

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

**THE AMOUNT OF WATER ABSORBED BY TREES.**—In the official report of the Geological Survey of Wisconsin is an account of the determinations made by Dr. J. M. Anders, of the amount of water pumped from the earth by trees. He finds that the average exhalation from soft, thin-leaved plants in clear weather amounts to about 1½ ozs., Troy, per day of twelve hours, for every square foot of surface. Hence a moderate sized elm raises and throws off 7½ tons of water per day. In the report the facts are applied to what is going on in America, where certain inland fertile districts are becoming converted into deserts by wholesale clearings; and in other places, such as the plains of Colorado, where only five or six years of irrigation and planting has already produced a measurably increase of rainfall. It is maintained that the deserts of Syria and Africa are the results of cutting down trees, and that original luxuriance may be restored by skillful replanting.

There is more railway travel in Massachusetts than in any other State in the Union. The number of passengers carried by the roads last year was 53,000,000. Pennsylvania comes next with 50,000,000, and New York third, with 44,000,000. Illinois, New Jersey and Ohio follow in the order named.

**TENANTS MAY VACATE UNSANITARY HOUSES.**—A case has recently been decided in New York, justifying the right of a tenant to vacate a house and refuse to pay rent on the ground of unsanitary conditions. The case was: "In a suit for rent claimed to be due from a tenant of a suite of rooms in an apartment house, it appeared that the tenant's wife and servants were taken sick by inhaling a malarial or poisonous gas in the apartments occupied by them; that this unwholesome condition of the apartments was owing to a defective condition of the general plumbing work of the house, of which the landlord was notified by orders from the Board of Health, requiring him to have changes made in the plumbing work, and which unhealthy condition could have been removed if he had complied with those orders; that the defendant waited for two weeks, and finding that nothing was done on the part of the landlord, left under the apprehension that he was imperilling the health of himself and family by remaining." The case was appealed to a higher court and confirmed. It is to be hoped the practice will become general.—*Sanitarian.*

Authorities are not agreed concerning the poisonous properties of the aniline dyes. Dr. Grandhomme, who has had the benefit of prolonged observations in German aniline works, is of the opinion that they are poisonous only when containing arsenic. Messrs. Poincaro and Nassias, however, consider them dangerous, even in a state of purity, magenta being the least dangerous of all.

A late investigation shows that Australia contains 108 species of snakes—35 of them harmless, and 73 venomous.

**ARTIFICIAL SEA AIR.**—Many, indeed, are the luxuries that the magician's wand of invention now brings into the midst of our homes. As an instance, to produce a sea atmosphere for the sick room, a foreign contemporary suggests the use of a solution of peroxide of hydrogen (ten volumes strength) containing one per cent. of ozonic ether, iodine to saturation, and 2.50 per cent. of sea salt. The solution placed in a steam or hand spray diffuser can be distributed in the finest spray in the sick room at the rate of two fluid ounces in a quarter of an hour. It communicates a pleasant sea odor, and is probably the best purifier of the air of the sick room ever used. It is a powerful disinfectant, the same author writes, as well as deodorizer, acting briskly on ozonized test solutions and papers. It might be well to test the subject in some ward of one of our hospitals.

**A PECULIAR DISH.**—I have a Danish cook who gives us occasionally a peculiar dish for breakfast, whose unpronounceable name sounds something like "Rockturnlorodangoes." She takes some of the well risen bread, set the night before, and rolls it into a thin sheet, cutting it then into oblong pieces about three or five inches large. Each of these she rolls on her floured fingers into a neat little cornucopia. After enough for breakfast are ready she fills them with minced beef, mutton, or veal, well seasoned and chopped and pounded till it is a smooth paste. As quickly as one is filled she turns the corner over, dampening the edge with a finger dipped in cold water, and pressing it down so that none of the contents can escape, drops it into a kettle of boiling fat. As they fill out and brown she turns them with her skimmer, as one would cook doughnuts, and when they are done she puts them on a sieve in the oven, and lets them stand for a moment to dry. They are always brought to table in the folds of a napkin, which hardly receives a particle of grease from contact with them, so perfectly are they cooked.—[Ex.

**LEAD POISONING.**—Some very severe cases of lead poisoning lately occurred, whose causes were so obscure as to give rise to considerable uneasiness. The chemists were called in, and according to the *Journal of Medicine* discovered that the trouble was owing to broiling meat over a fire made with wood that had been formerly painted with white lead. The pigment was discovered in portions of the meat which had remained untasted, and was also found in the ashes of the fire. A still nicer piece of analytical skill found the same substance in the perspiration of the persons poisoned.

If you wish to pour boiling hot liquid into a glass jar or tumbler it can be safely done by putting a spoon in the dish before you pour.

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