

## ABOUT WOMAN.

The only way to avoid growing old is to die young.

The Princess of Wales spends \$5,000 a year for banquets.

Miss Gertrude Griswold is an operatic success in London.

Another bright woman gone wrong—Kate Field is writing a novel.

Persian ladies never act in public, only in private. Sage ladies are all small boys.

Princess Irene of Hesse, it is said, will soon marry Prince Ludwig of Biden, a grandson of Emperor William.

Richard M. Hoe's will, presented for probate, gives the income of all his property to his widow and daughters.

Clever women, according to M. Ludovic Halevy, the French playwright, are never wanting on the French stage.

Astrologers are about to pick out a wife for the Emperor of China. The fortunate woman will say, "My stars!"

The late storm demonstrated the fact that an overwhelming majority of ladies wear black stockings.

Queen Victoria's "Journal of a Life in the Highlands" has actually been translated into Persian and has had a large sale in Asia.

Mrs. Conant, the wife of the missing editor of *Harper's Weekly*, is a proof-reader and translator of foreign languages in that establishment.

The late Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, the famous novelist, was the first woman to send a telegraphic dispatch under the ocean via the Atlantic cable.

Lawrence Barrett's daughter is in a school at Utica, N. Y., and it is said that she has never seen a play or an opera. It is her father's wish that she shall never have anything to do with the stage. How can she associate with her partner?

A German physician asserts half of woman-kind are mentally unbalanced. They may be in Germany, but if he comes over to this country he will be convinced right speedily that they have mind enough to give him a piece and to spare.

## Fungi Destructive to Canada Thistle.

The immense losses to agriculturists from rust in wheat, black knot in cherries, pear blight and potato rot have repeatedly brought before the popular mind something of the extent and character of parasitic fungi. It is not so generally known that native plants and even pernicious weeds have each their fungus enemies, partly from the fact that these parasites have not been sufficiently aggressive to attract special notice. The purple, pigweed, medick, dandelion, dock, shepherd's purse, quackgrass and many other common weeds support parasitic fungi that are more or less destructive. One weed, however, most important of all, has recently become seriously affected by a species of rust that threatens a serious diminution. Almost any patch of thistles will show its progress. The rust commences as a yellowish growth on the under side of the leaves accompanied by a general sickly appearance of the whole plant; later on appears the familiar rust red or reddish-brown growth due to the abundant multiplication of the summer spores, which in favoring weather rapidly extend the disease to other plants; later still comes the black stage due to the development of the thick-walled winter spores which carry the plant through the winter season to germinate the following Spring.

The immediate effect of the rust is to prevent maturity of blossoms and fruit in the thistle and thus reduce its possibility of spreading; but the ultimate effect is to kill the plant by continually sapping its vitality. The growth and propagation of this fungus should be sedulously guarded and its influence may possibly rid us of one of the vilest of our introduced weeds, for notwithstanding its name the Canada thistle is not a native Canadian plant, but an importation from Europe. There is no danger that the cultivation of the rust will in any way endanger cultivated plants for the rust of corn, wheat and other grains represent species totally distinct. Indeed the rust of the common field thistle, which appears more commonly on the upper side of its leaves in isolated spots, is regarded as distinct from the form on the Canada thistle which, as stated above, confines itself to the lower surface of the leaves and covers them in a layer.

## AMERICAN FABLES.

A Wolf who had Borrowed a quarter of Lamb of the Lion greedily Devoured it, but soon afterwards Remarkd:

"Seems to me that Mutton wasn't quite up to the Spring Lamb standard. Indeed, I never ate a Worse Piece."

"And yet," replied the Lion, "had you seen me Devour it you would have looked your chops and thought how Delicious it was."

MORAL:

If the Watermelon you send to a neighbor is over-ripe you will be Criticised; if not ripe Enough you will get no Credit for generosity.

## THE UNGRATEFUL MEXICAN.

A Mexican who was shouting for War and Loudly Abusing the United States was addressed by a Passer by with:

"Since you have stolen at least 500 head of Texas Cattle and Escaped being Planted on the side I fall to see what Motive has induced you to Indulge in this Trade."

"Oh, I'm not speaking Personally," he replied, "but for the Community at Large."

