

CHIT-CHAT.

Prof. Baird says that as a fish has no maturity there is nothing to prevent it from living indefinitely and growing continually. He cites in proof a pike, living in Russia, whose age dated back to the fifteenth century. In the royal aquarium at St. Petersburg there are fish that have been there 140 years.

Recent observations are said to indicate the existence of a submarine volcanic crater between the Canary Islands and the coast of Portugal. From a cable-laying steamer in latitude 30 degrees 25 minutes north, longitude 9 degrees 54 minutes west, the water was found to measure 1,300 fathoms under the bow and 800 fathoms under the stern, showing the ship to be over the edge of a deep depression in the ocean bottom. It is well known that great inequalities are found in the bed of the sea of Lisbon, and these are thought to be due to a submarine chain of mountains.

A member of the Royal Society of Tasmania finds that, as compared with Mars, Jupiter's surface brightness is twenty two times as great as it ought to be if all its light is reflected sunshine; and as compared with the moon about thirteen times. That the brilliancy was remarkable has long been known, and the theory of this observer, that the giant planet of our system has not yet so cooled as to cease to be self-luminous, is by no means new. A more generally accepted explanation, however, is that Jupiter is covered with a highly reflective material, which absorbs much less solar light than Mars and the moon.

ROYALTY AND AUTHORSHIP.—It is well known that Queen Margaret is an authoress. She was rallied at a recent court ball by the French Ambassador, about having written a novel, which was, after long delay, to be published in London. She listened as he gallantly expressed his regret at the delay. Then said the Queen, "Believe me, your regret would have been greater if it had appeared." Next she went on to tell the diplomat:—"Not long ago I sent a story in manuscript to a Roman periodical under an assumed name. It was soon returned curtly marked 'rejected.' Since then I shall remain satisfied with a real crown and not strive after imaginary laurels."

THE HEATING POWER OF GAS.—A series of tests has recently been made by Dr. Fischer, the well-known German chemist, showing that in ordinary domestic stoves in use not more than twenty per cent. of fuel consumed is really utilised for warming the rooms, whereas with stoves burning gas, eighty per cent. and more of the possible effect is obtained. In a sugar manufactory at Elsdorf, it is stated no steam engines have been used for several years. Gas is made at a cost of about 10d. per 1,000 cubic feet, and is used for lighting and driving gas engines. At the Essen works water gas is made at a cost of 4d. to 8d. per thousand feet, and serves both for fire and lighting.—*Iron.*

PECULIARITIES OF FAMOUS MEN.—Tycho Brahe, the astronomer, changed color, and his legs shook under him on meeting a hare or a fox. Dr. Johnson would never enter a room with his left foot foremost. If, by mistake, it did get foremost, he would step back and put his right foot foremost. Julius Cæsar was almost convulsed by the sound of thunder, and always wanted to get into a cellar or underground to escape the noise. To Queen Elizabeth the simple word death was full of horrors. Talleyrand trembled and changed color on hearing the same word spoken. Marshal Saxe, who met and overthrew opposing armies, fled and screamed in terror at the sight of a cat. Peter the Great could never be persuaded to cross a bridge; though he tried to master the terror he failed to do so, and when ever he set foot on one he would shriek out in dismay and agony. Byron would never help any one to salt at the table, nor would he be helped himself; if any of the article happened to be spilt on the table he would jump up and leave his meal unfinished.

CAN YOU CARVE?—I wonder how many there are, old or young, who can answer this question in the affirmative! No, I don't mean slash into the turkey or the roast and dig it apart, but do you understand the art—for art it is—so that you can perform the task with honor to yourself and without mortification to the lady of the house? Let me make a confession, —I do not, so you will understand why I value the little book sent me by Roberts Bros., which has for its title "Carving and Serving," and was written by Mrs. Lincoln, whose name in itself is authority enough. As Principal of the Boston Cooking School, she has a reputation surpassed by none, and her last little book is so well written and directions so plainly given, I know there are many of my readers who will be gladly possess the book and study it, feeling that they never invested 60 cents more wisely. How many times we have all been ashamed at the awkward attempts of a carver! Mrs. Lincoln does not put in a lot of pictures with dotted lines that don't amount to anything, but takes each kind of meat and carefully explains each part and how to cut it. There are also many excellent remarks about serving.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP," and take no other kind.

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