

Several of the large retail stores in the United States and in Canada have made special provision for that tyrant of the young matron-shopper, the baby. A clerk is detailed to look after the infant while the mother seeks bargains on the attractive counters, or if the little one is able to trudge about the store his perambulator is checked and laid by till it is again needed. The directors of the Chicago Fair have gone beyond this in providing sleep and food for the children of sight-seers. The "Children's Home" premises to be one of the most popular and unique features of the Fair. It is to be hoped, however, that the child checks may not be mislaid and fond parents enticed into a Gilbert and Sullivan comedy.

Snow-cold Norway is struggling for separation from Sweden, although as yet in a peaceable way. Her two millions of inhabitants, like their ancestors of 1818, are restive under the Swedish rule, and they clamor for life as a separate nation. The well-known author Björnsterne Björnson has been a notable politician for nearly a score of years, and it is owing to his eloquence and popularity that the present demand for national recognition has been made. Björnson is a shrewd politician, who has the welfare of his pine-clad country at heart. He is a vigorous writer, as the many pages of our leading magazines will show, and he has perfect command of the English language, which will aid him in popularizing his cause on this continent and in Great Britain.

The five great powers of continental Europe are weighed down by the taxation which is necessary for the support of their respective armies and navies. Not only are the soldiers and sailors non-producers, but the best men of the countries, men who would be valuable as laborers, farmers, or as business managers, are daily absorbed by the State demand. The Pope, as an arbiter of the powers, has an important part to play in the matter. If he would bring about the disarmament of the five great nations he would have proved himself the benefactor of all Europe. The Pope would, however, in such an endeavor be closely criticised, and the first cry to be raised would be that His Grace was intriguing for temporal power instead of impartially endeavoring to benefit the entire population of Europe.

Prepare for the comet, the cholera, and the Chicago Columbead! Although the advent of the first two is uncertain, the Columbead seems assured, unless indeed the Higher Powers intervene. Astronomers are watching curiously the movements of the long-tailed tramp, who now seems to be heading for the earth. Prof. Elias T. Colbert predicts a collision between the earth and the starry tail, which he thinks would result, however, only in disseminating an unpleasant gaseous smell over the face of the earth. The astronomers of the Lick Observatory are much more hopeful. According to their calculations the earth will shoot past the point in its orbit which the comet is to intersect, eight hours in advance, leaving the celestial visitor a good million miles from the possible point of collision.

The chrysanthemum is again the reigning flower, and its beautiful ragged blossoms are adorning many of our houses. It is to be regretted that it is the eye only which can enjoy the beauty of this flower, for the odor is far from pleasant. The Japanese, from whom we stole the blossom, take a thoroughly aesthetic delight in their excursions beyond the city limits for the purpose of "chrysanthemum viewing," and they then thriftily make another use of the blossom. The flowers are carefully washed and sold in vegetable stores, where they are esteemed a great luxury. Served in the form of a salad or in a broth, they are said to be most appetizing. The small yellow blossoms fetch a higher price than the more gorgeous varieties. Another vegetable which we have yet to borrow from the Japanese is the lily bulb. *Chilica* is considered by them far more delicate and edible than the odorless and much maligned bulb, the onion.

When our busy citizens have recovered from the effect of the extra exertion which the Christmas season requires, we trust that many of them will take a live interest in the formation and growth of Bands of Mercy throughout the Province. Our teachers have it especially in their power to call up into active life that kindly protective feeling for animals which lies dormant in the hearts of many children. A children's band is not difficult to organize, and with a little direction the youngsters will be found quite capable of running their own meetings for the purpose of instruction or entertainment. The little ones will vie with each other in looking up interesting anecdotes of animals, will listen with open ears and unrepressible brains to such stories as "Black Beauty," and will join heartily with their treble voices in the Band of Mercy hymns which have been arranged to popular airs. The impressions thus made on young children are incalculable, but they are certain to redound to the welfare of the animal creation. The boys who study the habits of birds no longer wish to molest them when the respect for life in any harmless form has been taught. The household pets profit by the new teachings, and are neither caressed or over or underfed until their lives are in jeopardy. These little people will soon be the men and women of to-morrow, before whom will come the grave questions of over-loading of teams, the ill-condition of the present cattle cars, and—for it is not such a great step—cases of cruelty to children. Those who have been well taught in their early years will be able to deal wisely with these complex problems. We should therefore be willing to give a little of our time and interest now to these little ones in our midst, so that the dumb creatures of our Province may be benefited, and that in the course of time a wiser generation may have been educated by us, so that wise legislation on the matter may be enforced.

Your best chance to be cured of Indigestion  
Is by Trying K. D. C.

