HEALTH.

Pure Air.

A writer gives valuable suggestions on the subject of ventilation. She declares that it is wise to protect ourselves from the rain that falls by day, but says it doesn't follow that by doing so it is wise to exclude from our dwellings all pure air and breathe that which is impure. If air that is confined and breathed and re-breathed during the day becomes foul and unhealthful, by what process does the air which is confined and breathed and re-breathed during the night become pure and healthful?

"For the past fifteen years," says the writer referred to, "I have slept summer and winter—except on a few occasions when it was impossible to do so—with at least one window of my bedroom wide open every night, and have enjoyed excellent health, but on the exceptional nights I always awoke with a headache or a feeling of suffocation. I conclude therefore that as much nonsense is indulged in about the malign influence of night air and the malaria said to lurk therein as upon any other given subject. A freer admission of night air to badly ventilated bedrooms would destroy many of the illusions that exist in regard to its unhealthfulness."

Reform in the ventilation of our houses, our churches and our public buildings is needed as greatly as reform in any other direction, and this reform should begin in our houses and should work outward into all our churches and public buildings. If wives and mothers and home makers generally can be induced to let light and air into their parlors and bedrooms their husbands and sons will soon banish foul air from our churches and public buildings. Women are largely responsible for poorly ventilated buildings of all descriptions. A great many people frequently congregate in halls, churches, etc., where the atmosphere, unless the windows are kept wide open, is about as malodorous as that of a charnel-house, yet they do not consider such an atmosphere too foul for human beings to breathe. It is the first duty of every wife and mother to see that her house is thoroughly ventilated day and night. It is a fact beyond dispute that the parlors of a large proportion of houses are so close and stuffy that breathing is painful. Nine tenths of the bedrooms retain the personality of people who occupy the apartments from time to time, it clings to the bedding, curtains and carpets, and has been closely shut in lest fresh air and sunshine should find admittance and with their purifying presence carry damage to the furniture.

Disinfecting in Cases of Cancer.

In discussing several instances in which cancer seemed to have become located in certain dwellings and reappeared from time to time, Andrew Wilson says:—We know of no definite or certain microbe or parasite as associated with cancer, so that, at present, if science is working very hard, it is working in the dark regarding the exact and specific cause of the ailment. In this respect, cancer is different from consumption. There we have a well known germ; its life history has been studied, we know how its dried spores possesses infinite capabilities of living on and of causing infection, and we can account in a rational fashion for the conveyance of consumption from those who are sick to those who are well. If there is a specific germ connected with cancer, as recent researches tend to suggest, may it not be that, like the germ of tetanus (or lockjaw), this cancer microbe lives in the soil, and in a damp soil preferably, and that in certain conditions of soil or air it remains in a dwelling to infect and re-infect successive occupants? I do not suppose anybody regards cancer as infectious from person to person. What we are told of its history points rather to a common cause from which the different cases in a house spring. Moreover, there is one other point not to be missed in this recital. The cancerous troubles appearing in the various persons whose histories I have detailed did not necessarily affect each person in the same way. In one it appeared in the liver, in another in the stomach, and so on. I regard this latter fact as indicating that probably a common cause originated this disease, while the individual peculiarities determined the exact mode of its appearance and development. Pending further light on this national question—for it really is a national and public matter—there is one thing to be done. If nowadays we disinfect houses and rooms in case of consumption, and attend to the personal hygiene of the consumptive patient, it is clear the least we can do is to practice the same disinfection in cases of cancer. This is one preventative measure well within our grasp, and we should see, as a matter of public health, that it is duly and carefully carried out.

Sulphur in Throat Troubles.

There has been of late some discussion on the use of sulphur in throat troubles, especially those of diphtheretic character. This is by no means a new remedy, having been used as a throat disease panacea in certain households for at least a quarter of a century. As soon as inflammatory symptons made their appearance the throat was throughly dusted with sulphur, this treatment being repeated every hour if the case was severe. As only good [illegible] came from swallowing the powder, [illegible] was used with the utmost freedom. Sometimes tea spoonful doses were taken with the most satisfactory results. One of the very best preparations for throat affections is equal parts of sulphurous acid and glycerine. This may be diluted in the proportion of one teaspoonful of the mixture to half a glass of the water. The throat may be brushed with it, or it may be used as a gargle. Freely applied it will usually relieve all unpleasant symptoms at once, and persisted in, it rarely fails to cure the most obstinate cases. The objection to it is that it is too simple for the medical profession to approve.

