CURRENT TOPICS.

PRINCE BISMARCK suffers principally now from nerve pains in face and head, and the doctors tell him that if he will not have some decayed teeth removed his aches and anguish will continue. But he is unwilling to have the old tusks drawn. He suffers slightly from sciatica, but not much. He has entirely given up smoking, and leads altogether a healthy life, but, except taking German waters, has no special regimen.

IN a paper read before the California Wine Growers' Association an ingenious philological theory was propounded. "The old Roman wine grower," said the writer, found in his tubs and vats the same sediment that bothers us to-day. He had no chemistry in those times, but he did have a healthy profanity. So he called his substance a 'hell of a stuff,' and probably so regarded it. Hell in Latin is Tartarus, and from this ancient cuss word come in direct descent tartar, cream of tartar and tartaric acid."

IN New York a man has been turned out of a boarding-house because he snored. Some persons may suppose that as their noses are their own they may use them as they like, provided they do not poke them into other people's business, and that if they pay their board they cannot be put into the street for nasal trumpeting at night. But the police justice before whom the snoring boarder was taken was of a different opinion and decided that, nose or no nose, a man cannot insist on living where he is not wanted.

THE old fashion of home brewing, which showed so remarkable a tendency to revive a few years ago, appears to be again rapidly declining in England. After the passing of the Beer Duty Act a great number of persons who did not formerly brew took out licenses for private brewing, under the impression that they could thus obtain beer at a less cost than they could purchase it from the brewers. The operation of brewing, however, is troublesome in an ordinary domestic establishment. The English Commissioners of Inland Revenue express the opinion that it cannot be conducted economically on a small scale, and that no doubt many of those persons have found it more convenient to revert to their former practice of obtaning beer direct from the brewer.

ALTHOUGH the rabbit plague still vexes the Australian squatter, he is threatened by another plague even more deadly. This time it is a once cherished friend who has gone astray. Four hundred and fifty useless dogs, said Sir Samuel Davenport at a recent deputation of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, had been destroyed in the vicinity of Adelaide. All these culprits had killed sheep, some of them being concerned in a wholesale slaughter of 150 wethers. Such is the degradation of the Australian canine race, that not only terriers, spaniels and Newfoundlands do the mischief, but sheep, cattle and watch dogs join the ranks of the destroyers, and bite and worry and destroy in their nocturnal attacks.

CO-OPERATIVE baby farming is a success at Guise, France. In a late issue of *Le Devoir*, the official organ of M. Godin, who is the governor of the familisters at that place, it is stated that the birth rate under his communal system is about the same as in French towns of the same population, while the infant mortality is 50 per cent. less. The baby farm comprises a baby house and a baby garden. The house contains 100 beds and one immense play-room, especially fitted up for its inmates. It opens flush with the garden, and is surrounded with spacious verandas. The administration is by a governess, with two assistants and the mothers that volunteer to serve. The children are generally brought there in the morning and taken to their homes at night, but a few make it a permanent home.

CORRESPONDENCE with Queen Victoria by letter is one of the Prime Minister's regular and almost daily duties. When there has been an important division or debate in Parliament, and members are hastening home tired, to bed, the Premier alone can take no rest until he has written to the Queen his official report of the proceedings. These letters are couched in the third person: "Mr. Gladstone presents his duty to Your Majesty, etc.," and Her Majesty's replies, usually dictated to a secretary, also run in the third person. Though never discursive, they are not mere formal acknowledgments, but often enter succinctly into the question at issue. The Queen devotes several hours every morning to the study of State business, and her time is no longer wasted now as it was during the first 25 years of her reign by having to sign all commissions for the army and navy. In 1862 an Act relieved her of this tedious task. She was in that year still engaged in signing the commissions of the year 1858.

