

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A SPIDER'S TELEPHONE.—While a gentleman was watching some spiders it occurred to him to try what effect a tuning-fork would have on the insects. He suspected that they would regard the sound just as they were in the habit of regarding the sound made by a fly. And sure enough they did. He selected a large, ugly spider that had been feasting on flies for two months. The spider was at one edge of its web. Sounding the fork, he touched a thread at the other side of the web, and watched the result. Mr. Spider had the buzzing sound conveyed to him over his telephone wires, but how was he to know on which particular wire the sound was travelling? He ran to the centre of the web very quickly, and felt all around until he touched the thread against the other end of which the fork was sounding; then taking another thread along, just as a man would take an extra piece of rope, he ran out to the fork and sprang upon it. Then he retreated a little way and looked at the fork. He was puzzled. He had expected to find a buzzing fly. He got on the fork again, and danced with delight. He had caught the sound of the fly, and it was music to him. It is said that spiders are so fond of music that they will stop their spinning to listen; and a man once said, that when he retired to his room for quiet before dinner and played the flute, large spiders would come on to the table and remain quite still, "running away as fast as their legs would carry them" directly he had finished.

The Young Emperor of China has just been engaged in the occupation of selecting three ladies as brides from among thirty-two assembled at his palace. These are collected from all over Manchuria from certain noble Manchu families, and have travelled, some of them for hundreds and even a thousand miles to Peking to undergo review. The future Empress is first selected, and then two assistants called the Eastern and Western Empresses. This is the ancient custom of the empire since the Manchus became its rulers. The Emperor will take over the reins of power next year.

At the instance of the Austrian Government two Vienna physicians have proceeded to the liberal provinces for the purpose of investigating the true nature of *pellagra*, the frightful malady caused by an exclusive maize diet, which has long been the scourge of Italy, and whose ravages are extending to Southern France, Spain, and Australia. The famous pathologist, Professor Bamberger, has been charged with the investigation.

More than 1,000 of the people of Madrid, Spain, gathered on June 15 to await the catastrophe of the end of the world, predicted for that day, and as it did not occur, adjourned till June 24.

Vermont proposes to establish a state institution for the criminally insane.

It costs \$800,000,000 a year to maintain the standing armies of Europe.

Hon. Frank Jones, of New Hampshire, has his life insured for \$205,000.

Rubinstein, the pianist, netted \$100,000 from 106 recitals given since last October.

Jules Verne, the story teller, who was shot by a mad nephew last March, is on the fair way to recovery.

Mme. Tienane Ledochowski, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has invented a rubber egg in which she proposes to sail through the Niagara rapids.

Only two centuries ago, the white races were estimated to be one-tenth of the world's population. Now it is claimed they are fully one third.

A car-load of corn was lately shipped from Nebraska to Chicago, which was sold at the latter city for \$3 less than the freight, and the owner had to pay the balance.

In England the population doubles in fifty years; in the United States, Canada and Australia in twenty-five years; in Germany, 105 years, and in France and in countries using the French language 140 years.

CEMENT FOR GLASS, PORCELAIN, ETC.—Take soft cheese, grind, and wash it in hot water; then, when it is free from all soft matter and nothing remains but pure caseine, press it in a fine cloth so as to squeeze out all the liquid. There remains a white matter which is to be dried, reduced to powder, and preserved in a wide mouthed bottle or well fitting box. To make use of it, it must be ground up with a small quantity of water which makes a very adhesive and desirable paste. It must be used immediately and in the cold. This caseine may also be obtained from buttermilk by precipitating with acetic acid, using as little as possible. The precipitate is repeatedly stirred up in hot water, and thus washed by decantation till all the fatty matter is removed. It may then be dried and pressed as before. Ammonia, borax in solution, or lime water may be used in place of the simple water in which the powder is ground up, with improved results.

A "cloud-burst" caused a land-slide on the Central Pacific Railroad, near Golconda, Nevada, on Sunday afternoon, and eight cars of a fruit-train were detached. No person was injured.

A severe drought prevails throughout Kansas and the Indian Territory. In the latter section a murrain has broken out among the cattle.

Fourteen cases of small-pox and one death are reported at Bolan, Iowa. The disease is supposed to have been imported by a German immigrant.

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