Worry and Indigestion.

Worry is a baneful curse and source of untold evils. It seams the face with lines and furrows and has a most depressing effect upon that hypersensitive organ, the stomach. The physiological explanation of this is the close alliance of the great sympathetic nerves, which are worse than the telegraph for carrying bad news; the worry and anxiety which depress the brain produce simultaneously a semi-paralysis of the nerves of the stomach, gastric juices will not flow, and—presto! there is indigestion.

One sign of mental health is serenity of temper and a self-control that enables us to bear with equanimity and unruffled temper the petty trials and jars of life, especially those arising from contact with scolding, irascible, irritating folk. It is well to remember at such times that these unfortunates are their own worst enemies, and a cultivation of the art of not hearing will help us very much. It is a very useful art all through life, and well worth some trouble to acquire.

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUPS.

They Were Substituted for the Common Chalice on the Urgent Advise of the Doctors.

The innovation of individual communion cups introduced into two churches at Rochester, N. Y., the one Baptist and the other Presbyterian, has received comparatively little attention from the specifically and professionally religious papers of those and other Protestant denominations. They seem to avoid the subject, hesitating to express any decided opinion as to it. Its discussion has been confined chiefly to the medical papers and to individual Church members who write to the journals called secular. The individual wine cups were substituted for the common chalice in the Rochester churches at the suggestion and on the urgent advice of the regular medical society of the town, after repeated warnings against its use had been uttered by many other medical authorities. The grounds for the change, as explained by the pastors of those churches on the occasion on which it was made, are of a kind to provoke among Protestant communicants anxious questioning which cannot be suppressed by merely ignoring the subject. They are that the use of a common wine cup by many people in the celebration of the Eucharist is both offensive to cleanliness and dangerous to health, subjecting them to the chances of receiving the germs of disease. At least one of these pastors declared that already the number of members of his church partaking of the Holy Communion had decreased because of prejudices against the common chalice induced by fastidiousness and fear of contagion, and that to save the ordinance from falling into more general disuse it was necessary to heed these objections, for they were sustained by scientific medical opinion and demonstration. Since the innovation of the individual cups was made, moreover, journals in different parts have been getting many letters approving of it as a requisite safeguard of health, some of them even going so far as to declare that their writers would absolutely refuse to partake of the wine of the Eucharist if the common chalice continued to be used in their churches.

A correspondent treats such fears as groundless and derides them. "I believe," he says, "that God will care for all those who eat and drink at his table worthily;" and he contends that there has been no "well-authenticated case of contagion brought about by the old custom." Moreover, if people should avoid the common chalice from fear of disease, why, he asks, should they not also refrain from the use of the drinking cups at public fountains, and from the kissing which expresses the love and affection that gives beauty to life? But if there be poison in the communion cup will it not be as noxious there as anywhere else? The natural laws of the universe express the will of God. Instances where contagion has been reasonably attributed to the common chalice are undoubtedly on record, and they were referred to by the Rochester pastors of whom we have spoken. Medical authorities unite in warning people of the danger of using public drinking cups, and family physicians generally are now cautioning parents against allowing their children to be kissed otherwise than on the cheek. That disease may be communicated by the kisses of lovers has been proved indisputably and lamentably. Devoted mothers have received the poisonous germs of fatal disease by kissing their suffering infants. The communicability of consumption by such contact is now recognized as a demonstrated fact, and public health boards warn the people of the danger of it, thus spreading abroad the very fears that have caused the disuse of the common chalice in these Rochester churches and not a few others that have followed their example. Probably such alarm would be justified by most physicians consulted as to the matter. They might say that the danger is slight, but they would not venture to say that it does not exist. The whole theory of the generation of disease, as established by modern science unquestionably affords reason for it. It cannot be dismissed as a silly fear, but it is supported by the highest and most advanced medical opinion. Hence, the discussion of the necessity, or at least advisability, of doing away with the common chalice in the communion of both kinds is sure to go on, with consequences that may become of great religious importance. Fears thus produced and stimulated cannot be destroyed by ridicule. The questions raised are serious for all churches which teach the obligation of communing at the Holy Supper with both the bread and the wine.

Born in the Army That Went to Moscow.