MORAL:

Thieves sometimes stop Stealing long Enough to Read Honest Men a Lesson in Integrity—in your Eye!

## THE PATIENT AND THE DOCTOR.

A Peasant who was very ill and expected to Die Promised the Doctor \$50 if he saved his Life. A Fortunate turn of the Disease Enabled the Doctor to pull his Patient through, but when he Presented his Bill the Peasant exclaimed:

"What a monstrous Robbery! I'll never pay it!"

"But you set your own Figures."

"Yes, but any jury will decide that I was too ill to Transact Business."

MORAL:

Don't Depend upon the Promises of a man down a Well.

## ANTARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

Will the Polar Mystery Ever be Solved?

Small as is our knowledge of the vast region surrounding the north pole, the information we have gained respecting that about the south pole is still less. The ancients believed that there was an immense body of land far to the south of Africa, to which they gave the name Terra Australis Incognita. This name appears on maps published as recently as a hundred and fifty years ago. If such a body of land exists, it has remained practically unknown till the present time. Captain Cook was probably the first navigator who visited this region, and he expressed some doubt about the existence of an Antarctic continent. Captain Charles Ross of the English and Lieutenant Wilkes of the United States navy both conducted

### EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS

In the Antarctic ocean about the year 1840, but the observations of both parties were limited to those made on shipboard. In January, 1841, Sir John Ross discovered a volcanic mountain on the Antarctic continent, 12,400 feet in height, which he named in honor of his flag-ship, Mount Erebus. From that time to the present scarcely any attempt has been made to enlarge our knowledge respecting the southern extremity of the planet on which we live.

During all this period, as well as during the entire century that preceded it, there has been an almost constant succession of expeditions to explore the Arctic regions. Nearly every civilized country in the northern hemisphere has been interested in one or more. Commercial enterprises inspired the first Arctic expeditions, while desire for discovery, the spirit of scientific investigation, the love of daring, and the

### PLEASURE OF ADVENTURE

have had most to do in fitting out others. Popular attention has been so generally monopolized by researches in the distant north that to most minds polar is synonymous with arctic. While all seem anxious to know about the region surrounding the north pole, few seem to care to learn about that which is at the opposite extremity of the earth. From the existence of a volcanic mountain of great height we are justified in believing that there is an Antarctic continent, but of its flora and fauna and of its geographical formation we know nothing. There is a region having an area of 3,369,000 square miles about which the rest of the world has no definite knowledge.

The government of Victoria, Australia, has taken the initiative in proposing to fit out a scientific expedition to explore the "Terra Incognita" of the ancient Romans. It has promised a large subsidy in aid of an Antarctic exploring expedition, and has undertaken to enlist the interest of the other Australian colonies. It has also invited the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geographical Society of Germany to take part in the great enterprise. It is proposed to have the expedition ready to start on the fiftieth anniversary of the coronation of Queen Victoria. It is the intention to have it sail from Melbourne and proceed directly south till land is reached and a suitable harbor found for protecting the vessels of the fleet. A portion of the party will be left to explore the coast and take observations that will enable them to prepare accurate maps and charts. Another portion of the party will attempt to ascend what is known as the great ice wall, and

### PROCEED IN SLEDGES

to the south pole, a distance of about fourteen hundred miles. If they succeed in reaching their destination and making a safe return, they will at least render themselves famous throughout the world and during all future time.

From accounts received of the animal, bird, fish, and insect life in these regions, several European naturalists are inclined to believe that the expedition will be of great value to commerce and industry as well as to science. They appear to feel confident that whales of small size are numerous in these southern waters. They also think that porpoises and seals may be more abundant there than off the coast of Alaska. They have no doubt that the waters teem with fish of great value, and feel assured that some of them will yield an oil superior to that obtained from the cod caught on the northern coast of Norway. Many Australians are confident that "there is money" in the proposed expedition, and as a consequence they propose to back it in the interest of business. It is quite likely that their knowledge of the fur-bearing animals of the Antarctic continent was derived from Cooper's novel, "The Sea Lions; or, The Lost Sealers," a very interesting story, but not presumed to have even a foundation in fact.

## An Unlucky Prince.

Prince Alexander is in hard luck. When he was first tendered the Bulgarian throne, he replied, "I do not want it; give it to the poor."

