

## THE MOABITE STONE.

The trustees of the British Museum, says a correspondent, have exhibited a handsome present just received from the authorities of the Louvre, in Paris. It is a cast of what is known as the Moabite Stone, the history of which is one of the romances of archaeology. It records the successful attempt of Mesha, King of Moab, about 900 B. C., to throw off the yoke of slavery imposed by the Israelites upon his country after it had been endured forty years, together with the ignominious retreat of the Israelites from the land they had so long annexed. The only references to this triumph of Mesha, which he piously ascribes to the grace of his god Chemosh, to be found in the Old Testament, is the curt statement in 2 Kings, i. 1, to the effect that then Moab rebelled against Israel, after the death of Ahab. The cast is a very fine one, closely resembling marble; but the stone itself, which is about 40 inches high, 20 inches wide, and the same in thickness, is a heavy compact piece of basalt. The extreme hardness is the reason why the letters, which are in the Phœnician character, are engraved quite superficially.

The Moabite Stone, the singular history of which is not difficult of access, was first discovered in 1863 by Mr. Klien, at Dibhan, the Dibon of the Bible, on the east side of the Dead Sea, and after having been destroyed by the Arabs, and since collected fragment by fragment, and reconstructed by M. Clermont-Ganneau, has for a long time been one of the most valuable objects in the oriental department of the Louvre.

**SALICYLIC ACID IN BEER.**—Some interesting experiments by Heinzelmann have been published, which offer additional proofs of the value of salicylic acid as an antiseptic, when used judiciously, really strengthens and encourages the growth of yeast. The author's experiments show that, although the vitality of the yeast is completely destroyed by the presence of 0.03 per cent of salicylic acid, the addition of only 0.01 per cent actually favors its greatest activity, and further, that the yeast cells developed in the presence of this proportion of salicylic acid are stronger and larger than those produced in a solution free from this acid; moreover, the production of alcohol in a given time is said to be greater. The addition of the part of salicylic acid to 10,000 parts of the mash is said to favor fermentation, especially when sugar is used. In two series, each of three experiments, cultures employed (1) beer alone and beer mixed respectively with (2) 100 and (3) 200 grains per barrel. The three beers were exposed to the air for two weeks, and subsequently closed up for a month, after which period they were examined. The beer 1 without salicylic acid was sour, beer 2 was only slightly sour, and beer 3 not at all. To complete the investigation, the salicylated beer was employed for dietetic purposes for several weeks without any deleterious effect on the health of the experimenter. It is therefore clear that the addition at most of 250 grains (about one-half ounce) per barrel preserves the beer without affecting its use as a beverage. The author contends the use of salicylic acid, and maintains that a medicinal amount would never be added, owing to the facility with which salicylic acid may be accurately estimated.

## SALE OF JAMES BAY LOTS.

At the auction sale of James Bay lots, held at the salesrooms of Messrs. J. P. Davies & Co., last Saturday, the attendance was large and the bidding of a character calculated to fill the auctioneer's heart with joy. The prices obtained show that real estate is still steadily appreciating in value. We append the names of the purchasers and the prices paid for the different pieces of property:

T. Nuttall, lot 937, \$580; lot 947, \$580; lot 938, \$610. L. Levy, lot 948, \$550; T. C. Nuttall, lot 939, \$630. G. Montobio, lot 940, \$560. E. M. Johnson, lot 1342, \$715; lot 1343, \$600; lot 1344, \$600; lot 1345, \$600. R. Horne, lot 1317, \$625. F. Carne, lot 1316, \$460. S. Fein, lot 1325, \$450; lot 1324, \$340. F. Carne, lot 1315, \$510. F. W. Jesse, lot 1323, \$265. H. E. Croasdale, lot 1314, \$455. F. W. Jesse, lot, 1322, \$265. H. E. Croasdale, lot 1313, \$510. T. Allsop, lot 1321, \$270. A. Watson, jr., lot 1320, \$285. J. H. Todd, lot 1312, \$500; F. W. Jesse, lot 1311, \$520; lot 1319, \$345; lot 1972, \$405. W. Prout, lot 1952, \$390; 1971, \$365. G. Martin, lot 1953, \$360; lot 1970, \$310. W. Prout, lot 1954, \$375. George Steitz, lot 1969, \$365; lot 1955, \$425; lot 1968, \$400.

## RECEIPTS OF COAL IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR AUGUST.

The receipts of coal at San Francisco last month were larger than for any previous month this year, and the total was nearly 18,000 tons in excess of July. The quantity was proportionately distributed among the several sources of supply. Exclusive of the product of the Mount Diablo mines, the deliveries for August and for the first eight months of the year have been as follows:

	For August.	Jan. 1 to Aug. 31.
Carbon Hill.....	16,890	101,015
Benton.....	2,066	28,202
Seattle.....	15,345	87,459
Coos Bay.....	1,800	16,109
Anthracite.....	1,458	9,805
Cumberland.....	3,000	15,967
East Wellington.....	1,600	10,403
Namaimo.....	9,796	64,244
Wellington.....	7,030	73,686
Australian.....	12,688	74,574
English.....	6,823	35,353
Welsh.....	2,401	12,814
Scotch.....	2,375	11,356
Totals.....	83,272	540,927

The late Java earthquake has been minutely studied by a Dutch engineer, officially sent out by the government, and his report gives most interesting details respecting the causes and effects of the volcanic eruptions in Sunda Straits. Beginning on August 20th, they attained their maximum on the 27th, when the sound of their reports could be heard in Ceylon and Australia, thus traveling over a surface of 2,049 miles and forming a circle representing the fifteenth part of the whole surface of the globe.

Acoustic canes are a French invention for the benefit of persons afflicted with imperfect hearing.