France has an interesting old pensioner who has just presented himself at the Ministry of War to receive his yearly pension for about the fifteenth time. His name is Thomas. He is now over 80 years old and expects to draw his pension for at least twenty years more. Thomas was born in the French army during the disastrous retreat that followed the burning of Moscow.

It was at the time when the scattered remnants of Napoleon's army which had set out with such delusive hopes of conquering Russia were making the historic passage of the Beresina, where so many of them perished, that Thomas was born. His father was in the Imperial Guard, and his mother accompanied her husband on the campaign. Both father and mother were killed, and the new-born child was taken care of by the Russian Government. He was placed in an institution for orphans. When Thomas attained his majority he left Russia for France, where he entered the army. For nearly half a century now he has been a pensioner.

Not in the Swim.

Mrs. Suddenrich—"I never heard no such way of talkin' as you've got into at boardin'-school."

Daughter—"I've learned to speak as the teachers do."

Mrs. Suddenrich—"Well, jus' drop it. Them poverty-stricken hirelings don't move in our set."

EXTRAORDINARY FREEZING.

A Useful Invention Presented to the Fishermen of This Country.

A few days ago Mr. Adolph Nielsen, the Superintendent of Fisheries at St. Johns, Newfoundland, exhibited in presence of a large number of fishing Captains, "planters," fishermen, and the general public, a new apparatus for freezing fish or any other animal substance, which is so simple, inexpensive, and easily worked that it promises to be of immense benefit to our fishermen and to all interested in the fisheries, especially in conection with the preservation of bait, writes a correspondent. It frequently happens that our fishermen lose a third or a fourth of the whole fishing season from the want of bait. Day after day the cry is, "Plenty of fish, but no bait!" Our bait fishes are herrings, capelin, and squids. These strike in on the shores and in the bays in enormous shoals and with wonderful regularity. Each has its season, and then disappears into the unknown depths of the ocean, giving place to its successor. But it very frequently happens during the season of any one of these species of bait fishes, the shoals suddenly leave portions of the coast and do not reappear for days or weeks. In such a case the fishermen who are plying hook and line or bait-using devices are left idle. The cod may be around in myriads, but without bait the poor toilers of the sea are left powerless. This want of bait often entails most serious losses and shortens the season's catch. It is evident that if the fishermen had any means of preserving bait in a fresh condition they could take it in any quantity when it is plentiful and store it up for the time of famine, so that they need never be without bait.

Mr. Neilsen's apparatus is designed to meet this difficulty, though it may also be used for many other purposes. Its construction is so simple that any fisherman, after seeing it, can easily make a freezer for himself, and the cost is almost nil. All that is wanted is a stout barrel, some coarse salt and ice chopped up into small pieces. This is all that is needed for the new freezer, which is at once cheap and expeditious in its operation.

Of course, ice and salt mixed have long been in use to produce an intense degree of cold, and thus freeze various articles. The apparatus for making ice cream is a familiar illustration of this. Hitherto, however, this method has aimed at freezing articles indirectly. Either the ice and salt have been enclosed in metal receivers, in isolated rooms, and the cold produced by their intermixture penetrates into the atmosphere of the refrigerating rooms, and so lowers the temperature as to freeze any articles such as fish or meat placed within them to undergo the process, or the articles to be frozen have been inclosed in metal vessels of various construction, and then buried in the salt and ice. Both these methods are slow in operation. The latest and most improved American salt and ice freezer requires from fourteen to seventeen hours to freeze a herring hard. In neither system is there any motion or rotation of the freezing mass.

By Mr. Neilsen's method half a barrel of herrings are frozen as hard as a piece of wood in from ten to fifteen minutes. A description of the apparatus will enable any one to make it for himself.

