

upon English history, in the months of November and December. He is not able to promise definitely at present, but he will send a final answer to our invitation in September. Professor Darcy will be invited to give a course of lectures on the French language, its construction and its idioms, preliminary to the study of French literature, which will be taken up, time and opportunity permitting. A scientific course will also be provided, consisting probably of lectures on physiology, with a few on chemistry introductory to the subject. The last course is still unprovided for, but its subject will be English language or literature, or some allied literary study. If the present effort should prove successful, and the Association grow in years and financial strength, its objects will become more definite, and its organization more complete."

The Rev. Mr. Gibson moved the adoption of the report, which was carried. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Bishop Oxenden, seconded by C. J. Brydges, moved a resolution warmly approving the movement. Speeches were made in favour of the organization, after which the meeting adjourned. A large number of ladies have already been enrolled as members of the Association, which promises to be productive of great good to the city, and will doubtless soon lead to the formation of similar Associations in other cities throughout the Dominion.

His Excellency the Governor-General left Quebec by the steamship "Alhambra" on last Saturday afternoon.

The Ottawa Times says there is great demand for labour in that vicinity.

The surveying party for the Canadian Pacific Railway is already en route for the commencement of operations.

La Minerve says that M. L'Abbe Tanguay, accompanied by his secretary, has left Montreal to visit the French settlements in Ontario, especially those on the Ottawa river, and in the counties of Prescott, Russell, and Essex. M. Tanguay is writing a work on migration and development of the French in Upper Canada, and wishes to see with his own eyes. He will afterwards visit those Western States which have had French Canadians as pioneers.

The Volunteer Camp at Niagara is being most satisfactorily conducted. A despatch says—

"The Minister of Militia is to visit the camp in a few days, and there will be a grand review, which will attract a large number of spectators from all quarters.

"The men feel justly proud of the compliment paid them by the Governor-General in his order, in which he compliments them on the rapid and soldierly manner in which they were concentrated on the frontier, and for the zeal and exertion by which a force of nearly 5,000 men, including cavalry and artillery, with ample supplies of provisions, forage, camp equipage and ammunition, have been enabled to reach the camping grounds in twelve hours after leaving their battalion head-quarters."

The Army and Navy Gazette says— "We trust that nothing will induce the Government of any civilized country to shelter under any pretext those who have participated in the crimes of the Commune. They are outlaws, outcasts, the enemies of mankind and of God, and no pretence of natural rights or political Alsationism should be allowed to shield them against the just vengeance of their afflicted country." The Gazette is right.

The ancient May day custom of chanting a hymn on the top of Magdalen College tower, Oxford, was duly observed this year by the choir under the direction of the organist, Dr. Stainer. For this service the sum of £10 is received out of the rectory of Sylmbridge, in Gloucestershire. Tradition says that a requiem mass was celebrated at the top of this tower every May day morning at an early hour for the repose of the soul of Henry VII.

A NEW GOLD EXTRACTOR.

(From the Illustrated Australian News.)

