

Scientific and Sanitary.

The Greeks were so much afraid of lightning that they worshipped it. They endeavoured to avert its malignant influence by hissing and whistling at it. In places which had suffered by its altars were erected, and oblations made to avert the anger of the gods, after which no one dared to touch or approach them.

It is dangerous to enclose the bulb of an electric lamp in any fabric, even as light as mosquito netting, and from this practice many fires have originated. Experiment has shown that an incandescent lamp globe closely wrapped with paper, so that no air can pass between it and the glass, will catch fire in a very few minutes.

Latest reports of Dr. Nansen's voyage indicate that neither man nor beast exist in the immediate vicinity of the Pole. Even birds avoid the frigid atmosphere of the inner Arctic circle, and no life but that of the ocean depths is found. There is, apparently, no continent around the North Pole such as is found at the South. The next explorer will know better what not to look for than his predecessors.

In Germany a new process of colouring leather is being exploited. Electricity is used as the active agent. The leather is placed upon a zinc table, which forms the positive pole. The dyeing material is poured over this, and the negative pole connected to the leather. Under the action of the current the colouring matter penetrates the leather, and patterns may be designed upon the surface by covering it with a pattern plate connected to the negative pole.

One of the difficulties in getting sunlight into some of our cities, especially those in which soft coal is burned, is the smoke from the coal, which clouds the air and keeps back the light. To prevent this Prof. Ramsey, of University College, London, recommends legislation to make the use of smoke-consuming appliances compulsory in all factories consuming such coal, or the use of coke instead. He believes the sunlight destroys disease germs in the air, and this makes light essential to the health of the city as well as to the growth of the plant.

The natives of the New Hebrides, says Modern Medicine, render themselves a terror to their enemies by using poisoned arrows, the tips of which they smear with earth from certain marshes. M. Dantec has made a bacteriological study of these poisoned arrows, and finds that their fatal properties are due to the presence in the earth with which they are smeared of two deadly germs—a septic vibron, and the microbe of tetanus. The first of these produces death from malignant edema in twelve to fifteen hours. In cases in which a septic vibron has lost its virulence, the tetanus bacillus which is present proves equally, although less speedily, fatal. This observation of M. Dantec proves the incorrectness of the former theory that the tetanus bacillus is derived from a horse, since this animal is unknown in the New Hebrides Islands.

Punctuality in woman has been attained under hypnotic suggestion, in a remarkable set of experiments recently reported to the Society for Psychical Research. A young person of nineteen, who had never shown any capacity for calculation, and who was in good health at the time, though her nerves had been unstrung for a year before, was hypnotized and directed to do certain simple things at specified times, writing down the time when she thought she did them. The intervals suggested varied from a few hundred to over 20,000 minutes, and sometimes as many as six suggestions, starting at different hours, were working on her at once. The experiments read like the painful examples in the mental arithmetics. At four o'clock one day she was asked to do something in 10,080 minutes, beginning at ten the day before. In fifty-five experiments there were only two failures. On awakening, the subject had no recollection of the suggestions made to her.

scrofula

Any doctor will tell you that Professor Hare, of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, is one of the highest authorities in the world on the action of drugs. In his last work, speaking of the treatment of scrofula, he says:

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