A common barrel, such as a pork barrel, is taken, and inside it are placed four wooden flanges or laths, and fastened to the sides, the sharp edge outward. They are placed diagonally, so as to make two irregular triangles. The object of adjusting them in this oblique position is to mix and rotate the articles to be frozen with the ice and salt when the barrel is put in motion. The barrel is then loaded half full with alternate layers of ice and salt, the porportion being three parts of ice (or snow, which is equally good) and one part of salt. Whether the ice or salt is put in first makes no difference. In the present experiment three shovelfuls of ice were first put in and then one of salt, and so on alternately till the barrel was half filled. Then the barrel was filled up with fresh herrings and headed. The head of the barrel is not pointed around the edges in the ordinary way and the "chimes" are cut down perpendicular to the cross, in order to make it easier to put on the square-edge head in and take it out. The barrel, thus boarded and headed up, was placed on its side on the floor and rolled one and a half turns on its bilge forward, then back one and a half turns. This rolling was continued for fifteen minutes at a moderately quick rate of speed, which must be learned by experience. If too slow longer time for freezing is required. At the end of fifteen minutes the head of the barrel was removed. The whole contents of the barrel were intermingled, and the whole herring found to be frozen almost as hard as a rock. They were then placed in sawdust and examined at the end of a fortnight and found to be as hard as ever, without the least sign of softening. Four more barrels were treated in the same way. So intense was the cold that one of the men got the tips of his fingers frostbitten in handling the herrings. Where sawdust cannot be obtained dry mould or moss will do almost so well. The ice and salt can be used over again many times, as long as it will last.

Those who witnessed the experiment expressed warmly their delight and astonishment. There was but one opinion as to the great benefit this barrel freezer will confer on our fishermen. Capt. Blandford, one of the most intelligent and experienced of our fishermen, declared that if he had had such a freezer with him last year on Labrador it would have been worth $1,600. Invariably he lost each Monday procuring bait, as he had no way of keeping it fresh from the Saturday, and sometimes one or two days more from want of bait. Capt. Whitely, another Labrador man, was equally emphatic in its praise. The fishermen were not less enthusiastic. Mr. Neilsen is to exhibit the invention in Harbor Grace and other outports. Large numbers of these freezers will speedily be in use. Mr. Neilsen stated that he is not the inventor, but a friend and countryman of his in Norway, named Mr. Wallems, who has sent him a model and permitted him to use it in this county. The Fisheries Department will no doubt send an honorarium to the inventor as an acknowledgment of his kindness.

It is easy to see that the benefits of such an ingenious but simple apparatus will not be confined to freezing bait. Fish of all kinds—cod, salmon, trout, lobster—can be frozen and kept fresh. Game, poultry, beef, mutton, venison can be treated by this method. Householders will at once see its manifold uses. Once it is made known the fishermen of all countries will be sure to use it. In Newfoundland it will be worth many thousands of dollars annually to the fishermen. The poorest fisherman can have his own freezer, or a number of them can combine, and, with a single freezer, lay up an abundant supply of bait. A small ice house in each village would give ample supplies of ice for working the freezer. The result of the experiment goes to show that the herrings frozen in this way will keep, even in small quantities, for a month. In large quantities, they could be kept for two, perhaps three months.

WOMEN DISGUISED AS MEN.

Some Romantic Stories Recalled by a British War Office Rumor.

The recent attempt made by the naval officials to hush up what would have furnished material for a scandal of unusual dimensions has apparently been successful. This was that in more than one vessel of war females, dressed in male attire, had been acting as officers' private servants. Rumor even went so far as to say that some of these girls were highly connected. The affair revives the recollection of many cases of women in breeches, says London Truth.

It is said that 150 women disguised as men were discovered in the United States army of the Potomac in 1866.

The list of strange impostures would of itself fill pages, the narrative of their conception and fulfillment would occupy several volumes. Some of them have been quite purposeless; some have been daring and well affected, but the shrewdest and most daring of all have been criminal in design and too often successful.

The late Col. Burnaby told of the discovery of a woman who served as a soldier in the ranks in the army of Don Carlos in 1874. She wore the uniform and lived and fought just as the other soldiers, but a priest in whose parish she had lived identified her. Don Carlos removed her to the nurses' quarters, but she begged to be sent back to the ranks. He laughed. "Not to the regiment of men, but when I form a battalion of women you shall be colonel."

In Australia not so many years ago there was a woman who traveled under the alias of Edward de Lacy Evans. For years she was a miner at Bendigo. She is stated to have been married as a man three times. Her true sex was discovered upon her reception into Kew lunatic asylum. She eventually recovered her reason and returned to the outer world.

