

The Newest Notes of Science

A celluloid wind shield for baby carriages is a recent invention. The importation of silencers for firearms has been prohibited by Australia.

Electric drills have been invented for surgical operations on the human skull. An electrically propelled tugboat has been built in Holland for use in India.

A patent has been issued for an adjustable muzzle to fit a dog of almost any size. Losses estimated from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 are caused by hail in France each year.

The average man's heart weighs from ten to twelve ounces; the average woman's from eight to ten. The first American limotype machine in Tripoli recently was installed by an Italian newspaper.

It takes but one twentieth of a second for a wireless signal to pass from Washington to San Francisco. Spain has opened an aviation school near Madrid in which the government aids those receiving instruction.

A gas wall radiator which resembles one of the usual hot air type has been designed for heating small rooms. Paper automobile tires, made experimentally in Europe, seem to have the strength of metal and the resiliency of rubber.

A metal holder to permit paper drinking cups to be passed from one person to another without collapsing has been patented. An aeroplane propeller invented in Germany is built up of leather on a nickel steel frame and is said to be indestructible.

For signalling a pocket flash light has been invented with interchangeable colored lenses mounted on one end of a movable arm. Experiments are being carried on in Cuba with a fibre of a native plant that is said to make excellent fabric for sugar bags.

In a book for children invented by a Minneapolis man pictures of animals jump out in a lifelike manner as the pages are turned. A pavement in London made of wooden blocks surfaced with rubber has given excellent service under heavy traffic for more than a year.

There were 763,185 men employed in the coal mines of the United States last year, the greatest number in the history of the industry. By feeding silk worms with mulberry leaves saturated with non-poisonous dyes two French scientists succeeded in getting red and blue raw silk.

On the principle of the stop watch is a clock invented to enable persons using telephones to tell exactly the amount of time consumed in calls. Two English scientists have decided that the sense of smell in man is weak when compared with animals because of the human practice of kissing.

Water that issues from an artesian well in California is accomplished by ward VII, recently dedicated at Aberdeen, is believed to be the first granite statue of a ruler erected since the days of the Pharaohs. For paring potatoes in quantities a carbundum-lined metal cylinder has been invented, against the sides of which the tubers, are whirled by a revolving bottom plate.

A telephone which is claimed to be explosion-proof and flame-proof has been invented in England for use in mines or anywhere that explosive gases or liquids are present. The entire body of a new automobile headlight is made of glass, a vacuum between the reflector and the outside protecting the finish of the exterior and keeping it cool.

The change to electric power on Sweden's most northerly railroad in the world has increased the train capacity 40 per cent. and the speed 50 per cent. over steam operation. A novel pocket electric light is supplied with current by a dynamo enclosed in the handle, which is driven by a spring that is wound occasionally with pressure by the hand.

French experimenters are freezing fish into blocks of ice for transportation for long distances, they claim being claimed that they can be revived by slow thawing and sold alive. After a lengthy investigation the United States bureau of standards has decided that the lightning rod, when properly installed, is a trustworthy means of protecting property.

More than 4,000,000 tons of ore a year are expected to be exported from iron mines in Algeria by French capitalists who have obtained concessions after more than ten years of effort. High temperature and the rapid passage of a current of air through it feature a California inventor's evaporation device with which he claims to preserve food perfectly for long periods.

After ten years' experimenting a Liverpool man has perfected a product from seaweed for the manufacture of non-inflammable motion-picture films and paper claimed to be water, flame and germ proof. Machinery to sort oranges and lemons with running water, the idea being that sound fruit will sink and frostbitten float, has been patented and dedicated to the public by a California inventor.

Electricity is generated by a windmill so successfully at a German technical school that it is estimated that a similar plant could supply light and water for 100 persons at a cost of \$125 a year. A new device to prevent an automobile headlight throwing rays that dazzle consists of a series of eccentric metal rings, to be mounted behind the lens to reflect all the light along parallel lines.

An ice cream freezer of English invention in which ice and salt are packed in a cylinder that revolves inside the cream delivers its product in a continuous stream half a minute after a crank is turned. Automobile apparatus has been perfected to enable trains running at high speed to pick up any number of mail bags without injuring their contents and to deposit others gently in troughs beside the track.

Work has been begun in Peru on a railroad which will cross the Andes and form a connecting link between the headwaters of the Amazon river and the Pacific ocean. A Baltimore inventor has provided a bootblack's chair intended for women's use with curtains that can be moved from the arms to prevent an undue display of hoisery. The granite statue of King Ed-

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THE COLOR OF HAIR.

