FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

What is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

Glasgow's tramway system, when complete, will measure 191 miles.

Leith grain merchants are complaining of a considerable dullness in trade.

An organ is to be erected in Trinity U. F. Church, Greenock, at a cost of $3,500.

The Fair City of Perth declines to have its quiet disturbed by Sunday tramcars.

The Technical College in John street, Glasgow, is to be extended at a cost of $105,000.

A tombstone dated 1611, has been lately unearthed at Whittingehame, Haddingtonshire.

A cockatoo which could speak Hindustani (without profanity) has just died in Aberdeenshire.

About 900 miners have lost work through the stopping of collieries at Airdrie and Lesmahagow.

The Company of Stationers of Glasgow claims an existence of 168 years, having been formed in 1740.

A telegraph operator at Edinburgh G.P.O. has fallen heir to $500,000 left by an uncle near San Francisco.

Eight tanks of Loch Leven yearling trout, numbering about 2,000, have been deposited in Linlithgow Loch.

A duck belonging to Mr. Wm. Stewart, Near Mains, Whithorn, has laid two eggs, each of which weighs 5 ozs.

A few people are agitating for an artificial cascade being constructed on the face of the Castle Rock at Edinburgh.

Glasgow has the reputation of consuming more bananas for its size than any other town in the United Kingdom.

One of the new sea lions at the Glasgow Zoo barks like a dog. Its bark seems to be inspired by a desire for a fish to eat.

At Arbroath the dangerous bit of road at Fernlea and Woodville is to be put right by the filling in of the ditches and by fencing.

A two-foot snake with a "back covered with white and green squares like linoleum" was killed in an Edinburgh back garden the other day.

At Auchterderran Manse there has been unearthed a piece of a sundial, supposed to have belonged to St. Fothad, the bishop who gave Auchterderran its charter in the year 1025.

The Sheriff at Dunfermline has decided that the owner is not liable for damage done by a strayed bullock, which entered the lobby of a dentist's premises and destroyed a valuable vase.

A Mohammedan baby was named recently by the priest of the Senegal villagers now in the Edinburgh Exhibition. The ceremony was performed in public, and the child was called Oumar Reekie Scotia.

It was discovered that Burns' Monument and museum at Kilmarnock had been broken into since it had been closed the night before. The most valuable thing stolen is a copy of the first edition of Burns' poems.

For years a decline in the birth-rate of Aberdeen has been very noticeable. The returns for 1907 show that the birth rate per thousand of the population was 25.8, which is the lowest in record since the passing of the Registration Act.

Paisley has 350 people over 70 years of age who are in receipt of poor relief.

A couple of Mormon converts were baptized recently by immersion in the Leith public baths.

A good deal of damage was done to McEwan's brewery, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, by a recent fire.

Dundee Harbor Board is said to be in such a satisfactory condition that it is able to invest money instead of borrowing it.

Dunoon has decided to charge vessels landing goods or passengers at its pier 1d. per net ton over the existing charges.

A public meeting in Edinburgh recently decided to take steps to raise money to erect a memorial to the late Marquis of Linlithgow.

The attractions of golf, football, cycling and motoring have almost blotted out the pleasures of boating on the Dee at Aberdeen.

The penny dreadfuls are probably to blame for a very youthful message boy bolting from Edinburgh with $6.50 and seeking adventures in Glasgow.

The body of a man supposed to be George Rae Cowie, solicitor, of Inverurie, was found in an Edinburgh hotel with an empty bottle of laudanum standing near.

The Paisley School Board are paying special attention to the education of mentally defective children, and about eighty are at present attending Abercorn school.

This is the jubilee year of the formation of Dalbeattie into a burgh, and it is proposed to celebrate the event by a gala day in the parks during the summer.

Orcadian fishermen are opposed to the granting of a lease of Firth Bay to a syndicate in order to start an oyster ranch, and the Secretary of State for Scotland has been appealed to on the subject.

Mr. John Birkmyre has given a donation of £100 in aid of Port Glasgow unemployed. Including this sum, Mr. Birkmyre has now made a total contribution of £300 to the relief fund.

