

Scientific and Sanitary.

The submarine cable between Scotland and the Isle of Mull was recently broken for a week, but electric communication between the Island and the mainland was maintained by means of an induction apparatus. The distance from the mainland is two miles. There were already wires along the island coast. A parallel line was constructed on the mainland coast, and messages sent over it were read by a telephone connected with the wire on the island, and vice-versa.

Gutturals predominate in Norway and Russia, whereas, far to the southward, in sunny Italy, there is a profusion of such euphonious names as Palermo, Verona, Campobello, and so forth. Even in the British Isles, covering so few degrees of latitude, there is a marked difference between the "hurr" of the Highlander and the soft speech of the native of Southern England. A theory which may partly account for these climatic effects is based upon the contrast of the stillness which usually pervades southern lands with the stormy iniquitude of northern countries. Cloudless skies for months at a time characterize the climate of Italy, while a firmament entirely free from clouds is rare in Norway. It requires, of course, greater efforts to be heard in regions which are swept by winds and storms than in still southern latitudes, and to be heard distinctly amid the noise and confusion of the elements, words must be used which contain many consonants. Among the inhabitants of more tropical climes the tendency is towards soft and musical cadence, and travellers relate that in regions in South America, such as Peru and Venezuela, where atmospheric disturbances are rare, the natives almost chant the phrases of salutation.

"In antiquity," says *Cosmos*, "besides indigo and purple, few colours were employed, and these were obtained for the most part from the vegetable kingdom, but their purity was so great that they have kept well to our own times, after having undergone for centuries the action of the air and the sun. The fact is particularly remarkable in the Egyptian tombs; the stone has been disintegrated by weathering, while the colours have been preserved. The colour that we meet most frequently is a mixture of a reddish-brown oxid of iron (red hematite) and clay, known under the name of Pompeian red. This colour which has resisted for 4,000 years the sun of Egypt and the action of the air, is equally proof against acids. The Egyptians reduced it, by rubbing between stones under water, to a degree of fineness that we cannot obtain nowadays by chemical precipitation. An equally precious yellow pigment, also much used, was formed of a natural oxid of iron mixed with much clay, chalk and water, and browned by the action of heat; the mixture of the two colours gives orange. For this yellow colour, gold bronze or gold leaf was also employed. For blue, they used a glass coloured with copper minerals; this pigment was not less permanent than the preceding, even acids having very little effect upon it. Gypsum or plaster-of-Paris furnished white and also formed the basis of pale colours when organic pigments were added to it, probably madder for red. The colours were always thinned and rendered adhesive by means of gums. It is interesting to know, as is proved by inscriptions, that the artists regarded their colours as imperishable."

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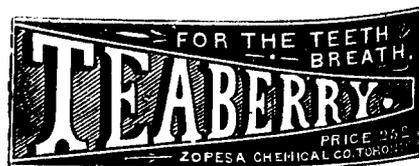
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