

Scientific and Sanitary.

A bacteriological laboratory has been established at Angiers, France, with an annual appropriation of about \$500.

Generally speaking, we say that the curvature of the earth amounts to about seven inches to the statute mile; it is exactly 6.99 inches, or 7,962 inches for a geographical mile.

Lake Morat, in Switzerland, has a queer habit of turning red about two or three times every ten years. The colouring is due to the presence in large quantities of little aquatic plants called by naturalists *Oscillatrola rubescens*.

Snow appears white because it is an aggregation of an infinite number of minute crystals, each reflecting all the colours of the rainbow; these colours, uniting before they reach the eye, cause it to appear white to every normal eye.

The reliability of electrical power when properly installed, and where it is not subject to extraordinary wear and tear, is illustrated by the report of an English coal mine plant from which it is learned that though the plan, has been in operation six years there has never been one hour's stoppage required by the machinery.

A simple disinfectant to use in a sick room is made by putting some ground coffee in a saucer, and in the centre of a small piece of camphor gum. Light the gum with a match. As the gum burns allow the coffee to burn with it. The perfume is refreshing and healthful as well as inexpensive.

A sun dial made for London would be useless for either Paris or Edinburgh. The altitude of the pole star varies with the latitude, and hence is greater at Edinburgh, and less at Paris than at London; and as the stylus must always point to the polar star, the angle it makes with the dialplate must vary with the latitude.

Mr. H. Harries states that the commonly accepted opinion that hail and thunder storms are unknown in the Arctic regions is entirely incorrect. He examined one hundred logs of vessels which have visited the Arctic regions, and found that out of this number seventy-three showed that hail was experienced some time during the voyage. Thunder storms were less frequent, but were experienced seven months of the year, being most frequent during August.

According to the New York Sun, Rockall, a desolate rock rising only seventy feet above the sea, between Iceland and the Hebrides, is to be made an English meteorological station. It lies 250 miles from land, the nearest point to it being the little island of St. Kilda, 150 miles away, and itself nearly a hundred miles from the main group of the Hebrides. Rockall is in the path of the cyclonic disturbances on the Atlantic, and the station there would give timely warning of storms approaching the British coast.

"The question has very often been raised," says the Medical Times, "whether rest after a meal is favourable to digestion. Some persons cite the example of animals who lie down and go to sleep after eating, while others claim that sleep during digestion makes the mind sluggish and predisposes to apoplexy. M. Schule, of Fribourg, has endeavoured to solve the question by chemistry. It two cases where the stomach was normal he removed the contents and analyzed them a few hours after meals followed in some cases by sleep and in others by simple rest in a horizontal position. According to these experiments the regular effect of sleep is to lessen the power of contraction of the stomach, while the acidity of the gastric juice increases; on the other hand, rest in a horizontal position stimulates the motion of the stomach without increasing its acidity. The inference is that it is well to rest after eating, but without going to sleep, particularly when one is affected with a dilated stomach or with hyperacidity of the gastric juice."

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