The career of Mary Ann Talbot contains a still further flavor of romance. She was the reputed daughter of the earl of Talbot, and at 14 years she fell into the hands of a certain Capt. Bowen of the Royal navy. The captain, being ordered to San Domingo, took her with him, disguised as a page boy. When Capt. Bowen was killed in action Mary Ann changed her flag and entered the French navy. She then entered the American merchant marine. She quickly—of course, still in male disguise—became a favorite with the captain of the vessel, and he took her home with him. His niece fell in love with the pretty sailor boy, as she considered him, and proposed marriage herself. The proposal Mary Ann deemed it prudent to accept, and it was arranged that the marriage should be celebrated on the sailor's return from his next voyage. It is hardly necessary to say that this gay deceiver had no intention whatever of going back. Landing in England, Mary Ann was arrested as a deserter from the British navy and, to escape further service, she confessed her sex. The story of her adventures immediately spread abroad and created a considerable sensation at the time. The then Duke of York procured for her a pension, and she received numerous and handsome presents from him and from others.

It is strikingly noticeable that many of these amazons were fatally attractive to their own sex. As we have seen, Mary Ann Talbot unwittingly captivated the heart of the American captain's niece, while "Edward de Lacy Evanse," who married three wives, must also have been a very pretty fellow.

THE HEAT OF THE SUN.

It Is Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Degrees Fahrenheit.

How hot is the sun? That is a question that astronomers and physicists have been trying for years to solve, and they are not yet satisfied that they know the true answer. In fact, it may be said, they are certain they do not know it, although they are able to report progress, from time to time, in the direction of the truth.

The most recent trustworthy investigation is that of M. De Chatelier, who fixes the effective temperature of the sun at twelve thousand six hundred degrees Fahrenheit. It may, he thinks, be either hotter or colder than that figure indicates, to the extent of eighteen hundred degrees either way.

Previous to this investigation of M. De Chatelier's the temperature of the sun had been fixed at eighteen thousand degrees Fahrenheit by Rosetti, and that result was looked upon by many leading astronomers as probably the nearest to the actual fact of any that had yet been obtained.

It will be noticed that the latter estimate takes off several thousand degrees, but this is a trifle compared with the falling off from the estimates of the temperature of the sun made by some of the earlier investigators. The celebrated Secchi at one time maintained that the solar temperature was not less than eighteen million degrees Fahrenheit, but he himself afterward found reasons for dropping down to two hundred and fifty thousand degrees. Such estimates of the sun's temperature as one hundred thousand degrees, and fifty thousand degrees were favorably regarded a few years ago.

If M. De Chatelier's result is approximately correct, then we can, perhaps, begin to get some thing like a comprehension of the heat of the solar furnace, since it approaches comparison with temperatures that we can produce artificially. The highest artificial temperature has been estimated by Professor Young at about four thousand degrees Fahrenheit.

But it must be remembered that there are certain arbitrary assumptions, which may or may not be correct, involved even in the most careful investigations of this subject, and that, at any rate, the sun is undoubtedly much hotter underneath than is at its glowing and visible surface.

BACK FROM THE CENTURIES.

Ghastly Proof of Horrible Disasters, Some of Which Eclipse Those of Our Times.

While the horrors of the mining disaster in Wales are still upon us a ghastly story of a similar event comes from China: It was known from the records that in 1494 a terrible accident had happened in the Anhuri district. A few days ago a mining party reopened the old shaft. There they found the bodies of 170 men just as they were struck down 400 years ago. The absence of light and air had kept the bodies in fresh preservation. China is a long way off, and the story will need corroboration, but more incidents of the same kind have happened than is generally supposed.

In the spring of 1796 the ruined cemetery of the Earls of Kylsyth was opened by some vandals, and the bodies of Lady Kylsyth and her child were found as perfect as on the day they were entombed in 1717. "On June 12," says the minister of the parish, "I saw the body of her ladyship. It was quite entire, every feature and every limb was full as in life, the shroud clear and fresh, and the color of the ribbons bright. The child lay at her knee, the features composed as if he had been asleep, and the smile of innocence sat on his lips. The body seemed to have been preserved in some liquid of the appearance of brandy; though perfectly transparent it had lost all pungent qualities, its taste being quite vipid."

Curiously enough, the bodies when exposed to the air did not crumble into dust. For several weeks they underwent no visible change, though sullied by the drops of grease from the candles held over them, nor for months after, though pressed with the finger, did they yield to the touch, but seemed to retain the elasticity of life.

At the monastery of the Capuchins, in Palermo, there is a vault in which are niches in which the bodies are placed upright, and clothed in a coarse dress, with the head and arms and feet bare.

