

MISCELLANEOUS.

One of the great breakwaters at Venice, extending nearly two miles into the sea, is now nearly completed, and the corresponding one well advanced. When they are completed, the port of Venice, now so difficult to enter for large ships, will be among the most accessible.

In Halle, Germany, there is an engineering company which shares its profits with its employees, the amount given each man depending on his wages and the length of time he has been connected with the concern. Last year over \$10,000 was given to the men as dividends.

Chicago, Ill., U. S. A., Oct. 13th, '93.

Gentlemen,—I find your Acid Cure, but I do not find your pamphlet. I expect to use your Acid Cure extensively this winter, in practice.

DR. R. O. SPEAR.

COUTTS & SONS.

The French Civil Tribunal has settled a difficult question under the divorce law. It has annulled a marriage between a divorced woman and her ex-husband's brother, on the ground that divorce does not destroy affinity. The President of the Republic may "for serious reasons" grant a dispensation for a marriage between a brother-in-law and a sister-in-law, no matter whether the first husband or wife be dead or merely divorced, but in this case no dispensation had been applied for.—*London Public Opinion.*

A Frenchman now living in Russia is said to have attained the immense age of 126 years. From a very interesting account of his life, just published in a Russian journal, it appears that he was born at Paris on April 17, 1768. He has a vivid recollection of the "Terror." He joined Napoleon's army in 1798. He fought in the battles of Austerlitz and Jena, shared in the campaigns of Egypt and Spain, and finally was one of the 400,000 men who followed Napoleon to Moscow.—*New York Medical Record.*

Some splendid picture frames may be seen every year at the Royal Academy Exhibition; but the finest and costliest frame ever made for a picture was that which incloses the "Virgin and Child" in Milan Cathedral. It is made of hammered gold, with an inner moulding of lapis lazuli. The corners of this valuable frame have hearts designed in large pearls and precious stones. Some idea of its value may be gained when it is stated that the frame is eight feet long and six feet wide. Its estimated worth is £25,000.—*London Answers.*

In the South of France there is a serious plague of locusts, such as is usually only experienced in Algeria and elsewhere in Africa. In consequence a very remarkable accident occurred the other day to a train running between London and Chatellerault. All of a sudden the engine plunged into a dense mass of the insects, which had got on the line. They completely clogged up the machinery and brought the train to a standstill. A party of laborers had to be sent to the spot to clear the line before the train could be started again, and a delay of two hours was thus caused.—*New York Telegram.*

This summer might be seen at Greenhead, Lempitlaw, near Kelso, the extraordinary spectacle of a hen bestowing maternal care on a litter of three Dandie

Dinmont pups, the property of Mr. John Wait, forester. It seems that the pups had been deserted by their mother, and in the course of their aimless wandering had come into contact with a broody Orpington hen, the result being that the hen began to go about with and look after them. When she sat herself down, the pups climbed over her back and crawled under her wings, just like so many chickens, and were apparently as much attached to their feathered foster-mother as the latter was to her canine family.—*London Answers.*

GOLF.

Newport is to inaugurate another sporting event this year in the way of a golf championship, to be held in September over the links of the recently organized club. The Tournament is open to the members of all golf clubs and for a very handsome cup. Apropos of cups reminds me that I hear already of complaints against men that are concealing their true form in order to gain advantage in handicap tournaments. It seems always to be the same old story nowadays—to win, whether by fair or foul means. What is the matter with we Americans that we cannot always be sportsmanlike? Is it possible that the intrinsic value of the trophy tempts our avaricious souls beyond resistance? It is unfortunate these mug-hunters seem invariably to make themselves most prominent, and to the detriment of our national reputation for sportsmanship. There are plenty of sportsmen in this country, thank Heaven!—*Harper's Weekly.*

SELF-MADE SCOTCHMEN.

