

## VANITY.

The moth was beautiful—so bright  
That, while the sunbeams played at seek  
And hid among the roses white  
And red, like blushes on the cheek  
Of beauty yielding soft assent  
To some low love-tones' sweep awing,  
He, in his gay attire content,  
And many a knightly courtesy making,  
Seemed, as he passed, on mischief bent,  
If not on absolute heart-breaking.

The roses, gentle and polite,  
Bowed daintily, as maidens do,  
Who still maintain their lowered right—  
The manner's old, but good as new;  
A mere acquaintance, that was all,  
Related to the village suitor,  
They held him in their graces small  
As any other lady killer.  
Or estimated dandy doll,  
And son of the epicuriat.

The moth danced gaily on his way,  
Nor other fellowship desired,  
Till, where a group of pantries lay,  
In regal elegance arrayed,  
He paused and looked, like one amazed,  
Upon their bright and sunny faces;  
Their daisy buds and dimples clear,  
And dainty dimples his gaudy grace,  
Alas! he, cold, benumbed, he gazed,  
Then dropped and died in the embrace.  
—W. S. Snyder.

## What Bacteria Are.

The great majority of these microscopic plants are what botanists call bacteria, the smallest form of vegetable life. So small are they that it would take, in some cases, as many as fifteen thousand of them to fill a row to extend an inch. They have different forms, some being round, some oval, some rod shaped, and others much the shape of a corkscrew, or spiral. In all cases they are so small that one needs a powerful microscope to study them, and in no case can we perceive them singly with the naked eye. When countless millions of them are grouped together in a mass or colony we can see them about as we are able to see at a great distance an approaching army, of which they are totally unable to distinguish a single soldier.

We have said that these bacteria move about, and this is true of most of them, although there are some of them that do not appear to move at all, but remain fixed where they find a good feeding place. These that have motion behave in a very peculiar manner, some wobble about in one place without moving forward in the least; others dart hither and thither, back and forth, at an apparently furious rate, rolling about and twisting about, and turning a hundred somersaults as they move along.

Bacteria multiply very rapidly, and they do this in a very singular way. A single one breaks into two; then each half grows to be as large as the first. Then these, in turn, divide up again, and so on, until from a single one we have many thousands in a short time. To give you the figures, such as these, are a single one can multiply at so enormous a rate that in forty-eight hours it can produce something like 280,000,000,000 of bacteria. Great numbers follow this enormous increase of bacteria; for, while one which is so small in itself can do little, the vast army resulting from the multiplication of one is able to accomplish much. Professor Frederick D. Chatter in St. Nicholas.

## Chicken Patties at 2 A. M.

The little, round, fat man, with the gurgling laugh, answered to roll call yesterday and said he had a new story. It was on a friend who had been with him. This friend is not exactly slender, but a composite picture of him and the little fat man would look like a lemonade with a straw in it. The other night his friend the boarder came in, rather late hour, and, as his host, searched the larder for delicacies. He knew his ground perfectly, and did not think it necessary to light the gas. In the pantry he discovered some delicious chicken patties, and these he devoured in short order. Still his appetite asserted itself. Probing further into the mysteries of the larder he found some more of the patties, and these he devoured with gusto, though he thought at the time that they did not taste as well as the others. Then he went to bed and was soon the proprietor of a snore which sounded like a man tearing canvas.

In the morning, when the little fat man came down to breakfast, his wife, who had preceded him, said: "James, I cannot imagine what has become of the sausage buns which the cook made up last night." Neither could James. The boarder slumbered on, and his aggressive snore bored holes in the atmosphere. An idea occurred to the little fat man, "Maybe Arthur ate the sausage," he said. "You'd better go up, then, and see if he is alive," said his wife. He was alive, and when taxed about the sausage he acknowledged the work. Then the fat man said: "I have my opinion of a man who can't tell the difference between sausage and chicken patties at 2 a. m."—Chicago Herald.

## Singing for Lung Diseases.

At the present time, when physical culture is a part of the curriculum of our most intellectual schools, and is so generally regarded as a necessary element toward supplying and maintaining the sound body for the sound mind, it is worth while to consider a recent statement of eminent physicians that the mere exercise of singing is a great help toward the prevention, cure or alleviation of lung diseases. In the incipient state of such cases it is even said to be a powerful aid to a cure. It is, indeed, somewhat curious that the medical fraternity have not exploited the theory of lung exercises by singing more fully heretofore, since the matter is so simple, and the action of gymnastics in strengthening muscular tissue have for years been a universal practice, although as a matter of fact the mere physical exercise of singing brings into play an extraordinary number of muscles that can hardly be suspected of action in connection with the throat expenditure.

