

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sea-water has been converted into a beverage! A little citric acid or citrate of silver is added to the briny liquid, chloride of silver is precipitated, and a harmless mineral water is produced. An ounce of citrate renders a half-pint of water drinkable. Seven ounces would furnish a shipwrecked man with water for a week. The question is how to secure citrate to shipwrecked men. It is recommended that those who go to sea carry with them a bottle of citrate protected by an indiarubber covering, or that such bottles should be furnished in life-preservers. If, with presence of mind, shipwrecked folk remember to take these with them, all the agonies of thirst portrayed in nautical stories may remain unrealized fiction.

Official figures just published confirm the general impression that horse-racing is becoming increasingly popular in France. The number of race-courses throughout the country is now 280. A year ago it was 272. Race-meetings have increased during the same period from 645 to 669. The increase in the total value of the prizes has been more than £40,000 sterling, the aggregate of the prizes now amounting to considerably over £100,000. In round numbers the following are the amounts supplied by the different contributors:—The State, £22,000; the Departmental authorities, £9,000; racing societies, £360,000; towns, £22,000, and railway companies and other bodies, £15,000. Flat-racing absorbs about one-half the total, and of the other half rather less than four-fifths goes to steeple-chasing, and rather more than one-fifth to trotting races.

The insignia of the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands are manufactured, not at the jeweller's, but at the stationer's! The Spartan simplicity is stated to be based on the consideration that the value of the Order should depend solely on the honour and the valour of him who wears it. The majority of those on whom it has been conferred are content to wear the rosette, and no one looking at it would think of the modest piece of cardboard composing the real decoration so much prized in Holland, which is, however, carefully stowed away in its little case. Some years ago the Dutch Minister at Constantinople, who had been commissioned to present the insignia of the Order to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, wrote to Amsterdam, saying that he could not think of presenting that eminent functionary with an Order made of pasteboard. In Constantinople, where the people are so fond of decking themselves out in gold and jewellery, the Lion of the Netherlands would run a fair chance of being held up to ridicule amid its gay surroundings. The Dutch Government, therefore, out of regard for these considerations, determined to make an exception in the case of the Turkish Minister in question, and ordered a special badge for him in gold and precious stones. So far, it is the only one of its kind made, and all other recipients, it is feared, will have to content themselves with a *papier mache* Lion of the Netherlands.

Lord Dufferin thus depicts the three sisters of whom his mother was the eldest: "The beauty of the sisters was of a different type, but they were all equally tall and stately. The Duchess of Somerset had large deep blue or violet eyes, black hair, black

eyebrows and eyelashes, perfect features, and a complexion of lilies and roses—a kind of coloring seldom seen out of Ireland. Mrs. Norton, on the contrary, was a brunette, with dark burning eyes like her grandfather's, a pure Greek profile, and a clear olive complexion. . . . My mother, though her features were less regular than those of her sisters, was equally lovely and attractive. Her figure was divine, the perfection of grace and symmetry, her head being beautifully set upon her shoulders. Her face and feet were very small, many sculptors having asked to model the former. She had a pure sweet voice. She sang delightfully, and herself composed many of the tunes to which both her published and unpublished songs were set. . . . She had mastered French before she was sixteen, as well as acquired some Latin. In after years she wrote in French as readily as in English, and she also learned German. Her talent for versifying showed itself very early. One or two of the pieces which she produced were written while she was still a child; for she may be said to have been married out of the schoolroom. Before either of them was twenty-one, she and Mrs. Norton were paid £100 by a publisher for a collection of songs they contributed between them."

LIZARDS IN THE STOMACH.

A REPTILE SWALLOWED WHILE DRINKING IN THE DARK.

Excruciating Agony Suffered by Mrs. Westfall—Nerves Shattered, and Death Looked for as the Only Relief.

From the Trenton Courier.

