

ing is already patented. In passing through a charged battery atmospheric air is carbonized, and thus combustible air is produced, which burns brighter than coal gas, and when mixed with air has a heating power which can melt copper wire. The price of the gas would be \$d. for every 1,000 cubic feet, but as the consumption is more rapid the actual cost would be 9d. Should this idea be brought into successful operation, the world will be a much happier place to live in, and Mr. Wright will no doubt be made a baronet.

**PRESERVATION OF HAIRS FOR THE HATTER.**—A method of treating animal hair for the uses of the hatter, which has been kept secret for a long time, is now known to consist in the application of a solution of the nitrate of mercury for the purpose of preventing the putrefaction of the fibre. This substance, however, is known to be very deleterious both to the health of the workmen and to the implements of the trade; and, quite recently, carbolic acid or creosote has been used to great advantage as a substitute. This has the property not only of preserving the animal matter, but of causing the hairs to contract, thus rendering them more apt to felt. The subsequent treatment of the fibre is according to the usual process, and the carbolic acid (or the carbolate, if preferred) may be added to the oleaginous or astringent elements used by hatters.

**AIR-GUNS.**—Probably the most perfect air-guns in the world are those made in London for the use of British poachers. As they make no smoke, and consequently no smell, they are not so easily detected as firearms when used in game preserves. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that they make no noise. When charged so as to produce the effects above described, the report is quite sharp—fully as sharp as that produced by gunpowder. When lightly charged, the report is of course diminished; but the force with which the bullet is projected is also proportionally lessened, and so is the recoil. As a weapon for secret assassination, therefore, the air-gun does not possess much advantage over a good rifle. Few persons are, however, aware of the slight charge of powder or air that is necessary to produce a fatal wound at short distances. Experience teaches us that a bullet that will go through a half-inch board will kill a man if it strikes him in a vital and not too well-protected part. Now, a bullet can be projected from a rifle with a force sufficient to pierce such a board at twelve paces by means of a charge of powder not greater than that which will lie on a silver three-cent piece; and provided the charge be ignited quietly, as by a pill-lock, the noise of the explosion will not attract the attention of persons who are sixty yards distant. The small pistols in common use make very little noise except when discharged in confined places; and yet if the ball should strike a vital part, death may be caused instantaneously by a wound from them. The only advantages possessed by the air-gun are its perfect cleanliness and the fact that the parts are not liable to be corroded and rusted. It never requires cleaning, but the labor of charging the condenser may be fairly offset against the labor involved in cleaning ordinary firearms after they have been used.

**HINTS TO FARMERS.**

**POTATO** scholars confess that the potato rot can no more be avoided by preventives than the ague.

**PIECES** of potato dropped in the holes and runs of rats and moles will, it is asserted, effect among these rodents a speedy change of base.

**GYP-SUM ON CLOVER.**—As a rule it is best to sow plaster on clover when it is about three or four inches high, which, over a large part of our territory, is near the 1st of May. It is then presented to the plant at the time when it can be most readily and rapidly utilized.

**TO KILL CORBANT WORKS.**—I give the following cheap and simple remedy that I have used for three years with perfect success. Take a few tumps of common quick-lime, pour on it a little water, just sufficient so that when slaked it will be a dry powder. When the worm appears, which will always be on the under part of the bush first, pepper them with this powder. It will kill them without fail, and will not injure the bushes in the least. If more worms should appear, which will very likely be the case, repeat the operation. This remedy has the merit of being effective, cheap, and within the reach of all. Lime for this purpose can be prepared at any time and can be used when wanted.

**ARRESTING DECAY IN POTATOES.**—Various plans for arresting decay in potatoes after digging have from time to time been made public, such as dusting with quicklime, gypsum, charcoal dust, etc. Prof. Church of Chrouchester, Eng., the eminent agricultural chemist, announces that sulphite of lime appears to exercise a very remarkable influence in arresting the spread of decay in potatoes affected by the potato disease. In one experiment the sale was dusted over some tubers, partially decayed from this cause, as they were being stowed away. Some months afterward the potatoes were found to have suffered no farther injury. A similar trial with powdered lime proved to be much less effective.

