CURRENT TOPICS.

THE *Gaceta Oficial*, of Mexico, announces that the Associated Press of that city, at its last meeting, initiated a movement for the abolition of bull fights in the federal district. No member of the press will henceforth attend any exhibition of this kind or write any notices in relation to them.

PROFESSOR A. S. EWING, in a lecture in New York, urged that the common expression, "veins of coal" is incorrect, and should never be used, "seams of coal" being the correct term. Coal is found not running across and through the bedding or stratifications of the rocks, but as a true strata or bed itself.

A HUNGARIAN miner has been found in Pennsylvania, says the Binghamton *Leader*, who lives on two cents a day. He was brought over and put in the place of an American miner by a mine-owner of Pennsylvania, who once in four years tells his men that war taxes must be maintained unless American labor is to be brought into competition with the "pauper labor" of Europe.

A PRESENT is to be made to the Princess of Wales on the occasion of her silver jubilee. Upward of $15,000 has already been collected, and those who have the personal friendship of Her Royal Highness, or the *entree* to Marlborough House, will be the donors of the gift, which will take the form of a necklace. The presentation will take place on the 10th of March at Marlborough House.

PASCHAL PORTER, the wonderful child revivalist, of Indiana, who is now only 11 years old, recently preached a sermon in the Baptist Church at Williamstown, Ky., that astonished everybody who heard it. The pastor of the church says that he has read sermons on the same subject delivered by the ablest preachers, but not one of them could compare in power or in elegance of diction with the boy's exhortation.

THE Imperial crown of all the Russias is the finest ever worn by a sovereign. It is in the form of a Bishop's mitre and carries on its crest a cross composed of five of the most beautiful diamonds ever cut supporting the largest ruby in the world. Eleven great diamonds in a foliated arch rising from the front and back of the crown support this cross and ruby, and on either side is a hoop of thirty-eight pearls, than which there are no handsomer known.

RECENTLY, in Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury received a deputation from the Coptic and Abyssinian Churches. The Coptic and Abyssinian Churches are really not two, but one. The Copts are the descendants of the ancient Egyptians and the Coptic is the native Christian Church of Egypt. The Coptic Patriarch, who takes his title from Alexandria, but who resides at Cairo and who is regarded as the successor of St. Mark, is at the head of the Coptic and Abyssinian Christians.

THE extra expense of warming the outer pure air in cold weather, remarks the *Canada Health Journal*, as it comes into rooms is with many people an obstacle to ventilation. But these same people often think little of the extra cost of some of the higher priced foods with which to gratify their palate, when often they would be better with simpler, less expensive food. "Simpler food and purer air" might well be put up as a motto on their wall. It should be put up everywhere in the mind of men and of women too, in indelible letters, that the very last essential of life in which anyone should attempt to economize, should be the outer pure air. Expenses may be cut down in every other necessary much more safely, remember, and with less disadvantage than in this one.

THIS is an age of stupendous schemes and the railway comes in for its due share Prominent among these, in so far at least as the features of daring and magnitude are concerned, is the proposal to build a line of railway to connect Minneapolis and St. Paul with Pekin, China, and Irkutsk, Russia, via Victoria, B.C., and Cape Prince of Wales, Behring Strait, involving among other astonishing things the bridging of Behring Strait, which at the point suggested in this scheme is only thirty-five miles wide and from 20 to 25 fathoms deep. The distance from Victoria to Cape Prince of Wales is about 1,100 miles. It is not stated who the moving spirits in this stupendous enterprise are further than that they are western men, which leaves no doubt that in the matter of enterprise and daring at east there will be nothing lacking.

IN a speech delivered recently in London Dr. Edward White said in regard to mental bondage: "We were the slaves of writings, institutions and ancient words and phrases. We needed freedom to consult the divine oracles and revelations. Such freedom would end in the diminution of the authority of priests and Parliament, but would increase the individual freedom of men and tend to the greater glory of the Christian religion." A religious contemporary asks who or what stands in Dr. White's way, and suggests that this cry for liberty, when every man has it if he will only take it, is degenerating into mere babble. If a man cannot find the liberty he wants in one denomination he can try another. If he cannot find it in any he can stand alone. There is really now no longer any intellectual religious bondage except such as is self-elected.