They are prepared for the situation by broiling them upon a gridiron over a slow fire till all the fat and moisture are consumed. The skin, which looks like pale-colored leather, remains entire, and the character of the features is preserved. Among the most remarkable historical instances of the preservation of the dead is that of Edward I., whose tomb was opened in 1870, and his body, after a lapse of 463 years, was undecayed.

The body of Canute, the Dane, who ruled in England in 1017, was found "very fresh" in 1766 by the workmen repairing Winchester cathedral. No device of art, however, appears equal to the simple process of burial in peat moss. In 1569 three Roman soldiers, in the dress of their country, were dug out of a moss of great extent, called Kazey Moss. When found after a lapse of 1,560 years, "they were quite fresh and plump." A most romantic incident in this connection happened some years ago in Sweden.

In digging in a peat moss, the bodies of several persons who had been missing for 50 years were discovered. The dead had suffered no change, but there were few living persons who could recognize them. Among them was a woman of 70 who had been engaged to be married to one of the long lost individuals. The contrast between the living and the dead, as the old woman bent over her young lover, is described as having been inexpressibly touching.

BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

The Health of the Troops is Very Good Considering the Climate.

A recently issued governmental report gives some interesting statistics concerning the health of British troops in India. A royal commission appointed in 1863 reported that the death-rate of white troops in that country had for some years averaged sixty-nine in the thousand, that this terrible expenditure of human life was unnecessary, and that the death-rate might, by certain practicable reforms, be reduced to twenty, and ultimately—when the general sanitary condition of the country was improved—to ten per thousand. The former of these standards was reached in the decade 1870-9, and near approaches to the latter have been made in subsequent years, notably in 1883, when the death rate was 10.8. The most recent experience, however, is of a less encouraging character. In 1892, for instance, the report for which has just been issued, the death rate was 17 in the thousand, as against 14.17 in the decade, 1882-91; the ratio of "admissions to hospital" was 15.17 per thousand, as compared with 14.48 in the same decade; and the ratio of "constantly sick" was 84 per thousand, as compared with 74 per thousand in the earlier period. The ratio of invaliding alone shows a slight improvement, having fallen from 26 per thousand in 1882-91 to 24 per thousand in 1892. Eliminating the accidental character of single years by a comparison of longer periods, it appears that the death rate of the decade 1881-90 was 14.24 per thousand, as compared with 19.34 per thousand in the decade 1870-79; that the ratio of admissions to hospitals showed a fractional improvement, 14.71 per thousand for the latter period, as against 14.75 in the earlier; and that the ratio of "constantly sick" rose from 60 in the thousand to 73. In making the comparison it has to be remembered that in the decade 1881-90 large malarious regions, Burmah and Beloochistan, were added to the British Empire, and that recent changes in the terms of service have brought the soldier into the country at a younger age, and remove him from it just as he is becoming acclimatized.

A Frenchman 126 Years Old.

A man who can celebrate the 126th anniversary of his birth is rare, almost alone in fact, for so great an age is hardly known in modern authentic history. Such a man however, is M. Savain who, born in 1768, was a captain in the Grand Army, and was taken prisoner in 1812 in the course of a battle during the Russian campaign, and owed his life to the generous intercession of Gen. Platoff.

In spite of his age Capt. Savain still busies himself with various matters of business and pleasure. His memory is good and a few years ago he painted several pictures and composed some bits of verse of great merit. He rises early, walks, receives company during the day, and every Sunday is regular in his attendance at church.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

The railroads of the United States have present debts amounting to $11,000,000,000.

The longest, largest and strongest bone in the human system is the femur, or thigh bone.

Nearly a million and a half dollars remain unclaimed in the New York savings banks.

A New York dog whose eyesight is affected is daily seen wearing a pair of spectacles.

Some Chinese and many Africans use the ear as a pocket to carry coins and other small articles.

The tongue recovers from an injury much more quickly than any other part of the human system.

Australia has more places of public worship in proportion to population than any other country.

The foot travel across London bridge each year reduces to powder twenty-five cubic yards of granite.

The quiet and timid hare, when she cries in fear, can be heard further off than either dog or cat.

Paper is used in Germany in the manufacture of pianos, being employed for all of the parts which are usually made of wood.

Wine made from potatoes is the discovery recently made by a French chemist. He always removes the eyes from the potato before he begins work, as his process is a secret one.