The editor of the Courier having heard of this strange case of Mrs. Simon Westfall, made enquiry and learned the following facts:—Mrs. Westfall said that one evening some three years ago she went to the well and, pumping some water drank a portion. As she did so she felt something go down her throat kicking and told her mother so at the time. Little she thought of the agony in store for her through drinking water from a pump in the dark, for a female lizard found its way into her stomach and brought forth a brood. After a while the sight of milk would make her tremble and she had to give it up. The disorder increased so that the very sight of milk would produce effects bordering on convulsions. She lost her appetite but would feel so completely gone at the stomach that she had to eat a cracker and take some barley soup frequently to quiet the disturbance within. She took medicine for dyspepsia and every known stomach disease, but got not relief. She changed doctors and the new doctor having had an experience of this nature before, gave her medicine to kill and expel the lizards. For three years the poor woman suffered all kinds of physical and mental agony. Her whole system, kidneys, liver and stomach were all out of order. Her heart would flutter and palpitate so faintly as to be imperceptible, and a smothering feeling would come over her, that it was often thought she had given her last gasp. Her memory was almost gone, her nerves shattered so that the least sudden movement would bring on collapse through extreme weakness. Sitting or standing she would be dizzy and experience most depressed feelings and lowness of spirits. After the removal of the reptiles, the doctor sanctioned the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and she took three boxes but found no apparent relief. She then gave up their use believing she was past the aid of medicine. At this time a Mrs. Haight, who suffered twelve weeks with la grippe, and who was completely restored by taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, urged Mrs. Westfall to begin the use of Pink Pills again. She did so and soon she perceived their beneficial effects. Her appetite began to im-

prove and for two months she has steadily gained strength, health and steadiness of nerve and memory. She can now do her household work and feels as well as ever. She says she cannot speak as strongly of Pink Pills as she would like to, and feels very grateful for the great good resulting from the use of this wonderful medicine.

Mrs. Haight, before referred to, is enthusiastic over her own perfect recovery from the after effects of la grippe, feeling as well as ever she did in her life. She also corroborates the above statement regarding Mrs. Westfall's cure.

These pills are a positive cure for all troubles arising from a vitiated condition of the blood or a shattered nervous system. Sold by all dealers or by mail, from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y., at 50 cents a box, or 6 boxes for \$2.50. There are numerous imitations and substitutions against which the public is cautioned.

A recent address on Electro-Chemistry by Professor Ostwald (*Elektrische Zeitung*, June 14) has been attracting much attention. One of its most striking statements is that which describes a galvanic cell as a machine driven by osmotic pressure. Osmotic pressure is only another name for the force that causes one liquid to diffuse into another of a different density through a porous membrane so that the level of the liquid on one side may be raised above that on the other, in opposition to gravity. According to Professor Ostwald the voltage of a cell depends on the difference of osmotic pressure of the metals, used, that is, practically, on their solubility in the acid. He believes that the problem of the efficient transformation of chemical into mechanical energy must be solved by electro-chemistry. At present the transformation is effected by turning this energy into heat, that is, by combustion, but only about 10 per cent. of the energy can thus be utilized. Electro-chemistry, he thinks, will in time be able to do better than this, though at present it is very far from it, the consumption of metal in a cell being far more expensive than that of coal in a furnace. If we were able, however, to approach the theoretical output by direct oxidation of carbon in a cell we should attain a result far more important than the invention of the steam engine, since about five and one-half horse-power per hour could be obtained from every pound of carbon. The one essential is an electrolyte that will permit the necessary chemical action while itself suffering no permanent change. While such a substance has not been discovered, it is at least satisfactory to know definitely what it is that we want.

A pound of fads doesn't weigh so much as an ounce of fact.

The rarer action is in virtue than in revenge.—*Shakespeare*.

Quarrelling about creeds ought not to take the place of care concerning deeds.

'Tis pleasant through the loopholes of retirement to peep at such a world.—*Coleridge*.

The rich man who lives longest is the one whom some young woman marries for his money.

Repentance clothes in grass and flower the grave in which the past is laid.—*Earl of Sterling*.

The man who starts out to reform the world generally needs reformation himself before he gets into the next township.