It was disclosed by statistics in Italy some years ago that vocal artists were usually long lived and healthy, and that brass instrument players, who bring their lungs and chest into unusual activity, have not had a consumptive victim among them. No matter how thin or weak the voice, children or young people should be encouraged to indulge in song. There can be no happier medicine, and if bearers sometimes suffer they should be encouraged and strengthened to bear the fulfillment in view of the good it may occasion.—Fashion Bazar.

## Ventilation of Public Buildings.

A very common mistake in the ventilation of churches and schoolhouses, and public buildings generally, is made when those in charge fail to close the windows immediately after the buildings have been vacated, says *Annals of Hygiene*. The exhaustions from the lungs and the emanations from the feet, being light, will float for a while in the atmosphere before falling to the floor, and if the windows be opened at once, so that a current of air crosses the hall, many of them will be carried out. If, however, as is usually the case, the windows are not opened for some hours, may be not until the next day, these particles, settling upon the floor, are not carried away, but when the hall is again occupied they are disturbed by the feet, thrown up into the atmosphere and inhaled by the lungs from which they have been exhaled the day before.

## ISOLATED MACHINES.

## PROVIDING INDEPENDENT POWER FOR DRIVING THEM.

A Question Which Is Deeply Interesting to Mechanics and Engineers—Electricity Possesses Advantages Over Air and Steam, Yet It Is Lacking in Some Things.

It seems to be the tendency at the present time to subdivide, or, in other words, to provide each machine with an individual or independent power for driving. Naturally these methods divide themselves, considered from the motive end, into three parts: steam, air and electricity. The advantages to be derived from each subdivision of power are apparent. When a power is used solely for the propulsion of one machine it is under the sole control of the operator using that machine. No matter what system is used, this method does away entirely with all expense, both constructive and operative, connected with the use of shafting and reduces materially the expense of wear and tear. As an additional advantage, when the machine is used only when needed, all expense ceases when the operator has no further use for that particular machine. The disadvantages are the first cost, wear and tear and the expense of maintenance. In this, of course, it is apparent that while the steam engine, motor or an electric motor has been the first cost is greater as compared with the cost of extending a shafting and driving the machine through the usual belts and pulleys. This is a disadvantage against the use of an individual driving power for each machine.

Considering the three motors which are possible as individual powers for the driving of isolated machines, steam is out of the question for several evident reasons. Compressed air has been used with more or less success in Paris, as was recently noted in *The Iron Age*, and yet the advantages to be derived from its use are not equal to the extreme disadvantages arising from the necessary piping peculiar to the machine itself. It will transmit, in the best of cases, 92 or 93 per cent as effective work. Again, it requires no attendance whatever, except occasional oiling. In wear and tear it is reduced to mere journal wearing, which may be overcome by proper lubrication and construction of parts, and in attention it requires practically nothing. Further than this, it requires no piping whatever to carry away latent gases, the simple reason that it generates nothing.

In point of regulation it is as effective as the best steam engine governor, because the motor as now built is guaranteed to run within 2 per cent. of the speed regulation provided by the contract. This regulation is independent of any outside influence, as the motor is so constructed that an excess of current will act to decrease the speed, while at the same time an excess of load will act to increase the current, so that the two are counterbalanced within the 2 per cent. mentioned.

Another decided advantage in the use of the electric motor is that it is essentially a rotary engine. The power is applied to the development of a rotary motion in contradistinction to that of a reciprocating motion, and in consequence there is no lost motion in the engine. The power being applied continually and at all times to the periphery of the wheel, the ordinary steam engine in changing the reciprocating to the rotating motion, concerning the efficiency of the electric motor as now constructed, and the time consumed in the ordinary steam engine in changing the reciprocating to the rotating motion, is necessary to change the power as manifested in steam under pressure to electricity. Then this electricity must be conveyed along a suitable conductor to the motor. Finally, the power so conducted must be reconverted into power to be expended on the shaft. Taking the power of the steam engine as 10, we can convert 10 per cent. of the power as electricity. The latter we can convey for short or long distances, as may be necessary, and will lose according to the resistance of the wire a smaller or greater percentage of the initial current generated by the dynamo. Assuming this average loss due to resistance of the conducting wire as 10 per cent., we have delivered to the electric motor some 81 per cent. of the effective power on an engine of the electric motor as now constructed will deliver in effective work from 60 to 93 per cent. of the electrical power supplied to them through the conductors. We therefore have in work actually performed by the electric motor from 70 to 75 per cent. of the actual work performed by the steam engine, which may be near or far away, and the distance of which governs, as will be understood from the above, the effective work performed by the motor.

