

narrow streaks similar in appearance to furrows, which, at times, appear laid over in straight, at other times in circular lines. Many explanations are given of these lines; some consider them as the former beds of now dried up rivers, others as torrents of lava vomited forth from the volcanoes, and reflecting more vividly than the other portion of the lunar surface, the rays of the sun. Mr. Schwabe offers this explanation: according to his theory the streaks which extend from the summit of the Tycho, one of the most elevated of the mountains of the moon, have, at certain periods, a greenish tint, which they loose at the end of a few months. Hence he infers that there exists in the moon vegetables, which shoot forth at season corresponding with our spring, and die at a season corresponding with our autumn, like all the plants of our globe. The existence, therefore, of a vegetation is strongly suspected. But what now becomes of the assertion commonly admitted that there exists no water on the surface of the moon? If the vegetation, which Mr. Schwabe has remarked on our satellite, reflected a blue, red, or yellow ray, we could admit that its nature was different from that which exists on our earth; but which as it is green, must we not conclude by analogy that it is the result of the same chemical combinations. Water should then become a necessity. We know, it is true, that the cactus does not require to be watered; but we also know that it absorbs the humidity of the atmosphere, and for the existence of this humidity, there must exist seas, lakes, and rivers. To this difficulty we call the attention of astronomers.

— Vegetable parchment is the name given to a product arising from the action of sulfuric acid (oil of vitriol) on unsized paper. It is superior to animal parchment, prepared at a far less expense, superior by its uniformity of surface, by its resistance to the action of chemical agents, and particularly to that of water. It possesses the same physical quantities as animal parchment, being white, transparent, of a semi-fibrous texture, folded without injury to the paper, torn with difficulty; it will probably altogether replace animal parchment, which is prepared with so much trouble.

— A society, under the name of *La Société d'acclimatation*, exists in France. The object of this association is to import and to propagate the animals and the useful plants of all the regions of the globe. France on account of its central position and its temperate climate, is naturally a good site for the permanent exhibition of all the useful species contained in the animal and the vegetable kingdoms. The *Jardin des Plantes* (Garden of Plants) presents already something similar; but the institution lately created is one of a more practical and more experimental nature. On this subject we read in the *Union*: "The work of preparing the ground for this experimental garden advances with great rapidity; the enclosure is completed; the river is running in the bed prepared for it; the excavation of the lake finished, the aviary, the aquarium, and the building destined for the larger quadrupeds, are now in readiness for their future occupants." Numerous donations of rare animals have already been made, and the ramification of the association will secure an illimitable supply of species from all parts of the globe, in every department of natural history. This garden will become one of the wonders of the city of Paris, and a visit of no ordinary delight to the citizen and to the traveller.

STATISTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

— Well grounded statistics prove that the number of persons who succumb annually to the effects of alcohol amounts in England to 50,000, in Russia to 100,000; the life of those unfortunate beings is one of aggravated suffering.

Spirituous liquors powerfully affect the glands of the mouth and of the stomach, their secretions becoming exceedingly abundant. Sensibility is finally blunted, and the taste so much injured that it is a frequent occurrence, to see a man pass from the use of weak to strong drinks, and ultimately distinguish no taste in pure alcohol and in bitters.

Under the action of those fatal liquors, the mucous membrane hardens, the tissues, the brain, and the nervous system, so wonderfully ramified over the whole body, become disorganized, and the individual contracts a morbid habit which soon assumes the chronic form. At this period all the effects of this disease become visible; there is a trembling of the limbs, loss of vital power, impotence; the body loses its erect form, the head turns grey, and at forty all the traces of age appear. "Alcohol, says Liebig, by its action on the nerves, is like a note drawn on the health of the labourer, and which he must always renew in default of means to pay it. He thus inevitably brings on the bankruptcy of his health."