Among the recent inventions for saving the enormous waste of gold which has been going on for years, in fact ever since our auriferous wealth was discovered, the process patented by Mr. Poeppel and Dr. Migeod, of Ballarat, promises to be the most successful. It scarcely can be called a new method of amalgamation, but it is doubtless a new method of accelerating and of ensuring amalgamation. The results of Mr. Poeppel's experiments on a small scale on different portions of the sludge and tailings of old Ballarat mines are such as to make people believe that there is still more gold in Ballarat than ever was taken out of it. These experiments show such a waste of the precious metal that it may well be supposed that the stuff experimented upon did not represent fair average samples of the bulk. Some of the Ballarat companies, however, have determined to give the new gold extractor a larger test, and it will well repay them to expend a few pounds to obtain a result that may double the value of every mine now at work, and call into new life and vigour many of those that have long been defunct. The new extractor is what is termed saccharate of mercury, prepared by the trituration of that metal with sugar, until an almost impalpable powder is obtained, in which it requires a strong glass to detect the smallest portion of quicksilver, and it has the advantage of being used as a dry powder, to be mixed with the dirt from which the gold is to be extracted, or to be sprinkled in the water in puddling machines, biddles, or mills, where it will attach and deposit all the fine gold held in suspension in the liquid. Mr. Poeppel has also patented a cylindrical machine for the better use of his saccharate when the dirt is rich in gold, say equal to an ounce or more to the ton. The cost of this machine is £60, and the price of the saccharate is 4s. a pound; half a pound of the latter is sufficient for a ton of ordinary dirt, but it may be supplied in larger quantity if the dirt is rich, up to say one pound or one pound and a half per ton. Of course it will be understood that the ordinary process of amalgamation goes on simultaneously, the saccharate being used only as an accelerator to quicken the amalgamation and to catch the fine gold that otherwise would flow off with the water into the sludge and tailings. Mr. Poeppel has estimated that there is no sludge or tailings to be found in the colony, from which payable gold was originally extracted, that will not yield at least 3 dwt. to the ton by the use of the saccharate, and very little indeed that will not yield double or treble that quantity. He excepts, however, the refuse from claims where the gold found was all coarse and nuggety, and unaccompanied by any fine gold.

CAUSES OF SUMMER DISEASE.

The Journal of Health for June, under a different heading, states the following facts concerning the cause of disease :

The mistletoe bough, like the Spanish moss, which drapes the trees of Southern swamps in such sad funeral garb, is a growth outside of the natural condition of the tree; it is a parasite, a fungus; a very low form of life, exceedingly slow in development in some cases, in others so inconceivably rapid as to be reproduced in millions in a few hours, as in the toadstool and mushroom. The common yeast, with which we make our bread, is a mass of living things, a dozen of them generating myriads more in a night. These fungi, sporules, or germs, are not only the pests of living plants, eating out the entire life in the course of time, but they infest animals and man, carrying with them, sometimes, the most dreadful deaths. The mushroom, the morel, and the truffle, among the greatest delicacies of the table with some, are fungi. In some cases they kill, or cause disease, or poison. Ergot, blight, mildew, rust, brand, dry rot, are all the diseased results of fungous growth.

There are similar growths or products in the animal world, called "cell" life. Vegetables come from seed, animals from eggs by cell development, and these cells or eggs are as amazing in their fecundity as fungous growth. A man swallows a few mouthfuls of raw pork in which are a few trichinae. In a very few days, living things are found burrowing in the flesh by millions, causing the most agonizing pains and a dreadful death.

Between the effects of fungi and cell products, the vegetable germ and the animal egg, men perish in millions every year. Asiatic cholera seems to be, by the latest researches, the product of a thing of life, but whether vegetable or animal admits of question thus far.

Whooping cough is apparently of vegetable growth; for when the expectation of a child suffering from it is examined, it is crowded with germs; on one occasion a small amount of it was introduced into the windpipe of a healthy young rabbit; in a few days it had a troublesome cough, and on examination a countless number of these same germs were found all along the throat, windpipe, and lungs.

Plague and pestilence, and all those diseases, called epidemic, which suddenly fall upon a whole community, such as fever and ague, chill and fever, bilious fever, yellow fever, diarrhoea, and dysentery, are caused by marsh miasm.

In the worst time of yellow fever and cholera in New Orleans, the evening and the morning air was so cool and delicious and balmy that many a time we have breathed it by the hour in perfect delight; and yet the resident knew that it was but the sure intimation that the disease would be more fearful in a day or two. But if this air be bottled and taken a thousand miles away, put into a close room where a healthy man is sleeping, he will have the ordinary symptoms of chill and fever in a day or two, and myriads of these pestiferous things will be found about his tongue, his throat and windpipe, and his lungs and stomach.

