

drinks the mouth should always be rinsed with either alkaline (soda or potash) or pure water. With so many different kinds of substances passed through the mouth during a meal, and without the counteracting influences of the stomach and the digestive juices there cannot fail to be numerous chemical reactions set up in that cavity in the course of a few hours if the debris be not removed. In some cases also the teeth are attacked by parasitic fungi that appear to flourish well by penetrating the dentine tissues. In swamps, marshy regions, and stagnant pools, we are not surprised at finding innumerable plants deriving their sustenance from decaying organic matters, the refuse of other plants, and need we be astonished to learn that certain low forms of vegetable parasites find a suitable habitat in the human mouth which is plentifully supplied with minutely divided organic matters, kept at a temperature of nearly one hundred degrees, and provided with air and moisture?

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK, in speaking in the House of Commons to his Annual Motion in favour of Science-teaching in elementary schools, said he could not see why instruction was refused in science which all children liked, while they were compelled to learn grammar which they all disliked. In mechanics it might be explained to them why carts were put on wheels; the pulley, the lever, and the wedge might be explained, also the nature of the heavenly bodies, the nature of soils, and the rotation of crops, the composition of coal, clay, iron, copper, etc. The ordinary rules of health, the necessity for ventilation and cleanliness, and last, not least, the need for industry, frugality and economy.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made by the African Society in Germany for the establishment of a training school at Morocco, in which institution those persons intending to explore the wilds of the African continent may receive an education in the customs and manners of the Mohammedans and natives of Northern Africa, and at the same time be-

come more or less inured to the climate of that country. The object seems praiseworthy, inasmuch as future African travellers would be benefited by a stay in such a school, and thereby better fitted for the difficult tasks before them.

THE annual meeting of the German Natural Science Association is held this year at Baden-Baden, beginning on September 18th, and continuing for one week. Prof. Hermann, of Zurich, is to open it with a lecture upon the acquisitions of Physiology during the last forty years, and Dr. Skalweit, of Hanover, will close the meeting of the Association by a lecture on Food-adulteration.

IN a late number of the London *Geological Magazine* "A New Favourite Coral" is described by Mr. G. Jennings Hinde, F.G.S. This gentleman, the writer of valuable papers on Canadian Geology and Palaeontology, viz.:—"The Geology of the Scarborough Heights," "Conodonts from the Devonian," "Annelid Jaws from the Silurian and Devonian Formations," etc., has brought to light another new fossil form, to which he has given the generic name *Syringolites*, and the specific name *Huronensis*. It is allied with the genus *Ræmeria*; but Mr. Hinde has had the opportunity, at Bonn, of carefully examining the original specimens described by Goldfuss and Edwards & Haime, and has pointed out several important differences between *Ræmeria* and his new genus. He tells us that *Syringolites Huronensis* is common in the Niagara formation of the Upper Silurian rocks in Great Manitoulin Island, Lake Huron.

A VERY great deal of the metal Platinum is required to keep Edison's electric lamp in operation; and as this substance is very expensive Mr. Edison is exceedingly anxious to discover a mine of it in the United States. With this view he has sent out over 20,000 circulars and samples, and also many mining and mineralogical experts to various parts of the American Union. Answers to the circulars have been received from several of the