

Advances Scientific Miscellany.

A Spanish physician, Dr. Olive, makes use of powdered cobweb as a remedy for fever.

Paper made from strong fibres can now be compressed into a substance so hard that nothing but the diamond can scratch it.

A new method of illumination, adopted in a lighthouse at New South Wales, consists of an arrangement for the use of gas in clear weather and the electric light when cloudy.

It has been affirmed that it is possible to transmit electric energy for working motors to a short distance only.

An interesting experiment is said to have been made with a hibernating hedgehog, in which the brain of the sleeping animal was removed, then the entire spinal cord, but for two hours hardly any change was noticeable in the action of the heart and a day afterward that organ contracted when touched by the operator.

Prof. Boyd Dawkins, in depicting the appearance of the world before man, has recently described America in the esocene and miocene periods as being connected with Europe by a heavily wooded barrier of land stretching past the Faroe Islands while the glaciers and fens of Europe were indistinguishable from those of this continent.

Seasons of low water in the lakes of Switzerland offer favorable opportunities for adding to our knowledge of the ancient lake-dwellers. The water of Lake Constance has lately been lower than at any other time since 1805, and advantage has been taken of it to examine a number of lacustrine dwellings, with the result of numerous discoveries of implements.

The largest trees known are probably a *escypalis angustata*, or "peppermint tree," growing in the Dandenong district of Victoria, Australia, which is said to measure 370 feet to the starting point of the crown, and 417 feet to the top, and another specimen of the same species, mentioned by Bancroft in the "Journal of the Royal Society," as having attained the height of 490 feet.

A very general idea is that a tendency to certain diseases is indicated by certain types of faces, as is shown by the frequent use of such phrases as "consumptive-looking." The subject has been investigated by Dr. Galton and Malcom, whose conclusions thus far fail to support the belief that certain physical characteristics prove a special liability to consumption or other disease, although it may perhaps be shown that the effects of the disease when commenced may be influenced by such.

During an address by Prof. W. E. Ayrton on the "storage of power," the lecture theatre was lighted, a circular saw driven and an elevator operated by means of electric energy which had been stored the previous day in Farne accumulating batteries. The total quantity of energy was 50,000,000 foot-pounds, a little more than twenty-five horse-power exerted for one hour. A single cell, containing 81 pounds of lead and sulphuric acid is found to store 1,440,000 foot-pounds of energy.

It has been proven by direct comparison that objects which are white by sunlight appear yellowish under electric light, and red when seen by galathea. "The illusion," says Dr. Werner Siemens, "arises from our being accustomed to see the earth really illuminated after sunset, and on this basis forming a different scale of colors for ourselves. Daylight would accordingly by night appear still bluer than the electric light. This false idea would disappear if electric illumination became general."

In a recent lecture, Prof. Edward Frankland stated that six millions of tons of coal are probably burned in London during the winter months, and the quantities of steam, rock tar and sulphurous acid discharged into the air as products of this combustion are enormous. These products unite to form the London fog. Steam supplies the basis of all fog, and the vapor particles become covered with dirt, which renders them more permanent; dirt is necessary to produce fog, while sulphurous acid promotes it. Dr. Frankland illustrated these points by repeating an experiment with a glass jar filled with a large flask with most air freed from dirt by filtering, then cooled the flask, when a slight mist was formed which disappeared in a moment; repeating the experiment with air containing its normal charge of dirt, the fog was much more dense and lasting. Tarry matters render fog persistent by retarding evaporation. He believes that the general substitution of anthracite for bituminous coal would do much toward freeing the metropolis from the fog, as the discharge of tar and soot into the atmosphere would thus be vastly lessened.

Mistaken Identity. Mr. Biggs was smothering around the Union station as the train came in from Buffalo, when he was surprised with "Why, George, how are you old fellow?"

"Well, if it ain't Jack Duncan I glad to see you. Come right along home with me." "No, George, I'm too dirty. Been snowed in on the road; helped shovel snow, slept in a bar-room; haven't had a change of shirts for a week."

"Never mind appearance, nobody at the house. My wife took the 4:30 P. M. train for an all night with her sister in Plainville. I'll furnish a shirt, and I've a fine bathing-room in the house. Come now; you haven't honored me since I was married."

"Well, since the wife is away I'll surrender. I'll wear a regular rooster night of it." "Jack Duncan is a bachelor, with a holy horror of women. Feminine presence paralyzes and stupefies him. 'Here's the linen,' 'showing him into the bath room a few minutes later. 'There's the bath all ready. Now shape up while I go to Johnson's and order up one of our old cloth linens. Nobody in the house; so just slip around as pleasure.' Biggs departed, leaving the door ajar Jack did not notice it in his eagerness for an immersion."

