

AN AERONAUT WHO KNITS.

M. Santos-Dumont Gets Much-Needed Relaxation in the Feminine Occupation.

Next to the flying through space in his flying machine M. Santos-Dumont enjoys knitting, making embroidery, and tapestry, reports the New York World.

M. Santos, as he prefers to be called, says it is a relaxation, and adds that he likes it. There are many things of his making in his elegant apartments at the Elysee palace hotel in Paris—chair seats worked in cross stitch, embroidered tray cloths, tea coverings and cushions, and ever so many other articles. They show that he possesses a high degree of skill and delicate appreciation of the artistic in design and color effects.

But when M. Santos really wants to enjoy himself in his home he knits. When he is studying a knotty problem in connection with his airship he knits, clicking the flying needles in true German fashion and scarcely ever glancing at them.

His apartments are in keeping with his home occupations. The drawing room is paneled in white and gold. No one would dream of using the delicate chairs with their dainty brocade coverings, and it is difficult to escape the many tables laden with bric-a-brac.

In the bedroom the walls are covered with pale blue silk, over which white dotted net is draped. The curtains of the window and of the canopied bed are held back with huge bows of blue satin ribbon.

AN ACT OF PROVIDENCE.

The Remarkable Problem That Has Come Before Congress for Settlement.

A claim has been put in congress and referred to a senate committee which has already been the subject of some very interesting decisions in regard to the true nature of an "act of Providence," reports the Washington Star. The claim is for the loss or damage of two trunks belonging to an army surgeon on the occasion of the great storm at Galveston, Tex., September 8, 1900. The chief quartermaster at San Antonio refused to order a board of survey on the case, as he said the storm was an act of Providence, for which the carrier could not be held responsible. The claimant took exception to this statement.

"It is an article of faith," he said, "with all good Christians, that the ways of Providence are inscrutable and past finding out."

"This last proposition being accepted as a fact by all Christians, I have the honor to maintain that if the storm of September 8, 1900, had been an act of Providence it could not have been foretold by man, whereas, as a matter of fact, it was predicted by the United States weather bureau, and the people of Galveston were warned of the approach and its expected visitance."

In order to more firmly establish his claim that the storm at Galveston was not an act of Providence, the claimant has submitted the full report of the weather bureau descriptive of the catastrophe.

"Pelee" was the name which the Hawaiians in their pagan days gave to the goddess who, according to their belief, inhabited one of their largest volcanoes.

FRANCE PAID THE FIDDLER.

Germany Was Fully Reimbursed for the Cost of the War of 1871.

Up to March 31 last Great Britain had spent \$1,145,500,000 in conducting the war in South Africa. This sum is largely in excess of the cost to Germany of the Franco-Prussian war of 1871, for which, however, the nation was fully reimbursed by the vanquished nation. France paid as war indemnity about \$30,000,000 less than the British expenditure in the Boer conflict. Strictly speaking, that indemnity only amounted to 5,000,000,000 francs, or \$1,000,000,000, but Germany received about \$115,000,000 more from her vanquished foes in the form of a special contribution from the city of Paris, special taxes in France, and interest on the chief indemnity. Out of this all the expenses of the war were repaid. Some \$140,000,000 went to establish a pension fund for old soldiers, \$80,000,000 was spent on reorganization, about \$90,000,000 on fortresses, \$42,500,000 on straits, railways, while \$30,000,000 were stored in gold as an imperial war chest in case of emergencies, and this immense treasure is still lying dead in the vaults of the Julius tower in the fortress of Spandau. But the interesting thing is that the Boer war has cost Great Britain far more than their final war of unification cost the Germans.

Resuscitating Power of Light.

The extraordinary resuscitating power of light received a very curious illustration a few years ago in the silver mines at Laurim. The mines had been abandoned more than 2,000 years ago as unworkable, and an enterprising Briton discovered some poppies of a species which had disappeared for 20 centuries, the seed of which had lain dormant beneath the slag for 2,000 years. When the slag was removed to the furnace the next visit to the mine found the entire space covered with a most gorgeous show of poppies. After their 20 centuries' rest they had bloomed as vigorously as ever, without the aid of a single drop of water or any restorative other than the rays of the sun.

INTELLIGENT ROBINS.

Remarkable Performance of Three of the Birds to Save One of Their Young.

The following incident seems too remarkable to be true, and yet it is vouched for by a writer whose word should not be doubted, says the Minneapolis Journal: "Two robins were trying to teach their little one to fly. It attempted to cover too great a distance and fell to the ground. My little boy caught it and I told him to put it on the roof of our side porch. Then he and I watched to see what the old birds would do. They fluttered about the yard for awhile and then flew off. We waited for them to return, but they did not, and I had just made up my mind that they had deserted the young one when I saw them coming, accompanied by a third old one. They flew directly to the roof of the porch, and I saw that one of them had a piece of twine in its bill. And what do you suppose they did next? If I had not seen it I never would have believed it. Two of them caught hold of the twine, one at each end, and the little one caught the middle of it in his bill. Then they flew off the porch, the third robin flying under the little one and supporting it on its back."

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