

Never was there a greater mistake. Instead of this they are continually injured by yielding to the various untutored impulses which sway men.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

### DUELLING AND ANTISEPTICS.

The preliminaries of French duels are many, various, and delicate, but we do not remember to have noticed before the graceful and refined piece of etiquette which preceded the recent encounter between M. Rochefort and M. Thiebaud. The seconds took the swords of the intending combatants and carefully syringed them with an antiseptic liquid. This borrows from surgery one of its most important precautions.

Sir James Lister first discovered the means of fighting off the germs or microbes which abound in the air of hospital wards, and rush into the open wound made by the surgeon's knife, like the seven devils that occupied the house vacated by one. Thus the patient cured of one disease fell a victim to pyæmia, septicæmia, erysipelas, or gangrene. When, however, the microscope revealed to us the invisible world of the air, Lister recognised that the enemy must be beaten off before the garrison could be relieved. Consequently the precautions taken in a well-conducted hospital before an operation is begun would astonish the most particularly clean Dutch housewife or English dairymaid of the first class. The instruments to be used are steeped in some antiseptic liquid. The surgeon and all his assistants wash their hands with carbolic soap in prepared water. They put on specially clean linen garments. The atmosphere around the patient is kept saturated from first to last with carbolic acid spray, so that not a single wicked and wandering microbe can break through and live. The wound is speedily covered up with oil silk impregnated with carbolic acid, resin and paraffin. Every time the dressings of the wound are changed the same precautions are taken. The results of this system have been marvellous. It has rendered possible large operations that formerly were fatal in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred.

In Lister's own wards in Glasgow, after he had introduced the antiseptic precautions, the mortality after operations fell at once from forty-five to fifteen, and finally to twelve per cent. All over the world the plan has been applied with success, and, next to the discovery of chloroform, it has been the most beneficent gift of the surgical profession to the human race. It is odd to find French duellists so wonderfully practical and cool as to adopt just before their furious onsets a practice so scientific, so considerate, and humane. If the action were translated into words, one duellist would say to another, "I am enraged enough to try and wound, perhaps to kill you, but I will do so with a particularly clean sword. It shall be cleansed, not only from dust or stains visible to the naked eye, but from all possible germs of disease. I may run you through, piercing your lungs or heart, but I will not be the means of conveying into your body a single ungentlemanly microbe to disturb your recovery by setting up mortification of any kind."—*Daily Telegraph*.

### NEW MAGAZINES.

*St. Nicholas* for May presents a very tempting table of contents, beginning with an imaginative poem, "Morning," by the late Emily Dickinson, whose work has been so cordially praised by the critics. Nora Perry's "Siege of Calais," a ballad with striking illustrations by Birch, will delight little students of history, who will also read the second paper on "The Land of Pluck," by Mrs. Dodge, with keen delight, supplemented as it is by two very interesting letters on Holland, in the Letter-box Department.

Among other attractions we find a clever bit of verse with pictures by Margaret Johnson, in which children of different nationalities extol their native foods; a verse by John Albee called "The Manners of Sheep"; an allegory, "A Lesson in Happiness," by W. J. Henderson; "My Microscope," an article on some interesting objects in minute life, by M. V. Worstell; an amusing dialogue by Oliver Herford, "The Professor and the White Violet," and two slightly didactic pieces, "A Turning-Point," and "A Diet of Candy," wherein the young reader may find food for reflection sugar-sprinkled with fiction.

The Departments, and the usual delightful jingles and pictures tucked in between the longer stories and poems, force one to confess that *St. Nicholas* not only gives good measure, but generously inserts small extra bits wherever space can be found. In short, it is one of the few periodicals in the world which is a pleasure to read "right through from cover to cover."

Dr. Andrew D. White deals with a particularly interesting episode of the "Warfare of Science" in his paper on Miracles and Medicine, which opens the May *Popular Science Monthly*. One of our newest industries is described in this number by Frederick A. Fernald in an article on Ice-making and Machine Refrigeration, with pictures of an ice factory, a rink of artificial ice, a cold-storage room, etc. A possible solution of the great educational problem of the day is suggested in the description of an Experiment in Moral Training, given by Dr. Mary V. Lee. The conclusion of Professor Huxley on the War-path, by the Duke of Argyll, is printed in this number. Mrs. K. B. Claypole describes some forms of minute vegetation, with illustrations, in My Garden on an Onion. A survival of the human weakness for charms and magic is shown by Lee J. Vance, who writes on Evolution of Patent Medicine. Some of Fröbel's stimulating ideas are set forth in a paper on The Education of Children. There is a sketch and portrait of Captain Niels Hoffmeyer, a Danish meteorologist of much ability. Attention is called in the Editor's table to some of the wonders of electricity under the title, The Youngest of the Sciences, and the weakness of recent attempts to discredit The Doctrine of Natural Selection is pointed out.