The workmen at Selby Abbey recently found a large jackdaw's nest on the staircase of the old tower. They were compelled to remove it, and in doing so they found in and around it 64 six-inch nails and 32 screws.

Greenock School Board has decided to recommend the payment of grants towards the instruction of Gaelic to scholars in districts where a considerable number of Gaelic-speaking ratepayers express a desire for such education.

Mr. John Anderson, who recently retired after a service of forty years as secretary of Callander and Oban Railway, was presented at Oban with his portrait as a tangible recognition of his services in the development of the West Highlands.

Lord Provost Gibson, Edinburgh, on Wednesday performed the opening ceremony in connection with the new block of cottage homes which has been added to the cottage homes of the Aged Christian Friend Society of Scotland at Colinton.

The Provost, magistrates and Town Council of Stranraer hold in trust $2,500 bequeathed by the late Mr. David Guthrie, a Provost of the burgh, the free interest or income to be derived from such sum being applied for the education or for assisting in the education of poor deserving children.

THE REBIRTH OF BRUGES.

Restoration of Trade to a Forgotten Capital.

After more than four centuries of stagnation, Bruges, once the commercial capital of Europe, is to regain some of its ancient prosperity. The sea has been restored to it. A canal has been cut from the city to the sea, a new port constructed, and a way made by which the quaint old city of the lace-makers may handle some of the current of trade which passes between the ocean and the hinterland.

In the middle of the fifteenth century Bruges was the busiest and richest city, if not the largest, in Europe. It was situated on a canal which had been so built as to form a branch of the Zwyn estuary, was a principal market of the Hanseatic League, and had at its wharves shipping from all the world. When Paris numbered one hundred and twenty thousand people, Bruges had a fourth more. Its factories were never idle, its merchants became princes, its many canals were alive with boats bound for inland places.

But in the course of time it was found that the arm of the sea was filling with drifting sands. Efforts were made to stay the process, but without success. Year by year the waters shoaled, and by the middle of the sixteenth century Bruges was but an inland town, the empty shell of former greatness.

In the lapsing centuries many efforts have been made to restore the city's harbor. A canal to Ostend gave some relief, but was soon rendered obsolete by the increase in the size of vessels. In 1810 Napoleon attempted to solve the problem, but failed again.

Meanwhile the population fell away to forty thousand. Houses and stores stood idle. Only the lace factories remained busy. They still employed five thousand of the Bruges women, and the ancient city hall, the markets and churches, built in the days of prosperity, remained the finest examples in northern Europe of the architecture of the fifteenth century.

At last, thirty years ago, a certain Flemish nobleman proposed a deep canal to the sea direct. After a dozen years of deliberation the government agreed, and in 1896 the state, province and city together begun work.

A canal twenty-six feet deep has been dredged through the sand, about eight miles in a straight line to the North Sea. There immense concrete jetties make a new "fore port" for Bruges, where passengers and express freight can be transferred to rail. Heavy goods will pass through a lock to the canal, and so to a great new basin at the city itself, where all the canals have access to wharves and quays. A city of Zeebrugge, or Sea-Bruges, has been established at the mouth of the canal. Bruges itself has already felt the impetus, and it is rapidly growing again, the population in 1900 being more than fifty thousand. Its paupers, of which it has the largest proportion of any European city, are diminishing, and prosperity seems at hand.

Nothing more picturesque has been attempted by the engineers in recent years than this restoration of trade to a forgotten capital, this re-introduction of the sea through the treacherous dunes to the ancient City of Bridges.

FOREST FIRES AND RAILWAYS.

More Attention is Now Being Paid to Prevent Burning of Forests.

Railway construction has too often meant forest destruction.

Immense as are the benefits that the Canadian Pacific Railway, for example, has conferred on Canada, it is nevertheless true that during the construction of that railway millions of dollars worth of timber were destroyed through fires originating along its right of way. And fear is now felt that the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific—running, as it does in many districts, through dense forests, of valuable timber—may give rise to similar destruction.