The newspapers announced recently that the Asiatic cholera had made its appearance in India; its progress has been always westward along the most prominent lines of travel, until it reaches America, crosses to the coast of California, and is lost in the boundless Pacific.

EFFECTS OF COLOURS ON HEALTH.

From several years' observation in rooms of various sizes, used as manufacturing rooms, and occupied by females for twelve hours per day, I found that the workers who occupied those rooms which had large windows with large panes of glass in the four sides of the room, so that the sun's rays penetrated through the room during the whole day, were much more healthy than the workers who occupied rooms lighted through very small panes of glass. I observed another very singular fact, viz: that the workers who occupied one room were very cheerful and healthy, while the occupiers of another similar room, who were employed on the same kind of work, were all inclined to melancholy, and complained of pain in the forehead and eyes, and were often ill and unable to work. Upon examining the rooms in question, I found they were both equally well ventilated and lighted. I could not discover anything in the draining of the premises that could effect the one room any more than the other; but I observed that the room occupied by the healthy workers was wholly white-washed, and the room occupied by the melancholy workers was coloured with yellow ochre.

I had the yellow ochre all washed off, and the ceiling and walls whitewashed. After making this discovery I extended my observation to a number of small rooms and garrets, and found, without exception, that the occupiers of the white rooms were much more healthy than the occupiers of the yellow or buff coloured rooms; and I succeeded in inducing occupiers of the yellow rooms to change the colour for white-wash. I always found a corresponding improvement in the health and spirits of the occupiers. From these observations, I would respectfully drop a hint to the authorities of schools, asylums and hospitals, to eschew yellow, buff, or anything approaching to yellow, as the grand colour of the interior of their buildings.

The following are some of the things not generally appreciated about a house: 1. The benefit of thorough drainage and water supply. 2. The benefit of good heating and ventilation. 3. The benefits of proper colour.—Cor. of the Builder.

The subscriptions for the Strasburg Library are, according to the National Zeitung, progressing so favourably as to promise to leave the institution rich not only in the number but equally so in the literary value of its volumes. The efforts made towards this object in England are highly appreciated abroad. Moreover, the Grand Duke of Baden has contributed two thousand volumes from his library at Karlsruhe, and the Universities of Heidelberg, Basle, Erlangen, Greifswald, and Jena, and the Royal library at Stuttgart have made liberal promises. Switzerland is doing its best, and the Austrian capital, though disclaimed as a German city, proposes to add some specimens of peculiar value. Some appreciable presents come from private men, for instance from the Wurtemberg Minister, Herr von Wachter. In addition to these gifts Government has resolved to enrich the institution by purchases from Government funds. Professor Boecking's famous collection is to be incorporated, and that of Professor von Vangerow, in Heidelberg, has already been purchased. Both are rich in valuable law books and manuscripts, the latter numbering no fewer than 3,350 volumes.

A cure for leprosy has, it seems, been discovered in India. According to the Pioneer, medical science has at last triumphed over this terrible disease. The civil surgeon of Khundwa reports the case of a wretched old Jew who came to him from Bombay in great grief, saying that his friends had excluded him from their society and obliged him to live in a hut by himself. He was at this time pleasingly mottled with rose-colour. The doctor had him at once washed with soap and warm water, and the old Jew showed signs of improvement. He was then anointed with carbolic acid and oil with such good effects that next day he wrote to his wife to expect him home in a week. In short, what with washing with soap and water, and what with anointing with carbolic acid and oil, the old Jew was soon completely cured. The experiment had, moreover, an interest apart from the fact that an ancient scourge was being conquered in the chameleon variations of the corpus vile under experiment. The Jew came to Khundwa rose-colour and brown; in a week or two he was a glossy black and brown; a little later he became speckled grey; then his skin—possibly uneasy at what might happen next—lost all patience with its owner, and peeled away from him, leaving him just the colour a Jew ought to be. He lives in the hut no longer, and has been received into the society of his family and friends.

