

manifest great astonishment when they discover they are not in an African desert. They have not yet become accustomed to being born on this continent.

DR. ERNEST TIETJEL, a physician of New York, who resided several years in Tokio, Japan, has received from the Mikado the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, as a recognition of services rendered to the National Board of Health, of Japan. The decoration carries with it a high political rank.

EDGAR ALLAN Poe's mother-in-law, Mrs. Clemm, was a model woman. The poet did not like to be alone and she used to sit up with him until four o'clock in the morning. "He wrote and she dozed, waking every hour or so to give him a cup of hot coffee. At home (she writes) he was simple and affectionate as a child, and during all the years he lived with me I do not remember a single night that he failed to come and kiss his 'mother'—as he called me—before going to bed."

DR. WILLIAM HAYES WARD, of the N. Y. *Independent* was in Bulgaria last year. He says, "The Bulgarians are the most ambitious of all the late subjects of the Turkish Empire, and they are perfectly crazy for self-government and education. They have had less culture than many of the Armenian races, who have an almost equal ambition to form a nationality of their own. But there are a superior vigor and executive capacity among the Bulgarians. The training they have had is almost entirely American. The leading men are graduates of American schools, and have studied American constitutional law."

SALAMON the Black President of Hayti, has a French wife of great intelligence and courage. She has helped him over many rough places, and is very popular among the Haytiens. Although a white woman, she considers herself identified with their interests and welfare."

LADY DUFFERIN, says *Harper's Weekly*, has distinguished herself by establishing in India a national association for supplying female medical aid to women. The scheme is to educate native women to be nurses and midwives as well as physicians. Skilled women physicians will be imported from Europe and America to act as teachers. Lady Dufferin has accepted the presidency of the association. She is an accomplished woman, of noble impulses and exquisite tact, and this enterprise promises to be potent in the emancipation of Indian women. Meanwhile it will relieve much suffering in a country where social customs do not allow a sick woman to consult a male physician, but permit her to languish and die in solitude.

DURING the past forty years, in the United States, there has been a decrease in the per capita consumption of distilled spirits of fully forty per cent., an increase of sixty per cent. in the per capita consumption of wines, and the enormous increase of six hundred and forty-two per cent. in the per capita consumption of beer and other malt liquors.

THE uses of paper, on side of its ordinary commercial purposes for printing, writing and wrapping, are constantly increasing; its great cheapness suggesting its employment for widely differing purposes. Some of its latest uses seem very curious, but are not more so than its employment as car wheels, in which it has been very successful. It is, in fact, one of the most adaptable products of the hand of man. One of the most remarkable uses is the manufacture of zylonite, which can be made in imitation of horn, rubber, tortoise shell, amber and glass, and adapted to a wide variety of uses, one of its most valuable being an imitation glass for cathedral windows.

ONE of the neatest retorts ever made in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was a brief response lately given by a young lady to an undergraduate who offered her, with some hesitation, his seat in the horse-car. She got in with an older companion; the car was crowded, and two young men sat near. One gave his seat at once to the older lady; the other kept his place. His friend asked him—disguising it, however, in German—why he did not give his place to the young lady. He answered, in the same language, "Because she is not pretty enough." After a little reflection, however, he, too, rose and surrendered his seat. The young lady took it, and thanked him—in German. Since the world began I do not think that an extinguisher was ever more effectively dropped upon an impertinent you'h.

A BIRD, according to the London *Graphic*, has been discovered in South America, which is born with four feet. One pair of feet remain such and the other pair gradually change into wings. The writer a few months ago saw at the rooms of Mr. N. P. Melville, taxidermist, 319 Yonge street, Toronto, the stuffed skin of an entirely wingless bird, from New Zealand. Only its technical name—*Owens Aptery*—was given. It presented a pretty appearance and was of a mottled gray color, with three cross bars of a darker shade on each feather. It was about 18 inches in length, with a bill more than 3½ inches long. Mr. Melville had many other curiosities.