

atmosphere of the room, which will give great relief to persons troubled with a cough. The heat of the water is sufficient to throw off the aroma of the resin, and gives the same relief that is afforded by a combustion of the resin. It is preferable to combustion, because the evaporation is more durable. The same resin may be used for weeks.

CINDERS IN THE EYE.—An exchange has the following: "A very simple and effective cure for cinders in the eye is within the reach of every one, and would prevent much suffering and expense were it generally known. It is simply one or two grains of flaxseed. These may be placed in the eye without injury or pain to that delicate organ, and shortly they begin to swell and dissolve a glutinous substance that covers the ball of the eye, enveloping any foreign substance that may be in it. The irritation of cutting the membrane is thus prevented, and the annoyance may soon be washed out. A dozen of these stowed away in the vest pocket may prove in an emergency worth their number in gold."

When an Armenian wishes to embellish a watchcase, he gets the precious stone set in gold or silver, with the lower part of the metal made flat or to correspond with that part to which it is to be fixed; it is then warmed gently and some glue applied, and the parts thus cemented never separate. This cement is thus made: Dissolve five or six bits of gum-mastic, each the size of a large pea, in as much alcohol as will suffice to render it liquid; in another vessel dissolve as much isinglass—previously a little softened in water, though none of this water may be used—in good brandy as will make a two-ounce phial of very strong glue, adding two small bits of gum-galbanum or animoniacum, which must be ground until they are dissolved; then mix the whole with sufficient beat. Keep the glue in a phial closely stopped, and when it is to be used set the phial in boiling water. To avoid cracking the phial by exposure to such sudden heat, use a thin green glass phial, and hold it to the steam for a few seconds before immersing it in the hot water.

OTHER NOTES.

SINCE the barbed wire first made its appearance over 500 patents have been issued in the United States for the various improvements and alterations which have been made in its construction. There is more than \$5,000,000 invested in real estate and machinery for its production, and it requires a working capital of \$15,000,000 per annum to carry on its manufacture.

THE newest style of cheap advertising in London, that hotbed for such things, is this: A child of nine begins to cry terribly at the corner of a street till the crowd grows larger and larger. Nothing will he say till it becomes larger still, when at last he calls out quite loud so that all may hear that they may take him home to "19 Avenue road, at Smith, the boot-maker's, who has recently received a fresh importation of kid shoes from Paris."

DR. GIBBONS, in the *Pacific Medical and Sur-*

gical Journal, cites a case of hypochondria in which a farmer imagined his nose to be a bundle of hay. He took great care not to go near a horse or cow lest his hay nose should be destroyed. Men are more likely than women, says the doctor, to have hypochondria, though women have hysteria oftener than men. The diseases are closely allied in their origin and nature.

CHEMISTS have just completed a series of experiments with zirconia as the base of carbon points in electric lights. The present base is petroleum coke. Zirconia is practically indestructible. The experiments are said to have been highly successful, and it is expected that with this material points may be made which will last a year.

THE standard of the Mahdi, captured at Tokar, has been presented to the Queen. It is about two and a half yards long and two yards wide, and is composed of red and yellow silk. On one side is an Arabic inscription, stating that it was presented by the Mahdi to the Governor of Tokar, and on the other a text from the Koran: "There is no god but God, and Mahomet is his prophet; every one professes the knowledge of God."

THE cutting of a diamond, believed to be the largest ever cut in the States, has just been completed in Boston, the process having occupied about three months. The stone was found in South Africa, and was imported by a New York firm. Its weight in the rough was nearly one hundred and twenty-five carats. The gem as perfected is very brilliant and beautiful, though it is not perfect in color, a marked yellowish tinge prevailing. As cut it weighs 77 carats. It is cut in a rounded cushion shape, with 56 facets, its size being nearly a full inch across and a little more than five-eighths of an inch in depth. The yellowish tinge disappears in artificial light. The value of the stone, which is about two-thirds as large as the Kohinoor diamond, cannot be stated, as diamonds of unusual size have no absolute value.

HOW BOYS' MARBLES ARE MADE.—Almost all the "marbles" with which boys everywhere amuse themselves in season and out of season on pavement and in shady spots, are made at Oberstein, Germany. There are large agate quarries and mills in that neighborhood, and the refuse is turned to good account in providing the small stone balls for experts to "knuckle-down" with. The stone is broken into small cubes by blows of a light hammer. These small blocks of stones are thrown by the shovelful into the hopper of a small mill, formed of a bedstone, having its surface grooved with concentric furrows; above this is the "runner," which is of some hard wood having a level face on its lower surface. The upper block is made to revolve rapidly, water being delivered upon the grooves of the bedstone where the marbles are being rounded. It takes about fifteen minutes to finish a bushel of good marbles, ready for the boys' knuckles. One mill will turn out 100,000 marbles per week. The very hardest "crackers," as the boys call them, are made by a slower process, somewhat analogous, however, to the other.

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