

Literary and Scientific.

UNDER THE TITLE of "Battles and Leaders of the civil war." *The Century* begins with the November number and will continue a series of separate papers, the object of which is to set forth, in a clear and graphic manner, the life and spirit of the most important of modern military conflicts—the War for the Union. The main portion of the scheme will be papers of a popular character on the great engagements of the war, by general officers high in command at the time, and in every instance a participant in the engagements under consideration. For instance, the battles of of Shiloh and Vicksburg will be described by General U. S. Grant; General Beauregard will write of the First Bull Run; General McClellan, of Antietam. A number of other prominent Confederate generals have engaged to contribute, and some of these contributions will be hardly less notable than those above mentioned. *The illustrations of the scheme will receive the most careful attention, and in this particular it is thought that the series will possess an unequalled historical interest.

PANACEA FOR TROUBLE.—Life is filled with troubles as a writer in *Our Homes* has said, and we must shoulder our share with the best grace we can. We may only seek to make them as light as we can, since to avoid them is impossible. There is one sovereign panacea for this. It is work. Brooding over trouble is like surrounding one's self with a fog. It magnifies all objects seen through it. Occupation of the mind prevents this; hard work, manual work even, gives the mind other matters of concern, tires the body so that sleep will come. Very few suicides occur when men are actively employed. When out of work they think of their other troubles, and the despondency arising from this added one throws the mind from its balance, and the fatal deed is done. Many a man would have committed suicide if he had had the time. Work of any kind, especially work for others, is the great panacea for a trouble mind.

No CATS.—There is not a single cat within the limits of the town of Leadville, Colorado, according to the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. Cats have been imported there by the hundreds, but not one survived the second week. Neither are there rats nor mice. The thin atmosphere at that altitude (10,200) is as fatal to the vermin as to their foe, and the inhabitants are thus mercifully spared the inflictions of both.

SINCE 1828 cholera has attacked four millions of Russians, and killed one million six hundred thousand.

Co-OPERATION gives strength, and co-operative societies of various kinds are becoming more and more common and valuable. Co-operative life insurance and aid in times of sickness is becoming more and more popular and it is believed by the most competent judges that such will be the system of the future. If properly managed, and looked after by the members of the different associations, it is the safest.

LIFE INSURERS usually pay more than twice as much annually as will cover the risk on their life, the surplus going to enrich stock companies. By far the cheapest, and certainly the safest, if properly managed, are co-operative companies or associations.

INCOMBUSTIBLE PAPER is stated to have been invented by a Mr. Meyers, of Paris, which, in addition to its power of resistance to extreme heat, has the merit of preserving its normal appearance under the action of fire.

CITRIC ACID is, according to the *Journal d'Hygiene* a most powerful disinfectant, preserving meat from putrefaction, and proving rapidly fatal to septic microbes.

AN ALASKA U. S. Signal Corps observer writes of the discovery of a wonderful medicinal spring in that Territory, long highly esteemed by the Indians and greatly valued by the few whites who know of it.

A MACHINE FOR PRODUCING RAIN is among the last inventions, reported from Australia. It is in the form of a balloon with a charge of dynamite attached underneath it. The balloon is to be fired by a wire connecting it with the earth.

THE FIRST CABLE tramway laid in Europe has been opened on a steep piece of road near London, Highgate Hill, and is pronounced a complete success.

IT IS SUGGESTED that the present be called the 'steel age' instead of the "iron age".

IN A PAPER is this advertisement: 'Two sisters want washing.' Thousands of brothers are in the same predicament.

CONSOLATION.—If you live in a city don't cry over spilled milk. Examine it closely and you may find it is not milk, after all.

"Ever had a cyclone here?" asked a Kansas man who was visiting a country aunt in the east. "A cyclone? Oh, yes," said his aunt. "Deacon Brown's son brought one from Boston a spell ago, but law! he couldn't ride it. Tumbled off every time he tried."

The prospectus of an electric sweat band for men's hats declares that "it stimulates the imagination, strengthens the memory and greatly augments the working power of the brain."