

SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.

At the Frankfort electrical exhibition there is an interesting feature in the shape of a series of arc lamps supported on a revolving drum. The lamps are kept burning in spite of the movement, and the device is said to be especially valuable for steam-boats, locomotives and lighthouses.

OAK timber loses about one-fifth of its weight in seasoning, and about one-third its weight in becoming dry. Gradual drying and seasoning are considered the most favourable to the durability and strength of timber. Kiln drying is particularly serviceable for boards and pieces of small dimensions, and unless performed slowly is apt to cause cracks and impair the strength of the wood. If timber of large dimensions be immersed in water for some weeks, it is improved, and is less liable to warp and crack in seasoning.—*Scientific American*.

PHOTOGRAPHY on a black background is a subject that is attracting much attention nowadays, while the curious results obtained by double exposures in connection with it are constantly being shown. A rather startling picture found in *La Nature* shows an artist juggling with his own head and photographing himself. To get a suitable background, in order that the bust may be degraded on the black, has hitherto been the difficulty. The artist in question, however, has discovered that the night's darkness from a window or door makes as black a background as could be desired, while the flash light admits of the making of any exposure in front of it. When the door is used the model is placed face to the apparatus, a little back of the embrasure, and the light is flashed at the side. A deep, black shadow, projecting behind the sitter, gives the desired black background.

The Pacific Post Telegraph Company lately had a gathering of some 500 guests at the opening of a new telegraph office in San Francisco. After shortly describing the various instruments, the superintendent said he was often asked how long it took to telegraph to different places and get a reply. He would, therefore, now send telegrams to Portland, New York, Washington, Seattle, Tacoma, Canso (Nova Scotia), and London, enquiring about the weather. The first reply came from Portland in 3 minutes, "Weather fine"; the next from New York in 3 minutes 10 seconds, "Misty and warm"; Washington in 3 minutes 11 seconds, "Misty and warm"; Seattle in 3 minutes 21 seconds, "Misty and calm"; Tacoma in 3 minutes 28 seconds, "Misty, cool, and calm"; Canso (Nova Scotia) in 4 minutes 20 seconds, "Cold and misty"; while the answer "Misty and cold" came from London in 6 minutes 22 seconds.—*Electrician*.

"German Syrup"

Here is an incident from the South—Mississippi, written in April, 1890, just after the Grippe had visited that country. "I am a farmer, one of those who have to rise early and work late. At the beginning of last Winter I was on a trip to the City of Vicksburg, Miss., where I got well drenched in a shower of rain. I went home and was soon after seized with a dry, hacking cough. This grew worse every day, until I had to seek relief. I consulted Dr. Dixon who has since died, and he told me to get a bottle of Boschee's German Syrup. Meantime my cough grew worse and worse and then the Grippe came along and I caught that also very severely. My condition then compelled me to do something. I got two bottles of German Syrup. I began using them, and before taking much of the second bottle, I was entirely clear of the Cough that had hung to me so long, the Grippe, and all its bad effects. I felt tip-top and have felt that way ever since." PETER J. BRIALS, Jr., Cayuga, Hines Co., Miss.

IN November next there will be held, at the Crystal Palace in London, an international exposition of electricity, which will last several months. It was projected in consequence of the successful one held at Vienna, and will be subject to the same conditions. The objects exhibited will be received from October 12 to November 3, and the arrangements must be complete by the 6th of November.—*Paris La Nature*.

THE origin of vegetable life on the globe presents as many difficulties as the study of the birthplace of man. Sir Edward Forbes, many years ago, propounded a theory of "numerous centres of creation"—a theory that has met with more or less favour. Lyell and Darwin seem to have entertained some such views. Professor Macoun inclines to the belief that the plants of North America had their original home in the north, and that all the flora which we find only in a fossil condition originated in the same manner, in one spot in the northern regions, and have migrated southwardly.—*New York Independent*.

FROM a recent issue of *Nature* we learn that M. Raspail has lately called attention in the Zoological Society of France to the serious diminution of birds in that country through destruction of their nests. Some insectivorous species are becoming very rare, while the ravages of parasites on useful plants are extending. Boys, of course, do a great deal of the mischief; and of the various animals which attack nests (the squirrel, the hedgehog, the dormouse, the magpie, etc.), M. Raspail regards the cat as the worst offender. On a recently wooded property of about seven acres he observed last year as follows: Out of thirty-seven nests, carefully watched, only eight succeeded; twenty-nine were destroyed, fourteen of these by the cat, though effort had been made to ward off this insatiable marauder. On a large property in the centre of a village the owner had about eighty cats annually caught in traps. The place having lately changed hands, the gardeners estimate that more than one hundred nests were destroyed last year, three-fourths of these by cats. M. Raspail advocates a rigorous application of the law for protection of insectivorous species, the disqualification of the cat as a domestic animal, and the giving of prizes to foresters and others for destruction of all animals which prey on eggs and young in the nest.