"THE decay of old religious animosities is indicated," thinks the *Christian Union*, "by the modern Protestant attitude toward the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope's jubilee, with the numerous expressions of good will from Protestant sources, is a sign. One may hold Protestant convictions as resolutely as his fathers held them, and may oppose the Catholic propaganda in Church and State with the greatest zeal and earnestness, and still preserve toward this Church that attitude of Christian courtesy which ought to be, although it never yet has been, the characteristic of Christian peoples. It is not impossible that the time may come when the old antagonism of the Catholic and the Protestant may appear insignificant in view of the deeper antagonisms which shall make them essentially one. Thomas Carlyle declared that the real struggle in every age is between the believer and the unbeliever, and it has seemed at times of late as if this phrase might soon describe the practical issue of certain tendencies in modern society. For anarchism and social disorder of the radical kind have their roots in atheism, and it is quite possible that the time may come when the real issue will be between the theist and atheist; the man who believes in God and order and freedom and rights of person and property on the one side, and the man who disbelieves in all these on the other side. Whenever that time comes the Protestant and the Catholic will stand side by side in a common defence of those common beliefs which have been their possession these many centuries."

The Persian Barber.

In Persia the barber is quite an important man; his profession does not stop at shaving chins and heads, but includes both surgery and dentistry; just as it used to do in England before Queen Elizabeth's time. His shop is a stall-like place, with an open front and a brick floor. In the centre of the floor is a little tank of water, or perhaps a miniature flower garden. A breast-high recess in the thick wall is the receptacle for the miscellaneous tools and implements of the barber's triple profession. The razors are set straight and stiff in the handles like table-knives. Several of these, scissors, combs and a little hand-mirror complete his barbering tools; but side by side with them are fleams and lancets for blood-letting, branding-irons for actual cautery, and a pair of rude iron pincers for pulling teeth. The Persian barber's customers sit cross-legged on the floor, or more often, in fine weather, outside the shop, in the street. To get shaved, with a Persian, is to have, not merely the face shaved, but the entire head, save for a little tuft on top or one on each side. Not every Persian shaves his beard, but he always gets his head shaved. In the case of boys the tuft on top of the head is allowed to grow long, the idea being that in case of death Mahommed will have something to lift them into paradise by. Old men with flowing beards think their whiskers provide this needful hand-hold and so have their scalps quite clean. Young men and beaux have a little tuft, termed the ryulf, or love-lock, left on each side to grow long and dangle behind the ear.

Beefsteak and Black Eyes.

There is a world-wide superstition that as soon as a man gets a black eye he must use cold application for hours, and that the best cold application possible is raw beef. I call it a superstition because it is without reason and against reason. Everybody knows that what makes a discoloration of the skin by a bruise is the congestion of the part with the blood that cannot get away again, so that it decomposes and changes its color; and everybody ought to know that the way to prevent such a result is to facilitate and stimulate the circulation in the bruised part. A cold application retards the circulation, and the best thing is to stimulate it by hot applications. Twice in my life I was threatened with a black eye. On the first occasion I applied raw beef and other cold applications, and succeeded in producing the blackest eye you ever saw. On the second occasion I got some hot water right away and bathed the eye for about half an hour in it. The result was that there was not the slightest discoloration at any time.—*Chicago Journal*

An Arab's Reply.

While exploring the ruins of Nineveh Layard wrote to a Turkish cadi: "O cadi Can you inform me what is the size of the village; how many are its people, and by what industries do they live?" The Turk answered: "O effendi! Joy of my liver! The thing you want to know is difficult to find out and useless. I have never counted the houses nor numbered the men, and as to what this man loads on his camel or that man hides in his tent is no concern of mine. Oh my soul's light! Joy of my liver! Shall we say behold this star spinneth about that star? Let it spin. Or shall we say, Lo, that star with a tail cometh and goeth in so many days? Let it go! Amen."—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

The Secret of His Success.

Burt was 12 years old. He came home from Sunday School one day and said he had taught a class of little boys.

"What possessed you to do such a thing?" asked his mother.

"Oh, I got along first-rate. They began to giggle and I told them if they didn't quit it I would lick every last one of them when Sunday School was out. The Superintendent said it was the stillest class there was.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Undress Piety.

Rev. Dr. Chasuble (to only member present)—I'm thankful that one member of the church is not afraid to come out in rain as well as in sunshine.

Mrs. Pray—Well, if it hadn't have stormed I couldn't have come, for my new bonnet isn't ready.

Life Laid Down for Georgia.

I was in Winchester, Va., last summer, and I came upon a magnificent granite shaft in the Confederate Cemetery, bearing the following inscription:

"Stranger, go tell it in Georgia that 1,900 Georgians lie here in obedience to her laws."—*Atlanta Journal.*

A Tough Lease.

