

It is improbable that the recent debates on duelling in the German Reichstag will contribute in any degree to the suppression of that practice, in the face of the emperor's evident approval of it. The debates were caused by the killing in a duel of Baron von Schrader, a court official, by Herr von Kotze, whom the former had, with others, accused of being the principal in a court scandal, and the failure of the government to prosecute the murdered and his seconds. Von Kotze was, it appears, imprisoned on account of the scandal by order of the emperor, and although not regularly tried, was ultimately released, no case having, presumably, been made out against him. But court opinion and military etiquette required him to challenge all his accusers, and for complying with this etiquette and killing Baron von Schrader he was, it is said, congratulated by the emperor. As murder is a breach of the civil law, the incitement to and sanction of it thus given by the emperor, with the bitter denunciation of duelling and the state of society which tolerates it, by the clergyman officiating at the funeral, provoked a general discussion of the question. In the Reichstag the debate was opened by the Centre party, the practice being denounced as contrary to morality, law and civilization, a judgment in which it was joined by the other groups, the discussion ending in a resolution asking the government to combat the evil with all the means in its power.

There is, however, no probability that the Government will do anything of the kind; the reply of the Imperial Chancellor to the speech of the Centrist leader, being in effect, that all was done that could be done to prevent criminal actions, but that those who wanted to fight would find some way of doing so. As every duel requires the connivance of at least five persons, and there has been of late a regular epidemic of duels in Germany, none of the parties to which have been prosecuted, this is tantamount to saying that no notice will be taken of the Reichstag's request. It is an admission, of course, that laws made for all classes of the population may be violated with impunity by one section, but the reason which impels the Government to that admission is not difficult to understand. For while in favor of the strict enforcement of the civil code are massed the Reichstag, the majority of the press, and the great mass of the people against its enforcement in the case of duelling are the aristocratic and military classes upon which the throne traditionally relies. To yield to the popular demand, and punish duelling as murder when it resulted in death, or as a street row to be atoned for by imprisonment at hard labor, when not fatal, would no doubt suppress duelling in short order. But it is possible that in doing so the Government might give deep offence to classes upon which it is accustomed to lean heavily, and which believe that in cases affecting honor it is the only mode of redress open to gentlemen. Reform of the evil must evidently depend mainly, if not wholly, on the Emperor, who has only to follow out the proposal of the Centrist leader and declare all who fight duels incapable of receiving or retaining civil or military positions, to stop it at once. The classes would submit to the will of the Emperor, however reluctantly, but the difficulty is that he approves of duelling and that society in Berlin boycotts any one who declines a challenge.

ENGLISH WOMEN IN AFRICA.

Miss Kingsley, the African explorer, it is said, will be setting out before many months to explore West Africa. She is enthusiastic over her travels in Africa, and boasts, in addition to climbing the Cameroons, of having led a party through the country of the cannibal Fangwes. The picture which she gives of the Fangwes and their manner of living shows them to be a completely barbarous tribe, and she also tells of a race of savage dwarfs who live in the recesses of these African forests. The case of the Fangwes—since they have pressed down from the center of the continent—suggests what a world of strange things and beings may yet be hidden away in "Darkest Africa." Miss Kingsley knew that the surroundings amid which she found herself here, and there meant danger; but she never blinked the danger. If asked if she felt nervous at any time she would say: "Oh, dear no; why should I? I knew before I started that I was running certain risks, and I had just made up my mind to them."

PHOTOGRAPHING A CANNON BALL.

The latest use of photography is to make a cannon ball take a picture of its own wobbings. An arrangement something like a camera is to be placed in the forward end of the projectile, and when it is fired directly at the sun the light traces lines upon the plate, from the direction of which it can be told whether the projectile has kept in one position or has wavered to and fro during its flight.

HEALTH.

ABOUT THE GERM THEORY.

The boast of a savant, not so very long ago, that he could swallow "a mouthful of the germs without taking the disease itself," may serve to indicate the advance which has since then been made in the knowledge of germ diseases.

To-day such a boast would be deprived of all its glory by the simple explanation that under certain conditions no harm whatever need be feared as a result of swallowing cholera germs.

The idea that germs are parasitical creatures, which roam about through the body, seeking to devour and destroy, is entirely false.

In the first place, germs are not "animals," but vegetable bodies, starting at a minute point and by degrees branching out over a larger area.

Of course it is possible that eventually, by occupying the place of healthy substance in a certain organ, such germs may obstruct and even prevent the natural working of the organ; but it is not from this fact alone that we are in danger.