He had just unbuttoned out and resumed his pastations when he heard footsteps approaching the door. Thinking it was Biggs returning he seized the freshly laundered shirt, opening at the back, and jammed his head into it. It came down over his face, completely blind, folding him, and the starch baffled his efforts to tunnel through.

Just as he commenced straddling around with suspenders dangling, he heard a rustle that congealed his blood.

"The poor squeaked and a cheery voice said: 'Now I've got you, Mr. Biggs. The train left me, so I made a call or two and came back. I heard you playing sea lion in the bath-room as I entered the house; I got the buggy whip and slipped up to pay you back for exasperatingly teasing me. Now I'm ring master here, dear hubby. Move lively! And she snapped her whip in a business way that suspended the bachelor's animation. The shirt hid his face, and taking his silence for a spousal submission to the joke, she began: 'Gentlemen and ladies; Mademoiselle Biggs, Queen of the saddest arena, will now introduce her handsome and perfectly trained mule, Hubby Darling. He will walk in the arena on his hind feet with his head and forepaws a-hornd in a linen canopy. Come, now, Hubby! Hoop la! hoop la!'"

"She chirped, fetching him a wipe with the whip that made his bare feet spank the floor like a clog-dancer. 'Linger up, Hubby! Lively, now! Up, up, up,' and she underscored the last 'up' with a brier out, making Hubby Darling skip so impulsively that daintily suspended about like a donkey's tail, and his hands dove instinctively to the preservation of his unsustained pantaloons. 'I blindfolded Hubby Darling to prevent him climbing the center-pole. It's the trickiest center-pole that covets the magic circle. The peepless pair of the canvas pavilion. Hoop, la! What beautiful action! Yet, fellow countrymen, I never carry him down with anything but this silkglossomd snapper. Hoop, la! (Popitashah.)'

"I cover his ears that he may not offend the most fastidious; they resemble a cross between a mail bag and the human appendage. Hoop la! (Zip, zip.) Let the Golden Cornet Band lead up Hubby's Homopie redoubt and highly favored, and Hubby Darling shall—'"

"'B-b-beg your pardon, m-madam, sputtered the victim, as his head and voice shot out of the shirt. Then—"

"She started, stopped, Spill-bound, amazed; The whip she dropped, and that she snatched. A cherub she shrieked. And down she toppled. But the terrified sufferer caught her gally in his arms, just as Biggs rushed in with—"

"Jack, are you drowning? Great heavens! my wife!" "Take her, Biggs. I'm tuckered out. A-ward prodigious! Her hair is flying off. Explain yourself instantly, sir!—You half dressed, my wife in your arms! and he bristled all over like a wire fence.

"Hold on, George, I've got about all I can stand. Let me get my clothes on and I will go where men are fit to be seen. Your wife thought I was—"

"Hubby, darling—oh, that blindfold!" murmured the queen of the arena, half consciously. "Hear that, sir! What's this about blindfold?" "I got stuck in that confounded shirt. Your wife took me for—"

"The Peerless Princess of the Arena. Hoop la!" gasped the queen, rousing a little. "Merciful heavens! Hear that raving! You've despoiled my wife's reason. Oh, base ingrate! Don't leave this house at the peril of your life. You shall—"

"'Dance the saw dust on his hind feet,'" muttered the queen convulsively. "My poor wife! I will avenge your wrongs," groaned Mr. Biggs, chaffing her hands agonizingly. "My head was split in the shirt. She couldn't see my face and thought it was you," shrieked the tortured man hoarsely. "Very likely! Be a man, sir. Don't shrink from the punishment of your 'misdeed.'" "Where am I! It is a dream!" mused the queen, opening her optics and glaring wildly. "What has that villain done?" demanded Biggs, fiercely.

"Oh, mercy! It is no dream. He did nothing. Take me to my room. Oh, husband, how could you be so careless!" "Don't go, Jack; maybe I've made a zebra of myself; stay now till the fog rises!" and he bore his willed wife away.

An hour later they sat around a marvelous supper, Biggs having made a second trip to the door. They held their sides and shrieked, and repeated the points of the episode, again and again.

"Jack is christened 'Hubby Darling.' He sighs for more marriage felicity. When Biggs wants to silence his wife he snaps his fingers and pipes—'Hoop la!'"—Denver Tribune.

"Persons suffering from impure blood, or whose health is giving way, either as ministers or those who study closely, will find in Fallow's Syrup of Hypophosphites the material to build them up and the tonic to keep them there." Dr. C. CLAY.

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