A gentleman had taken a house on University street, and went up yesterday to sign the lease, but, to his astonishment, he found that a clause had been inserted forbidding him to play the piano, to play cards or open the windows on Sunday.—*Montreal Gazette.*

A little 4-year-old, just learning to spell words of three letters, was sitting at his desk looking at a book, the words of which were beyond his capacity. After trying in vain to make them out he looked up and said: "Mamma, if I had glasses I guess I could read all these words." His mother laughed and said, "Only old folks need glasses." The little fellow's face became very serious as he said: "Why, mamma, do you think I'm too new?"—*New York World.*

Quite a scare has been created at the Chicago Bridewell, where 950 prisoners are confined, over a discovery of a case of smallpox yesterday. The victim is a man who came here from the East a few days ago and was sent out for vagrancy. He was promptly removed to the pest-house, and on Saturday 600 of the prisoners were vaccinated. The remainder will be treated to-day.

LATEST FASHION NOTES.

Novelties for Spring and Summer Wear.

All the young debutante blondes wear bonnets o poppy-red tulle for calling and afternoon teas.

Some of the elaborate French gloves are embroidered on the backs with gold or silver thread in designs of fleur-de-lis and sometimes with the monogram of the wearer.

On the new bonnets all the trimmings are lowered, though they are by no means flat. But the towering pointed bows of last year have given place to soft, wide loops, put on to give a broader effect. Very thick aigrettes will be used again, and these as high as ever, but too fine and light to be objectionable.

For evening wear in the way of wraps the plush long coat is giving place to one of red cloth, or preferably of poppy-colored cashmere. If of the latter it is made with a number of little tucks both back and front, which descend to the waist and there open to form part of the fulness in the very full skirts. They are lined throughout with sicilienne of the same shade and have sleeves opening very wide at the wrist.

A pretty walking dress is made of bright golden brown ladies' cloth, with a very high finish. The skirt is edged with a little cording of sealskin, above it being many folds of the material in pinked scallops. The long curtain draperies are corded with the sealskin, as are the edges of the vest, which is composed of rows of the pinked materials. A pretty little cloth and sealskin toque and a sealskin cape complete the costume.

Corsages with full fronts are in great favor for dresses of various materials, from heavy silks to the thinnest gauzes. The amateur dressmaker will find that this fulness is easily added, and that it will improve the simplest bodice. For cotton fabrics and also for silks it is only necessary to add two or three inches of greater breadth to the fronts, gathering this fulness at the throat and at the waist line. In wash dresses the darts are not taken up on the outside, but only in the lining; in silks, however, the darts are sewed in both.

Double-breasted corsages are becoming too long for slender figures, as they have the effect of making them appear shorter in the waist. Irregular arrangements are preferred for double-breasted bodices, such as lapping the right side nearly to the left arm-hole, then turning over the top to form a triangular reverse and sloping the space below back to the middle of the waist line. Another fancy has the doubled parts only below the darts, while the upper part has a gathered plastron of silk or lace edged by a collar of moir or velvet, which also crosses with the lower part to the left side, where it is buttoned.

For waists that are too short braces or bretelles of ribbon are used to give an appearance of greater length. Two inch ribbons are folded narrowly to a point just beside the buttons, and are gradually widened until they reach to the collar, or else the shoulder-seams next the collar, when they again pass down the back, forming a point at the waist line. Narrow, long vests and slender revers are also becoming to those short waists. Diamond-shaped revers rolled over next a narrow vest are in great favor at present; each revers represents half an elongated diamond, and may be made of velvet, while the vest is of moire, or may be covered with gilt beading or galloon or with lace, and the revers be made of moire.

To make a pretty V shaped opening in a dress high on the shoulders, the straight edges of the fronts of the dress goods are carried back to the shoulder seams and the fulness is gathered along these seams. Pretty lapped corsages have the fulness carried still further back on the shoulder-seams, and a fabric of contrasting color (such as surah, tulle or Brussels net) partly fills in the pointed throat, passing around the neck and being carried in folds down the front, lapping to the left side at the waist line and finished there with a rosette or flowing bow of ribbon. For instance, a dress of suede-colored bengaline has pale blue China crape folds in the neck; and another of gray veiling striped with poppy-red has bright red surah folds with inside olds of red tulle next the open throat.

All the shop windows are now filled with the spring goods. A pretty satine is of a light shade of old blue, with polka dots of a darker shade and irregular sizes strewn over it in such a manner as to give the effect of stripes. Pale gray blue veilings are shown in combination with heavy cream white canvas, with widely separated double stripes of the blue grey in bourette. All shades of green are popular in the new satines and summer silks; the figures are rather large, and are copied from natural objects, such as leaves, flowers and fruit, rather than the conventional designs that were in favor last season. Nearly all the veilings and cashmeres, chaillies and bengalines are made in combinations, most of them having skirt and waistcoat of dull white, striped with the color from which the draperies and bodice are made.

