

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

Industry as a handmaid to science increasingly is appreciated. Electric telegraphy furnishes a striking example. The discovery of the electric current by Volta and the investigation of its properties appear to have been stimulated by the medical properties attributed in the preceding fifty years to electric discharges. But once the current had been discovered, a new incentive arose in the dim possibility it suggested of transmitting signals to a distance. This certainly was a possibility, even when only the chemical effects of the current had been found. But not until the magnetic effects of the current had been discovered and investigated, did telegraphy assume commercial shape at the hands of Cooke and Wheatstone in England and Morse and Vail in America. No sooner had the telegraph become indisputably important than new investigations were found necessary; new and delicate instruments must be devised, means of accurate measurement must be found; standards for the comparison of electrical quantities must be created, and the laws governing the operation of electrical systems and apparatus must be investigated and formulated in appropriate mathematical expressions. So, perhaps, as the inevitable consequence of the growth of the telegraph industry, and mainly at the hands of those interested in submarine telegraphy, there came about the system of electrical and electro-magnetic units, based on the early magnetic work of Gauss and Weber developed further by Lord Kelvin by Bright and Clark, and last but not least, by Clerk Maxwell.

Cold storage is one of the luxuries of life in the desert among the plant people. The installations of plants growing in arid regions for accumulating and holding a reserve supply of water have been described by the celebrated Dr. MacCormac. Special storage organs and storage plants are most abundant in regions in which the scant rainfall occurs during a brief period only; while during the remainder of the year rain is scarce. During the dry season these structures are unchanged on the hot sand. At the commencement of the rainy season roots and shoots are quickly formed and fruit and seed are tured, when the thin stems die down and the organ rests for another season. Some of these storage organs were collected and placed on a dry shelf in a museum in 1902, where they have since remained. Every year since at a period corresponding to the rainy season in its native habitat thin stems are produced, which eventually die back. Five years growth already has been made by the extent of water stored up in root, and the storage organs still are sound and probably will furnish supplies for the annual production of stems and leaves for some years to come.

Brains of plant life are the tendrils. Sensitive plants retreat their leaves when people approach as if they resented further intimacy. All vines which develop climbing organs called tendrils will reach out toward us if we place our hands in contact with them and will even use a finger as a support to climb on. These tendrils will wind just as readily round a twig or grass stem. Tendrils are capable of exhibiting faculties and going through evolutions more wonderful than perhaps are realized. With their sensitive tips they test the objects they come in contact with, apparently considering their suitability as a support, and then accepting or rejecting them as the case may be. The thoroughness with which these tips do their work is illustrated by an instance with a grape vine. A cherry branch whose leaves had been variably punctured and gnawed by insects hung near the tendril and a particular leaf had just one small hole in its blade, not over three-tenths of an inch in diameter. So careful had been the exploration of the leaf's surface that this one small hole had been discovered by the tendril, which had burst itself nearly three inches through the opening.

## HUMOROUS BURGLARS.

During Their Midnight Prowlings They Sometimes Crack a Joke.

To steal bracelets, diamonds, and other valuables with the interesting equipment of beer, cigars, and snuff. It was at a theatre in Dudley, where "The Pickle-Leave Man" was being played, taken a grain, if somewhat darning humor.

The burglar and burglar, Peace, was a real customer in a stranger's house at midnight as he might have been in his own at midday. He is reported to have effected a very safe withdrawal in one place. He had transacted the room and was leaving the last bedroom, in which his child daughter was quietly sleeping when Peace's eyes caught sight of a nail on the wall. "Peace be unto us," the joker was told good night. In the company of the room was a lady's writing-case; and so it the burglar found pen and ink. Reaching down the illuminated card, he quickly uttered the wording to "Phebe has been unto this house." Then he crept out of the room and made good his escape.

Another midnight visitor left a letter on the mantelpiece of the dining-room, in which he informed the owner that he was able-bodied and full of life and fun; that, as evidence of this, he had made free with the boiled ham, though in charity he had left enough for their breakfast. He was sorry, he said, that he had not thought of leaving their money to him, but he would have it next time he came. He further expressed his love for the daughter, his intentions being manifested in writing stronger than in eating ham with his mate, they had had to keep them warm in a heating coil and a cigar. They had to wait until the next morning when they came again. London, Tilbury.