He finally accepted it, but it seems that he had no adequate idea of the length and sharpness of the tack that was concealed in the throne.

It is with thrones as it is with almost everything else one gets for nothing. There is usually some discrepancy in the title that does not leak out until afterwards. We once heard of a boy who, at the breakfast table, was urged by his father to help himself to the maple syrup. He did so, and in a short time discovered that the maple syrup had been used to disguise a large dose of vermifuge, to the imbibing of which the guileless youth had on various occasions strenuously objected.

"I thought there was something the matter with that maple syrup as soon as the old man told me to take all I wanted of it," observed the youth, with a sly smile.

Very possibly Prince Alexander has discovered, ere this, that there was considerable vermifuge in the dose of Bulgarian syrup bestowed on him so condescendingly by the great Powers.

## A Pretty Strong Wind.

A stranger, riding along the road, observed that all the milestones were turned in a particular way, not facing the road, but rather averted from it. He called to a countryman and enquired the reason. "Bless you, sir," replied the man, "the wind is so strong sometimes in these parts that if we weren't to turn the backs of the milestones to it, the figures would be blown off them clear and clean."

## HEALTH.

### ASTHMA: ITS NATURE, CAUSES AND TREATMENT.

The victim of asthmatic troubles, like the sufferer from ague and fever does not receive his fair proportion of sympathy from those who do not know the distress inflicted by such periodic diseases. They may see him at one time struggling with a paroxysm, gasping for breath, wheezing, coughing and choking, and a few hours later at his work, apparently no worse for the ordeal through which he has passed.

They have been told by some authority, or somehow the idea has got around, that "asthma never kills, although a rather disagreeable thing to have." Hence the inference is drawn that in asthmatic affection there is "a great ado" not "about nothing," to be sure, but about something which is overrated by its victims. People have actually died in the convulsions produced by asthma, and on opening their bodies not a trace of disease worthy of the name has been found; but in most cases the disturbed breathing, tightness of chest and stomach oppression that are characteristic of the asthmatic attack proceed from organic or functional affections of a more or less serious nature.

**SYMPTOMS.**—Without taking up space in a discussion of the nature of asthma, as to whether it is a nervous disease only, or a symptom of organic degeneration, traceable to morbid alteration in the blood, let me proceed to describe its effects. The attack is usually preceded by feelings of uneasiness and fullness in the stomach, languor, chilliness; more or less gas is raised; there may be dull pains in the head, with restlessness; the urine may be more than usually abundant, and of a pale color.

These and other indications of disturbed functions may be present, but with varying degrees of intensity. If the patient can lie down he is awakened in the night, usually toward morning, by a great difficulty of breathing. The attack will come on by fits, and there is a feeling of great weight upon the chest, or of a constriction as if it were bound by a rigid band. As the attack progresses, the room seems too small to breathe in, and the patient will ask to have the windows raised and the doors opened; he will gasp and pant in the effort to breathe, appear insensible to the severest cold, and, during the paroxysm, the perspiration will frequently stand in great beads upon the forehead, and the pulse is quick, weak, often irregular, or there may be palpitation of the heart. The hands and feet are cold to the touch, shewing the circulation to be imperfect. After the attack has continued for an hour or more—sometimes three hours, and longer—coughing may supervene, with free expectoration, and relief comes, the exhausted patient falling asleep.

The causes of asthma, like the causes of bronchial or pulmonary affections, are various, and very similar to those of the affections named. As the paroxysms are for the most part spasmodic in their origin, and occasioned by a peculiar irritability of the nerves associated with the muscular apparatus of the larynx, bronchi, or diaphragm, anything in the air that is likely to arouse that irritability, may bring on the attack. Hence, asthmatic people find an atmosphere containing fog, smoke, gases, dust, animal or vegetable emanations and even odors offensive. To some dry air is objectionable, a low, moist region being much more agreeable.

Diseases of the throat, bronchial passages and lungs, have a relation to asthma, and frequently occasion it. So, too, heart troubles and stomach disorders, will bring on the attack. In some cases any kind of food excites it; in others indigestible articles, stimulants and spices, have tendency to bring on the fit through reflex irritation. So, whatever tends to reflex nervous irritability is likely to produce the unpleasant contraction of the bronchial tubes in one who is sub-ect to it.