One of the most ordinary results of the abuse of alcohol is paralysis. I have somewhere read that a carpenter, enjoying excellent health and of a robust frame, but who had contracted the fatal habit of drinking large quantities of brandy, was attacked, at the age of thirty five years, with a paralysis of the tongue; the words he pronounced were unintelligible. A few months after this first accident he lost the use of his right arm, and death finally followed on paralysis of the brain.

Such are the consequences of the abuse of alcoholic liquors. To those above described and which attack the body, are to be added in a parallel line, those which attack the mind. It is there that may be seen, and may be fingered so to express it, the intimate relations which unite the body to the soul, the organs to the intellect.

All the faculties of the individual disappear one after another. The memory fails, hebetude supervenes, and soon madness takes the place of the intellectual powers the man had possessed. The propensity to all crimes, to suicide, becomes developed, and what should strike terror is this, that all the evils the individual entails upon himself, by the abuse of liquors, he transmits as an inheritance to his children, who suffer for the faults of the parent; fatal consequence, and which affords much matter for reflection.—*Courrier du Canada*.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

A List of Wonders.—Among the thousands of marvelous inventions which American genius has produced, within the last few years, are the following, compiled in an abstract from the Patent Office report:

The report explains the principle of the celebrated Hobb's Lock. Its "unpickability" depends upon a secondary or false set of tumblers, which prevents instruments used in picking from reaching the real ones. Moreover, the lock is powder proof, and may be loaded through the key-hole and fired off till the burglar is tired of his fruitless work, or fears that the explosions will bring to view his experiments more witnesses than he desires.

Doors and Shutters have been patented that can not be broken through with either pick or sledge hammer. The burglar's "occupation" is gone.

A harpoon is described which makes the whale kill himself. The more he pulls the line, the deeper goes the harpoon.

An Ice-Making Machine has been patented, which is worked by a steam engine. In an experimental trial, it froze several bottles of sherry, and produced blocks of ice the size of a cubic foot when the thermometer was up to eighty degrees.—It is calculated that for every ton of coal put into the furnace, it will make a ton of ice.

From Dr Hale's (Examiner) report, we gather some idea of the value of patents. A man who had made a slight improvement in Straw Cutters, took a model of his machines through the Western States, and after a tour of eight months, returned with forty thousand dollars. Another man had a machine to Thresh and Clean Grain, which in fifteen months, he sold for sixty thousand dollars. These are ordinary cases—while such inventions as the Telegraph, the Planning Machine, and India Rubber patents, are worth millions each.

Examiner Lane's report describes new electrical inventions. Among them is an Electrical Whaling Apparatus, by which the whale is literally "shocked to death." Another is an Electro-Magnetic Alarm, which rings bells and displays signals in case of fire and burglars. Another is an Electric Clock, which wakes you up, tells you what time it is, and lights a lamp for you at any time you please.

There is a "Sound Gather," a sort of huge ear-trumpet, to be placed in front of a locomotive, bringing to the engineer's ear all the noise ahead, perfectly distinct, notwithstanding the noise of the train.

There is an invention that Picks up Pins from a confused heap, turns them around with their heads up, and sticks them in papers in regular rows.

Another goes through the whole process of Cigar Making, taking in the leaves and turning out finished cigars.

One machine cuts cheese; another scours knives and forks; another rocks the cradle; and seven or eight take in washing and ironing.

There is a Parlor Chair patented that can not be tipped back on two legs, and a Railway Chair that can be tipped back in any position without any legs at all.

Another patent is for a machine that counts passengers in an omnibus and takes their fares. When a very fat gentleman gets in, it counts two and charges double.

There are a variety of Guns patented that load themselves; a Fishing Line that adjusts its own bait, and a Rat Trap that throws away the rat, and then baits itself, and stands in the corner for another.

There is a machine also, by which a man prints, instead of writes his thoughts. It is played like a piano forte. And speaking of Pianos, it is estimated that nine thousand are made every year in the United States, giving constant employment to one thousand nine hundred persons, and costing over two millions of dollars.—*Christian Times*.

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