

## DIVERSA.

—When the body of a starving man or animal loses two-fifths of its substance it loses life.

—Black and white pepper both grow on the same shrub. The white is the berry deprived, before grinding, of its outside husk.

—The microscope shows the hair to be like a coarse round rasp, but with the teeth extremely irregular and ragged.

—By the aid of the powerful lens of a microscope it is found that there are more than four thousand muscles in a caterpillar.

—The reason that man has not as acute a scent as the dog is that the development of his brain leaves little room for the olfactory lobe.

—Correggio's picture of the Mule and Muleteer in the Sutherland gallery, England, is said to have been painted for a sign.

—The eucalyptus tree now borders many of the roads and avenues crossing the Roman Campagna, and, wherever planted by the monks, it has driven off the malaria and fevers.

—An amethyst has been found in Georgia bearing a drop of water in a cavity near the centre of the stone. This is no uncommon occurrence in the case of quartz crystals, but a cavity in amethyst is said to be unique.

—It is asserted by M. Hemont that deaf mutes who have been taught to speak, articulate with the accent of their country, thus indicating organic conformations of the mechanism of speech similar to those of their parents.

—The latest scientific sensation is the discovery that ice can be heated considerably above the boiling point without being melted. Red hot ice is even more startling than a black swan or an honest pasha.

—Prof. Owen, in an article lately published, questions whether man ever receives a third set of teeth. He ascribes alleged cases to the reappearance of old and worn stumps in consequence of the shrinkage and absorption of the jaws.

—Smooth, strong and pliable parchment can be made from the palmetto of Florida and the other Southern States. It can be washed, rubbed and handled like a cloth, and the writing will not be effaced. As much as sixty per cent. of the palmetto can be utilized in the process.

—A German manufacturer has succeeded in producing serviceable face-masks of mica for the protection of metal and glass melters, stonemasons and other workmen exposed to heat, dust and noxious vapors. These masks allow the eyes to be turned in any direction, and there is space enough for spectacles in case the eyesight is defective.

—A remarkable use is being made of potatoes. The clean peeled tuber is macerated in a solution of sulphuric acid. The result is dried between sheets of blotting paper, and then pressed. Of this all manner of small articles are made, from combs to collars, and even billiard balls, for which the hard, brilliantly white material is well fitted.

—So microscopically perfect is the watch making machinery now in use, that screws are cut with nearly 600 threads to the inch—though the finest used in the watch has 250. These threads are invisible to the naked eye, and it takes 144,000 of the screws to weigh a pound, their value being six pounds of pure gold.

—By means of a series of very interesting experiments regarding the muscular power of insects, M. F. Plateau has discovered that while a horse cannot exert a stress beyond the sixty-seventh of its weight, a cockchafer can easily draw a load equal to fourteen times its weight, and a bee can draw a little waggon twenty times heavier than itself.

—A plan for inducing the boys and girls of Worcester to read the instructive books in the public library instead of the trash has been successful. It consisted in inducing the teachers in the schools to make a practice of referring in a casual manner to the contents of interesting and solid works. Thus the youngsters have been led to choose a kind of reading matter which formerly lay unheeded on the shelves.

—The latest improvement in torpedoes is a submarine-boat which can be manoeuvred under water for a whole day at a time. It is claimed this engine of destruction can perform its work at any depth from one hundred to seven or eight hundred feet. Rises or sinks, at the will of the operator, by means of screws, and these movements can be performed slowly or suddenly. The illumination of the vessel is from within, and is so perfect that those on board can see more than one hundred feet. It would seem that such an invention would render it possible to destroy all shipping without remedy; but the result is more likely to be, that much of naval warfare will soon be transferred from the surface to the depths below, and instead of monitors we will fight with torpedo-boats.

—The Parisian *claque* has some curious usages, which have been made known in M. Victor Cronillue's "La Vie au Théâtre." There is a strictly regulated tariff of applause recognized by managers and operators. There are for ordinary applause, 5 francs; prolonged applause, 10 francs; prolonged and noisy, 20 francs; three rounds of applause, 25 francs; simple recall, 25 francs; unlimited recall, 50 francs; for appearing horror struck, 5 francs; murmurs of affright, as if the power to applaud were lost, 15 francs; a moan, followed by applause at the end of a scene of murder, 12½ francs; ordinary laughter, 5 francs; bursts of laughter, 10 francs; exclamations, "Oh, how droll," 15 francs; superlative exclamations, "It is simply magnificent," "It is unequalled," 20 francs. Besides these there is the slight hiss from one member of the gang, which, uttered at a judiciously chosen moment, is the cue for redoubled applause. Then there are remarks by those who mingle with the crowd as they leave the theatre and heaven the mass by their nicely turned compliments.