ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Japan has thirty-seven educational publications, seven medical papers, nine fanitary, two forestry, two on pharmacy, seven devoted to various branches of science, and twenty-two to popularizing science.

Class is being extensively used in Paris for flooring in fire-proof buildings. It greatly assists in lighting the interior of large buildings and it saves lumber.

Somebody has figured out that the South Africa diamond crop up to the present time amounted to six and one half tons, valued at \$200,000,000.

Lake Copies, in Greece, has been fed by the streams that run down Mt. nassas. These streams have been diverted for irrigation, and the un-Parnassas. wholesome lake is drying up. The two processes have added many thousands of acres to the productive lands of Greece, and nobody is calling for the scalps of the engineers and capitalists who did it.

Petroleum, frozen into square bricks, is urged as a better fuel for ocean steamers than coal, as it would occupy less space and be equally safe. could be thawed out, and kept in tanks, as wanted, and run in pipes to the furnace burners.

The new French horse-shoe, made of sheep's horn, it is claimed is an improvement on the old style, as it prevents horses from slipping on pavements, and is more durable than the iron shoe.

In Prussia, from 20 to 25 per cent. of the total production of potatoes is used in the distilling of spirits. .

The smallest bank check ever made out was drawn by the United States Treasurer for one cent. This check, canceled, now hangs in the office of the Pacific Mills, Boston The next in size was drawn by the same official for two cents, and now hangs framed in a broker's office in the same city. One of the largest, if not the largest, in amount, was for \$14,000,000, signed by the banking firm of Kidder, Peabody & Co., of Boston, which is now on the walls of the Bank of Commerce at New York.

Pagan, one of the ancient capitals of Burmah, is in many respects the most remarkable religious city in the world. Jerusalem, Benares, Rome, Keist-none of them can boast the multitude of temples and the lavishness of design and ornament that make marvellous this deserted capital on the Irrawaddy. Deserted it practically is, for the flimsy huts that stand by the river are inhabited by pagoda slaves and men condemned to perpetual beggary. For eight miles along the river bank, and extending to a depth of about two miles inland, the whole space is thickly studded with pagedas of all sizes and shapes, and the very ground is so thickly covered with crumbling remnants of vanished shrines that, according to the popular saying, you can not move a foot or hand without touching a sacred thing.

While chatting with the proprietor of a well-known Long Branch hotel the other day I remarked that I could already see signs of the coming summer exedus. He laughed and said: "Well, my dear boy, I fear that the more signs you see the less visitors we'll have. I have just dropped on the more signs you see the less visitors we'll have. I have just dropped on to one or two of the latest wrinkles of those people who pose as swell summer tourists on excessively small incomes. A dressmaker whom my wife went to see to-day told her that she had a great variety of dresses for the summer season which she would hire out on reasonable terms, and change for others once every week. Now, ain't that an idea! You see, Miss De Smith can go to Long Branch with seven morning and seven evening dresses, and after a week she secures another fourteen, and can bloom out in an entirely new set for the following week. All these costumes are made upon a sliding scale basis with hig seems and wide flources, which are made upon a sliding scale basis with big seams and wide flounces, which facilitate their being changed to fit many sizes. You see that with four sets of dresses the customer can change them from one watering place to another, and thus serve four people simultaneously, giving each a constant succession of new toilets. For about \$25 a week the girls can have the use of a wardrobe that couldn't be duplicated under \$2,000. Think of that for American enterprise.—Baltimore American.

The following appeared in the Echo: "Fruit is highly charged with an imponderable element, electricity, the active life principal we all possess in a relative degree. Now cook this fruit, and what becomes of this evanes cent element? It has dissipated, vanished from the scene, together with much of its delicious odour, and has left us nothing but dead matter. Now it ought to be evident to the morest tyro that, in eating ripe fruit, he is adding to the sum of his own vitality—increasing the fund of his energy without deteriorating his physical powers. On the contrary, by subsisting on dead matter, he subtracts—uses up—his own supply of the vital element to got rid of the inert mass he ignorantly puts into his stomach."

A gentleman of Edgartown, Mass., has a coin found lately in the woods of that town, which is pronounced a relic of the old Norsemen, the date, 1302, being discernible by the microscope.

The pay of doctors in China is from 5 to 10 cents a visit, and they are kept exceedingly busy.

There are now thirty-seven women in the Universalist ministry,



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