CORNWALL, the Postmaster of Dublin, who is on trial for such a hideous crime, is the son of a landed proprietor in Meath, and after a short service as clerk in the London office was appointed in 1850 to his recent position by the Marquis of Clanricarde, when Postmaster-General, at the instance of the Marchioness, who was fascinated by his musical accomplishments and drawing-room graces. He stands six feet, is of handsome presence, but pompous and pretentious, and with a great deal of vulgar swagger both in his air and conversation. There is nothing, however, repellant or repugnant in his appearance, or which would give the least index of crime. He is 61. Mr. Kirwan, who figures beside him, and who will probably be found less of a criminal than a foolish friend, is of a Galway family of remarkable gentleness and purity of character, and is a nephew of Lawrence, author of "Guy Livingstone." He has that thin fair hair and cream-colored complexion which speak the slender mind. The first mention of his name in the matter killed his mother. None of the accused are genuine Irish. They all belong to the Protestant colony.

HERE are some hints to the city authorities who may find difficulty in disposing of ownerless curs. At the recent meeting of the British Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Dr. B. W Richardson described a method recently adopted at his suggestion for destroying lost and starving dogs by a painless death. This consists in submitting the animals to the influence of carbonic oxide gas in a closed chamber, the carbonic oxide being charged also with chloroform by being made to pass over a porous surface saturated with that drug. The result is that the animals to be killed fall at once into a deep, painless sleep, out of which they never recover. Dr. Richardson has for a long time past been engaged in experimenting with a view to determining the best mode of killing animals without the infliction of pain, and the apparatus he describes is the fruit of his researches. He is sanguine that by-and-by the humane system of slaughtering will be applied even to the destruction of animals intended for food; and he has himself applied the method with complete success in the case of sheep, which are first driven into sleep, and, while thus unconscious, killed. The good wishes of every humanitarian will be with Dr. Richardson in this.

THE Hebrews are often spoken of as "a race without paupers." Though not strictly accurate, this statement gains color from the proverbial thrift of the race and from their excellent system of charities in the large cities. For the past ten years the Hebrew community in New York has steadily had in operation a scheme for relieving the needs of the poor among them that is worthy of attention by all Christian philanthropists. The city is divided into twenty-four districts, and in each district a visiting committee investigates all applications for relief. Distribution of clothing and money is carried out by the executive committee, and there is also a well organized medical corps, with a competent physician in each district. One of the best elements of the work is a pension system by which rent is paid for poor widows and helpless families. There are nearly 500 of these pensioned families now in the city, families which, but for this aid, would inevitably be in the poor houses or other public institutions. The true beneficence of the whole system of the United Hebrew Charities is shown by the fact that all of the work is done by volunteers. All the officers serve without pay, and the cost of distribution is never more than 10 cents for each dollar of benefit. In many charitable societies the cost of distribution is nearly half of the amount distributed.

THE LITTLE ONES.

How the Death Rate of Children is Affected by Heat.

Henry Dwight Chapin, M.D., attending physician to the out-door department at Bellevue Hospital, in an article on summer diseases in the *Medical Record* for July 26th, presents the following statistics:

I have prepared the following table from statistics derived from the Board of Health. It consists of a comparison of the death rates from diarrhœal diseases in New York between two winter months and two summer months, together with the mean temperature of each month. Under diarrhœal diseases are included simple diarrhœa, dysentery, entero-colitis, cholera infantum, cholera morbus, Asiatic cholera, diarrhœal gastro-enteritis and diarrhœal enteritis:

	Jan.	Feb.	July.	Aug.
1882.				
Mean temp. Fahr	28.77°	35.21°	75.79°	73.42°
Deaths under 5 ys.	34	32	1,533	817
Deaths over 5 ys....	14	15	131	149
1883.				
Mean temp. Fahr	25.18°	30.24°	74.46°	70.40°
Deaths under 5 ys.	32	32	1,355	507
Deaths over 5 ys....	14	16	125	116