THE necessity of devoting to sleep several hours in each day, says the *Lancet*, is too obvious to admit of serious question. The proper selection of these hours is also, for those who would prolong and usefully employ life, a very needful consideration, though its importance may to some be less evident. We have all met with persons, outside of hospitals and of parliament, who do half or more of their daily work after nightfall, and sleep long after earlier rising men are awake and busy. Some of these are wont to extol the comfort of their morning slumbers. They describe as immense the refreshment they receive from six or seven hours thus agreeably spent, and no wonder, for the sense of present satisfaction must be very marked, and that for definite reasons. Man, in common with most of the animal creation, has accepted the plain suggestion of Nature that the approach of night should imply a cessation of effort. If he ignores this principle his work is done against inherited habit, and, so far, with additional fatigue. It follows, too, from our ordinary social conditions, that he must use artificial light, and sustain its combustion at the cost of his own atmosphere. Naturally, therefore, when he does rest, his relief is in proportion to his weariness. As in many other cases, however, sensation is not here the most reliable guide to judicious practice. Established custom affords a far truer indication of the method most compatible with healthy existence. The case of the overworked and the invalid lends but a deceptive colour to the argument of the daylight sleeper. In them excessive waste of tissue must be made good, and sleep, always too scanty, is at any time useful for this purpose. For the healthy majority, however, the old custom of early rest and early waking is certain to prove in future, as returns of longevity and common experience alike show that it has proved in the past, most conducive to healthy and active life.—*Science*.

A DESPATCH from Dr. W. H. Burk, of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, who accompanied the Peary polar expedition, announces the arrival of the *Kite* at St. John's, Newfoundland, on her return voyage. Lieutenant Peary, whose leg had been broken, was left with his wife and five companions in winter quarters at McCormick's Bay, Murchison's Sound. All on board the *Kite* were well, and the scientists brought home with them large collections of the flora and fauna of Greenland.

IN regard to the disease producing or pathogenic germs, says the *Sanitary News*, it is important to understand what forces or agencies will retard their multiplication or wholly destroy them. In emergencies, chemistry is resorted to and antiseptics and disinfectants are employed, but in the proper prevention of disease such emergencies should not be allowed to arise. Sunlight, pure air and thorough cleanliness are natural enemies to disease germs. They cannot flourish where they have not their proper food, and that is found in dampness, darkness, mould and filth. Keep the habitation flooded with sunshine and pure air, keep away all filth and dampness, and the germs of disease will find no foothold, no nidus in which to breed, or food on which to grow. Nature is struggling all the time to keep her domain healthful and a fit habitation for man, but man shuts out the air and light, contaminates all things about him, and disease is the reward of his recklessness and neglect. There is more health in a sunbeam than in drugs, and more life in 'pure air' than in the physicians' skill. The sunlight may fade your parlour carpet, but better that than have disease fade your cheek. The wind may "tan" and "freckle" the face, but it is better tanned and freckled than thin and sallow. Help Nature to keep your habitation healthful by allowing her forces an opportunity to operate. There is more health about you than disease. Health is man's natural condition. He has to violate some law before the penalty of disease is inflicted. He can place about him such conditions that disease-germs will invade his system, or he can live amid surroundings so pure that health will bless him both in his freedom from physical ills and in the sweet consciousness of right living.

THE October *Domestic Monthly* will contain, as a supplement, a handsome plate in five colours, of some of the new fall fashions. These plates are very expensive, but they will be a feature of the *Domestic Monthly* hereafter, and no change has been made in the subscription price. All the popular departments of the magazine are retained and improved. The October number contains over 150 illustrations, and is as handsome a periodical as one would care to see. It is the most complete of the fashion magazines, and its stories and sketches are always readable. It is a constant wonder how the publishers can give so much for so little money. It has justly been called the cheapest good magazine published. The *Domestic Monthly* is published at 853 Broadway, New York, at \$1.50 a year, post paid, with \$1.00 worth of patterns to every subscriber.

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