**FIFTH BRACKEN FLYING.**—Judge Hugh T. Brooks says that flies bred by stink and putrefaction, scavenger beetles, larvae of gnats, dragon flies, and ephemera, remove stink, cleanse stagnant

water, and save mankind from malaria and death. Without their agency, vast districts would be depopulated. Flies and mosquitoes do not come unless they are needed. He suggests to frosting housewives, that if they can induce their recreant husbands to scrape the barnyards in early Spring, and allow an subsequent accumulations of the stable, bury every dead carcass of chicken or of mowse, make frequent application of dried earth to grey and to sink holes, thoroughly drain all marshy places—got the men to do this, and they themselves secure well their indoor catables, and send to the garden miscellaneous slops, that they will think better of Providence and the flies.

**REGARDING PAINTED ROOFS.**—For every improvement there is an unreasonable objector, and here is one who declares that unless paint is applied to both sides of shingles it is worse than useless. On the contrary, a painted roof presents a smooth waterproof surface to the rain, from which it so quickly slides that there is no time for it to be absorbed by the under surface, if that were accessible. But the water can never reach the under side; a proof that it does not is extant in a roof that was covered with pine shingles in 1805, when a good coat of linseed oil and Venetian red was given to it, and 20 years later another of black paint. That roof is still good, while those whom it then sheltered, where are they? But black paint is not the best. It absorbs the sun's heat, but a light-colored roof reflects it, and is itself cool. Light-colored paint is also more durable. When economy is the sole object, coal tar is the very best coating that can be given to a roof; but it will discolor and flavor the water that falls on it for five years after it is applied.

**TOP-DRESSING ASPARAGUS BED.**—Has anybody ever seen land too rich for asparagus? I never have, and, although my beds are annually top-dressed with richest manure to be had, this treatment only provokes a more healthy and vigorous growth. The more rank the young stems, the better; consequently, we force this plant to the utmost extent without fear of injury. If I lived on the rich, Western prairies, I would try and ascertain the limit in size to which Giant Asparagus could be grown. Asparagus is such a delicious and healthy vegetable, coming in just at the right time in Spring, to meet a keen appetite for rich succulents, it is strange that every family does not have a full supply. If a man has a poor soil, and manure worth two to five dollars per load, it costs something to raise asparagus; but in the country, far away from the worn soils of long-settled regions, there is no good reason why every land-owner should not have an abundance of this vegetable. Ten cents worth of seed will produce plants enough to supply any family; and when a good plantation is once formed, it is a fixture for a lifetime, provided it receives proper care.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.**

**THE** Danube salmon sometimes reaches the weight of one hundred pounds.

**THE** product of the gold mines of Nova Scotia during the last twelve years is estimated at \$18,950,000. The product last year was \$238,000.

**THE** REV. THOMAS JACKSON, who died a short time since near London, was the oldest Wesleyan minister in Great Britain, and was called the father of modern Methodism.

**CONNECTICUT** contributes to the enlightenment of Japan by sending her seven hundred cases of Yankee clocks. No ground for excuse now if the Japanese are behind time.

**MR. CHARLES KNIGHT**, the eminent author and publisher, recently deceased, had his epitaph written by Douglas Jerrold. It was brief, facetious, and complimentary: "Good Knight."

**THE** supply of quicksilver in California is unequal to the demand, and the price has advanced. The product of the Quicksilver Mining Company's mine last year was 18,573 flasks of 74 lbs. each, which sold for \$937,336, gold.

**EDWARD URSAS**, a grandson of the celebrated Indian chief, and the last of his name, died a few days since in Willimantic, Connecticut, aged seventy. He had resided there most of his life, was a notable hunter and fisher, and a hard-working man.

**THE** United States imported from Great Britain during the first two months of this year 69,963 tons of railroad bars; during the same period last year 141,561 tons. The great strike in South Wales was the main cause of the falling off in this year's imports.

**RICHARD DAVIS** is the investigating Englishman who for some years has lavished his time in weighing the brains of different races. He finds that the English brain averages 47.60 ounces, the French 42.55, the German 42.82. He has never got at an American.