**TREATMENT.**—A very long list of remedies for asthma is furnished by the books on therapeutics, but none can be said to have a positive efficacy, as there is no specific for the trouble. Whatever treatment is given during the fit, has for its object to lessen the suffering and terminate it as soon as possible. Drs. Telford, Jones, Roberts and others consider inhalation of ether or chloroform or nitrite of amyl as the most efficient means for relief, but these substances must be very cautiously employed. Other powerful laxatives and depressants, like belladonna, opium, tartar emetic, hyocyanus lobelia, cannabis indica, stramonium, have been advised for internal use. Smoking tobacco or the dried leaves or stems of stramonium has been a favorite course by many, and if tried in the early stage of the paroxysm may afford great relief. The application of water in one or more forms has been found as operative for the patient's comfort as any of the drug methods without the dangerous or troublesome after effects that may follow poisonous drugs. "The rubbing wet sheet or *abreibung*," says Dr. Shew, "is the great thing. It should be wet in cold water, well wrung out, laid around the patient's body, and the rubbing thoroughly done. It should be repeated until the nervous excitement abates. If sheets are not at hand, towels dipped in cold water and wrung out may be rubbed well over the chest and spinal region." If the bowels have not been free, water enemata should be given to reduce any irritation arising from intestinal obstruction. Some cases yield readily to a warm bath, or the free application of warm water to the chest, front and back. A warm foot bath in connection with the rubbing wet-sheet, or towels, is to be advised, and the patient may be given cold water to drink freely. Dr. Roberts suggests putting the hands and arms into warm water.

Those who are subject to the asthmatic attack should be careful in their manner of living; but as a rule they are capricious, doing the very things that predispose one to bronchial or gastric irregularity. Although knowing their liability to colds or catarrh, they house themselves closely in over-heated rooms, take little or no exercise, especially in winter, and endeavor to correct the effects of their indiscretion by powerful medicines. A careful diet, with special abstemiousness when a paroxysm is expected, and avoidance of everything known to lead to it is perhaps the best mode of prevention. Dr. Shew regards the *hungry cure* as one of the most salutary in warding off the attack. "One, two or three days fasting, that is, living on pure water, with perhaps a mere trifles of nutriment—although it is, perfectly safe to go that long without food—would be a most effectual method."

\* \* \* So much is this disease connect-

ed with indigestion, that many a fit is brought on by a hearty supper taken upon an undigested dinner, whereas, if the dinner had been light, and the supper omitted altogether, the attack would have been avoided."

If the attacks are persistent, in spite of every effort to suppress them, it would be well for the sufferer to change the locality of his residence, as the atmosphere he breathes may contain the exciting causes. As a rule, whatever helps to strengthen and invigorate the functions generally has a curative influence in the case of asthma—and dependence should be placed more upon a proper diet and well-ordered habits than any kind of medicine. The patient should take regular exercise out of doors every day; bathe in the morning—either the sponge or towel-bath, rubbing the body well after the ablution—dress warmly, and avoid undue exposures to either very high or very low temperature.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

It is estimated that about 100,000 species of flowering plants are now known to botanists.

The world uses 40,000 barrels of petroleum per day. At this rate America has enough on hand to supply the demand for three years.

Consumptive patients are advised by a pupil of Liebig to live in rooms where one or two drachms of sulphur are melted on a hot stove.

A mass of lead in an elevated furnace in Paris was completely dissipated by a stroke of lightning, no trace of the metal being afterward found.

Lieutenant Geeszen has invented a method for firing dynamite shells from ordinary cannon which has just been successfully tried in San Francisco.

Adamascobite, says the *Industrial World*, is a newly discovered mineral found only in Missouri which cuts steel with great rapidity and yet retains a very fine, keen edge.

The steamers plying the Nile have, according to Professor Sayce, driven the crocodile from that river, as it is practically extinct. So is the faith which formerly considered the crocodile sacred.

Experience proves that when concentrated nitric acid (sp. gr. 1.5151) acts upon organic substances, as, for instance, straw used for packing carboys, sufficient heat is produced to set such substance on fire.

An antidote for poison by poison oak, ivy, etc., is to take a handful of quick-lime, dissolve it in water, let it stand an hour, and paint the poisoned parts with it. It is said that three or four applications will cure the most aggravated cases.

