

Scientific and Useful.

TO TAN SKINS.

The following method is recommended by a correspondent: Take equal parts salt, alum, and Glauber's salt, and half a part saltpeter; pulverize and mix. Wash the skins and rub the mixture in well three or four times a day, the oftener the better. If there is not moisture enough in the skin to dissolve the salts, put a little water into the jar. Were we assured that no moth will attack furs, the fells of which have been thus prepared.

AUSTRALIAN STUPIDITY.

Nothing, however propitious, if pronounced as a specific for disease, is too absurd for people to believe in. A member of the Victoria Legislative Assembly recently seriously asked the Colonial Government to appropriate \$25,000 to buy a diphtheria remedy from a man named Greathead. The latter remarkable person asserted that diphtheria is caused by "insects which breed in millions in a few days under a film which they make, which swells up in the throat and completely stops respiration," and he prescribes some drops of sulphuric acid in water. And this is the remedy for which the appropriation of \$25,000 is asked.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD ACADEMY.

"Academy" was originally the name of a public pleasure-ground, situated in the Ceramicus, or the field, a suburb of Athens, on the Cephissus. In the fifth century, B. C., this land belonged to Cimon, the son of Miltiades, who beautified the grounds, gave free admission to the public, and at his death bequeathed them to his fellow-citizens. They became a favorite resort, and Socrates was wont to hold forth in this delightful place. Plato also taught his philosophy in its groves, and his school was hence named the Academic. As the Platonists were also called academists, so whenever an academist started a school he called it an academy. And in this manner the term came into general use as a place of higher instruction.

HOW TO MAKE THE DAY LONGER.

The London Builder recommends a plan for lighting a dark room in which the darkness is caused by its being situated on a narrow street or lane. The Builder says, if the glass of a window in such a room is placed several inches within the outer face of the wall, as is the general custom in building houses, will admit very little light, that which it gets being only the reflection from the walls of the opposite houses. If, however, for the window be substituted another in which all the panes of glass are roughly ground on the outside, and are flush with the outer wall, the light from the whole of the visible sky, and from the remotest parts of the opposite wall will be introduced into the apartment, reflected from the innumerable faces or facets which the rough grinding of glass has produced. The whole window will appear as if the sky was beyond it, and from every point of this luminous surface light will radiate into all parts of the room.

A GOOD IDEA.

A very efficient and serviceable arrangement for removing organic and other impurities from drinking water is that devised by Prof. G. Bischof of Glasgow, which consists essentially in filtering the water through spongy iron and powdered limestone. The iron is placed in the upper chamber of an earthenware filter, and powdered limestone is arranged in a separate layer below. The iron is procured in a powdery, spongy state by the reduction of an ore without fusion, after the extraction of sulphur and copper by heat. It removes all albuminoid and nitrogenous compounds, and also all bad contaminations from the water; and a trace of iron taken up by the water is separated by its subsequent passage through the limestone. It is stated that one charge of the material, costing one shilling, is sufficient for the filtering of ten gallons per day for a period of two hundred days.

TRADES OF ANIMALS.

It has been well remarked by a clever author that bees are geometers. The cells are so constructed as, with the least quantity of material, to have the largest sized spaces and the least possible interstices. The mole is a meteorologist. The torpedo, the ray and the electric eel are electricians. Whole tribes of birds are musicians. The beaver is an architect, builder and woodcutter. He cuts down trees and erects houses and dams. The marmot is a civil engineer. He builds houses, and constructs aqueducts and drains to keep them dry. The ant is a soldier, and maintains a regular standing army. Wasps are paper manufacturers. Caterpillars are silk-spinners. The squirrel is a ferryman. With a chip or a piece of bark for a boat, and his tail for a sail, he crosses a stream. Dogs, wolves, jackals and many others are hunters. Black bears and herons are fishermen. Monkeys are jugglers.

HEALTH HINTS.

Dr. Dio Lewis occupied most of the time of a recent session of the Boston Preachers' Meeting on Monday, with an address on various topics connected with health. He spoke of the injurious effects of the use of tobacco on the human constitution. He said, "Narcotics lower the tone of the nervous system. Americans, with a large endowment of the humorous faculty, are not a social, happy people. I echo the voice of many wise men when I say that the smoke which is constantly rising from the pipe and cigar contributes not a little to the cloud which shades the national temper." He recommended the use of baths, but spoke decidedly against the "zinc collars" now in vogue, and recommended the hand-bath, in which the skin should be merely moistened, to be followed with a rough towel, and that such moistening would take scarcely more than four spoonfuls of water. His remarks were listened to with great interest, and many questions were asked him, for fuller information. He recommended to professional men but two meals a day—break at 8 a.m. and dinner at 1 p.m. Supporters were injurious.

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