

Scientific and Sanitary.

Dr. Max Wolf discovered, at Heidelberg, on the evening of September 7th, four new minor planets; he had discovered one on September 3rd, and their number now amounts to about 420.—*Science*.

Pasteur's statue is soon to be placed in the market-place at Alais, France, to commemorate his discovery of the remedies for diseases of the silkworm. It was at Alais that this work was done by the savant.

The method of nickeling wood has been devised by the German chemist, Langbein, the wood being covered by a thin coating of metal by either a dry or wet process. As Canada is about the only country in which nickel is now found, this new discovery should add to the ever increasing demand for this metal.

Those who seldom taste fruit take to it as an occasional thing with some avidity, but it seems that an education is often necessary to adapt the constitution to use it as a diet. Though Canada is now a great fruit-producing and fruit-exporting country, Canadians are not on the whole a fruit-eating people. They probably eat too much meat and too little fruit.

"In the light of modern inoculation by the injection of blood from the innumerate, it has been suggested," says *The Medical News*, "That it may be possible to protect African explorers by blood from the healthy natives. In the case of Stanley, it is known that he submitted to the transfusion of native blood some fifty times in the practice of the rite of blood-brotherhood, and it is not impossible that to this was due his exemption from the fatal fevers of that climate."

"Alex. Millveigh, of Dromore, Ireland, has invented a process for imparting a silky finish to fabrics of vegetable origin, such as cotton, linen, etc.," says *The Textile Record*, "It is a composition prepared by boiling flaxseed and Iceland moss, and mixing same together in the proportion of one quart of the boiled preparation of flaxseed to one pint of the boiled preparation of Iceland moss, to which, when mixed as above, is added one ounce of white vegetable wax, and one-half ounce of spermaceti dissolved in boiling water."

"Near the top of Mount Washington, in New Hampshire," says *The Observer*, "lives a little colony of very cold-loving and mountainous butterflies which never descended below 2,000 feet from the wind-swept summit. Except just there, there are no more of their sort anywhere about; and as far as the butterflies themselves are aware, no others of their species exist on earth; they never have seen a single one of their kind save of their own colony. A writer on 'high life' in *The Cornhill Magazine* says that this little colony of chilly insects was stranded on Mount Washington at the end of the Glacial Period some odd thousands of years ago, and the butterflies dwelt there ever since, generation following generation."

Another popular illusion has been demolished by the publication of the report of the investigations of the International Congress at Bale upon the alcohol question. Instead of Germany and England being at the head of the list of alcohol-consuming countries they tie for fifth place with an average consumption of nine quarts per head of the population, France heading the list with thirteen quarts per head, Switzerland, Belgium and Italy are equal seconds with ten quarts each per head. Sweden is sixth with four quarts, Norway seventh, while Canadians may be congratulated upon the appearance of the Dominion at the foot of the table with an average consumption of two quarts per head of the population. This new apportionment is arrived at by bringing all drink to a common standard according to the amount of alcohol they contain, which show that wine is responsible for three times the amount of alcohol contained in beer; therefore, though Englishmen and Germans drink more in volume, they absorb less of the spirituous element than the other wine-consuming countries.—*Montreal Gazette*.

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