The New Brunswick authorities, accordingly, negotiated with the authorities of the Dominion with a view to the adoption of a system of efficient patrol along the lines for the purpose of detecting and putting out incipient fires; and it is now announced that arrangements have been made to have the line patrolled this summer. Along the line of the G.T.P. west of Edmonton, too, a strong patrol has been arranged for and is already in operation.

Forty years ago there was a solid forest extending from Nipigon, Ont., past Port Arthur and Fort William and westward up to a comparatively short distance from Winnipeg. But when the troops went through in 1870 on their way to Fort Garry to put down the first Riel Rebellion, the country was badly burned; and in 1882-84, while the railway was being constructed, the work of destruction was finished. Even in 1884 it was possible to walk through unburnt forest for a distance of one hundred miles east of Lake Superior.

Through the Rocky Mountains and west into British Columbia a similar work of destruction went on. Instances of extensive destruction can be instanced around Canmore, B.C., and also on the shores of Kicking Horse Lake, where green forests were converted by fires during railway construction into barren wastes; and these are by no means isolated instances.

Of late years more attention has been paid to this problem. Mr. John R. Booth, himself a lumberman of wide experience, in building the Canada Atlantic, placed such restrictions on his contractors in regard to burning brush and setting fires generally, that no fire of any consequence occurred during the construction of the railway; and this in spite of the fact that the road ran through what was then one of the most valuable pineries of the province. In Northern Ontario, along the lines of the Temiscamingue and Northern Ontario Railway, which also runs in many places through valuable timber, no serious fires have occurred, by reason of constant and vigilant patrolling of the line. The Commissioners of the National Transcontinental Railway have also adopted regulations governing their employees in this matter and enjoining strict vigilance in the guarding of all fires.

IN THE HOMES OF FAIR CANADA

Dr. William's Pink Pills Are Bringing Health to Weak, Despondent People.

There is not a nook or corner in Canada, in the cities, towns, villages and farms where Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have not been used, and from one end of the country to the other they have brought back to breadwinners, their wives and families the splendid treasure of new health and new strength. You have only to ask your neighbors and they can tell you of some nerve-shattered man, suffering women, ailing youth, or unhappy anaemic girl who owe present health and strength to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Their wonderful success is due to the fact that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills go right to the root of the disease in the blood, and by making the vital fluid rich and red, strengthen every organ and every nerve, thus driving out disease and pain.

Mr. Joseph Lacombe, Quebec City says:—"To-day I weigh about forty pounds more than I did a year ago, and am in every way in much sounder health. For upwards of two years I had been studying hard to pass my examinations and my health had completely given way under the strain, I lost flesh rapidly, my appetite was gone and my nerves were greatly weakened. I was obliged to abandon my studies and was in a state of complete exhaustion. I consulted a physician, but as I was daily growing weaker I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which I had often heard very highly spoken of. The beneficial effects were indeed remarkable for I had not used more than a couple of boxes when I could feel an improvement, and hope returned. I continued using the pills for some weeks longer, with the result that my strength increased daily and I was soon able to take over my studies and work with as much energy as I had ever done. To-day I am in perfect health and I attribute my recovery solely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

You can get these Pills from any medicine dealer or by mail at 50c. a box or six boxes for $2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

SAVED HIMSELF.

Lance—"Was your husband lucky during the last race meeting?"

"Yes," answered young Mrs. Torkins, "he sprained his ankle and couldn't attend."

SOMETHING WRONG.

Gyer—"Isn't it queer that the bump of benevolence is located exactly at the top of a man's head?"

Myer—"What's queer about it?"

Gyer—"Why, it's as far from the pocketbook as possible."

LET HIM OFF EASY.

Lola—"Last night young Borem declared he would willingly go to the ends of the earth for me."

Grace—"And what did you say?"

Lola—"I finally got him to make a start for home, and let it go at that."

CORRECT!

When a man ceases to be interested in his work, says the philosopher, he no longer lives. Which may account for so many dead ones encumbering fairly good jobs.

Hard luck and work seldom travel together.

A man who can turn his hand to anything is usually too lazy to make the turn.

There's many a man open handed with his own pleasures from whom a dentist could not draw a dime for the needy.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Tit-Bits of Information About Most Everything.

