with her associates in all endeavors to sustain present good conditions or to earnestly aid any new plans that may seem advisable. In one point Mrs. Rainsford sets an admirable example to other women; she has always been in close touch with the schools attended by her three boys. She has kept herself informed of what was going on by sitting, session after session, in the school-room, weighing the good and bad features of what happened there, and lending her influence and assistance to carry out any suggestion she discussed or made.

Last English Decapitation.

The last occasion of decapitation for high treason in England was, I fancy, that of Thistlewood and his four companions for the Cato street conspiracy. I take the following from Thornbury's "Old Stories Retold": "Exactly a quarter of an hour after the last man was hung the order was given to cut the bodies down. The heads were then bagged off with brutal clumsiness with a surgeon's knife. The mob expressed loudly their horror and disgust, more especially when the turnkey who exhibited the heads dropped that of Brunt. 'Hallo, butter fingers!' shouted a rough voice from the rolling crowd below. The day had gone by for such useless brutality." This horrible scene was enacted on May 1, 1820.

Weeds in the Future.

Fifty years ago the tomato was considered unfit for food, yet to-day it is, with the exception of the potato, the most extensively eaten vegetable. It would be a bold person who would predict what additions will be made to our diet within the next fifty years. What new grains, fruits and vegetables may not our scientists develop for us? The field is almost limitless. So far only six out of our 800 grasses have been turned into cereals through cultivation, and the possibilities of fruit and vegetable development are equally good. Some of our most nutritious weeds may be regarded by our grandfathers as nature's choicest and most valuable products.

Spring Cleaning

Brush a trial that man say "Let the house take care of itself." But the conscientious wife feels bound to risk health and strength in this annual struggle with dust and dirt. The consequence of her feverish anxiety over extra work is depletion of the blood, the source of all life and strength, manifested in that weak, tired, nervous condition too prevalent at this season and very dangerous if allowed to continue. What every man and woman needs in the spring is Hood's Sarsaparilla. It keeps the blood vitalized and enriched, and thus sustains the nerves and all the bodily functions.

"I take Hood's Sarsaparilla every spring, and it is the only medicine I use through the year. It enables me to do my house cleaning and farm work all through the summer. It helped me very much for palpitation of the heart. I think Hood's Sarsaparilla is the medicinal for anyone—and all who take it will never be without it. I have also used Hood's Pills and they are the best I ever tried." Mrs. F. H. Andrews, 8-Woodstock, Ct.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Is the Only True Blood Purifier

Prominently in the Public Eye Today.

An Engine Propelled by Soda.

A fireless locomotive engine was recently used on the Aix-la-Chapelle Julich Railway, Switzerland. The motive power is derived from soda. The invention is based on the principle that solutions of caustic soda, which have high boiling points, liberate heat while absorbing steam. These engines eject neither smoke nor steam and work noiselessly. Compared with coal burning locomotives the soda engines show a capacity equal to the former, while they are worked with greater ease and simplicity.

B. F. Bachman, an early pioneer, capitalist and citizen of Los Gatos, Cal., who died recently, was one of a party to discover the Yosemite Valley in March, 1851.

How's This! We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Dr. J. C. Cheney & Co., Props., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm. WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio. WALKING, KINCAID & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price, 75c per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.

A Mountain Always Burning.

At Wingen, in New South Wales, 20 miles from Sydney, is a burning mountain, 1,820 feet in height, and supposed to be a large coal seam which has in some unaccountable way been ignited for many years, certainly long before the advent of the white man. The course of the fire can be traced a considerable distance by the numerous depressions or chasms occasioned by the falling in of the ground from beneath which the coal has been consumed.

To Enjoy Life the physical machine must be in good running order. A little care—the use of Ripans Tabules—will give you every morning the feeling that you are "glad to be alive."

LADIES who possess the finest complexion are patrons of Glenn's Sulphur Soap. Hill's Hair and Whisker Dye, fifty cents.

How It is Done.

The simple reason why the hurts of prize fighters show no sign and disappear so quickly is because in the treatment of training the flesh is hardened. They can stand a blow like the kick of a horse and not show a bruise. Other men's bruises heal slowly, but if they would use St. Jacobs Oil, they would find there's nothing in the world like it to heal and restore. It acts like magic. All athletes should use it. It's the great restorative. The same with cuts and wounds, if used according to directions, it will heal sorely and make the parts sound again.

STEEL We furnish tanks with covers, all galvanized after completion, in nests of ten, 8 to 12 feet high and 30 to 36 inches in diameter, at 2 1/2 cts. per gallon. They do not rust, shrink, leak, give out to water, nor allow foreign substances to get in. They can be put in garret or barn and thus are protected from freezing. They take no setting up, are cheaper than wood. Tank structures of all sizes made to order. Send for price list and designs for structure and ornamental water supply. AEROMOTOR CO., CHICAGO. 2 1/2 CTS. PER GAL.