Nor is it because these minute particles of vegetable matter are necessarily poisonous when taken into the system through the air or with food. Were this true, the great number which continually find entrance into the body would soon prove overwhelming, no matter how great the power of resistance of the system might be.

In their growth, however, certain germs manufacture and excrete a substance which is a direct poison to living animal matter. It is possible to extract and isolate their substance as effectively as we extract morphine from opium, and, by injecting it into the veins of an animal, to cause the peculiar forms of disturbance known as diphtheria and scarlet fever.

The same process takes place if the original habitation of the germ is in a human body. A suitable thriving-place having been found; this point becomes at once not only a breeding-place for the germs themselves, but a manufactory which is continually sending out into the system a greater or smaller supply of deadly poison.

It will be apparent now what an advantage has been afforded us in combating affections which arise from such sources.

The successful manner in which diphtheria has lately been treated is due not so much to the fact that the germ of that disease has been found capable of isolation, as to the fact that we have learned the true nature of the disturbance in all disorders of this kind, and have been fortunate in coming upon the particular substance which will neutralize the poison which has been secreted.

"HOUSE NERVES."

A recent writer upon medical subjects has invented the name "House Nerves," which he applies to a particular kind of low spirits and morbid irritability. The disease, for such it is to be called attacks those persons, women especially who remain too much indoors.

Sometimes this keeping in the house is largely a matter of indolent habit; often, of course, it seems to be necessary on account of the pressure of family duties; and not infrequently it is induced or encouraged by a dread, more or less ill-founded, of exposure to the weather.

A distressing symptom of the malady is a chronic state of evil foreboding. The victim of house nerves studies herself; her ailments, her wants, her loneliness; or she is forever anticipating trouble for her husband and children. Living so much within herself, it is easy for her to fall into a habit of brooding over trouble, be the same real or imaginary.

This condition of worry not only works injury to her health, but reacts upon her disposition, till she becomes, perhaps, what specialists in nervous diseases call a "nagging woman," and then, as a matter of course, home is made uncomfortable and matters go from bad to worse.

And much of this trouble would be avoided if the woman would only be more out-of-doors. The inhabitants of southern Europe suffer much less from nerves than those who live farther north, the reason being, as seems most likely, because the climate shuts them much less in the house.

Nowhere are nervous patients more numerous than in this country, and it is well, therefore, for every one to know that the best relief is not to be found in drugs; but in sunlight, pure air and innocent diversion. To avoid "house nerves," keep as much as possible out of the house. Sunshine will do much to brighten the mind itself.

CORRECT BREATHING.

It has been discovered that the double chin can be banished by correct breathing. The woman with a short neck must hold her head high, even stretching her neck until conscious of the tension of the cords. She should also practice dropping her head and letting it roll listlessly about. This will give a graceful poise to the head, and the exercise of muscles will help consume the extra amount of fat. Lung exercises in breathing are the best exercises for excessive stoutness. The best time for this is before dressing in the morning and after undressing at night. Five or ten minutes' exercise every day will reduce the flesh in a wonderfully short time. Stand erect, with the head and chin well up, and rise upon the toes at each inspiration, holding the breath a moment, then expelling it forcibly, coming down upon the heels at the same time.

Another good breathing exercise is to draw in a full, deep breath. Retain the breath while counting fifteen and then slowly expel it. Sometimes stout women move the arms gracefully, but the body has an utter lack of liberty and free motion or suppleness. Drawing her corsets tighter never did make a stout woman less stout in appearance. The first care is not to lace too tightly; the second is to banish all idea of being stout from your mind, and let the mus-

cles have as free play as possible. All women can learn to use their bodies gracefully, even if there is a predisposition to stoutness. Stout women are often the lightest dancers, and there is no reason why they should not be graceful in pose and motion. If a woman draws her breath freely from the bottom of her lungs she diminishes the effect of her size immediately by doing away with that ready-to-burst look that is generally associated with stoutness. That is the look that must be avoided, even if the waist measures an inch or so more and the bust and shoulders gain a little.

TREATMENT OF FAINTING.

There are numerous causes of fainting, but in most all cases the treatment is the same. The person who has fainted should be laid flat upon his back with his feet slightly elevated, thus leaving his head lower than any other part, in order that there may be a rush of blood to the brain. The clothing should be loosened about the throat, chest and waist, and the apartment should be flooded with fresh air. The action of the heart may be stimulated by dashing cold water in the face, gently rubbing the hands and arms, holding a bottle of smelling salts or strong ammonia close to the nose, and also by giving a teaspoonful of brandy. If the direct cause of fainting is from bleeding or wounds, that should be attended to first, and then restoring the consciousness.