According to Chinese law, a wife who is too talkative may be divorced.

The average length of life of a tradesman is two-thirds that of a farmer.

The ants of South America are great tunnel builders. They have been known to construct a tunnel three miles in length.

A woman in Manchester, England, has eyes which magnify objects fifty times their natural size. The oculists consider her a wonder.

The largest serpent ever measured was an anaconda, found dead in Mexico. It was thirty-seven feet long, and it took two horses to drag it.

Italians of the poorer classes are noted for their general good health. This is to some extent attributed to the fact that the working people of Italy eat less than those of any other European nation.

Bananas are now ripened in London by electricity. They are hung in airtight rooms, which are flooded with electric light. The powerful lamps have the same effect as sunshine, and the ripening of the fruit can easily be regulated.

Glass telegraph poles are coming into use in both hemispheres. They are to be manufactured at Grossalmerode, Germany. An architect of Cassel has been granted patents for it in Germany and other European countries and in the United States. The glass is reinforced by wires suitably disposed. These poles, it is supposed, will be particularly adapted for countries where wooden poles are quickly destroyed by insects or climate. The Imperial Post Department of Germany has ordered these poles for its telegraph and telephone lines.

The Queen of Spain likes figured brocades, while Wilhelmina of Holland is most at home in a tailor-made gown. Carmen Sylva wears the flowing robes of her country, and the favorite color of the Queen of Italy is a blue-gray. The Czarina of Russia likes a white gown and is always simply but richly gowned.

The Library at the British Museum, which now contains between three million and four million volumes, is without exception the largest in the world, the only one which approaches it in size being the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, and it is interesting to note that for the accommodation of this immense number of books upward of forty-three miles of shelves are required.

The ingenious Germans have invented a composition made from potatoes that answers the purpose of cedar in the making of lead pencils. Consul Hannah, of Magdeburg, writes: "I have used some of these pencils, which, while slightly heavier, are the same in size, form and appearance as those at present in use, admit of sharpening a little more easily, and can be produced at a very nominal figure."

In Denmark there is a peculiar institution in the way of insurance for the daughters of the nobility. As soon as a daughter is born to a Danish nobleman he enrolls her name on the books of this insurance company and pays a certain sum into the treasury. Each year thereafter the same sum must be paid. When the girl is twenty-one she becomes entitled to a fixed income and a suite of apartments until she either marries or dies.

A Norwegian inventor has patented a suit of clothes which will protect its wearer against drowning. The clothes are lined with a non-absorbent material made of specially prepared vegetable fibre which without being too heavy will effectually hold up the weight of a man in the water. Twelve ounces of the new material will, it is claimed, save a person from sinking. The invention has been tested with favorable results at Christiania. Successful trials were also made with rugs made of the same material capable of supporting two persons in the water.

Cigars are being made out of chestnut leaves over in England now-a-days. So far, it appears, the custom has not been introduced into this country. Many men were employed in gathering up the dead leaves in the chestnut groves of several big London parks. The leaves are dipped into tobacco juice so that they absorb large quantities of it. These are enclosed in wrappers of real tobacco. While it is declared that smokers are unable to detect the spurious tobacco no attempt is made to get fancy prices for the cigars. They sell for one and two cents apiece.

The letter boxes fly in Hungary. The Post Office Department has devised the aerial letter box to relieve the Budapest postmen, who are few in number and who have hundreds of flights of stairs to climb daily in the great tenement houses. The new letter box can be sent up to its destination from the ground floor by a spring. It stops at the floor required, and remains there until emptied or until the next delivery, when the postman, by touching a spring, can bring it down. Each box contains the necessary number of lockers, fitted with a safety lock, according to the number of residents. The boxes are moved up and down by electricity.

Maine newspapers speak of Peter A. Foley, of Portland, as "the most wonderful telegraph operator in the world." Foley is totally deaf, an affliction which ordinarily would be supposed to make telegraphy an utter impossibility to him, but since he became deaf, eight years ago, he has developed what may be called a sixth sense, and by touch and sight he can detect the finest movements of the instrument and correctly interpret them. By means of the sense of touch in his finger tips he takes messages transmitted from the ends of the continent, and can also read a message by watching the sounder. With his left forefinger placed lightly on the sounder he can take a message as accurately as the average operator.