It is very evident from this, which is every day practice, that the electric motor possesses, in certain respects, decided advantages when considered in connection with a dynamo and transmitting wire, over any other method of transmitting power from a known source to the point of destination; but it is to be remembered that the electric motor possesses these advantages in regard to economy, self regulation and economy of maintenance, it is also evident that it labors under most decided disadvantages. Considered from this aspect the first and most evident feature is the high speed. An electric motor of three or five horse power, placed in an isolated position to run a large lathe or planer requiring this amount of power, must have its initial speed of 1,500 or 2,000 revolutions of its armature per minute reduced down to the 100 or 125 required by the driving shaft operating the machine by the introduction of a reducing mechanism. The latter must necessarily be either of the worm or gear pattern. This introduction of quick revolving parts and of the several parts needed to reduce the motion from the high speed to that of the low speed needed to drive the machine, leads to wear of the parts not only in the motor itself, but in the intermediate through which the power is transmitted.

The good points of the electric motor are not appreciated as they should be. The electric motor would be more accurately used if its driving shaft, or, in other words, its armature shaft, were reduced in speed. The ordinary mechanic, knowing that he wants only a speed of fifty revolutions a minute to drive his machine, will look with suspicion upon any power which travels at a speed of 1,500 revolutions a minute.

Another feature which acts against the introduction of the electric motor in cases where it should apparently be used is the first cost. Considering the horse power derived from it and the cost of construction, this is unnecessarily high. The machinery thus erected against the adoption of the motor by the manufacturers has done much to retard its introduction. We see no reason to prevent the construction of a low speed, moderate cost, electric motor.—Iron Age.

## OLD PLAYBILLS.

## Money Values Set by Buyers of Odds and Ends on Their Fads.

About thirty persons interested in scarce playbills and other relics gathered at the auction rooms of Ellis & Shaw, in Arch Street, to see the sale of the treasures that formed part of the museum of W. W. Long. As a rule the playbills which were sold first brought low prices, 5 and 10 cents each being the rule. One, however, of Edwin Forrest, as Coriolanus, Academy of Music, 1864, with a wood cut of Forrest, brought 35 cents, and a scarce bill of the American Aquatic Theatre, United States Flagship, Cumberland, Feb. 20, 1861, was sold for 25 cents. Mr. Charles N. Mann, the well known Philadelphia collector, was required to pay 30 cents for a beautiful bill of Thomas A. Cooper at the Chestnut Street Theatre in 1839.

A large number of house bills of the Chestnut and Walnut Street theatres for 1821-22 in small lots was divided between Mr. Mann and the historical society at prices ranging from 10 to 25 cents, but Mr. Mann was required to pay 60 cents for a beautiful bill of Edmund Kean, as Lear, Walnut, April 14, 1821, and 40 cents for a bill of Herbert as Richard III, Chestnut, March 10, 1830. The latter has a wood cut of Herbert, a forgotten actor, probably the only one in existence. The highest price realized by any of the early bills was \$2.50 for a bill of George Jefferson, grandfather of our Joseph, in "The Rivals," Chestnut, March 24, 1819. Mr. Thomas Donelson was the purchaser.

While the sale of the Philadelphia bills was in progress two curious bills were interpolated in the catalogue which occasioned some spirited bidding. One of these was a play bill of "The Libby Prison Minstrels," Dec. 24, 1863. The performers were Union prisoners in Libby prison, and the bills were printed on the title of The Richmond Examiner. This specimen brought \$23. The other was a bill of the Philadelphia bills was in progress two curious bills were interpolated in the catalogue which occasioned some spirited bidding. One of these was a play bill of "The Libby Prison Minstrels," Dec. 24, 1863. The performers were Union prisoners in Libby prison, and the bills were printed on the title of The Richmond Examiner. This specimen brought \$23. The other was a bill of the Philadelphia bills was in progress two curious bills were interpolated in the catalogue which occasioned some spirited bidding. One of these was a play bill of "The Libby Prison Minstrels," Dec. 24, 1863. 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