WHITE TRIBES IN AFRICA.

Latest Stories About This Much-Discussed Subject.

There have always been vague traditions of a white race locked up in the interior, but when the tales have come to be tested the white race generally turns out to be merely a tribe of lighter colored Arabs, keeping all the characteristics of the race and having none of the white man's.

But in this race we have something much more correct and precise. Captain Larymore, at present aid-de-camp to Sir Francis Scott was sent up to Koranza on a mission and stayed a considerable time in the capital. He took advantage of the opportunity to inquire about this comparatively unknown race and its neighbors and was surprised to find that there was an accepted tradition that there lived on infinite number of days' marches to the northeast a tribe of white men.

Further inquiries elicited the statement that they lived on the skirts of the desert, which was difficult and dangerous to cross. Attempts has been made to avoid this desert by passing through their country, but they were found to be so fierce and so absolutely devoid of fear that the caravans preferred the dangers of the desert to the hostility of the white tribe. Such circumstantial statements induced Captain Larymore to make stricter inquiries and at length he found a Mohammedan priest named Hadji, a man of great integrity and considerable influence. He has been to Mecca and it was on his way there and back that he actually saw with his own eyes one of this white tribe.

The man in question was armed only with a bow and arrow, but such is the reputation of fierceness possessed by the race that the caravan did not remain long in the vicinity, but left the place as quickly as possible. Al Hadji saw him distinctly. Captain Larymore, who, by the way, is a type of the fair Saxon, interrupted the priest in his story, and said that the man must have been simply a light-colored Arab. "No," said Al Hadji, "I saw him close at hand, and he had light hair and blue eyes, exactly as you have."

This statement and the confirmation it had received by many rumors and tales, was one of extreme importance, considering the strict integrity of the man who made it. Consequently Captain Larymore took down his testimony in writing. The existence of such a race is firmly believed in by most of the Gold Coast travelers, and among others by Sir Francis Scott. Unfortunately owing to the fact that the reckoning of the progress of a caravan is done in the most careless way, the spot cannot be located exactly. Al Hadji says it is many days from Koranza, which might mean 100 or 1,000 miles.

A DUCHESS' BALL DRESS.

A ball dress made in Paris for the young Duchess of Marlborough is of white watered silk, with narrow pale green stripes of satin, and tiny bunches of flowers woven into the material. The skirt, very full at the back, with just a suspicion of a train, was much less wide in front and at the sides than many that have been made lately, and, to my mind, much prettier. The bodice was cut low, back and front, and had a shaped berth of pale green velvet, embroidered with pearls in a lovely design of flowers with diamond centers. The sleeves were almost flat at the shoulder, where they were covered with a point of the embroidered bertha, and widened out to the elbows in voluminous folds, finished with reverses of the pale green velvet covered with the scintillating embroidery.

A HANDY GIFT.

For the toilet table a manicure case is easily made. A quarter of a yard of bright ribbon, four or five inches wide, is turned up on the one side for three, is turned up on the right side for three, is turned up on the left side for three, and is laid on a piece of chamois in some fancy color, and cut precisely of the same size as the original ribbon. The edges are neatly bound all around with silk thread, including the turned-up pocket top, and, with the addition of a bright little streamer to tie around the case when folded, the gift is ready to have its pockets filled with nail scissors, file and buffer. This tiny contrivance is pretty and more convenient than box or plate, since it can be rolled up and put into the satchel when madam starts on her journey.

HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

These Are the Hottest Places on Earth—Sahara the Record Breakers.

"Hot as hades," is a colloquialism that is not taken literally. It is graphic, but not convincing. Kipling, Sr., goes one better in describing Lahore, India, as "H— with the lid on," and an Oriental speaks of the Desert of Khiva as having only a sheet of tissue paper between the sand and the lower regions.

The hottest place on earth is the Desert of Sahara. In summer the temperature ranges to 150 degrees Fahrenheit, and water is ten days' journey apart. The nights are so cold that blankets are necessary.

The hottest spot in the United States is the Borax desert, Death Valley, where 137 degrees have been registered. Meat spoils here three hours after being killed, flour breeds worms in a week, eggs cook in the sand. Without water for one hour men go insane. The desert birds fall dead and men sleep in the water. A man who fell dead from sunstroke was found an hour afterward with the scalp parched and split with the heat.

