

Our modern system of electric wires will soon demand a special form of legislation for its protection. In a St. Louis court recently, a curious suit was brought. Some enterprising individual had tapped the electric wires, and had thereby obtained a free illumination of his house. As neither judge nor jury could decide whether the prisoner was guilty of fraud or petty larceny, he was acquitted. A legal label for the offence will have to be devised in order to meet further depredations.

A kindly charity which has been started by the New York *Herald* will do much to alleviate the sufferings of the children of the poor in the great city during the period of intense heat. A week ago over a thousand children under five years of age died of cholera morbus, induced by the terrible weather. In order to check this mortality ice is being distributed among the children of the tenements. Some sixteen free ice stations have been established, from which parents having sick little ones can obtain a daily supply. For once "cold charity" has a pleasing sound.

The annual census bulletin issued by the Japanese Government contains much interesting reading and much food for thought. It appears that the cleanly quiet lives of these dwellers in "the land of the chrysanthemum" are very favorable to longevity. In 1890, for instance, there were 31 persons whose ages ranged from 100 to 107 years. Missionaries will be interested in another set of statistics which would seem to indicate that one-third of the married couples of the Island Kingdom obtain divorces. For further information we refer our readers to the *Sei i Kwai Medical Journal*.

The proposition to introduce the famous "Passion Play" as a side-show of the World's Fair is receiving the press condemnation which it deserves. The "Passion Play" of Ober-Ammergau is repeated every ten years in memory of a ravaging plague, which, in far-away times, swept through the country but spared the village. Its presentation is the occasion of a religious festival and those who take part in its scenes of our Lord's trial, crucifixion and resurrection do so with a sense of sacred awe. Its importation to Chicago as a money-making scheme, is insulting to the Saviour whom Christians should strive to honor, and we trust that the better minded of the Chicago authorities will discourage the proposed sacrifice.

The new magnesium flash-light which has been devised by Prof. Schrimm, of Berlin, Germany, has been thoroughly tested, and for signaling purposes it is said to be far superior even to our modern electric light. In order to produce a flash of 400,000 candle power a small quantity of magnesium powder is blown into a benzine gas flame by a draught of air which has passed through pumice stone saturated with benzine. The light, which shows in red and yellow, can be seen at the distance of six miles, even when the sun is shining bright. An experimental apparatus is being used at the lighthouse on Staten Island, N. Y., and it is thought that the new light will become thoroughly familiarized to the world during the Chicago Fair.

We congratulate those of our young friends who have mastered the essentially modern art of type-writing, while those who in addition to becoming expert writers have added short-hand to their attainments, are prepared at any time to earn their own livings. The future of the type-writer especially, promises as great a development as the past shows. The space of time allotted to any mortal on this earth is too short to be mis-spent in doing work by the ordinary method which the type-writer can do in one fourth of the time. All branches of business and literature are feeling the power of the type-writer, and in the words of an expert "the need, the advantages and the possibilities of this new art are every day becoming more clear."

There is a spice of both romance and absurdity in the achievements of sister, now *mother*, Rose Gertrude, who, two years ago, inspired by the heroism of Father Damien, publicly devoted her life to the care of the lepers, and left England for Molokai. Next she was heard of at Honolulu as an unappreciated nurse in a leper hospital, and the hero of her story, Dr. Leutz, appears upon the scene as her champion. At the end of her first year her marriage to the Doctor was announced, and a despatch from San Francisco gives the sequel to the enthusiasm which led the girl to choose so distasteful a work. "Sister Rose Gertrude Leutz has arrived. She has an infant child with her. She gave all her time to the lepers but never received a word of praise for her devotion."

Since Mexico has decided to retain the services of Diaz as head of the Republic, it would seem that his many patriotic deeds were becoming appreciated. Seldom has a man accepted a position of public trust with such universal distrust of both his integrity and his ability, but, in many ways, Diaz has ably combatted prejudice. That he has had the good of his country at heart cannot be doubted. He has encouraged railroad building, has developed native industries, and has bent his strongest efforts on encouraging the education of the lower class of his people. It is true that his diplomacy and tact could not avert the disturbances of last year, but he has wisely decided that, as the turbulent members of his Republic are chiefly amongst ignorant people, he can, by educating their children, produce a loyal generation. Two Presidents of Mexico, Sturvide and Maximilian, have lost their lives in the struggle to maintain the Republic, but Diaz seems to have the craft of leadership which does not attempt to enforce but quietly guides the people's choice.