The introduction of mahogany into England and the commerce of the world was caused by the repairing with a plank of that wood of one of Sir Walter Raleigh's vessels in 1595.

The human system can endure heat of 212 degrees, the boiling point of water, because the skin is a bad conductor and because the perspiration cools the body. Men have withstood without injury a heat of 300 degrees for several minutes.

A negro had a streak of luck while fishing in the Flint river, near Albany. His line became tangled in something which proved to be a lady's gold necklace, which had evidently lain at the bottom of the river for many years.

The killing of elephants is going on at such a rate in South Africa that there is prospect of the animal becoming extinct The future South African may have to go to some large civilized city in order to see the elephant.

A policeman in Jersey City, finding a thief was getting away from him, jumped aboard a trolley car, impressing it into the city's service, gave chase with it, and presently overhauled and captured his man.

An ancient bell dug out of the ruins of an Indian church at Albuquerque was pronounced by local experts to contain gold worth $11,000. After the Denver mint worked on it for forty-eight hours the discoverers were handed a neat brass brick worth $1.25.

The skull of a mammoth human being of prehistoric times was discovered in southern California some time ago, and recently it was discovered that a cavity in one of its teeth was filled with gold in the manner employed by modern dentists.

A NEW EMPIRE.

What Mr. Cecil Rhodes is Doing in South Africa—He is Dictator and May Become Monarch.

Cecil Rhodes, who, had he lived a hundred years ago and talked as he has done to the Imperial Government, would have had to take a taste of prison life, is slowly developing his own scheme of land tenure in South Africa, where, originally a filibuster and land grabber, he is founding a new colonial empire. There are grave doubts whether some day he may not take it into his head to declare Matabeleland a republic or a detached monarchy, paying perhaps tribute to the British Crown as Burmah pays to China, or Corea pays to that Empire, while claiming and exercising sovereignty. Rhodes, unlike many pioneers in Africa and America, is not an unlettered man actuated only by the spirit of aggressive adventure. He is as dilettante as Mr. Balfour. He is well versed in classics, and had an honourable university career. His visits to Africa were diamond-hunting, and he is as truly the diamond king of that region as Col. North is the nitrate king of Peru. Mr. Rhodes, however, is more than a diamond hunter. He is, in ambition, now a statesman, having acquired wealth enough to satisfy aspiration in that detail. Soon after entering the Cape Parliament he became virtually its dictator, and four years ago was made Prime Minister. In this capacity he has devised some novel methods of government. Chief of these is his land scheme. He proposes to root his people to the soil in an unprecedented manner. Any head of a family may have eight acres at a little less than $4 per year rent to the Government. There is a labor tax of $2.50 a year, or its equivalent in actual labor, namely, three months' service outside his own district. Suffrage is to be exercised by every male native who pays the labor tax. The proceeds of the labor tax are to be applied on schools. Failure to pay this tax will subject the delinquents to imprisonment, one of Mr. Rhodes' drastic methods of making everybody share taxes or suffer for failing to do so. Landholders are not to be allowed to sell liquor except under local option, any violation of this law to entail cancellation of title. Rebellion or stealing is also to work forfeiture. Government is to be administered by local councils of six members, one-half appointed by the Crown, and one-half elective. An experiment of this mixed nature of paternalism and State Socialism may well be watched with interest by students of modern economics.

No Use Borrowing Trouble.

Mrs. McCauber—"Here is a notice saying that if the bill is not paid, the gas will be shut off."

Mr. McCauber—"Let 'em shut it off. Who cares?"

"But what will we do?"

"Put in electric lights."

"But in time the bills for them will come in."

"Oh, well, perhaps something else will be invented by that time."

All he Remembered.

"So you were introduced to Mrs. Tungey last evening?"

"Yes."

"What did she talk about?"

"About three hours."

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

The Feeling in the Business World is One of Hopefulness.

Trade is beginning to show evidence of slow but certain recovery from the effects of the lethargy incidental to the summer holiday interruptions. The dominant feeling in the business world is one of hopefulness. The immediate outlook in most departments of business is moderately encouraging. The general solvency of commercial affairs is attested by special reports which have shown a remarkable decrease not only in the number of insolvent firms, but in the liabilities of failing trades. The majority of statements received disclose a comparatively close absorption of merchandise stocks throughout the country. While some deplore the restrictions of which depleted but healthy stocks are the natural outcome it is generally admitted to be a good thing for the stability of future business, and, furthermore, that if the same cautious policy of buying had been adopted by traders generally two or three years ago, there would have been infinitely fewer failures and commercial disasters. While there is no cause for special despondency in the situation yet we would advise a continued exercise of the

POLICY OF CAUTION.

