## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HOME JOURNAL.



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### SIFTINGS OF SCIENCE.

According to a French journal, a Geneva firm is manufacturing phonographic clocks which talk the hour instead of striking it.

Dr. Ehlers, of Copenhagen, has made a special inspection tour of southern Iceland to ascertain the number of lepers, and found fifty-three, or twice as many as was expected. A hospital is to be built to prevent further spread of the disease.

An analysis of water taken from the Great Salt lake, Utah, in August, 1888, showed that a ton of such wateer, would contain 391 pounds of solid matter, of which about 214 pounds would be common salt. Dead Sea water contains only 151 pounds of salt to the ton, but the proportion of solids is much greater, there being about 528 pounds to the ton.

It is reported that a lampwick of clay, that will give twenty-five per cent. more light than a cotton wick, has been invented. It is made capillary by incorporating with the clay, while still plastic, filaments of unspun vegetable fibre, which, burned out in the baking, leave minute tubes running through the wick, through which the flame draws the oil by capillary attraction. The flame thus fed, it is claimed, is white, odorless and smokeless, while the novel wick itself is almost indestructible.

#### WOMAN'S DRESS.

The gray-white and yellow tans are the shades for gloves in demand at the present time.

The use of lace, as a trimming, continues, and it will be used on the winter gowns as successfully as it has been on those for summer.

The newest winter cheviots and diagonal serges appear with large checked patterns, and large plaids, both in silk and wool, are in favor. Velveteens will be welcomed again by many.

Fur capes, the length of the graceful Inverness ones, will be the popular fur garment this winter, although it is yet too early to say which of the many kinds of fur will be most commonly worn.

The new fall hats are pronounced very ugly in appearance. The crowns are high with narrow rims, and altogether unsatisfactory. The English walking hat is renewing its popularity, and will be much worn.

Black and white has lost none of its popularity. It is used for both old and young, and will be enlivened by the strik ing millinery on the hats and bonnets. Gayly colored, over-trimmed headgear is announced for the fall and winter styles.

#### NEWSY NOTES.

The phylloxera, or the vine pest, is making such ravages in the sherry wine districts of Spain that the government has appropriated \$100,000 for the extermination of the disease.

The Danish government has undertaken, during the years 1895 and 1896, a deep sea exploration in the Greenland and Iceland waters. The expedition will be accompanied by a botanist.

It is said that in the past ten years the city of Nashville lost \$10,000,000 in various boom schemes and wild speculation ventures, and of this vast sum not ten per cent was spent at home.

There are two small Jewish agricultural colonies in California, the first in Orange Vale, opposite Folsom, and the other in Porterville, near Fresno. Both have passed the experimental stage and promise success.