We have never much favored corporal punishment in schools, but whether the substitute adopted by a Wisconsin teacher is desirable is a little doubtful. When a pupil is disobedient, idle, or refractory, he administers to the delinquent a dose of castor oil. The only result of this treatment of which we have report is a pun, strangely and fearfully execrable, made by the editor of the local newspaper. He says such treatment ought to render the scholars "dose-ble." He evidently needs a quart or so himself.

**A** VERY Daniel of a judge dwells in Memphis. He came to judgment the other day in a case

about a goose. This graceful fowl fell into the river, and it was rescued by a man and brother who claimed salvage from its owner, an Italian. The latter wouldn't pay it, and produced a persuasive pistol, whereupon the colored person marched off with the goose, and got a warrant for assault. Then did the goose's owner swear out an answering warrant for the goose. The judge, perplexed, fined both of them, and kept the goose himself. The sad Italian grumbled, whereat this wise young judge observed that he needed no more questions, for he would get no answer.

**NOTED OLD MEN OF EUROPE.**—President Thiers, the vigorous ruler of France, was seventy-six years old on the sixteenth day of April last. He comes of a long-lived race, and promises to hold out for several years yet. The Emperor William, of Germany, is twenty-five days older than President Thiers, and is full of life and energy. These illustrious personages may be classed among the noted old men of Europe, but when we come to the old man, the Count de Waldseeck, we have one who is old enough to be the father of them both. This remarkable man is alleged to have been born on the 16th of March, 1745, over three years before Napoleon was born, and is therefore now in his 131st year. He is actively engaged in Paris, in various enterprises, and is reported to have laid his plans for several years ahead, with as much assurance of living to complete them as though he were only in middle age. It may be that one so old gets into the habit of feeling that he is immortal.

**HUMOROUS SURAPS.**

**FINICAL WEAKNESS.**—Love of champagne. WHAT chin is it that is never shaved?—An urchin.

WHEN is water most liable to escape?—When it is only half tide.

WHEN does a farmer work a miracle?—When he turns a horse to grass.

THE season is approaching when drinking men as well as drowning men will catch at straws.

WHAT is the difference between bayonets and bullets?—Bayonets are driven, but bullets are led.

A dog with two tails was seen in Taunton the other day. One belonged to an ox, and was carried in the dog's mouth.

ANTICIPATING the death of Brigham Young, a Louisville merchant wants the contract to supply his family with craps and bombazine.

QUERY.—Is there any reason why the name "lap-dog" should be monopolized by any particular breed? Don't they all drink that way?

A NERBASKA conductor, when he finds a man on his train without any money to pay for his ride, punches three holes in his hat, and "passes him along."

THERE are trees so tall in Missouri that it takes two men and a boy to look to the top of them. One looks till he gets tired, and another commences where he left off.

THE man who said he could do all the business he wanted without advertising has been compelled to advertise at last. The new advertisement is headed "Sheriff's Sale."

A DANBURY man was explaining to his wife Sunday morning how his mother used to cook pancakes, when she interrupted him with the better pitcher. He is now experimenting with a new kind of salve.

A GOOD REASON, TOO.—Lucy: "I amma, Charlie says he would like to be a clergyman!"—Mamma: "Tell me, dear, why you would like to be a clergyman?"—Charlie: "Why, because then I could talk as much as I like in church!"

FREEMAN says he always gets mad when he goes along a street about nine o'clock at night, and passing a shaded porch where a young man is bidding his beloved a good-night, hears the girl exclaim, in a loud whisper, "Oh, stop, George! you haven't shaved."

PATIENTS AND PAY.—"Prevention," said a sanitary reformer, "is better than cure." The medical man to whom this observation was addressed smiled, and replied, "That may be all very true in theory, but the reverse is what we always find to be the case in a practice."

A DEALER in second-hand articles having a buggy to dispose of, hung out a card inscribed, "Buggy For Sale!" Unluckily he hung the card on a second-hand bedstead, and soon had a jeering crowd around his door, discussing the probable number and size of the insects infesting that article of furniture.

THE owner of a tenement house informed his tenants the other day that he was going to raise their rent all round, whereupon they held a meeting and passed a resolution of thanks to the landlord for "promising to raise their rent, as the times were hard, and they feared that without his assistance it could not be raised at all."