I am entirely cured of hemorrhage of lungs by Piso's Cure for Consumption. LOUISA LISDAMAN, Bethany, Mo., Jan. 8, 1894.

Connecticut has passed a law prohibiting street cars to cross steam roads at grade.

Dr. Kilmor's SWAMP-ROOT cures all Kidney and Bladder Troubles. Pamphlet and Consultation free. Laboratory, Birmingham, N. Y.

The amount of gold produced last year in British Guinea was 138,527 ounces.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures whooping cough, croup, colic, and all the ailments of infancy.

By a new line of steamers tourists can go from Constantinople, Turkey, to Alexandria, Egypt, in fifty hours.

German preserves are said to be preferred in England to the home product.

Within the past four years France has recorded 26,000 suicides.

SYRUP OF FIGS. ONE ENJOYS Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known. Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50-cent bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

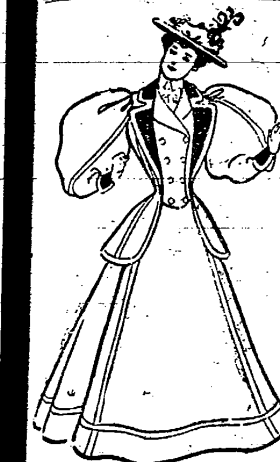
SIMPLE, CLEANLY, EFFICIENT. On the Cars, At the Theatre, Anywhere. IF YOU WOULD BE IN FASHION TAKE A FEW Ripans Tabules ALONG WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. You can slip them into your pocket, your satchel, your wallet even. To a dyspeptic this means peace of mind under many otherwise trying circumstances.

LINE. The "Linen" is the best and most economical. It is made of pure flax and is of a fine texture, both sides washed and being equal in quality to any other linen. It is well, white and long wearing. A box of 100 pieces and 100 pieces of the "Linen" is for sale at 25 cents per piece. A Sample Card and Book of Colors by mail for 50 cents. UNIVERSAL COLLAR COMPANY.

FOR THE FAIR

NEW EFFECTS DEVISED IN ULAR BLACK AND WHITE

Alpaca Coming into Favor Again. Black Satins in Great Demand. Bodices and Their Trimmings. The fashions, which are probably the latest and most novel creations, are puzzling combinations of elegance, elaboration and expense. One or two inquiries as to the source of some coveted article of dress leave no lingering doubts in the purchaser's mind, and she soon concludes that there is no really inexpensive but the thing does not want.

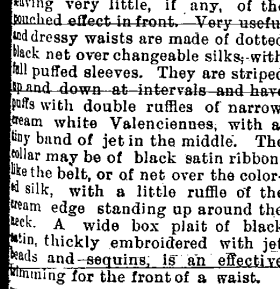


Black and white effects are so popular as ever this season, black and white striped silks will be well represented among the gowns. But the stripes are narrower and closer together than they were last year. Black lace and black velvet ribbon are used to trim muslin gowns, and one feature of the combination is an immense bow of black velvet ribbon on one side of the front of the bodice at the edge of the yoke and quite close to the sleeve.

Black satins are in great demand for both day and evening gowns, and the skirts are usually plain, trimmed at all, according to Felt's must have narrow lines of jewelry or bands of embroidery on the seams. To make this sort of trimmings effective they must be of umbrella shape, with many corners and very full at the bottom.

While the sleeves of the modern gown are, perhaps, its most conspicuous feature, the bodice is the point where the trimmings flourish, and the variety of models with striking unusual combinations which are brought out for inspection are simply beyond enumeration.

The latest disposition of the persistent box plait, which so commonly adorns the bodice, places it on the other side of the front, instead of in the middle, and a chemistise collar or finely tucked muslin is drawn between, and the fullness is having very little, if any, of the puffed effect in front. Very useful and dressy waists are made of dotted black net over changeable silks, with full puffed sleeves. They are striped up and down at intervals and have puffs with double ruffles of narrow cream white Valenciennes, with a tiny band of jet in the middle. The collar may be of black satin ribbon like the belt, or of net over the colored silk, with a little ruffle of the cream edge standing up around the neck. A wide box plait of black satin, thickly embroidered with jet beads and sequins, is an effective trimming for the front of a waist.



Fashion has a wide reputation for being fickle, but she has been loyal enough to the fancy for accordion plaited chiffon, which is still as popular as ever. Lace-butterflies, thickly spangled with jet, and in various sizes, are used for dress trimmings. They are applied on satin skirts at regular distances, and make in the folds of the sleeves with great effect. Small sizes they are very pretty. Black satin is also very pretty. It is trimmed with jet beads and sequins, which is trimmed with jet beads and sequins, which is trimmed with jet beads and sequins.

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