George—a thoroughly bad gentleman puts for his clothes and then forces them. "Nah! That's what I try to do, but my tailor won't let me."

## LACK OF FAITH IN TRUTH

### Why Should We Fear the Light of Investigation on the Things of Religion?

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."—John, viii., 32.

This is the age of the dominance of science. When a man asks, What shall I believe? only one answer can be returned, Believe the things that are. An age now past, found it easy to believe that it believed what it was told; even the things that it knew were not so. But today at least has the merit of finding no merit in the form of self-deception.

The passion for absolute truth and rightness is one of the noblest that can be lost; however seeking truth than springing up in any breast; it is a ripe fruit of religion. The scientist, by his devotion to exact facts to pure truth, is the religious man of our day, and the schools become religious educators in their power to instill a primary love for truth and to lift up ideals of exactness and equity.

"When we translate religion into terms of facts, and actuals, as contrasted with imagination, we begin to discover the true nature of religion, for religion is not a collection of dogmas, nor a collection of commandments. So long as a man's religion is nothing but a collection of fancy about his past or future, he did not need to take his designs from facts.

But when religion becomes the science of right living, the process of securing right social relationships and character as the expression of ideal personal and

INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER.

It is evident that in such a work religion must be based on ascertainment, instead of violence.

We may be satisfied with myths as to the ordering of the first family, and we may leave to the play of fancy the specifications of an ideal heaven; but when we begin to order our own families and adjust our social and civic affairs we are compelled to avail for principles based on facts, for truth. Religion thus becomes a science.

Much eloquence was spent over the conflict between religion and science. It was only a conflict between the old religion and its new form, the gray dawn and the dawning day. Our fathers were not afraid to meet the light; but when so long had held sacred the pictures seen in twilight they were

HENRY F. COPE.

INTERATIONAL LESSON.

OCT. 6

Lesson 4. Joshua, Israel's New Leader. Golden Text: Josh. 1, 5.

THE LESSON WORD STUDIES.

Based on the text of the Revised Version.

Urge and Content of Joshua.—The book of Joshua forms the natural sequel to the Pentateuch. Without the account which it contains of the conquest and settlement of Canaan the narrative of the beginning of Hebrew national history would be incomplete. The arrangement of the Old Testament books in the Hebrew Testimony places the book of Joshua at the head of the books of the law, and the book of Joshua is a group of books dealing with the Son of God, the King of Israel, and the kings of Israel. These books contain the history of the Israelites (1) during the period of conquest and immediately afterward; (2) during the independent kingdom; (3) during the period of foreign invasions. The book of Joshua really forms the connecting link between the narrative of the Pentateuch and that of the books in this group of "earlier prophets." It was placed by Moses himself—For forty years, ever since the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, Joshua had been the principal assistant and adviser to Moses.

3. Every place . . . if you give I have given it—A supreme challenge to conquest and faith.

As I spoke unto Moses . . . The promise referred to is found in Deut. 11, 24, which reads: "Every place wherein the sole of your foot shall tread shall be yours; from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the hinder (western) sea shall be your border."

The boundaries of the land of promise could easily be forgotten they were in the middle of the Atlantic.

The staterooms of the Lusitania are red bedrooms, with brass bedsheads and cheerful furniture and swinging elk-horn glasses.

In regard to the serving of meals on the Lusitania, the American system has been adopted, namely, that a special dinner may be ordered (without extra charge).

The Dowager Countess of Dunmore,

with her two daughters, Lady Muriel Gaynor Browne and the Right Hon. Lady Victoria Murray, tall, graceful, girlish English beauties, were among the Lusitania's passengers.

THE BIGGEST CATASTROPHE.

\$1,000 Deaths a Week From the Plague in India.

The greatest catastrophe the world has ever known is in progress at this present moment, and the world reeks little or nothing of it.

This is the plague epidemic in India, which has now been raging for more than a year, and which, so far as is known, showing any tendency to die out, keeps steadily increasing in intensity. Thus, during the six weeks ending May 10th, last, 681,892 persons perished from the plague in India, at the rate of over 80,000 deaths a week.

Nothing approaching the appalling horror represented by these figures has ever been recorded before. The nearest it was in 1905, when, during the first week in March, the epidemic was responsible for 57,502 deaths.