Under the new conditions the deserts of Africa are beginning to "blossom like the rose." In Algiers in particular, where much of the land has been arid, irrigation is working wonders. One half of the territory of the State, or 330,000 square miles, has now been brought under cultivation by means of the Artesian wells. The 13,000 wells of the company range in depth from 75 to 400 feet. The water from the wells is collected in reservoirs, from which it is conducted over the land. The result is that Algiers is coming to the front as a wine-producing country, for the soil with the new moisture is found to be especially favorable to the growth of the grape-vine.

The Board of Health of New York city is very much in earnest in enforcing stringent quarantine regulations and in caring for the sick within the city. Forty-seven physicians have been appointed to attend, without charge, the sick poor of the city. For the next two months each doctor will be required to work eight hours each day, and will also look up his patients, instead of waiting for applications. The city care of the sick in tenements and thickly-settled sections of the great city is looked upon as necessary for the health of other portions of the city. Contagious diseases often find their first victims in crowded courts and alleyways, where all the surroundings tend to their dissemination. This act of the New York Health Board is therefore being widely commended.

Of late years explosions have become common occurrences, but generally they have been of a mild type. Dynamiters have destroyed, or attempted to destroy, several famous buildings, but their efforts pale into insignificance before the recent destruction of an entire island by a terrific explosion. Sangir, an important island of the Indian Archipelago, has disappeared. The island was about the size of the island on which Montreal is built. It contained in its centre a volcano, in which it also resembles Montreal island, though fortunately, the Canadian volcano has long been extinct. Some disturbances have probably taken place in the Sangir crater, owing, perhaps to the gradual sinking of the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, portions of which are known to be covered with a chain of living and extinct volcanoes, and hence the destruction of the island. Scientists will shortly search for a definite proof of this theory.

Mrs. Grover Cleveland has her own idea as to how far it is expedient for a woman to allow her personality to be drawn into politics, and she has declined the proposition of a portion of the "Womans' Party" to use her name during the coming contest. Mrs. Cleveland is not running for President, though doubtless she is keenly interested in the results of the coming struggle. Her decision is a womanly one, and we cannot but contrast it favorably with the well-meant but undignified efforts of Mrs. Stanley to secure the election of her husband. The proposition made by Lady Henry Somerset to use her influence, not to strengthen the hands of her own political party, but to "show up" the private life of Sir Chas. Duke, shows a misunderstanding of the rules which should prevail in the political arena, and certainly, her effort has brought her no new admirers. All things considered, it will be strange indeed if Mrs. Cleveland or her husband regret the decision which will spare her the turmoils and the probable slander of the coming election.

The shrinkage of the population of France is drawing forth some unique suggestions as remedial agents. M. LeRoy, a member of the Chambers, is perhaps the most congenial and thorough-going in his ideas. He proposes, in his Bill now before the Chamber, that all persons over 21 years of age should be allowed to marry without the consent of parents—that married men and widowers, whose income are under \$1,200 a year should be partially exempt from taxation, the amount of exemption being adjusted according to the number of their children—and, in order to make up the deficit, the taxes of bachelors and spinsters possessed of more than \$600 a year, should be increased. He also suggests that soldiers who have served faithfully for 12 months, should be allowed to return to their homes, then, if by the time they have attained their twenty-fifth year they have still not entered the matrimonial bonds, back they go into the army to serve the full term. One thing is evident, M. LeRoy fully appreciates the value of the soldier's uniform.

Our modern engineers pride themselves not without reason on solving the problems which were about given up in despair by their predecessors. It has long been thought desirable to utilize the water-power of Niagara, which is said to be equal to all the steam-power in use in the world, but the many proposed plans have been considered impracticable. At last a gigantic scheme has been prepared which promises to solve the difficulties. Much of the work has already been done, and it is thought that the success of the whole undertaking is assured. About one mile above the Falls a canal, 1500 feet long, at right angles to the river, has been dug. At its further end, a vertical shaft 140 feet deep is being sunk, and a tunnel 28 feet high, 48 feet wide and 6700 feet long, carries the water from this lower level to the bluffs below. The company who are carrying out this vast plan have obtained a perpetual right to use their motor power over 5 miles of river front. The factories, which are to be built on this tract, will receive their motor force by means of electricity. Thirty acres of land have been reclaimed from the river, a good warfage made and the right to build a second tunnel has been secured. A manufacturing city will soon spring up on the American side of the Falls, and as the company have obtained the right to use land in the Victoria Park on the Canadian side for 100 years we too will be deeply interested in the effort "to harness Niagara to the wheels of industry."

Your best chance to be cured of Indigestion
Is by Trying K. D. C.

K. D. C. Relieves and Cures.
K. D. C. quickly relieves and positively Cures Indigestion.