A splendid illustration of Mr. Darwin's theory has turned up in Vienna. There is a girl there, aged thirteen, a native of Palermo, Thérèse Gambardella, who is literally covered with hair so thickly that the Vienna papers pronounce her skin more like a fur than anything else. The famous Julia Pastrana is described as perfectly smooth compared with the new claimant to celebrity, whose hairy covering extends from head to foot, even the forehead—which in similar cases is said to have been invariably found bare—being entirely overgrown. The head closely resembles that of a monkey, and several abnormalities in the build of the body still further complete the resemblance. We do not hear whether the young lady is graced with a tail, but the shape of her jaws and teeth, the pliability of her tongue—which she can roll up completely in her mouth—her excellent appetite, her restlessness, &c., strikingly remind one of the agile and amusing animals in the Zoological Gardens. Signorina Gambardella's intellectual capacity is said to correspond with her prepossessing exterior. She is a great favourite with the public, medical and otherwise, and appears to have achieved a conquest over the photographers, who are quarrelling for the honour of taking her likeness. We trust the successful competitor will favour Mr. Darwin with a copy to prefix to the new editions of his book.

Some sensation has been produced at Stockholm by the intelligence that Prince Bismarck has called upon the Hamburg Senate to report whether the acquisition of the islands of Spitzbergen by Sweden would be advantageous or otherwise for the commercial and shipping interests of Germany. This news was a great surprise to the Swedes, as the intention of the Swedish Government to obtain possession of the islands in question had been hitherto kept secret. It now appears that the Government proposes to establish a colony in these islands "for scientific purposes," and that it has notified its intention to England, Germany, Russia, France, Denmark, and the United States. A meteorological and magnetic observatory is to be created there, and in order to obtain the necessary security and control the whole territory is to be placed under the Swedish rule. This project is connected with the Arctic Expedition, which is to start this summer from the northern coast of Spitzbergen, under the direction of Professor Nordenskiold, with the object of penetrating as far as possible in the direction of the North Pole.

A curiosity has been shown to the Woodstock Sentinel by Mr. Titus Fuller, of that town. It is an Indian stone battle-axe, found in his hopyard. It is about eight or nine inches in length and about three or four in thickness. One end is quite round, while the other is formed like the blade of a tomahawk, and was very smoothly polished, and although very ancient, as it must be, the edge of the blade still retains its sharpness, with the exception of a small nick in it. No doubt this instrument has "seen service" and was considered very effectual when rifles and Armstrong guns were little thought of.

VARIETIES.

"I say, friend, your horse is a little contrary, is he not?" "No, sir." "What makes him stop, then?" "O, he's afraid somebody'll say 'whoa' and he shan't hear it."

An English lady reproached the Turkish Ambassador on the laws of Mahomet, permitting them to have so many wives. "It is permitted to us, madam," replied he, "in order that we may find in many those qualifications that centre in you alone." The lady has been a believer in polygamy ever since.

There is an undertaker in New York whose sign bears the inscription: "Every requisite for a funeral." John McBride Davidson, passing along with Billy Birch, went in and said he would take a corpse. "A corpse! I haven't any." "Then take down your sign," said Mr.; "I don't know anything more requisite for a funeral than a corpse. Good morning."

The following is given as an extract of a dialogue between a magistrate and a prisoner, in which the latter came out of the combat of words tolerably well.—Magistrate: "What brought you here, sir?" Prisoner: "Two policemen, please your honour?" Magistrate: "Then, I suppose liquor had nothing to do with it?" Prisoner: "Yes, sir; they were both intoxicated."

CHESS.

Solutions to problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 30.

White. Black. 1. Kt. to Kt. 7th. ch. K. to Q. 3rd. (best.) 2. R. to G. B. 5th. R. takes B. 3. Q. to K. B. 5th., mate.

VARIATION.

1. Kt. to Kt. 5th., mate. Kt. takes Q. 2. Black has other defences, but none to avert the mate.