It is generally known that there are too many traders in Canada, and that business consequently suffers from excessive competition, while expenses are even more disproportionate to the ratio of profits realized. Keen competition of this kind, however, has the advantage of sharpening the wits or faculties of business men until Canadians have gained prominence and distinction in the most hotly contested commercial arenas known to civilization. Lack of capital frequently prevents their launching out on stupendous enterprises such as we occasionally hear of in lands where there is fully as much left to good luck as good guidance. While the ultimate yield of the crops will not be as large as was predicted in the early part of the season, either in Ontario, Quebec or the Maritime provinces, yet upon the whole the farmers will have reaped another good harvest; but according to present indications the prices for grain are not at all likely to advance, so that Canadian farmers are obliged to market their grain at current prices, which should enable retailers to collect more easily and earlier than last year, and some improvements in remittances is looked for. A slight advance in some lines in groceries, especially sugars and teas is expected to give an impetus to business, and there are indications that the downward tendency of values in agricultural products, wheat alone excepted, has been arrested.

MANY SIDED NATURE.

Right Doing is Largely a Matter of Limit.

It has been very eloquently as well as very wisely asserted that "morality respects the laws of the several realms which it unites into a single empire and guarantees to each the unimpaired maintenance of its local customs." This is rightly equivalent to saying that right-doing is largely a matter of limit. It recognizes all the powers, all the faculties, all the need and all the enjoyments of man, and only prescribes the boundaries beyond which they must not trench on each other. Our nature is many sided and all sides need cultivation. An exclusive reference to any one must do injustice to the rest. For example, there is the motive of self interest. By following it exclusively it will be degraded into selfishness; but when it is enlightened, educated and restrained within proper limits it is a necessary and justifiable motive. Pain is, also one of nature's teachers, whose lessons we cannot afford to dispense with. The knowledge that a certain course of action will enhance temporal enjoyment, will lead to health, give power to the faculties and value to life, is certainly essential, and the appeal to such a motive is always valid and, sometimes, the best that can be selected.

The affections, too, afford motives which nothing else can supply. The love of a faithful mother or a patient wife has won many a man back from habits of self-indulgence and vice to paths of propriety and well-doing. Sympathy is a potent power for good and to neglect to use it in our efforts to promote human happiness is a serious mistake. Then there is the intelligent use of the reason, showing the operations of cause and effect, without which, to some extent at least, few acts can be regarded as commendable. So we may find in all the various feelings of human nature motives for action which are not only allowable but perfectly justifiable. The function of duty is so to limit them that none shall trench upon the sphere of the other. Self interest must not so completely sway a man as to blind him to the claims of justice and mercy to his fellow man, nor must sympathetic impulse so carry him away as to palsy his judgment. A sense of beauty is needed in every life but it may be indulged in with detriment to practical benefits. It is the balance of complement of these and many other elements that must make the manly man and the womanly woman, a fact that should never be lost sight of in our influence upon others.

British Fruit Crop.

The tabular report in The Cardeners Chronicle shows that apples are greatly deficient this year. Only two reporters in the whole kingdom mention a crop above the average, and those two are in Scotland. With regard to pears, an almost equally remarkable result is recorded, but of an opposite character, pears being almost everywhere abundant. Plums are generally deficient. Cherries, on the other hand, are remarkably abundant, there being forty-five "average" reports from Scotland, and no fewer than 126 from England, &c. Nuts are not much grown in the northern counties, but in the south they are rather above average; walnuts, however, suffered from the frost; strawberries have been universally scarce, and bad in quality; currants, raspberries, and gooseberries fairl good.

A Health Indicator.

Mrs. Nexdoor—"How is old Mr. Moneybaggs this morning?"

Mrs. Sharpeye—"I haven't heard, but I noticed that Doctor Bigfee looked very gloomy when he left the Moneybaggs residence a little while ago."

Mrs. Nexdoor—"Ah, then the poor old entleman is getting well."