

of the winners in the prize-story contest for girls. The number is an excellent one.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY for May just to hand is full of articles rich in thought, and information on living questions of the day. The first paper, "Our Recent Debts to Vivisection," by William W. Keen, M.D., is a graphic account of the benefits that have been conferred upon humanity during the last quarter of a century, by means of experiments on animals. There are no strained constructions in the argument, and the numerous examples given can not be easily explained away. The second article, by Prof. W. K. Brooks, is a highly significant answer to the very interesting question that intelligent people have long been asking, "Can man be modified by Selection?" Dr. Max von Pettenkofer's valuable and timely papers on "Cholera." The present installment of "The Chemistry of Cookery" is devoted to vegetarianism, which Dr. Williams commends on rather novel grounds. "The Nervous System and Consciousness," by Prof. W. R. Benedict, illustrated, is a good paper. There is also an article by Prof. Tyndall, describing the patient labor, the ingenious methods, and the grand results of "Pasteur's Researches in Germ-Life;" and a very readable and instructive article, treating of the antiquity of man, under the title of "A Very Old Master," with twenty pages of "Literary Notices and Popular Miscellany" on a variety of subjects.

THE INDEX MEDICUS, we are pleased to learn, will be continued by Mr. George S. Davis, of Detroit, and on the same general plan as hitherto. The first issue will contain the references, to the literature of January, February and March, after which it will appear monthly, as formerly. It is to be hoped that the profession will more fully sustain the editors and publishers in this undertaking. The publication is a most valuable one.

LATE NUMBERS OF HARPER'S WEEKLY contain some admirable illustrations. In one, a full-page illustration, we are given "General Grant's Illness—a consultation"—the old General in a cushioned chair surrounded by the four physicians, Drs. Douglas, Sands, Shady and Barker—very life like and suggestive. Another, full-page to, "A Jolly Lot"—a copy of a painting by J. G. Brown, N.A., representing a group of nine street boys, very life like and natural indeed, and representing a variety of faces worthy of study. The large number of portraits given of men of repute are highly interesting. A funny and very suggestive picture represents President Cleveland throwing the Rome, N.Y., Postmaster out of the window. The President holding him up by the back of the collar and breeches. Both the *Weekly* and *Bazar* provide a large fund of highly entertaining and instructive reading.

THE THREE FIRST VOLUMES, for this year, of Wood's admirable series of Monthly Medical Works have just been received. We shall endeavour to examine them before our next issue of the journal.

RENEWAL OF BRAIN CELLS.—According to the novel computation of a German physiologist, who has been calculating the aggregate cell forces of the human brain, the cerebral mass is composed of at least 300,000,000 of nerve cells, each an independent body, organism, and microscopic brain, so far as concerns its vital relations, but subordinated to a higher purpose in relation to the function of the organ; each living a separate life individually, though socially subject to a higher law of function. The life term of a nerve cell he estimates to be about sixty days; so that 5,000,000 die every day, about 200,000 every hour, and nearly 3,500 every minute, to be succeeded by an equal number of progeny, while once in every sixty days a man has a totally new brain.

DR. BAYRISCH, a distinguished naturalist, (*Ottawa Citizen*) has been investigating the origin of the masses of gum collecting on the limbs of certain kinds of trees, notably the plum and apricot. He finds that the exudation is due to a disease produced by the presence of parasitic fungi, and when healthy trees are inoculated with the gum thus produced they speedily contract the disorder, which is highly contagious. The disease is disseminated by the drying of the gum by oxidation and its circulation by the wind.

THE LARGEST OF THEIR KIND—The largest ocean in the world is the Pacific; river, the Amazon; gulf, Mexico, cape, Horn; lake, Superior; bay, Bengal; island, Australia; city, London; public building, St. Peter's, Rome; hotel, Palace, San Francisco; steamship, "Great Eastern;" desert, Sahara; theater, Grand Opera House, Paris; state, Texas; highest mountain, Mt. Everest, Hindostan, Asia; sound, Long Island; railroad, Union Pacific and Central Pacific; canal, Grand Canal, China; bridge, that over the Tay at Dundee, Scotland; railroad depot, St. Pancras, London; largest room in the world under single roof, military one, St. Petersburg.

THE SOURCES OF PETROLEUM, says the *American Inventor*, are found in almost every part of the globe, and the use of the article would seem well nigh coeval with civilization. There is a spring in one of the Ionian islands, which has yielded petroleum more than 2,000 years. The city of Genoa was formerly lighted by oil from the wells of Armenia, on the banks of the Zavo. In Persia, also, near the Caspian Sea, at Baku, numerous springs of petroleum have been known from the earliest time; and those of Rangoon, on the Irrawaddy, are said to have yielded, before the general introduction of petroleum, some 400,000 hogsheads of oil a year.