Sir Henry Thompson holds that artificial teeth are an evil in those of advanced years, because they enable such persons to masticate flesh. When the teeth fall naturally, it is Nature's design that the individual should subsist on vegetable diet.

## The Story of Rome.

If the history of Venice can be traced by its monuments, much more so can that of Rome. There, as we stand upon some height, the panorama of two thousand five hundred years will pass before us. There, for instance, is the Palatine, the cradle of Rome, where Romulus, the shepherd-boy, watched his flight of birds of good augury; and there the Aventine, where Romulus surveyed his own unsuccessful flight; there is the Forum, ringing still, to our ears, with the cheers of the crowd just loosed from the spell of Cicerus's eloquence; we hear once more the tramp of the Roman legions as they come from their mighty conquests and bend their way along the same Via Sacra on which we stand, passing under yonder gates, familiar to our eyes as to theirs, to the Capitoline, crowned now with the towers of the Ara Cœli. Here Titus brought up and deposited the spoils of Jerusalem, and there is the arch commemorating the triumph. Turn which way we will, every spot is saturated with the memories of ages. Here great Cæsar fell; yonder is the Appian Way, where Paul, the prisoner from Jerusalem, walked with weary footsteps; there is the Colosseum, where the Christians were led forth to the lions; there the Campagna, hellelled into catacombs, in which they hid themselves in days of cruel persecution, and where they laid themselves down to die. Vestiges of Regal Rome, Republican Rome, Imperial Rome will be found scattered around on every hand, in palaces and baths, temples and ruined walls, basilicas, and triumphal arches; while the splendours of St. Peter's and the Vatican, and hundreds of churches, yield ample records of Ecclesiastical Rome.

## You May Have Heard This Before.

A British officer tells a story of the Fiji settlements in the early days: A white man who was taken prisoner by an inland tribe had a cork leg. Noticing that his captors were fixing up an oven, he became nervous, and to conceal his fear called for something to eat. Food being given him he used a large jack-knife to cut it up. Every mouthful or two he struck the jack-knife into his leg with such force that it stood erect. The natives looked on in great astonishment and evident alarm. After the meal was over he began to unscrew his leg. That was too much for the poor savages. They hadn't the slightest curiosity to see what he would do next, but opened a passage for him and let him walk away unmolested. When he reached his horse the natives began to gather around, but after mounting he made a motion as if to unscrew his head, and the spectators fled in dismay.

## Sublime Check.

A stranger entered a fashionable church lately, walked along the aisle and seeing a most comfortable pew vacant, took a seat in it. Shortly after the owner came along accompanied by two ladies, and after sitting down and casting scowling glances at the intruder took out a card and wrote on it, "This is my pew," and handed it to the stranger; whereupon the latter also took a card from his pocket upon which he wrote, "Good pew—what do you pay for it?" and passed it along. N. B.—Correspondence ceased.

"The nonchalance of boys who are sure of a dinner, and would disdain as much as a lord to do or say aught to conciliate one, is the healthy spot of human nature."

## ROUND THE WORLD.

David Heron, of Shelbyville, Ill., exploded dynamite in the Okaw River and seriously injured several men who were swimming in that vicinity. He has been arrested.

San Francisco papers are advertising a rat and squirrel poison that is said to have the excellent qualities of killing the animal, drying up its insides, and tanning the skin.

A young man in Gloucester lost a dollar the other day by betting that he could eat two watermelons that weighed fifty three pounds in two hours. He ate them, but it took him two hours and ten minutes. Now he wants to eat melons against all Canada for \$25.

Canadian fishermen at Cape Sable are having trouble with sharks that not only eat the fish and tear the nets, but threaten the men. One fisherman out in a small boat was obliged to call for help to beat off a huge man-eater that was determined to capsize the skiff and eat its occupant.

A land turtle got in front of Jacob Crider's self-binding reaper, near Greenocastle, Pa., had a hind leg cut off, and was taken up and bound in a sheaf of wheat, where he was found by the thrashers seven weeks later. The place where the leg had been cut off was nicely healed.

One of the results of the earthquake was to cure the rheumatism of a citizen of Columbia, S. C. He had used crutches for years, but when the quake quaked he ran out of the house like a four-year-old steer, and he hasn't used his crutches since.