A White Robin.

On Thursday morning Mr. H. W. Barret, telegraph operator at Maiden's Adventure, Va., was sitting in his office, and, to his astonishment, he saw a white robin perch itself on a tree near by. He called the attention of several parties to it, but they said it could not be a robin. Mr. Hicks, who was present, shot the bird, and it proved to be a robin, entirely white, with the exception of a small brick-dust spot under the breast.—*Richmond (Va. State.*

A Tarantula's Savage Attack.

A Kansas City despatch says: Mrs. Johnson, who keeps a small fruit store on Independence avenue, was moving a bunch of bananas this morning when a large tarantula jumped out and made a savage attack upon her, but inflicted no wound. It then jumped to the floor, where a cat attacked it and received a bite, from which it soon died. The insect's body was over an inch in diameter.

The Grand Old Man and Mrs. Gladstone will celebrate their golden wedding (D. V.) in July next.

SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

The Origin of Many Chest and Throat Diseases.

Some of us who have attained to the dignity of middle age may remember the time when George Catlin, the famous American traveller, startled nervous people by solemnly warning them of the dangers of opening their mouths. Carlyle, whose mouth by the way, when he had anybody to listen to him, was certainly "open" to a very considerable extent, had emphatically uttered a similar warning; but, whereas his words had reference only to the flow of talk, Mr. Catlin was exclusively concerned with the inhalation of breath, which he firmly maintained ought as far as possible to be performed by the nostrils. The memory of the eccentric little book, with its odd pictorial devices, entitled "The Breath of Life," wherein these views were propounded, is just now revived by Dr. Abbotts in a new monthly magazine devoted to the subject of health. Dr. Abbotts was a personal friend of Catlin, and, moreover, assisted him in writing the little book referred to. Catlin it was who said: "If I were to endeavor to bequeath to posterity the most important motto which the human language can convey, it would be in three words—Shut your mouth." Since then this advice has become one of the commonplaces of popular physiology. Catlin spent great part of his life among the North American Indians, sojourned with them, practiced their customs and mode of life, until he became as one of themselves. He went among them in the hope of improving his health by travel, for he was suffering from consumption. Having observed that this insidious disease and indeed all chest and throat affections were very rare with the Indian tribes he inquired into the cause, got a useful "wrinkle," as folk say, profited by it and was troubled with weak lungs no more. So careful, we are told, are the Indians in this respect that the women are very particular in inculcating among their children from infancy the habit of keeping the mouth shut. How many a civilized white father would at times be glad to "inculcate" in the same direction! After lowering the baby from the breast they carefully press its lips together before it falls asleep, and we are told that the habit it thus early acquired becomes permanent. One of the most eminent of the popular expounders of scientific truth in the present day is credited with saying that: "Man is the only creature that can breathe through the mouth and he is a fool when he does so." Dr. Abbotts attributes to our ignorance and neglect of this truth a great proportion of our cases of sore throat, cough, bronchitis and chest disease. Caries of the teeth is also one of the evil consequences, while the injury done to the habitual expression of the features is sufficiently recognized by our contemptuous term, "a gaping idiot," and the French *gobe mouche* or "fly swallower." There seems little reason to doubt, says the London *News*, that chest and throat diseases, which often spring from the inhalation of irritating dust, as well as from damp and cold, would be much less frequent were Catlin's advice universally acted upon, and civilized mankind learned to breathe through the nostrils alone.

"A Word to the Wise is Sufficient."

Catarrh is not simply an inconvenience, unpleasant to the sufferer and disgusting to others—it is an advanced outpost of approaching diseases of worst type. Do not neglect its warning; it brings deadly evils in its train. Before it is to o late, use Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It reaches the seat of the ailment, and is the only thing that will. You may dose yourself with quack medicines till it is too late—'til the streamlet becomes a resistless torrent. It is the matured invention of a scientific physician "A word to the wise is sufficient."

How Monkeys Eat Oysters.

Alfred Carpenter, of the Marine Survey Office, Bombay, has observed Macacus monkeys on the island off South Burmah opening oysters with a stone. They bring the stones from high water mark down to low water, selecting such stones as they can easily grasp. They effect an opening by striking the base of the upper valve until it dislocates and breaks up. Then they extract the oyster with the finger and thumb, occasionally putting the mouth straight to the broken shell. The way they have chosen is the easiest to open the shell.—*Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.*

Many men of many minds
Many pills of various kinds.

But for a mild, effective, vegetable purgative, you had better get Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets. They cure sick headache, bilious headache, dizziness, constipation, indigestion and bilious attack; 25 cents a vial, by druggists.