A glance at this table will show the tremendous increase in the death rate under the age of five years in comparison with that occurring above that age, the difference in winter being about double, while in summer it is vastly higher than that proportion. It also shows that the month having the highest mean temperature, July, has much the highest death rate in children under five years; while in cases above five years of age there is no appreciable difference between July and August. In 1882 and 1883 there was an increase of the mean temperature of July over August of from 2.37° to 4.06° Fahr. The difference in heat represented by these few degrees doubled the death rate in children under five years. As tenemen houses and streets are no cleaner in August than in July, and as there is quite sufficient heat and moisture during August to cause free fermentation in any filth, it is evident that the increased infantile mortality during July is due to a slight increase in the heat, as the other elements causing it are about the same. It is an impressive commentary on the inability of infants to stand a high temperature well that in 1882 an increase of 2° in temperature was sufficient to raise the death rate by just 716 young children in one month. It is also seen by referring to the table that the mean temperature of July, 1882, was 1.33° higher than in July, 1883, and there were 178 more deaths in children under five years in the former month. I think that sufficient stress has not been devoted to the injurious effects of heat itself upon young children by writers on this subject, and that relatively too preponderating an influence has been given to impure air. The disastrous effects are due to such an intimate combination of these two agents that it is somewhat difficult to estimate their separate influences. But while it is easy to understand the injurious effects of breathing a foul atmosphere, and its depreciating consequences are constantly seen, yet the system, in a sense, gets accustomed to impurity, and throws it off more or less readily. Young children live for months shut up in filthy apartments without dying, and even seeming to enjoy tolerable health.

The spade at Zoar, Egypt, has just unearthed a huge sarcophagus in a royal tomb. Its extraordinary dimensions are 14½ feet in length, 7 feet 9½ inches in width, 8 feet in height and the material is hard granite. Mr. Petrie recently excavated the broken colossus of Rameses II., the oppressor of the Israelites, of proportions unknown in Egyptological annals of colossal statues. The sarcophagus has not yet been assigned a king or dynasty.

LATE OLD WORLD NEWS.

Sir Lepel Griffin is called by a Paris paper "the lurid English dyspeptic."

The Empress of Germany, who is in feeble health, will pass the autumn at Baden-Baden.

The ex Khedive of Egypt, Ismail Pasha, has permanently taken up his residence in London.

Female students are to be allowed to compete for positions as surgeons in the Paris hospitals.

Norway is free from cholera, quarantine and accusations of dynamite carrying, to travellers.

Five days' quarantine is enforced on going through the St. Gothard and Mount Cenis tunnels.

M. Alexandre Dumas inveighs against the extravagance of women in France, where they spend enormous sums on their dresses.

Mr. Edwin Arnold's "Light of Asia" is being translated into Bengali, and is also very likely to be reproduced in India in a Sanskrit version.

Self-satisfied linguist to French diplomat—"How much would I have to say before you knew by my pronunciation that I was not a Frenchman?" "One word," was the prompt and decisive reply.

The new English Church opened on the Riffel Alp, above Zennatt, is 7,000 feet above the sea level, and it is the loftiest place of worship in the world, with the exception of the Monastery of St. Bernard.

It is said that the Grand Duke of Hesse contemplates abdicating in favor of his son, Prince Ernst Ludwig, who is only 17 years old. His recent marriage and consequences have seriously compromised his position among his subjects.

The *Czar* of Cracow announces that the meeting of the Emperor of Austria and the Czar will take place at Granica, in Poland. Thence their Imperial Majesties will proceed together, via Warsaw, to Alexandroff, where they will be joined by the Emperor of Germany.

The English railway companies, improving the occasion and taking advantage of the cholera scare, which will keep thousands of people in England this summer and autumn, have made extensive arrangements for trips to well-known English watering and pleasure places.

Sir William Gull says that for many people who are susceptible to seasickness a pill of cayenne pepper and opium is the correct thing to take an hour before embarking. Then keep your eyes shut and don't move about, and the chances are that you'll escape the horrid *mal de mer*.

De Lesseps organ, *La Bulletin du Canal Interoceanique*, tells at great length how the Panama Canal is to be opened in 1888, and yet, according to its own showing, only one-thirtieth of the work has been done in three years and a half. There has been spent there about $49,000 000.

Mr. Biggar, the Irish Home Ruler and member of Parliament, gave notice to the Clerk of the House "to ask the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if it is true that Sergeant Corbett, of Stradbally, is in the habit of firing shots out of the barrack door and on the barrack premises, killing birds and crows."

Gabriel Max is exhibiting his last grand painting, "The Conversion," which is making quite a sensation in Munich. It represents a Roman girl, who for having embraced Christianity is imprisoned and sentenced to death, and whom three young Romans vainly attempt to save by persuading her to renounce the new faith.

