

The Newest Notes of Science

There are nearly 500 sulphur mines on the island of Sicily. Alligators do not attain full size until they are nearly 100 years old. Italy exports from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 worth of human hair annually. Sediment carried to sea by the Amazon river can be detached 100 miles from the coast. An attachment for scissors has been patented to enable them to be used to sharpen lead pencils. Clothing made of pressed feathers as a substitute for wool has been invented by an Italian priest. Squeezing the handle revolves stirring wires within a new flour sifter that can be used with one hand. An implement resembling a small carpet sweeper has been invented for removing crumpled clothing tables. A leather covered metal tube to be slipped over an umbrella to roll it tight has been patented in England. An electric clock has been invented in France that runs without attention as long as its battery is in good condition. A holder has been patented for safety razor blades to enable them to be used by tailors or dressmakers for ripping seams. A parachute for aviators that has been invented in England is compact enough to be worn in a helmet, ready for instant use. To lessen the labor of threading needles there has been invented a magnifying glass with a spring clip to hold it on a needle. Through all of that country's many changes war has maintained intact a museum of decorative art that was established in 756. A rudder has been patented, normally within the hull of a vessel, but which can be projected through the bow to aid in steering. Made of a flat spring, a quickly adjusted belt has been invented to take the place of strings on kitchen or laboratory aprons. Using a modified wireless receiving instrument, a French scientist has been able to detect thunder storms more than 100 miles distant. An automobile jack has been invented that automatically lifts all four wheels of a car clear off the floor when they are run upon a track. The belting used on machinery in the Russian oil fields is made of camel's hair consisting of a better than rubber, leather or cotton. The owner of some limestone caves in Virginia has piped the air from them into his house to provide an even temperature the year round. A safety gas meter invented in Holland is claimed to prevent the possibility of asphyxiating and to indicate the loss of unconsumed gas. When a new automobile fender strikes a pedestrian it gently trips him and then picks him up in a sort of scoop with a minimum of injury. Policemen and street conductors in Munich are provided with protectors which they may attach to the dangerous ends of women's hat pins. For copying drawings or writings a device has been patented that follows the lines to be copied and at the same time guides a pen or pencil. Europe and Africa are the only continents which have more women than men and the reverse was the case in Africa until within recent years. Ventilating apparatus that automatically changes the air in a telephone booth each time it is used has been patented by an Illinois inventor. The invention of a process for ripening peaches by high tension electricity, discharged directly upon the fruit, is claimed by an Englishman. A spring operated electrical attachment plug has been patented which its inventor can be fastened to any size socket with a single turn. Experiments with powdered peat for fuel having proved successful in Sweden, a factory for its production on a large scale will be established. An electric safety lamp for miners has a case so tight that it will burn under water, while the current will be shut off if the globe be broken. Japanese remove the pucker from persimmons by enclosing ripe fruit for several days in air tight cases that have contained sake, the national wine. After experimenting for three years the United States bureau of

standards has developed apparatus for determining the exact fineness of cement. A motion picture camera that uses glass plates instead of films and also can be used to project pictures has been invented in Europe for amateurs. Using box kites to lift an aerial, experts of the United States army have increased the efficiency of field wireless equipment from six to fifteen times. An ice breaking steamer built in Sweden for the Russian Government has cut its way through ice fields 30 feet thick when using only half its power. In a Pennsylvania inventor's internal combustion engine the exhaust gases are blown out of the cylinder by air compressed in the base of the engine. The tower of a tall church in Switzerland, and has been equipped to receive the time signals sent out by wireless telegraphy from the Eiffel Tower in Paris. An extensive plant has been built in Venezuela for the manufacture of wrapping paper and strawboard from an aquatic plant growing profusely in that country. A burial casket has been invented that is made of two pieces of heavy glass, held together by metal bands, that is proof against chemical action of the earth. Two English scientists who are experimenting expect to solve the problem of producing electricity directly from coal without using a steam engine and dynamo. Porto Rico is producing a wood that is only half as heavy as cork and that can be used in life preservers and life rafts and for insulation against heat and cold. It has been estimated by the United States geological survey that North Dakota contains \$37,000,000,000 short tons of lignite in beds more than three feet thick. A subterranean river in the Philippines is navigable by small boats for 2 1/2 miles from its mouth, passing through several large, stalactite-hung caverns. An electric sign which builds up words, letter by letter, at the right end and moves them across until they disappear at the left has been invented by a Michigan man. A new French three-handed watch tells both twelve-hour and 24-hour time one hand being used for each kind on separate dials, while a single minute hand does to both. A new picture molding, stamped from sheet metal, is intended to be nailed to a wall before the plaster is applied, the latter holding to support the weight it carries. A method has been invented by a Russian artist for painting several theatrical scenes on the same canvas, the pictures changing as the light thrown on them is changed. An Italian scientist has figured that a square mile of the surface of the earth in six hours of sunshine receives heat equivalent to the combustion of more than 2,600 tons of coal. Tests have shown that as little as one per cent. of sugar will prevent cement setting, while from one to two per cent. will make it set quickly, but later disintegrate.

