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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Miss Eliza Ritchie, who graduated from Dalhousie College in 1887 with first rank honors in mental and moral philosophy, and afterwards took the degree of Ph. D. at Cornell University, has just been appointed Associate Professor of Psychology and History of Philosophy at Wellesley College, Massachusetts.

If we could direct Ontario travel to the Maritime Provinces for one season how it would open the eyes of our western fellow-countrymen. To an Ontario man Nova Scotia is regarded as a country having a rigorous climate and a sterile soil. Scarce wonder that railway expenditure for such a land is thought to be wilful waste. If our western brothers would only pay us a visit we would convince them that in our own lines we lead the continent, and that we must become the Great Britain of this side of the Atlantic.

Since the first of January last three new asteroids have been discovered, thus increasing the number from 287 to 290. The 288th was discovered in Germany on February 24th by Mr. Luther, who has been at work discovering little planets for forty years past. Mr. Charlois discovered the 289th at Nice in March, and a few days later Mr. Palisa, director of the Observatory of Pola, announced the fact that he had found the 290th, this being his seventieth discovery of the kind. Mr. Palisa stands at the head of discoverers of asteroids, Mr. Peters of New York coming next with a list of forty-eight.

Hitherto the process of tanning leather has been a lengthy and expensive one, months being necessary to produce a good article. Now, however, electricity, which is nothing if not speedy, is coming to the rescue, and the work which formerly required months to perform can now be completed in as many days. At a tannery in London, G. B., the experiment of tanning hides by the new electric process has proved satisfactory in every way. According to tests made it appears that the tensile strength of electrically tanned leather is greater than that of leather tanned in the ordinary way. It is said that the electricity acts on the hides by opening the pores, thus permitting the more rapid access of the tanning solution. Whatever the action, it is certainly to be welcomed as a time-saving, and consequently, a money-saving factor in the preparation of leather.

On Friday last the *Acadian Recorder*, an evening newspaper published in Halifax, contained a characteristic article upon THE CRITIC and its proprietors. In its own peculiar chaste style our contemporary undertakes to demolish THE CRITIC and all its staff. Undoubtedly such journalism displays respectability, and tends to elevate the tone of the press, but we have no desire to emulate the example set us. The *Acadian Recorder* has a great journalistic mission to fill. It abhors sensationalism, avoids personalities, devotes its best efforts to inspiring its readers with love of country, *i. e.*, develops a thirst for good literature, and, in short, it appeals to the intelligence of the community. Such a glorious mission!

A native of China, writing in an Anglo-Chinese paper, laments the decline of the China tea trade. The competition of other countries, especially India, is said to be driving the Chinese leaf from the market, the cause being that it is cheaper. The tea grown in China is the best in the world, but the economical habit the Chinese have of using the tea first and then re-drying it for exportation may have something to do with the decline in the trade. The "child-like and bland" celestial found out long ago that Americans liked their tea strong, so he, being up in "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" quickly took advantage of the fact, and extracted the delicious first flavor for himself. If the tide is setting in another direction now the Chinese have themselves to thank for it; although if the quality of their tea was to come back to its original high standard there is little doubt that the trade would revive. Russia, one of the greatest tea-drinking countries of the world, still clings to the Chinese article.

What is considered the most important discovery made in medical science since Professor Koch discovered the bacillus of consumption has now been brought to light by Fraenkel, one of Koch's assistants, and Professor Brisger. They have isolated and found the long-sought-for cause for diphtheria, and have given the new "germ" the name of Toxalbumen. It is described as a snow-white granular body, allied to albumen. When injected into an animal's sore throat, (on the white membrane noticeable in such cases, for instance) a high fever soon develops and death ensues. The distinguished professors referred to claim that after such an experiment the exact symptoms of diphtheria can be readily noted. A discovery of great importance is also reported to have been made by Dr. Chamberland, Pasteur's assistant, and Drs. Meunier and Cadiac, of Paris, which proves that the essence of cinnamon, when sprinkled in the room of typhoid fever patients, kills the bacteria within twelve hours, and prevents the disease from spreading.

The Forth bridge, recently completed after some seven years' labor, deserves to be classed among the wonders of the world. The total length is one mile and 1,005 yards; height, from base of deepest pier to top of cantilevers, 450 feet, (making it the loftiest bridge in the world,) while the two longest spans are each 1,710 feet in length. At the Board of Trade tests on the 18th of February last, trains of 47 waggons, each loaded with pig-iron, and weighing 1,500 tons, were run across with scarcely perceptible effect. To secure this wonderful stability all that engineering skill could devise has been employed, foundations were sunk 91 feet below high water, and 51,000 tons of the best steel have been used, every piece of work being subjected to the severest trials before being passed. The Brooklyn Bridge is considered a great achievement by our friends over the border, but even they will acknowledge that it sinks into comparative insignificance beside this giant, which, with its enormous complications of steel tubes and framework, uplifts the three tremendous cantilevers into the air. The work was formally opened by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales on Tuesday, March 4th.

The game of grab now being played by the great European powers for territory in Africa is sure to become more and more exciting. As in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries for America, so is it now for the dark continent. Stories of the vast natural wealth of Central Africa, told by Stanley, the intrepid explorer, have incited the nations to greater efforts to secure the prize. Germany has got a first start, but England is close upon her heels, and if she succeeds as well in this last decade of the nineteenth century as she did in the "spacious times of great Elizabeth," when Spain and France led the way, we shall have little to fear. The changed conditions of the times, the more terrible effect of war with modern instruments of destruction, make it imperative that quarrels should be avoided and peace preserved if possible. Before long the iron horse will awaken the echoes in the forests of Africa, and the treasures of ivory, spices, rubber, etc., will be brought forth to the marts of the world. These are the days of hurry, and we may expect results to follow quickly upon the labors of enthusiastic explorers. Which of the European powers will secure the lion's share of this new *eldorado* time alone can tell.