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SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.

A distinguished French specialist is now claiming that a hypodermic injection of nitrate of strychnine will cure alcoholism.

Eisleben, the birthplace of Martin Luther, is sinking into the morass upon which it is built. Efforts to drain the bog have been without avail.

Arctic explorers who have found themselves in the midst of an aurora describe it as producing a cooling, prickly sensation and a very exhilarating effect.

The upper third of the face is altered in expression, say physiognomists and doctors, in affections of the brain, the middle third in diseases of the chest, and the lower third in diseases of the organs contained in the abdominal cavity.

According to a German authority the total length of lines in the world is about 1,006,000 miles, of which 540,000 are in America and 380,000 in Europe; in the United States there are about 400,000 miles, which is the greatest in any one country.

An authority on hypnotism says that hysterical persons are very difficult to influence. They are so wedded to their own fancies—mental and physical—that they prove very obstinate hypnotic patients. Even if an influence is gained it passes off very quickly.

The Egyptian Government has issued an invitation to the architects of all countries to submit designs for a museum, to be built at Cairo, costing £123,000 sterling. The successful design will secure a prize of £630, and £420 will be divided among the next four designs. The Khedive is anxious to secure designs from Americans.

A cotton-picker which may revolutionize the whole process of gathering cotton has been invented by Eli Whitney, of New Haven, the grandson of the famous Eli Whitney who invented the cotton-gin. By means of this machine, which is called the Whitney harvester, the work of one hundred men can be done by two men and two horses.

The *Popular Science Monthly* says: "Although the science of electricity is still in its infancy, it is marvelous the progress it has made in the last 20 years. We have in the United States more than 300 mining companies making use of electricity for light and power, and fully one-third of all the copper refined in this country is treated by the electrolytic process."

The Thermogen is an appliance for keeping up the temperature of a patient during an operation, doing away with blankets and hot water bottles. It is in the form of a quilted cushion, with an arrangement of fine wires inside, by which any desired degree of heat may be maintained by electricity. It was exhibited at the last meeting of the Royal Society.

Only 906 persons in a million die from senility, while 1,200 succumb to gout, 18,400 to measles, 27,000 to apoplexy, 7,000 to erysipelas, 7,500 to consumption, 48,000 to scarlet fever, 25,000 to whooping-cough, 30,000 to typhoid and typhus and 7,000 to rheumatism. The averages vary according to locality, but these are deemed pretty accurate as regards the population of the globe as a whole.—*Medical Age.*

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Many species of bacteria are capable of doubling their number every hour. In this case, in the short space of 24 hours a single bacterium would increase to a number but little short of 17,000,000—to be exact, in 48 hours the offspring of this minute germ—which is not more than 1-15,000 of an inch in length—have increased to the surprising number of 281,500,000,000, their bulk being sufficient to fill a pint measure.—*Inventive Age.*

The brain is the most complex structure in the human body. In the adult man it weighs from 48 ounces to 50 ounces. In the new born child it weighs from 10 ounces to 14 ounces. At the age of seven it already averages 40 ounces. Beyond the age of 40 it slowly, but steadily, declines in weight—at the rate of about one ounce in ten years. The average weight of the female brain is less than the male. In the adult it amounts to about five ounces less. Degree of intelligence corresponds to some extent with brain weight, but to a greater extent with complexity and depth of convolutions.

The annual report of the Comptroller-General of the British Patent Office shows that during the year 1893 there were deposited 25,120 applications for patents against 24,171 in 1892. Under date of August 22, the United States Commissioner of Patents submits a report in which it is shown that there were received in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, 35,952 applications for patents; 1,050 applications for designs; 108 applications for reissues; 2,193 caveats; 1,720 applications for trademarks and 368 applications for labels. There were 22,546 patents granted, including reissues and designs; and 1,656 trademarks registered.