

CLEANING CLOCKS.—Common brass clocks may be cleaned by immersing in boiling water. Rough as this treatment appears, it works well whenever they stop from dust or thickening of oil upon the pivots. Boil in rain water, and dry in a warm stove.

THE Alaska waters contain more salmon than all the other waters in the known world. Within a few years salmon canneries will be established along the Alaska coast. Already the Pioneer cannery of Alaska has been located at Klawank, on Prince of Wales Island.

TO REMOVE FRECKLES.—Grate horseradish in a cup of cold milk; let it stand twelve hours; strain and apply two or three times a day. Or mix lemon juice, one ounce; pulverized borax, one-quarter drachm; sugar, one-half drachm; keep a few days in a glass bottle, then apply occasionally.

LIME IN THE EYE.—The evil effects of lime in the eye are well known, plasterers and whitewashers not unfrequently having their eyes seriously injured, if not destroyed, by the caustic power of the lime. Wells says: "If the patient is seen soon after the accident, an effort should be made at once to neutralize and wash out the lime by a weak solution of vinegar, with a free use of the syringe. Afterwards, cooling and anodyne lotions and general antiphlogistic treatment should be adopted."

DEATH FROM AN ORANGE SEED.—A short time ago, says the *Journal of Chemistry*, an only daughter of a physician in Cambridge died, with symptoms of the perforation of the bowels. It was found than an orange seed was lodged in the appendage called "appendix cæci vermiformis," which is about the size of a goose-quill. This produced a perforating ulcer that allowed the escape of the intestinal contents. Inflammation ensued that could not be controlled. No doubt thousands of orange seeds are daily swallowed, but this case shows the need of caution, and the tremendous power that resides in our food for evil as well as good.

COAL TAR FOR FLESH WOUNDS.—Mr. F. D. Curtis informs the *New York Tribune* of what he considers the best application for any and all flesh-cuts and raw sores. It is gas coal-tar, which may be had at any gas-works where gas is made from coal. A barrel of it, costing \$2, has been in use at the Kirby Homestead for ten years and is not half gone yet. Coal tar, when applied to a flesh-cut, shuts out the air and thus stops the smarting; it will also keep off the flies; it is very healing, and it is antiseptic, that is, cleansing, and will prevent the growth of proud-flesh. It is the cheapest, most healing and best application we have ever used. I have tested this remedy for several years on all sorts of cuts and sores with the most gratifying and successful results. It was an experiment at first, but now it is a necessity.

WHAT TO DO FOR CROUP.—*Hall's Journal of Health* says: Croup is so common a disease among children that it requires no description; it affects the windpipe. As it attacks suddenly most often in the night, and as an hour's time may be all the difference between life and death, it is proper to state the most reliable course to be pursued until a physician be obtained. 1st. Keep the feet warm by having a jug of hot water kept against them; let them also be well wrapped up in woolen flannel. 2nd. Have a bucket of water almost as hot as the hand can bear. Have two pieces of woolen flannel of several thicknesses, one being on the throat while the other is in the hot water, renew every two or three minutes, until relief is given or the physician arrives. The water in the bucket must be kept hot by the constant addition of boiling water.

SUBSTITUTE FOR SLATE.—The new composition proposed by Mr. J. A. Ditch, of Hastings, England, consists in mixing the various materials, or their chemical equivalents, in the proportions or thereto, as hereinafter mentioned, for the purpose of providing, when applied as a coating to any convenient and suitable substance, a substitute for slate for building, writing, and other purposes. The mixtures and proportions for coating substances for exterior work are—One quart of methylated spirit or its equivalent, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. gum shellac, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour of emery. For coating substance to serve as writing slates, add powdered glass, rotten stone, or pumice stone, together with lamp black or Paris green sufficient to give the desired shade of color. Other powdered substances, such as chalk, brick, slate or stone, may be used for the purpose of giving a body or a braiding surface to the composition. A convenient way of making writing slates is to coat millboard with the new composition, frame the board, and mount it on an easel so arranged that it can be closed and shut up when not in use.

SMALL tubular boilers, set in the carved wooden cases and heated by parlor lamps, are now sold for sewing machine motors. The apparatus connecting the boiler with the machines has but three pieces, and is very simple.

The experiments made with the new glass type has turned out well. The type wears a long time, is easy to keep clean, and gives a clearer impression than metals. Little change is required in the type foundry's mould or machinery.

The heat produced during the burning of fuel is given out when the carbon of the fuel unites with the oxygen of the air, and carbonic gas is produced, as it is by the breathing of men and animals. This poisonous gas usually passes up the chimney.

The *Lancet* thinks that the most interesting physiological discovery of the year is that made by Boll, of the red color which the retina has in health, and which is constantly destroyed by light and renewed by the ordinary processes of nutrition.

PROFESSOR Newcomb says: "So small is the earth, compared with the celestial spaces, that if one should shut his eyes and fire at random in the air, the chance of bringing down a bird would be better than that of a comet of any kind striking the earth."

PROFESSOR Balfour Stewart, who is one of the highest living authorities on the subject of sunspot, frankly says that it is nearly if not absolutely impossible, from the observations already made, to tell whether the sun is hotter or colder as a whole when there are more spots on his surface.

INCORRODIBLE Ink.—A black ink, claimed not to corrode steel pens, and neutral, is prepared by digesting in an open vessel 42 ounces of coarsely powdered nutgalls, 15 ounces of gum senegal, 18 ounces of sulphate of iron (free from copper), 3 drachms of aqua ammonia, 24 oz. of alcohol, and 18 quarts of distilled or rain water. Continue the digestion until the fluid has assumed a deep black color.

The under-drainage is strongly recommended for orchards, vineyards and gardens. The cost of tiles for under-drains varies according to the size of the diameters. Two-inch tiles are worth about \$12.50 per thousand feet; three-inch tiles about \$15. The experiments made in many parts of Ohio and Illinois prove that the value of almost every grade of soil can be increased from fifty to seventy-five per cent. by under-drainage alone.

The inference that the telephone would probably work best when the membrane is slanted toward the source of sound, has been drawn from the fact that the drum of the human ear is inclined at a considerable angle to the axis of the outer ear passage. *Nature* mentions an instance in which this notion was justified by actual experiment on the part of a gentleman who found "that his telephone worked best when he spoke to it in a slanting direction."

The opinion that the land which surrounds the North Pole is undergoing a general movement of upheaval is confirmed by the published observations of Mr. H. W. Feilden, naturalist to the recent British Arctic expedition; or, rather, as he says, we find evidence that there has been an upward movement since any subsidence took place. Mr. Henry H. Howorth is mentioned as having originally advanced the view that the surface of the North Polar region is gradually rising.

AN invention that promises to considerably cheapen railroad construction, is of iron bent at right angles and riveted upon wooden stringers; and the advantages claimed from it over the old T rail are less weight, greater elasticity, and the consequent saving of wear and tear of rolling stock. The chief economy of this rail lies, of course, in the greatly reduced weight of iron required for the building of a road, and it would seem to be especially calculated for narrow gauge railroads, and indeed all railroads upon which the traffic is not extraordinarily large.

NO IMPROVEMENT has been effected in the quality of coal gas supplied to the city of London within the past quarter of a century. According to Dr. E. Frankland, the well-known chemist, it appears better because it is tested with improved burners, but, in fact, when burned in those generally used, it gives no more light now than it did in 1851. From the recent published researches of the same chemist, it appears that the celebrated Davy safety lamp cannot be introduced into mixtures of air and coal gas without liability to explosion.