The æsthetic boom inaugurated by that shrewd apostle, Oscar Wilde, is completely defunct in England. To be æsthetic now is to be out of the fashion, and the greenery-yellowery maidens are looked upon with contempt by their more robust sisters and brothers. Mr. Wilde himself has settled down to a quiet and prosaic citizenship, broken occasionally by lectures which are quite sensible and commonplace. Meanwhile the man who made the æsthetics ridiculous made Oscar Wilde famous, and gave Gilbert his theme for "Patience"—the man, in fact, who was responsible for the whole æsthetic craze, and who started it on his own boom—is comparatively unknown. M. De Maurier, of *Punch*, deserves all the honors and gets few of them.

The Gordon Expedition Route.

A London cablegram says: Scarcely had the Government announced its final decision as to the route by which the expedition for the relief of General Gordon was to proceed to Khartoum, than a chorus of hostile criticism arose from certain old fogies of the military service, whose days for active campaigning are about over. The responsibility of advising the Government has rested with General Wolseley. Guided by the rapid success of his movements against Arabi and the effective assistance rendered to the military by the naval service, he thinks that Jack Tar may just as well be made of use on the Nile as on the Mahmoud canal. The expedition will be half naval and half military, and for the overcoming of these difficulties to be met with on the route, caused by the cataracts and other natural impediments, the bulk of the work during the advance will fall on the naval service. The counter proposal of the United Service Club loungers is to reach Khartoum from the Red Sea, via Suakim and Berber, which would be a purely military undertaking and would give whatever heavy and hard knocks that were going to the Horse Guards. Our unfriendly critic says that before Mr. Gladstone has done with him he will make Jack Tar a land crab; but public opinion takes but little stock in the various arguments adduced, as long as an expeditions starts by any of the routes recommended. The troops are likely to meet but little opposition on the road until they have passed Dongola, and any danger from the enemy is but trifling as compared with that involved in an attempt to march heavily armed British troops across the desert. The general opinion of the experts is favorable to Lord Wolseley's scheme.

Following the example of the artist Browning in painting his father, Millais is now making for Christ Church, Oxford, a portrait of the Premier in scarlet robes, the progress of æstheticism requiring that even Mr. Gladstone shall be painted red.

At Winnipeg potatoes are down to 75c per bushel.

Latest Irish News.

David Ross, Q C., has been appointed by the Lord Lieutenant Recorder of Belfast.

One hundred and eight goats were exported from Ireland to Great Britain in one week lately.

Mr. Thomas Doyle, Inspector of Telegraphs for Derry, has been appointed Postmaster of Wexford.

Thomas St. George Pepper, of Ballygarth Castle, Deputy-Lieutenant of County Meath, died on July 21st.

Mr. James O'Brien, one of the oldest and most respected of the inhabitants of Nenagh, died on July 24th.

Mr. Charles Moneypenny, linen manufacturer, Belfast and Portadown, was on July 26th found shot dead in a mail train between Paris and Brussels.

On July 21st the remains of the late Mr. Daniel Creedon, for many years managing director in the establishment of Arnott & Co., Dublin, were interred in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Alderman McArthur, Londonderry, left his house at Waterside on July 24th in apparently his usual health. At 10 o'clock his dead body was found in the public reservoir.

New burial grounds are being established in Mayo in lieu of old ones, which had to be closed on account of the overcrowding of graves, rendering them unfit for further interments.

Plans have been prepared for conducting a ship canal, 127 miles long, from Dublin to Galway, at a cost of 8 millions for ships of 1,500 tons; of 12 millions for ships of 2,500 tons; and of 20 millions for ships of 5,000 tons and upwards.

A steward named Perry entered a hotel in Galway on the 29th ult. and fired five shots from a revolver at Alice Byrne, stepdaughter of the landlord, who died a few minutes afterwards. Perry afterwards tried to commit suicide.

In the Dublin Zoological Gardens a fine lioness has eaten her own tail. One day she removed 12 inches of this appendage, and after an interval renewed her repast and swallowed more. Efforts were made to heal the bleeding stump, but the lioness continued eating the tail, which has entirely disappeared, and she has now commenced to eat one of her fore paws.

