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**ELECTRIC FLASHES.**

Electric anaesthesia proves reliable in surgery, as well as in dental operations. By high-frequency alternating currents a French surgeon has produced insensibility so lasting that a serious and difficult operation was performed, the patient feeling nothing.

The ancients did not have lightning rods constructed as ours are, but they had lightning conductors, which shows that they knew how to protect themselves from the danger that lies in a thunderstorm. Even so long ago as the tenth century lightning was diverted from fields by planting in them long stocks or poles, on top of which were lance heads. It is said that the Celtic soldiers used to try to make themselves safe from the stroke during a storm by lying on the ground with their naked swords planted point upward beside them.

The day of the lightning rod is passing. The government's latest census returns show that Franklin's invention for protecting the house is little used to-day. No electric manufacturing establishment reports it among the products, and so far as the census expert has been able to learn only one American electrical engineering firm makes a business of setting up the rods or designing them. So far as large cities are concerned disastrous lightning strokes are reported to be more rare, and the decrease is accounted for by the network of electrically charged wires and other apparatus with which the city is now interwoven and surrounded.

**ODD FACTS ABOUT LAPPS.**

The men do the cooking. Rich and poor live in the same kind of a house. They are the shortest race in the world, averaging four feet 11 inches in height. They all smoke tobacco, and every Lapp has a tobacco sack suspended from his neck. They are supposed to be Mongolians, but whence they came is a mystery no ethnologist has satisfactorily explained. They are the shortest-headed race in the world, a Lapp skull measuring less from top to bottom than the skull of any other modern. The Lapps have a language of their own, but linguists are not agreed as to what it is. It has a little Russian, a little Finnish, a little Swedish in it. No Lapp ever leaves Lapland. No Lapp ever aspires to make any departure from the Lapp method of living, which is to-day just what it was 1,500 years ago. They were supposed for a time to be the only people in the world without a taste for music and unable to sing a song, but these beliefs concerning them have been proven to be not wholly correct. The Lapps are Lutherans. Before they embraced the Christian religion they worshiped the sun, the moon and the stars, and believed that Heaven was just like this world, even to a man getting back in life all his dead dogs.

**HERE AND ELSEWHERE.**

Clocks have been placed in all the electric tramway cars at Dresden. Bets on billiards are recoverable at UP-TO-DATE PHILOSOPHY. Present tragedy makes fine future comedy. Don't cry over spilled milk—be glad it isn't cream. You might as well aim high as long as you are shooting. Only fools make resolutions; only wise men keep them. People who do not plan their future generally never have any. The enmity of some persons should but convince one that he is right. A candid opinion is generally more acceptable than a candid one. Many persons who are hailed as budding geniuses unfold into blooming fools. Ignorance is anything but bliss to those who are compelled to be its associates. There are other things in the world besides money—things that money will procure. It is a great deal easier to be a good critic than to be even a passable performer. Inspiration, perspiration and desperation are the rations which make achievement fat. It is a pretty illiterate man that does not have decided opinions on religion and politics. Credit is a convenient garment, but it is liable to become a little too tight for free movement.

**INDUSTRIAL ITEMS.**

Within four years 80 factories have sprung up in Germany for the manufacture of sand-lime bricks. A white rust is an unexplained "disease" of English and German galvanized iron that has developed within a year or two. In Sicily machines are used for extracting essence from lemon-peels. Each machine has a capacity of 16,000 half-peels a day. The women and boys who do the work get 16 cents for ten hours. In a published letter Col. John Jacob Astor surrenders to the public all his rights, title and interest in patent No. 690,821, for a turbine engine. As the inventor his hope is "that the development of the ideal turbine may be hastened thereby." The engine is of novel design and Col. Astor thinks that the advantages derivable from it will be reduced weight, higher steam efficiency and "higher machinery efficiency, by reason of the reduced size, enabling the parts to be fitted more perfectly, permitting the diminution of friction and also the reduction of the leakage loss."

**SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONS.**

Stellate designs on curious pebble discs of the Algerian Sahara are supposed by Dr. O. Abel to have been etched by natural sand blast while the stones were rolled by storms. An ostrich never goes straight to its nest, but always approaches it with many windings and detours, in order, if possible, to conceal the locality from observation. An immense shark was caught lately by the marines of his majesty's guardship Urgent at Port Royal, Jamaica. It was so big that the most stalwart seaman aboard could have passed through its mouth without touching the teeth. No fewer than 43 young ones, all alive and kicking, were found in the mother's stomach. The biggest tree on the face of the earth has just been found in a wild and unfrequented nook in California. It measures 109 feet in circumference, or having a diameter of 33 feet. This tree, fortunately, stands just within the limits of the United States forest reserve. It is supposed to be 4,000 years old, and when our Savior walked the earth in the Holy Land it already had a diameter of about 20 feet. Curious excrecences, resembling rude flowers that grow on trees in Tierra del Fuego, are described by a correspondent of La Nature, Paris. These are found to be due to a parasitic growth, but the "flowers" consist of the inner wood of the tree which has been forced through the bark and assumes various fanciful shapes, often those of the classical acanthus, seen on Corinthian capitals. The parasite that causes the growth is a relative of the mistletoe.

**GOSSIP OF GOTHAMITES.**

Successful steam navigation first began at New York. The present city hall building was begun 100 years ago. The first "New York girl" was born in the Dutch colony in 1624. The first Brooklyn flatboat ferry ran in the earliest days of the colony. Only 225 years ago the entire real estate of the city was worth only \$750,000. The Bowery got its name from one-legged Peter Stuyvesant's "bowery," or farm. Trade with the Indians on Manhattan island began a little less than 300 years ago.

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Fried Perch.....15	Boiled Ham.....15	Soup.....5
Roast Beef.....15	Roast Tongue.....15	Pudding.....5
Small Steak.....15	Pork Chops.....15	Whitefish.....15
Veal Cutlet.....15	Breakfast Bacon.....15	Fried Perch.....15
Mutton Chops.....15	Salt Pork, Boiled.....15	Salt Mackerel.....15
Fried Egg.....15	Fried Sausage.....15	Fried Eggs.....15
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