A fever patient with a temperature of 105 degrees is dangerously hot. He may reach 110, but cannot recover. Yet there are a number of places on the earth where the thermometer goes above the highest fever heat and men continue to live.

The banks of the River Senegal, flowing through Senegambia, West Africa, runs Death Valley a close second with a temperature of 130. Next honors go to the Desert of Khiva, where the mercury climbs to 125, and this degree is often reached in the region that lies around the Caspian Sea, which is far below sea level.

Along the coast of Central America and in the valleys south of the diamond fields in Brazil the thermometer often registers 120. The central plains of Australia swelter under 118 degrees of heat.

In the sandy deserts south of Nejd, in Arabia, and in Afghanistan, 100 degrees is not uncommon. In Egypt, and lower Greece, the sirocco brings with it a blast equal to 110 degrees, which blows for fifty days until the inundation of the Nile.

The southern portions of Spain get a wind from the Sahara, which brings discomfort to the tune of 100 for several weeks. Cuba has about the same temperature, in addition to heavy rains that evaporate in steam. This produces the malarial and yellow fever and cholera.

At the Cape of Good Hope 106 degrees of temperature is registered with much humidity, so that the suffering is extreme.

Hobart, Tasmania, often shows 105, but that is in January, when they can stand it better. July is their coolest month, just when the rest of us are sweltering.

Bombay and Bengal, India, get 100 degrees for long periods. St. Petersburg shades off one degree, getting 99 in August. One hundred degrees is the order of the day from April to September in Burmah.

The hottest parts of France are Toulon and Hyeres with 90 degrees, while Copenhagen, up in the mouth of the Baltic, often reaches 95 degrees.

Many tropical countries escape extreme heat. In the Sandwich Islands, the temperature never goes above 90. Lima, Peru, has only 85. In Central Mexico, in the mountains, 85 is the highest. In Natal, just east of Cape Town, the highest temperature is 90.

HE GAVE HIS LIFE.

An Incident in the Life of a Railroad Engineer.

The author of "Tales of an Engineer" pays a tribute to the memory of a man of his own craft who stuck to his engine, knowing that his death alone could lessen the danger of those in his charge.

The train had crossed a bridge and was approaching a tunnel, which being on the shadow side of the hill, looked like a great hole in the night. Nearer the engine the engineer saw a number of dark objects scattered about. In another second he discerned what these were, and realized an awful danger.

As he reversed the engine and applied the air-brakes he shouted to the fireman to jump. He might have jumped himself, for he saw the danger first; but no such thought came to him. In another second the pilot was plowing through a herd of cattle asleep on the track.

If they had all been standing, he would have opened the throttle and sent them flying into the river, with less risk to his train.

But they were lying down; and as they rolled under the wheels they lifted the great engine from the rails and threw her down the dump at the very edge of the river.

But so well had the faithful engineer performed his work that the train was stopped without wrecking a car. Many of the passengers were not awakened. The trainmen came forward and found the engineer. He was able to speak to them. He knew that he had but a few minutes to live, and left a loving message for his wife. Then, as if he had nothing more to say or do, he closed his eyes, folded his hands over his brave heart, and without a murmur, apparently without pain, died.

PUMICE STONE LIFE-BOATS.

In England recently trials have been made with a life-boat made of a novel material throughout—pumice stone, to wit, which, we are informed through a report made by the Lighthouse Board, have proven most satisfactory. Not only is the material of great lightness and strength, but it is easily worked into any shape. The boat remains afloat and will support quite a load even when full of water. The parts are made interchangeable, and when a part is injured the simple loosening of a bolt enables the repairer to remove it and put in another.

SOME HISTORIC DIAMONDS

TRAGIC FATES THAT BEFELL MANY OF THEIR OWNERS.

The Koh-i-Noor's Bloody Trail—Indian Princes Cruelly Tortured to Compel Them to Disclose the Hiding Places of Their Treasures.

Two famous diamonds were the most precious treasures of the murdered Shah of Persia. One was called the "Taj-e-mah," or mountain of light, and weighed 146 carats. The other, the "Sea of Light," a rose-cut gem of 186 carats. They are among the dozen most valuable gems in existence.

The Shah's private fortune, reckoned somewhat more than \$25,000,000, was largely invested in precious stones. This has ever been the custom among Oriental potentates, who have commonly kept their money in portable shape, so as to be able to hide it in case of an emergency. In Eastern countries royalty has its vicissitudes, and the tenure of property is at all times decidedly unsafe.