VICTIMS OF FETICHISM

WITCH DOCTORS KILL THOUSANDS IN DARKEST AFRICA.

Their Victims are Falling Dead Every Hour Over a Vast Domain.

The whites in barbarous Africa say that in spite of the evils the white race has inflicted upon the natives, the good they are receiving, especially the protection to life and property which the new governments are giving them, vastly outweighs the evil.

All authorities have much to say of the horrible misery which fetich doctors impose upon the natives. They assert that fetichism is the cause of more crimes and suffering than all the native wars, epidemics and cannibalism that afflict parts of the Dark Continent. These brutalities can be excused only because the people have always lived in savagery.

Lieut. Poupard of the French army, who has been travelling thousands of miles in the French Congo, says that the victims of fetichism are falling every hour all over that vast domain. Many of the victims drop in their tracks and are dead in a few minutes.

They know who dealt them their death and so do all the natives, but they do not dare to breate his name. It is the fetich doctor who has caused poison stealthily to be

MIXED WITH THEIR FOOD.

In January, 1906, while Poupard's party was passing through a little village they saw a vigorous young man surrounded by natives, who were accusing him of crime. A bowl filled with a red fluid was given to the young man, who drained it.

A few minutes later he fell on his face and was soon dead. He was a victim of the poison test. If his stomach had refused to retain the liquid and he had lived his innocence of the crime would have been proved. The poison killed him, and this was clear proof of his guilt.

Some days later at Mbeto the same party heard a great hubbub and found a woman on the ground covered with wounds. Her left shoulder and her right forearm had been cut to the bone, there was a gaping wound in her hip and her body was covered with contusions. She had received no care, though her injuries had been inflicted several days before. The white men came in time to save her life. They dressed her wounds and cared for her until she was well.

She told them that her husband had died and in the course of his interment the fetich doctor cried out to the people that their friend had not died a natural death, but

HIS WIVES HAD KILLED HIM.

All the men in the village immediately set upon the unfortunate women and only one of them lived to describe the crime.

Poupard on another day came across some women running at top speed with babies on their backs, pursued by a crowd of men who were hurling poisoned javelins at them. The fetich doctor had accused these women of looking upon the bieri, a sacred object that had been taken out of its box for an airing. Any woman who even inadvertently should look upon this object would be put to death.

On the river Muni lives an old man with twenty-two wives, some of whom are young and attractive. For two years past it has been observed that every young man who has attempted to settle on the adjoining lands has mysteriously died. There is no doubt that the aged husband, in league with the local fetich doctor, has brought about their death.

Most of the tribes do not believe that a man dies naturally. Some enemy is always the cause of his death, and the fetich doctor is brought into the case and

POINTS OUT THE CRIMINAL.

Mr. Bret found at Ndombo in October last three natives weighed down by stones at the bottom of a box where they had lingered in agony for days because the fetich doctor suspected that they had cast a spell upon a boatman who had been drowned in a shipwreck.

Commandant Moll in a lecture before the Paris Geographical Society recently told of bereaved widows who had been compelled to take the poison test to show who were responsible for their husbands' death. Some of the women survived because their friends gave presents to the wizard, who thereupon mixed an innocuous dose for them. The bodies of the murdered women were eaten.

These are not isolated cases, but far and wide over Africa superstition is still claiming the lives of thousands. But the influence of the fetich doctor is already beginning to decline because it is now a crime severely punished under the laws of the Congo Free State, the French Congo and all Rhodesia to practise the black arts of the fetich doctor. The bonds in which he has held the helpless people will some day be broken.

WHO WOULDN'T.

Jackson is the kind of man who is always seeking gratuitous advice. Not long ago he met a well-known physician at a dinner-party.

'Do you know, doctor," he said, as soon as there was a chance, "I know a man who suffers so desperately from neuralgia that at times he can do nothing but howl with pain. What would you do in that case?"

'Well, I suppose," deliberated the medical man, "that I should howl with pain, too!"