OF late Mrs. Partington has been very quiet, but she has got round again to the following effect: "A few days since she entered the office of the Probate Judge (called 'Civilian') and inquired in her blindest tone: 'Are you the civil villain?' 'Do you wish to insult me, madam?' said the Judge. 'Yes,' replied the amiable old lady; 'my brother died destitute, and left three luddel children, and I'm to be their execu-

tioner; so I want to insult the civil villain about it."

AT Dumfries recently a young woman, evidently "from the country," was seen standing with a very perplexed air at one of the pillar letter-boxes. She was observed to knock several times on the top of the iron pillar, and, obtaining no response, she passed round to the opposite side, and, raising the cover of the suit in which the letters are placed, applied her mouth to the aperture, and called out (or in), "Can ye let me has a postage stamp, if ye please?"

Bunson read somewhere that the Chinese toll the time of day by examining the pupil of a cat's eye, and he began to carry a cat around with him in his overcoat pocket, with the intention to yank her out by the tail whenever he desired to ascertain the hour. But he carries a watch now. Apart from the fact that the cat used to yowl and spit and charge around in an uncomfortable manner in his pocket, the first time Bunson dragged her out to examine her eyes she clawed furrows an inch deep in his face, and carried on so generally, that he thought it better to drop her and hunt up a place where they sold arnica, plaster and salve.

THE UNDERTAKER.—There is a woman in Washington who has buried five husbands. Recently she married a sixth. Upon the day of the wedding a man called at the house of the groom, asked for that gentleman, and then proceeded to measure his body with a tape line. The infatuated groom entertained an idea that this might, perhaps, be a man sent round by his tailor. After the ceremony in church, however, the husband was surprised to observe the same person standing in the vestibule and winking furiously at the bride as the party came out to the carriages. Just as they were starting off the mysterious being put his head into the carriage window, and whispered to the bride,—

"Got a ready-made one that'll just suit him! Beautiful fit—beautiful!"

When the happy man demanded the name of the intruder, the bride blushed, and said she believed he was some kind of an undertaker. Then the man was not so happy. He was hardly happy at all, and a certain gloom seemed to overcast the honeymoon. Perhaps the undertaker was too prompt. But still, we like to see a man take an interest in his business.

**OUR PUZZLER.**

**70. DOUBLE ANAGRAM.**

If you this riddle wish to know, Primals and finals downward read, And they will then two poems show Of English birth, but long since dead.

- 1. A prophet named in Holy Writ, Both wise and good, as you will see.
- 2. A lady fair, who oft did sit And watch her lover through the sea.
- 3. A conqueror of courage rare, One named in ancient story.
- 4. An animal, when cook'd with care, You'd like to see't before ye.
- 5. An Eastern King who led his hosts Against the insects of our.
- 6. A flower, a ruby unt that boasts, But sought of fragrance doth it hold.
- 7. An Eastern Queen who saved her kin From slaughter dire and pillage vile.
- 8. In Shakspeare's play see this man win His lady with a pleasant smile.
- 9. In this fair place see beauties rise; A very earthly paradise.

**71. ANAGRAMS.**

- 1. Wisdom will glean a treat. 2. V did visit negro land. 3. A nice star is won. 4. As I sketch real Eria. 5. Red chiefed Greek organ.
- 6. I row a Tar, supit him in canal. 7. Drink on man, build Barges. 8. Piers rest not on herbs.

**72. SQUARE WORDS.**

- 1. A volcano; to make a mistake; a denomination; a reception; transposed; a serpent.
- 2. A poet; a kind of fruit; distances; an occurrence; prop.
- 3. Thoughts in sleep; a bird, transposed; an occurrence; a girl's name; companions.

**73. LOGOGRIPH.**

Complete, I am a precious gem, Both glittering and white; Cut off my head, and then I bring A title into sight.

Cartal me, and you will perceive I am possessed by all; Change my first letter, it was I That caused proud Franco's fall.

Cut off my tail, another grant, I am of sickly hue, And when you change my head again, A vessel insects your view.

My middle letter changes, and I Am useful though I'm small; Again, though I'm so absurd, I'm retained by you all.