The race of explorers is not extinct, although the entire surface of the earth is in some measure familiar to its inhabitants. Four young Englishmen of excellent family have left their homes for the purpose of adding to the information which already exists on the geography, fauna and flora of East Africa. Their starting point is to be the mouth of the Juba River, the natural boundary of Somali Land and the Galla Country. Lake Rudolph is to be the objective point of their journey, and they are confident of finding a connection hitherto unobserved between the river and the lake. As elephant and lion-shooting are to be combined with research, a very enjoyable expedition is anticipated. It will, however, be some eight or ten months before further news from these adventurous spirits will be received in Europe.

It is probable that during the World's Fair electricity will be introduced to the public in many new ways. One inventor claims to have achieved photographic telegraphy, and may transmit the opening scenes of the World's Fair to New York as a good advertising test of the experiment. Householders will be deeply interested in the plans which will be brought forward for electric lighting, heating and cooking. The invisible current is beyond doubt to be the important factor of domestic life during the next decade. A more cleanly and economical plan for cooking and heating purposes cannot be devised. An even heat is readily attained; there is no odor of gas or of oil, and an entire meal can be prepared at the cost for heating material of but nine-tenths of a cent. Some mechanical devices are yet to be invented, so that in introducing electric heating householders may not fear that they are bringing infernal machines into their homes, which are liable to give unexpected and dangerous shocks to the nervous systems of their domestics, or to the constitutions of youthful investigators who will "want to see the wheels go round."

The ill-advised petition for the release of Mrs. Maybrick, which has been flouted like a red rag before a bull in the face of the British Government, has completely failed in its object. A more undignified method of approaching Her Majesty the Queen could scarcely have been devised—the flaring assertion of the innocence of the accused woman, published in a much-read magazine, signed by the prominent ladies of the United States, which was forwarded to the office of the Home Secretary. The language in which the petition was couched was far from mild, and was certainly still farther from being diplomatic. It has been aptly characterized as "the most impudent paper ever sent to the Home Secretary," and it received consideration only because of the signatures of some well known and much-respected women. Gail Hamilton, the author of the document, refers to the answer of the British authorities as "senseless, vulgar and brutal insolence towards a friendly republican nation pleading for its own citizen." While this feminine war has been waging, Mrs. Maybrick has been confined in Woking Prison, which has been her home for the last three years. There is still much doubt in the minds of many people as to her guilt, and many of her friends regret that this ill-considered petition should have blocked the way for a sorer appeal for clemency.

When the Nicaraguan canal was first talked of, an earnest effort was made throughout France to revive a financial interest in the famous Panama canal, which had already swallowed up so much French capital. It would have been better for the Count de Lesseps if the effort had not been made, for it has drawn upon him, as the promoter and leader of the Panama Land Company, a formal charge from the French Minister of Justice of breach of trust and malversation of funds. His son, M. Eiffel, constructor of the well-known tower of that name, is also to undergo a trial as an accessory to the fraud. The Minister's claim is that of the \$260,000,000 subscribed chiefly by the poorer classes of the French people, but \$94,000,000 was used for legitimate purposes. That \$4,000,000 was spent in bribing the public press, that \$1,600,000 was distributed among politicians and lobbyists, and that the balance of \$165,000,000 was pocketed by the contractors. By the terms of the first contract of 1879 the gigantic work was to have been completed in 1893. A further extension of twelve years was given, but since 1889, when the company went into liquidation, no further work has been done, and owing to the rapid growth of vegetation and to marine forces, the \$60,000,000 of work has to a great extent been undone by nature. But 18½ miles of the 47 miles of the proposed canal were ever dug. The financial record of the company is a dark one, and the French press are already heaping abuse on de Lesseps as the prince of confidence men. It is in our mind exceedingly doubtful if such utterances come fittingly from editors who have in the past accepted bribery to keep silence. Ferdinand de Lesseps is now eighty-four years of age. He has been a most patriotic Frenchman. Since 1825 he has been in the service of the Government as Consul at Malaga, Barcelona, Spain and Italy. Within ten years (1859-1869) he raised the stock and completed that wonder of the world, the Suez Canal. In recognition of his public services he was enrolled in the Legion of Honour. A man with so fair a record behind him has a right to receive the fairest trial that can be awarded him, and the French Government appreciate both the difficulty and the delicacy of their position in the coming trial. The overthrow of the Government, in the event of an unpopular decision, is a foregone conclusion, and the bowed white-headed prisoner is still dear to many who remember the greatness of his prime, and can make his great age an excuse for the financial errors of the famous company.

K. D. C. Relieves and Cures.  
K. D. C. quickly relieves and positively Cures Indigestion.