

SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.

ARTIFICIAL PRECIOUS STONES.—A new process for the artificial production of those precious stones which consist essentially of crystallized alumina has been devised by Mr. James Morris, of Glasgow. Some few years ago a process was shown in Paris for the preparation of small artificial rubies, but Mr. Morris has succeeded in obtaining crystals one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. We shall await with interest further information as to the method of production. There appears to be no reason why the ruby and sapphire should not be obtained artificially, but attempts in this direction have hitherto proved failures.—*Industries.*

PROFESSOR MOSSO, of Turin, has demonstrated the importance of keeping the surface and extremities of the body warm during brain work by clearly proving that when the brain is active, much more blood is sent to it from the peripheral parts of the body. Professor Mosso has also found that the circulation of the blood in the brain is subject to fluctuations which are apparently not dependent on physical activity. Fatigue caused by brain work acts as a poison, which affects all the organs, especially the muscular system. The blood of dogs fatigued by long racing also acts as a poison, and when injected into other dogs makes them exhibit all the symptoms of fatigue. Sense of fatigue seems to be due to the products of the nerve-cells rather than to the deficiency of proper substance.—*Illustrated American.*

THE LARGEST FLOWER KNOWN.—In Mindinac, the farthest south-eastern island in the Philippine group, upon one of its mountains, the volcanic Apo, a party of botanical and ethnographical explorers found recently, at a height of 2,500 feet above the sea level, a colossal flower. The discoverer, Dr. Alexander Schadenberg, could scarcely believe his eyes when he saw amid the low growing bushes the immense buds of this flower growing like gigantic cabbage heads. But he was still more astonished when he found a specimen in full bloom, a five petalled flower nearly a yard in diameter, as large as a carriage wheel, in fact. This enormous blossom was borne on a sort of vine creeping on the ground. The native who accompanied Dr. Schadenberg called it "bolo." The party had no scale by which the weight of the flower could be ascertained, but they improvised a swinging scale, using their boxes and specimens as weights. Weighing these when opportunity served, it was found that a single flower weighed over twenty-two pounds. It was impossible to transport the fresh flower, so the travellers photographed it and dried a number of its leaves by the heat of a fire.—*Pearson's Weekly.*

"August Flower"

Biliousness, "ed with biliousness
Constipation, "and constipation
"for fifteen years;
Stomach "first one and then
"another prepara-
Pains. "tion was suggested
"to me and tried but
"to no purpose. At last a friend
"recommended August Flower. I
"took it according to directions and
"its effects were wonderful, reliev-
"ing me of those disagreeable
"stomach pains which I had been
"troubled with so long. Words
"cannot describe the admiration
"in which I hold your August
"Flower—it has given me a new
"lease of life, which before was a
"burden. Such a medicine is a ben-
"efaction to humanity, and its good
"qualities and
"wonderful mer- **Jesse Barker,**
"its should be **Printer,**
"made known to **Humboldt,**
"everyone suffer-
"ing with dyspep-
"sia or biliousness **Kansas.**
G. C. GREEN, Sole Man'fr, Woodbury, N.J.

In certain affections of the throat, such as acute pharyngitis, catarrh of the eustachian tube, with pain in the ear, a Swiss confrere says that he obtains excellent results from making the patients yawn several times a day. It produces, it seems, almost instantaneous relief; the symptoms rapidly subside, and the ear-ache disappears. Frequently the affection is cut short by this novel treatment. Yawning produces, as everyone knows, a considerable distension of the muscles of the pharynx, constituting a kind of massage, and under this influence the cartilaginous portion of the eustachian tube contracts, expelling into the pharynx the mucosities there collected. According to M. Naegeli, yawning is much more efficacious for affection of the tube than the methods of Valsalva or Politzer, and more rational than the insufflation of air, which is often difficult to perform properly.—*Medical Record.*