When a citizen of Lowell the other evening stepped a horse that was aimlessly dragging a top buggy through the streets, he found within the buggy a young and loving and sleeping couple clasped in each other's arms, the girl's head reposing gently upon the young man's shirt bosom.

There is a very bad little Qilin in Greeneville, Ill. The other day he made his small sister drink kerosene until the doctor had a hard job keeping her alive; and after that he induced the same trusting child to lie down on the floor while he should cut off her head with a hatchet. Mrs. Quinn appeared opportunely, or there is no knowing what would have happened.

The decayed woodwork covering a tomb in the old cemetery at Portland, gave way beneath a strolling couple on Monday evening, and they dropped sixteen feet down among the dead men. Their cries brought a citizen, who found them wedged between coffins and badly hurt. The young woman's mental shock is likely to prove quite as serious as her bodily injuries.

Lumbermen get twenty cents a leg at Wausau, Wis., for raising "dead" or water-soaked logs from the bottom of the Wisconsin River. They have already raised about 600,000 feet, and logs that have been dead for twenty years are said to be as sound as the day on which they were cut.

Convict Robert who is in prison at Frederickton, N. B., for criminal assault, will nine months from now receive twelve stripes upon his bare back with a whip, "the handle of which must be twenty-four feet long and half an inch thick." It would seem that the length and size of the lash were of greater importance.

The *Lawiston Journal* tells of a pretty girl at Bar Harbor whose dress at a recent hop attracted much attention, and well it might. One-half of the waist was high, with a long closely fitting sleeve and high military collar. The other half, beginning at exactly the middle of the bosom and back, was remarkably low, and the only sign of a sleeve was a narrow shoulder strap.

A citizen of Clayton, Ga., lost a valuable dog and suspected that he had fallen into a deserted mining shaft. He could neither see nor hear anything of him at the bottom of the sixty-foot hole, but when he let down a piece of meat on a string something "bit" as greedily as a Saranac trout. Then a miner went down, and sure enough the dog was there, and after being drawn up was found to be unhurt.

A Reading, Pa., drug clerk, annoyed by some little boys, caught one of them and painted his lip with oxide of silver. When the boy tried to wash it off it turned black, of course. His mother nearly skinned the lip rubbing it, and then took her son to the clerk. He put on carbonate of soda, and that made the lip smart and the boy howl. Then she got a warrant charging the clerk with assault and battery.

C. W. Harvey, riding through California Woods, near Loyalton, was scared half out of his wits by the yell of a mountain lion close by his side. His horse was quite as much scared, and jumped into a run just as the lion landed in the road behind him. The beast chased the horse and rider for a mile before he gave up the effort to eat one or both.

George E. Faulkner, a fifteen-year-old boy, living near Trappe, Md., loved his mother devotedly. She was ill and likely to die, and he often said "If my mother dies I do not care to live." His mother did die on Monday, after calling her children to her and blessing them, and then George went out in the yard and shot himself through the heart.

Miss Polly Gehris of Washington township, Pa., who recently died at the age of 85, was always a manly sort of woman. She hired out to the farmers to work in the field and could do a man's work. She smoked and chewed tobacco for over fifty years, and boasted that she had never had a bean, and that no man ever lived who dared to ask her to marry him.

Dr. Henry Wile of Atlanta has been trying for a long time to cure the scald wound of a nine-year-old girl, who, when a baby, fell in the fire and received burns that never healed. He decided to give the girl a new scalp, and said that he would have to take the skin from some one's arm. The girl's cousin, a brave boy of twelve, at once bared his arm, and the doctor removed twenty-five small pieces of ointment and placed them on the head of the girl. Both children went home well pleased, but the boy's was very angry, and has sued the doctor for assault and battery on his son.

One of the Old Timers—Sonny, what time do I say de'cordgeen train start?" Young One—Eighteen clock. Old Timers—Mornin' or ebenin'? Young One (reading)—Eight A. M. Old Timers (sternly)—Boy den't you trifle long e' me, Mernin' or ebenin'?

Teacher (to the class of chemistry)—What does sea water contain beside the sodium chloride that we have mentioned? Gubbins' youngest—Fish, sir.