There have been several notable instances of late years of Scotchmen in the poorest conditions of life making their names illustrious by their contributions to natural science. Hugh Miller belongs to a past generation; but within the easy recollection of the present we have had Thomas Edward, Robert Dick, and John Duncan. Two of these, Mr. Edward and Mr. Dick, have had their biographies written by Mr. Samuel Smiles. Edward, who was the son of a private soldier, and himself a working shoemaker, through an irrepressible passion for natural history, collected many specimens and discovered new species which he classified, described, and exhibited. He was made a fellow of the Linnean Society and of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh, and obtained from the Queen a pension of £50 a year. Dick, a self-taught geologist and botanist, was a baker in Thurso; and Duncan, whose achievements in science were commemorated in *Good Words* in the days of Norman Macleod, was, if we remember rightly, a weaver in an Aberdeenshire village. We fear that this worthy man was too like other prophets who get but scant honour in their own country; but on one occasion he bade fair to get more honour than he desired. Some idle lad having taunted him that, with all his science, he could not get fruit to grow on a solitary juniper bush, he told them to come back in autumn, and they would see. Meanwhile, understanding how to fertilize the juniper seeds, he brought from a distance the needed pollen, and when the lads came to see, lo and behold, an ample crop of berries! They thought he must be verily a warlock.—*From "The Peasantry of Scotland," by Prof. W. G. Blaikie, D.D., LL.D., in North American Review for September.*

Minard's Liniment relieves Neuralgia.

PERPETUITIES.

A perpetuity, as ordinarily understood, is a definite guaranteed money income continuing for ever, an example of which can be found in the consols of the Government of Great Britain, the holders of which have secured to them and their representatives an income of 3 per cent. on their face value. Although money may not be worth 3 per cent., or if it should happen to be worth more, the consols are unaffected, in so far as the income derivable therefrom is concerned. It will thus be seen that this particular class of security is of a most permanent and reliable character, and in some respects a valuable one to possess. Akin to securities known as perpetuities are the annuity bonds of financial institutions having special powers by Government to grant them. This class of security is considered by many as being much more advantageous than the former class. It is contended, and rightly so, that the income derivable under an annuity bond is considerably greater than that under perpetuities, the reason being that the income in the one case is a continuing one, while in the other it is limited to the natural lifetime of the annuitant. An illustration will serve to make this plain. Supposing a person at the age, say, of 65, has \$10,000 invested in British consols, the income from them would be \$300 each year, while if this same person had \$10,000 invested in an annuity bond his income would be at least \$1,200 each year, or four times what it would be in the case of the perpetuity. In the one case he would receive 3 per cent. for his money, while in the latter he would net 12 per cent. during life. In several cases which occur to the writer advantage has been taken of annuity bonds to provide a permanent specific income for an aged mother or father, also by people who have had their money invested in mortgages, stocks, etc., in which their income from these securities was but small and the payments irregular. In such a case as the latter, an arrangement can generally be made by the financial institution which has the authority of Government to issue annuity bonds to take over the mortgages or other securities at their face value, and in lieu issue its annuity bond.

Another valuable feature which can be incorporated in annuity bonds is a provision that the interest cannot be assigned or in any way parted with, thus making the income a certainty to the party intended to be benefited. In a word, an income of a most permanent and regular character is secured so long as life continues. It must however, be understood that what has been said in main depends upon the financial standing of the institution empowered to grant the bond. Only those institutions who have a favorable record, backed up by large assets and a substantial surplus over and above all liabilities, should be negotiated with. Among the corporations long and favorably known in the annuity business is the North American Life Company of this city, whose President, Mr. John L. Blaikie, has had a wide and successful financial experience, and whose Managing Director is Mr. Wm. McCabe, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain.

Pompey's pillar has no historical connection with Pompey in any way.

I WAS CURED of lame back, after suffering 15 years, by MINARD'S LINIMENT.

Two Rivers, N. S. ROBERT ROSS.

I WAS CURED of diphtheria, after doctors failed, by MINARD'S LINIMENT.

Antigonish. JOHN A. FOREY.

I WAS CURED of contraction of muscles by MINARD'S LINIMENT.

Dalhousie. MRS. RACHAEL SAUNDERS.