

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The late King of Bavaria was particular about his drink. His favorite tap was a mixture of white wine and champagne, in a punch bowl, with a layer of violets on top of it.

At Lollaron's foundry, Middleboro', was recently cast a saucer weighing 3400 pounds, for Davis' chemical works in New Bedford.

There are 160 native young men from India and Ceylon in England, 58 from Bengal, and 54 from Bombay, more than half of whom are studying law and medicine.

A large stone relic, weighing over 300 pounds, which apparently had been cut into the shape of a plough by an ancient people, was lately unearthed at Milford, N. J.

The monument for the grave of Josh Billings, the humorist, which will be placed in the cemetery at Lanesboro, Mass., will bear only the inscription "Josh Billings."

They have it out on the Pacific Coast that the Southern Pacific Railroad intends bringing out a number of genuine Arabs to work the section of its line crossing the hot and dusty deserts.

Sponge growing is beginning to loom up as an industry on points of the Connecticut coast. It has been found that young sponges transplanted from Florida waters flourish rapidly in Long Island Sound.

In the spring of 1867, I heard the crows making a great fuss, and thinking perhaps they saw a fox, I hurried to the spot. I saw, as I supposed, a crow lying on the ground. I picked it up and found another crow beneath it which was pecking him with all his might. The bills of both were bloody up to their eyes. The under bird was lying upon his left side, and the one on top had seized his right leg, close to the body, with his left foot, and his other foot was clinched around his opponent's head with one of his claws fastened in its eye, their beaks were very bloody. I picked them up, and had some difficulty in loosening the grip one had on the other. I placed them in a box, but both died in about four weeks. They did not renew the combat after being placed in confinement.—*I. B. F., Indian Falls, N. Y.*

MENTHOL IN DENTISTRY.—Dr Flagg, in the *Cosmos*, finds menthol crystals dissolved in oily carbolic (Merck's creosote), in proportions of 3 to 5 grains to 1 drachm of acid, makes one of the most potent of pulp soothers. Made into paste with viscid cosmoline, it is possessed of marked efficacy in quieting periodical irritation in such cases as are somewhat relieved by opening into the tooth; used by being placed, from small probes, into the pulp cavity and canals, and covered, not too tightly, with dry pellets of cotton. As an ingredient of "inspissated canal pastes" (for permanent fillings of canals) its record is really quite remarkable, as numbers of teeth which have failed to yield to ordinary treatment (acetate of morphia, eucalyptus oil, iodoform paste, etc.) have now remained comfortably "stopped" for varying periods of time ranging from three months to nearly a year. As an adjunct to oil of cloves ointment, and even to aconitia ointment, results have been eminently satisfactory when used externally in cases of so called "neuralgia," and in swollen conditions concomitant with alveolar abscess. Ointments are made by spatulating a few crystals of menthol into other ointment mass.

In an article on engagement rings a French writer says: "Do not choose the ruby; it is too showy, loud, and indiscreet. Good taste inclines toward the sapphire and the diamond, of which the one does not go well without the other. Do not choose a large sapphire surrounded by diamonds, but ask your jeweller artist to interlace in happy combination the sapphire and the diamond. The turquoise is also a tasteful stone, but when it is constantly worn it has the immense disadvantage to change color, and to this change most women attach a sad and sentimental superstition. It should not, therefore, be chosen for the first present, which is to be worn and cherished while life lasts, and which remains from the days of youth, while everything else changes."

FINGERS AND FORKS.—The Malays contend that it is much more cleanly to eat with the fingers than with forks.

The following quotation will present their argument on this side of the question.

The Malay said, "Such a dirty practice! We say to ourselves—

"What do I know of the history of this fork? It has been in a hundred, perhaps a thousand mouths; perhaps even in the mouth of my worst enemy." This thought is very repulsive to us."

"But," said I, "the fork is thoroughly cleaned, or ought to be, every time it is used."

"Ought to be; quite so. But how do you know your servant does not shirk his work? If you have a lazy servant you are liable to eat with a fork that has not been thoroughly cleaned, whereas I know that my fingers are clean, for I wash them myself before eating."

"They are quite as clean as the cleanest fork, and they have two great advantages over it—one, that they have never been in any one's mouth but my own, and another, that they have been washed by myself."

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Nous, soussignés, medecins attaches au Dispensaire d'Halifax, ayant eu souvent l'occasion de prescrire l'Emulsion d'huile de foie de morue de Puttner, Hypophosphate, etc., sommes heureux de declarer que nos hommes très satisfaits du resultat que nous avons obtenu ayant constate que c'était non seulement un remede sûr et efficace, mais en outre, qu'on pouvait le prendre sans éprouver les effets désagréables qui accompagnent si souvent l'usage de l'huile de foie de morue.

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