Maiden Inexperience.

Kittie—Oh, Fannie, Joe proposed to me last night. Fannie—No, you don't say? Did he do it nicely? Kittie—Yes—no—I don't know. I'm no expert.—*Washington (D.C.) Critic.*

Fair Evidence for Everybody.

No one can doubt the great merit of Polson's Nerviline, for it has been placed in the market in 10 cent bottles, just to give you the opportunity of testing its wonderful power over all kinds of pain. This is the best evidence of its efficiency, for every person can try for themselves. Polson's Nerviline is a positive (it cannot fail) cure for cramps, headache, colds, neuralgia and the host of pains that flesh is heir to. Good to take; good to rub on. Go to any drug store and buy a 10 cent sample bottle. Large bottles 25 cents.

He Meant Well.

A man, whose wife is away on a visit, wrote to her the other day and added this stanza, which he wrote in good spirit, but which is likely to raise a row:

If absence makes the heart grow fonder,
And distance makes the dear more dear,
I pray thee, do not cease to wander,
And stay away at least a year.

Cause for Singing.

Brown—That Jones is an insufferable bore.

Robinson—How do you make that out?

B.—Hear him singing "I've got $15 in my inside pocket."

R.—Why not? By Jove, if I had $15 in my inside pocket I would sing to.

A "Put and Call."

This is a funny phrase to the uninitiated, but all the brokers understand it. They use it when a person gives a certain per cent. for the option of buying or selling stock on a fixed day, at a price stated on the day the option is given. It is often a serious operation to the dealer, but there is a more serious "put and call" than this: when you are "put" to bed with a severe cold and your friends "call" a physician. Avoid all this by keeping in the house Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. The great cure for pulmonary and blood diseases. Its action is marvellous. It cures the worst cough, whether acute, lingering or chronic, For Weak Lungs, Spitting of Blood, Short Breath, Consumption, Night-sweats and kindred affections, it surpasses all other medicines.

Tonsorial Item.

Barber—I think I have cut your hair evenly. Your head looks perfectly round.

Customer—It don't make any difference if my head ain't round; I'm not going to roll ninepins with it, anyhow.

The treatment of many thousands of cases of those chronic weaknesses and distressing ailments peculiar to females, at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., has afforded a vast experience in nicely adapting and thoroughly testing remedies for the cure of woman's peculiar maladies.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the outgrowth, or result, of this great and valuable experience. Thousands of testimonials, received from patients and from physicians who have tested it in the more aggravated and obstinate cases which had baffled their skill, prove it to be the most wonderful remedy ever devised for the relief and cure of suffering women. It is not recommended as a "cure-all," but as a most perfect Specific for woman's peculiar ailments.

As a powerful, invigorating tonic, it imparts strength to the whole system, and to the womb and its appendages in particular. For overworked, "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated teachers, milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," housekeepers, nursing mothers, and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon, being unequaled as an appetizing cordial and restorative tonic.

As a soothing and strengthening nervine, "Favorite Prescription" is unequaled and is invaluable in allaying and subduing nervous excitability, irritability, exhaustion, prostration, hysteria, spasms and other distressing, nervous symptoms commonly attendant upon functional and organic disease of the womb. It induces refreshing sleep and relieves mental anxiety and despondency.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a legitimate medicine, carefully compounded by an experienced and skillful physician, and adapted to woman's delicate organization. It is purely vegetable in its composition and perfectly harmless in its effects in any condition of the system. For morning sickness, or nausea, from whatever cause arising, weak stomach, indigestion, dyspepsia and kindred symptoms, its use, in small doses, will prove very beneficial.

"Favorite Prescription" is a positive cure for the most complicated and obstinate cases of leucorrhea, excessive flowing, painful menstruation, unnatural suppressions, prolapsus, or falling of the womb, weak back, "female weakness," anteversion, retroversion, bearing-down sensations, chronic congestion, inflammation and ulceration of the womb inflammation, pain and tenderness in ovaries, accompanied with "internal heat."

As a regulator and promoter of functional action, at that critical period of change from girlhood to womanhood, "Favorite Prescription" is a perfectly safe remedial agent, and can produce only good results. It is equally efficacious and valuable in its effects when taken for those disorders and derangements incident to that later and most critical period, known as "The Change of Life."

"Favorite Prescription," when taken in connection with the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and small laxative doses of Dr. Pierce's Purgative Pellets (Little Liver Pills), cures Liver, Kidney and Bladder diseases. Their combined use also removes blood taints, and abolishes cancerous and scrofulous humors from the system.

"Favorite Prescription" is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, **under a positive guarantee,** from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrapper and faithfully carried out for many years.

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