No pestilence of ancient or modern times, of which we have any knowledge, has slain so many millions of people as has this one, and the end of which mind is not yet.

The "Great Plague" of London, for example, about which everybody has heard, killed at the outside about 80,000 people in seven months, or about as many as are dying weekly in India from a disease which is identical with it in every respect.

The "Black Death" is said to have

one-third of the then population of England—say 1,500,000 persons; but this is doubtless. Even admitting the correctness of the estimate, however, the mortality of the present epidemic in India has already more than doubled this huge total.

"What will be the end no man can fore-

see; or venture to forecast. It may be that all that has gone before, and all that is happening now, inexpressibly awful though it is, is but the prelude to follow."

PIGLESS BRITAIN.

Eggs and bacon being the real pal-

lud of British liberality, for few self-

respecting Englishmen consider their

breakfast complete without them; it is

really sad news to hear that the

size of most eggs is falling off. So

indeed is the deficiency that the butchers and Pork Butchers Trade Association of Birmingham and district have thought it necessary to issue a special circular calling attention to it. From June, 1905, there was a decrease in the number of pigs in the United Kingdom of 500,000, and that year showed a further decline of more than 20,000 which would have been greater than Ireland had an increase of more than 30,000.

What a blow to the pigless Britons!

George—a thoroughly bad gentle-

man puts for his clothes and then forces them. "Nah! That's what I try to do, but my tailor won't let me."

Jordan took place. The order here mentioned therefore appears to have been given on the seventh day of the month, while the expedition of the spies recorded in the next chapter occupied the time from the fifth to the eighth, the message to the eastern tribes being sent during the same interval.

SOME PEOPLE ACT AS THEIR OWN UNDERTAKER.

Irish Merchant Sang His Own Requies-  
-tus. Woman's Body Was Covered  
With Snuff.

NOTES ON THE LUSITANIA

NOBODY WAS SEASICK ON BOARD THE GREAT SHIP.

Interesting Paragraphs About the World's Greatest Vessel and Her Trip.

Not a single case of seasickness was known during the entire voyage of the Lusitania.

One chronicicker said frankly: "What's the use of going to sea in a boat like this with no discomforts to talk or grumble about?"

The Wednesday evening concert on board brought \$100 for the Seamen's Aid, and showed that professional talent had come along.

"Never anything like it," was the universal verdict of the passengers regarding the great Cunarder.

More than a score of newspaper men from England and Scotland accompanied the Lusitania on her trip.

A large contingent of officials went on the big ship to Queretaro, awaiting there the Postmaster-General, waiting for the 1,500 boxes of mail brought over.

Every foot of the Lusitania's way was set forth to the world by wireless telegraphy, as far as her course had been longer than from New York to Hoboken.

The acclaim accorded the Cunarder on her arrival was greater than that given to the first steamship which entered the port of New York.

The Lusitania made her record 6 hours and 29 minutes quicker than the most notorious snail-takers in the parish of St. James, Westminster.

As no completed New York deed of the Cunarder Company could accommodate the Lusitania, the new Chelsea dock at 14th street was utilized.

The Cunard dock at New York, where the Lusitania landed, is 800 feet long, so there was just room, enough for the passengers.

Following is what the Lusitania's 2,600 passengers ate on the trip: French meats, 25,000 pounds; salt meats, 3,000 pounds; fish, 4,573 pounds; eggs, 3,233 dozen; coffee, 3,759 pounds; tea, 1,150 pounds; butter, 4,165 pounds; bacon, 500 pounds; ham, 500 pounds; eggs and bananas, 9,436; grapes, 5,752 pounds; lemons, 1,000 pounds; bread, 31,000 loaves; milk, 11,570 quarts; cream, 1,763 quarts.

The tremendous welcome in New York harbor fairly made the water shiver, and in the din the Lusitania's siren, great as is its volume of sound, was heard with difficulty.

The average daily coal consumption in the Lusitania was considerably less than the 1,600 tons announced as the minimum.

The extreme speed of the Lusitania, so far as 26.45 knots. She has done that for two runs of fifty miles, one with her crew, and one against the current.

With hourly messages from friends with the daily newspaper containing telegraphic news from the world's events with stenographers and typewriters, passengers on the Lusitania could easily forget they were in the middle of the Atlantic.

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