Red Locks Are No Proof of Inherent Genius.

Though it is generally thought that red-headedness denotes quick-temper and ready wit, it appears that few great geniuses have had red hair. Alone among the poets of the world was perhaps Swinburne, whose hair was distinctly reddish, and among the great reformers only John Bunyan's hair was really red.

The flaxen-haired blonde or the man whose hair when an adult is a true yellow also appears to remain marked apart as being unlikely to possess genius. There is always one to be remembered, however, the great Thackeray, whose hair is described as yellow.

Dark brown to black is the prevailing hue on the heads of great men. A list of fifty names has been compiled in which the color of the hair is given by biographers, and 90 per cent. are dark brown or black. There is not, strange to say, a single mention of premature grayness, nor a single case of that ashen brown hair known as "singed" or "mouse color." But it is dangerous to generalize and no infallibility is claimed for these statements.

The structure of the hair—whether straight or curly—is given in twenty-six lists of geniuses, and of these all but four possessed curly or wavy hair. It is extremely notable that of the remaining four Napoleon and President Jackson were the two remarkable for "wavy hair," and that James Russell Lowell and Greg were those having lank straight hair. The poet's "ringlets" and the musician's shock of hair are by this list seen not to be mere accidents, but in some strange way are co-ordinated to their powers, and the general popular instinct is not at fault.

The color of beards also arouses many points of interest. Most of the ancient tapestries show Cain and Judas Iscariot with yellow or red beards, and Pontius Pilate in ancient art always was given a beard. A reddish beard, however, does not carry the significance that goes with red hair, for a large number of eminent men with dark-brown hair have had reddish beards.

Sometimes the eyelashes alone have been ruddy, Savonarola, the Florentine reformer, who had almost black hair, having startlingly red eyebrows and eyelashes. But as a general rule, here also a silky brown beard, when accompanied by fine curling dark-brown hair is the most usual characteristic shown in the biographies of men whose names have been handed down to fame.

It would be difficult to find a region where the ups and downs of fortune have been so sudden and extreme as in California. In its early days, before its production of grain was equal to the demand, wages of farm hands were high, but as production increased the prices lowered faster than the rate of wages. A farmer employed an industrious Irishman for five years, at the rate of \$50 a month "and found"—board, lodging, washing, and mending. At the end of the term he said to his man:

"I can't afford to pay you the wages I have been giving. You have saved money, and I have saved nothing. At this rate you will soon own my farm."

"Then I'll hire you to work for me," said the other, "and you can get your farm back again."

Where She Differed From Paul. A Scotch clergyman called upon a parishioner, an old woman who was not possessed with many virtues, but who possessed a very varied assortment of vices. He had written a text for a sermon and spoke to her at considerable length upon the subject, concluding with some extracts from one of St. Paul's epistles which he felt to be apropos.

She didn't speak for several minutes after he had finished, and he thought that he had made an impression upon her at last. He was mistaken, however, for she suddenly turned round with the remark: "Humph! That's just where Paul and I have differed these ten years."

The argument was not continued. Coagulen. Coagulen is the invention of the great Swiss surgeon, Professor Kocher. It is in the form of a powder which, before use, is mixed with water. Applied to a wound, it almost instantly coagulates the blood and stops the bleeding, whether external or internal. It shortens surgical operations and makes them less dangerous. The French medical headquarters speak most highly of coagulen. It will, no doubt, come into general use in all surgical operations.

One German King in the Field. Of the four German kings, the Kaiser (king of Prussia) is the only one actively assisting in the field, the kings of Bavaria, Wurttemberg, and Saxony remaining at home. Quite a number of princes and dukes have been wounded; one is a prisoner of war—the prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who was on the Eastern; and among the killed are at least six princes—two of Lippe, two of Meiningen, and one each of Waldeck, Reuss, and Hesse.

Kaiser Will Lose Heavily. Judged from a purely business standpoint, the Kaiser stands to lose a lot over this war. For instance, he owns some sixty residences in different parts of Germany, and no fewer than ninety private estates. These bring him in about \$2,000,000 a year. One way and another Germany is judged as a going concern means about \$10,000,000 a year to its overlord. This is just about four times the sum total of King George's income.

There is at least one thing women can do that men can't—and that is say "good-bye" gracefully. There is a difference between keeping boarders and having boarders keep you.

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