Fashion in East Africa.

In East Africa nearly every woman wears the *pelele*. When she is a little girl a small hole is pierced through the middle of her upper lip, and into this is pressed a small wooden pin to prevent the puncture from closing up. After a time this is changed for a larger pin, and so on till the hole is big enough to admit a ring. In proportion as the *pelele* is made gradually larger, so the lip enlarges also and comes to look like a snout. An average specimen measures 1¼ inches in diameter and almost an inch in length. When she becomes a widow fashion compels her to take out her *pelele*, the lip falls, and the great round hole, called *luperele*, shows the teeth and jaw quite plainly, making her hideous.

New Measurement of Time.

How the hundredth part of a second is measured is told in the Washington *Post*. It says: "The chronograph, as its name implies, is a time-writer. Without it the division of time into the hundredth part of a second—a division so small that the mind can hardly appreciate it—would be impossible. It is a revolving cylinder, bearing a fountain-pen attached to a magnet. As the pendulum of the clock swings its seconds it sends the electric current to the magnet. The latter gives a nervous click and the pen marks a small but distinct break on the paper. These breaks distinguish the seconds, and the space between them is measured by fine divisions on a slip of steel. A second in time, measured by space, is about as long as this: ———."

If you will not Hear Reason

How can you hope to escape those evils which experience has demonstrated may be avoided, if her voice be listened to? How foolish it is to resort to dangerous drugs when a simple domestic remedy will answer the purpose. In the case of corns some resort to the razor and peril their lives, as lockjaw is not impossible. While others use dangerous and flesheating substitutes for the great sure pop-corn cure—Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. It never fails, nor ever can, for it is just the thing for the purpose. Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Take no other.

The Paris *Journal des Debats* has good reason to believe that in the week in which the Divorce Act comes into force two or three million petitions will be presented to make separations divorces.

Polson's Nerviline.

Hundreds who have experienced the wonderful power of NERVILINE in subduing pain have testified that it is the most potent remedy in existence. Nerviline is equally efficacious as an internal or an external remedy. Polson's Nerviline cures flatulence, chills, spasms, cholera, cramps, headache, sea sickness, summer complaints, etc., etc. Nerviline is sold by all druggists and country dealers. Only 25 cents a bottle. Try it.

What is termed the "bad lands" west of the Missouri River are turning out to be an El Dorado for stock raising. There are now 40,000 head of stock in that country, valued at $1,000,000. The country furnishes ample shelter, and not above 2 per cent. of the stock has been lost from all causes.

—The surprising success of Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for the several diseases peculiar to women forcibly illustrates the importance of her beneficent discovery and the fact that she knows how to make the most of it.—*Dr. Haskell.*

The London *Truth* says that among the occupations which are doing the worst in England is that of the builders. Of the failures recently gazetted a large proportion belonged to that trade. Here, on the contrary, the builder flourishes. In New York the permits issued this year for new buildings are about 23,000, in Brooklyn 26,080.

Capua, whose luxury proved too much for Hannibal's army, is frequently ravaged by a band of brigands who have settled down to business near it.

The Sea Serpent.

The captain and crew of the steamer Silksworth, now in Montreal, assert that they saw the sea serpent off the Gaspe coast on the voyage up. The monster rose frequently thirty feet out of the water and swelled out tremendously every time. At the water line it was about four feet in diameter; its head was that of a conger eel; mouth that of a shark; body striped like a mackerel; fins simply immense, and voice a horrible yell. There is no doubt that the captain, who is fully corroborated by the crew and passengers, believes his story, which is regularly entered in the ship's log. Sceptics can object to nothing except that the monster was seen at half a mile distance by moonlight, which may have exaggerated his size if not his awful bellow.

The ex-Empress Eugenie is building a grand mausoleum at Farnborough. It is expected that it will be ready in October to receive the remains of her husband and her son, the Prince Imperial.

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IT WILL AT ALL TIMES AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES ACT IN HARMONY WITH THE LAWS THAT GOVERN THE FEMALE SYSTEM.

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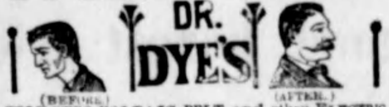

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