FAMOUS PERSIAN GEMS.

The "Mountain of Light," the finest gem in the Persian treasury, was secured at the sack of Delhi by the Persian conqueror Nadir Shah. It was considered the most important item of the \$200,000,000 worth of treasures taken at that time from the Emperor of Hindoostan. At Nadir's death the diamond passed to his son and successor, Shah Rokh.

Shah Rokh was soon afterwards overthrown by Aga Mohammed, the usurper, who put Shah Rokh to the torture in order to force him to give up the stone. The historic gem is now set in one of a pair of bracelets worn on occasions of state by the ruler of Persia. The "Sea of Light" adorns the other bracelet.

KOH-I-NOOR'S TRAGIC HISTORY.

Another great diamond obtained by Nadir Shah at the conquest of Hindoostan was the celebrated Koh-i-Noor, now preserved in the Treasury of Great Britain. The history of this stone is lost in the night of time, but it seems to have been originally the property of the rajahs of Malwa. It remained in their hands until the rise of the Mogul dynasty. To this dynasty belonged Mohammed Shah, the Emperor of Hindoostan, who was on the throne when that country was invaded by the Persian conqueror Nadir.

Delhi fell and Nadir promptly gobbled all the jewels in the royal strong-rooms. But the most famous gem of all, the Koh-i-Noor, was missing and could not be found. A woman of Mohammed's harem gave information that the Emperor wore the stone concealed in his turban, and Nadir finally secured it by a clever ruse, offering to exchange turbans with his defeated antagonist as a token of amity in connection with the declaration of peace that had just been made.

Nadir was eventually defeated by his son, Shah Rokh, who thus came into possession of the glittering spoils taken from Delhi. They were the most unfortunate inheritance imaginable. The young man was unable to hold the reins of government and the successful usurper, Aga Mohammed, threw him into prison, where he was subjected to the most fiendish tortures to compel him to give up his hidden treasures.

He surrendered the precious stones one after another under this pressure, but no suffering could induce him to give up the Koh-i-Noor, even though his eyes were put out with knives. Finally, Aga Mohammed ordered his victim's head to be encircled with a diadem of paste, thus making a receptacle into which boiling oil was poured. Nevertheless Shah Rokh did not give up the Koh-i-Noor. He died soon after, and gave the diamond that had cost him so much misery to Ahmed Shah, founder of the Afghan Empire, who had come to his assistance.

THE KOH-I-NOOR'S VICISSITUDES.

The Koh-i-Noor descended from Ahmed Shah to his grandson, Shah Zaman, to whom it did not bring any good fortune, for Shah Zaman was deposed from the throne and his eyes were put out by his brother, Shah Shuja. Shah Zaman was shut up in a solitary prison cell for many years. He concealed the Koh-i-Noor in the plaster of the wall. By the merest accident an officer of the guard scratched his hand upon one of the angles of the diamond, which projected almost imperceptibly, and this led to its discovery.

Shah Shuja wore it then, but had not had time to do so very long before he himself was deposed and had his eyes put out by his next brother, Shah Mahmud. He withdrew to the Court of Ranjit Singh for protection, but Ranjit wanted the Koh-i-Noor, and persecuted Shuja and starved Shuja's wife until he got it. Ranjit had it set in a bracelet, and it was confiscated at the close of the great Indian mutiny and sent to England. It weighed 186 carats and was reduced to 106 carats by recutting. Though not of the very finest water, having a slightly grayish tinge, it is worth \$600,000.

DIAMONDS WITHOUT PRICE.

Some experts are of the opinion that the Koh-i-Noor, the Orloff and the Great Mogul, three of the greatest diamonds ever known, originally formed parts of a single crystal. If there was such a crystal, its like is never likely to be seen again. The Jagersfontein "Excelsior," the largest diamond ever discovered so far as is positively known, would not touch it. The Excelsior weighs 972 carats, or nearly half a pound avoirdupois. It was picked up by a native in South Africa not many months ago.

The Great Mogul was found in the year 1650 at the Golkonda diggings, in the territory of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Somewhat the shape of half an egg, it weighed 187 carats, and the dealer in jewels who obtained possession of it gave it to the then Mogul Emperor of Hindoostan, Shah Jehan. After being cut it still weighed 280 carats, and was about as big as a bantam's egg. Nobody knows what became of the Great Mogul eventually. Probably it was stolen when Delhi was sacked by the Persian Nadir Shah and was broken up into two or more pieces to conceal its identity.