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VACATION, FOR MOST OF US ONLY RESPIRE FROM TOLL.
Few Achieve Health Which They Seek When Away From Their Business.
Philadelphia Evening Ledger.
Satisfyingly you go on a vacation to find or to improve your health. But how many achieve it? To most of us a vacation is a respite from toll, with a license to overeat, oversleep and overdo nearly everything that we take in normal doses during the period of hard labor. Who is there who hasn't returned from a vacation spoiled by indigestion, excessive play, or a lazy indulgence in doing nothing, with the conviction that the pleasures and increased health he expected to find were a delusion?
The best vacation is not so much freedom from the necessity of working as it is a change, new scenes, new people, new ideas, all taken in moderation. As such they are a tonic. When you start forth, just to avoid the necessity of calling in a physician to diagnose your ailment, take the advice of Jonathan Swift and consult "the three best doctors in the world—Doctor Diet, Doctor Quiet and Doctor Merryman." They will tell you to eat moderately of digestible foods, to let alcoholic beverages alone, and then to remember, as Solomon said, that "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine."
While your sins must be atoned for in the next world, you have to pay for your follies also in this one.

KEEPING WARM WITH ICE NOT A DIFFICULT PROCESS.
Double Lined Car With Four Galvanized Iron Cylinders Are Used.
New York Sun.
Keeping warm with ice sounds like a paradox, but the process is simple enough. It consists in the furnishing of a double-lined car with four galvanized iron cylinders kept filled with ice and salt in order that the car may be maintained at a cool temperature; in winter they are filled with ice to keep the contents of the car from freezing. Ice is normally at a temperature of 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and it is a substance that changes its temperature reluctantly, being a bad conductor of heat or cold. Hence, when zero weather prevails without the cylinders of relatively warm ice prevent the escape of heat; in other words, so it is asserted, they maintain the temperature within the car. Still another device whereby ice is employed for protection against the cold consists in throwing upon the car when the weather is near the zero point a plentiful stream of water, which, freezing at once, forms a complete coat over the car. This action of the ice is the same as in the other case.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Huge Borrowings Have Occurred In United States.
New York, Oct. 22.—Loans made to foreign countries by the United States since the war started amounted to more than \$835,000,000, over \$800,000,000 of which is outstanding. Less than one-fourth of the money represented by these loans, however, has gone out of the country. Over \$50,000,000 remained here to cover the cost of purchases in this country.
U. S. Express Bonus.
New York, Oct. 22.—U. S. Express Co. declared a first and partial distribution of \$25 payable November 15th, books close October 30th and re-open November 5th.
Seat Brought \$72,000.
New York, Oct. 22.—The sale of a seat on the New York Stock Exchange for \$72,000 was announced to-day. The price is \$2,000 higher than the last sale, a few days ago, and is several thousand dollars higher than a number of sales between four and six months ago.
Company In Receiver's Hands.
Toronto, Oct. 22.—A receiver and manager of the Inverness Railway and Coal Company has, on the application of the National Trust Company, Limited, trustees for the bondholders of the Inverness Railway and Coal Company, been appointed by the court of Nova Scotia.
Crucible Will Renew Dividends.
New York, Oct. 22.—When the directors of the Crucible Steel Co. next meet for dividend action, which it is understood, will be in December, they will resume the dividend on the preferred, according to present plans of certain directors.
Westinghouse Electric.
New York, Oct. 22.—Business amounting to about \$12,000,000 is expected to be added within a few days to the war orders on Westinghouse Electric's books. This will bring the total to approximately \$90,000,000.
Steel Co's Big Business.
Hamilton, Oct. 22.—It is stated here that Steel Company of Canada is earning at the rate of \$500,000 a month, and even higher figures are heard. Earnings after operating expenses in July were spoken of at \$400,000, since then there has been a steady improvement. The company is now enjoying easily the most prosperous period of its history, but whether these large earnings will continue for any considerable period is a question.

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