New York: D. Appleton & Company. Fifty cents a number, \$5 a year.

*What the Enterprise of An Intellectual Fashion Magazine Has Done For Its Readers.*—Among the cabin passengers who arrived from Europe on the 18th ult. by the steamship *La Bourgogne*, were fourteen Parisian designers of ladies' fashionable gowns. These artists have been engaged by the enterprising managers of *The New York and Paris Young Ladies' Fashion Bazar*, to contribute exclusively to the columns of that popular magazine. All of them are well known in New York, for their reputations have preceded them. Mrs. Astor, the Vanderbilts, Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts are among the society leaders who have worn gowns designed by these artists. During an interview with a reporter one of the designers said:

"Paris still leads the world of fashion although Eugenie no longer sits on the throne. Parisian gowns have a style about them that cannot be equaled. That, I suppose, is the reason why we have been engaged to come to America to teach the ladies of your beautiful country, through the columns of *The New York and Paris Young Ladies' Fashion Bazar*, how these wonderful creations of the dressmakers' art are constructed. It is our business to design the handsomest and most fashionable gowns for the different seasons of the year. These designs will be printed in colors and will be accompanied by such clear instructions as to the selection of materials and the cutting and fitting of the garments that no woman of sense will have the least difficulty in making perfect fitting gowns herself. It is a knack, a science, to fashion a gown that will make a very small and very fleshy lady appear slim. Not one designer out of a thousand can hit upon the true lines unless he makes it the study of a life time. You ought to see the May number of our magazine. We have designs in it that will take the hearts of the ladies by storm. They do not get a new dress made up every day, and I can tell you it is an important item to get the best magazine, and the very latest and most exquisite Paris styles, and have it fashioned like the one that is best suited to their figure."

### INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Forrest, Fraser & Co. are progressing rapidly with their new factories in Kingston. Three large buildings and a fine ice house have been erected. Two buildings are 30 x 40 and another 25 x 40. One is for condensing milk, another for canning apples and preserving fruits, and still another for warehouse. The machinery would have been placed ere this had not the boiler been destroyed in Robb's fire.—*New Star*.

BUTTER FACTORY.—A butter factory is about to be established at Nappan, in accordance with the proposition made by Prof. Robertson. The farmers are very much in favor of the scheme and about 160 cows have already been promised and a larger number will come to the support of the factory another year. The shares are fixed at \$5, allowing one share for each cow. Messrs. J. R. Pipes, J. Tingley, R. T. Coates and R. T. Shipley were appointed a committee to raise stock for the erection of a building and purchase of an engine.—*Amherst Sentinel*.

UNITING ALUMINUM WITH GLASS.—A mechanical expert of Cincinnati, it is said, has succeeded, after numerous experiments, in uniting aluminum with glass, and it is claimed to be the first successful result. A large piece of the aluminum, with a glass tube in the centre, was turned in a lathe, and it was impossible to detect the slightest flaw or joint where they came together—in fact, it appeared as one solid mass. Heretofore no metal could be made to unite with glass in which the contraction and expansion were the same, and it is claimed this will create a revolution in the way of reducing the cost of incandescent lights, as it will take the place of platinum, which costs \$320 a pound.

Mr. Read, of Wallace, is shipping stone from Pugwash to the upper provinces by rail, and to New York by water. It is brought from the Northport quarries to Pugwash by water.—*Amherst Record*.

### PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

The members of the House of Assembly have been chiefly engaged during the past week in ratifying bills enabling towns and municipalities to borrow money for local purposes. A large number of private bills have also been approved, most of them being Acts of Incorporation for joint stock companies, which in the present day are deservedly popular. Among the more important of these Acts are the Acts incorporating the Windsor Furniture Co., Ltd., the Dartmouth Manufacturing Co., the Halifax Street Carriage Co., the Bridgewater Music Hall Co., the Fairview Hotel Co. and the Nova Scotia Mining, Milling and Transportation Co.

Mr. Cameron, of Pictou, has asked for a full detailed statement of the expenditure upon roads and bridges, and the House has consented to have these papers prepared and laid on the table. The preparation of these papers will require a large amount of extra work upon the part of the officials, and at first blush it does seem unnecessary to be informed as to the name of each man who worked upon the roads, the length of time he worked and the money paid to him; but when it is borne in mind that the total appropriation was \$600,000.00 it can readily be understood that the matter is an important one, and in the absence of an official such as the Auditor-General of the Dominion, the subject is one worthy of the closest consideration.