THE APPLICATION OF THE ELECTRIC CURRENT TO THE OXIDATION OF ARSENIC.—Stimulated by the good results obtained by E. F. Smith in the oxidation of metallic sulphides by the electric current, L. K. Frankel has tried with success the oxidation of arseniferous minerals by means of the same agency. His general mode of procedure is to drop the pulverized mineral into fused potash contained in a nickel crucible, attached to the positive pole of an electric circuit, a platinum wire, dipping in the molten potash, serving for the other electrode, and when sufficiently electrolyzed, to disintegrate the mass with water, filter, acidify with hydrochloric acid, made strongly alkaline, and again filter. The arsenic is then precipitated as ammonium magnesium arsenate, collected in a Gooch crucible, and weighed as pyroarsenate. The following minerals may be treated by this method, viz., zersdorffite, niccolite, arsenopyrite, cobaltite, proustite, orpiment, rammeisbergite, chloanthite, smaltite, domeykite, and enargite.—*Electrical Review.*

A LAND OCTOPUS.—Another carnivorous plant has just been discovered in Central America, where it would seem that plants and trees have a dangerously voracious tendency. The particular plant now in question is indigenous to the Nicaragua country, where it is known to the natives as the "devil's snare." Mr. Dunstan, a naturalist, has just returned from that region, where he has spent two years in studying the flora and fauna of the country. In one of the swamps which surround the great Nicaragua Lake, he was engaged in hunting for botanical and entomological specimens, when he heard his dog cry out, as if in agony, from a distance. Running to the spot whence the animals cries came, Mr. Dunstan found him enveloped in a perfect network of what seemed to be a fine, ropelike tissue of roots and fibres. The plant or vine seemed composed entirely of bare interlacing stems, resembling, more than anything else, the branches of the weeping willow denuded of its foliage, but of a dark, nearly black, hue, and covered with a thick, viscid gum that exuded from the pores. Drawing his knife, Mr. Dunstan attempted to cut the poor beast free; but it was with the very greatest difficulty that he managed to sever the fleshy muscular fibres of the plant. When the dog was extricated from the coils of the plant, Mr. Dunstan saw to his horror and amazement that the dog's body was blood-stained, while the skin appeared to have been actually sucked or puckered in spots, and the animal staggered as if from exhaustion. In cutting the vine, the twigs curled like living, sinuous fingers about Mr. Dunstan's hand, and it required no slight force to free the member from its clinging grasp, which left the flesh red and blistered. The gum exuding from the vine was of a greyish-dark tinge, remarkably adhesive and of a disagreeable odour, powerful and nauseating to inhale. The natives showed the greatest horror of the plant, and recounted to the naturalist many stories of its death-dealing powers. Mr. Dunstan said he was able to discover very little about the nature of the plant, owing to the difficulty of handling it, for its grasp can only be shaken off with the loss of skin, and even of flesh. As near as he could ascertain, however, its power of suction is contained in a number of infinitesimal mouths of little suckers, which, ordinarily closed, open for the reception of food. If the substance is animal the blood is drawn

off and the carcase or refuse then dropped. A lump of raw meat being thrown in, in the short space of five minutes the blood will be thoroughly drunk off and the mass thrown aside. Its voracity is almost beyond belief.

ADVANTAGES OF FOGS.—No less an authority than the president of the Institute of Civil Engineers has declared that the sulphurous vapour produced during the combustion of coal is most beneficial to the health of the inhabitants of London, disagreeable though it undoubtedly is. As many as 350 tons of sulphur are thrown into the air in one winter's day, and the enormous quantity of sulphurous acid generated from it deodorizes and disinfects the air, destroying disagreeable smells emanating from refuse heaps and sewers and killing the disease germs which find their way into the atmosphere. There may be a good deal of truth in this view, but there is undoubtedly another side to the question. It is an old comparison that a doctor and his drugs bear a relationship to the patient and the disease like that of a policeman towards a householder attacked by a garrotter. The policeman lays about with his truncheon, sometimes he hits the householder, sometimes the garrotter, and the good or ill which results from his interference will depend upon which party happens to get the most and the heaviest blows. This simile is admirably suited to sulphurous acid in London fogs, for although it may be beneficial to the London householders by destroying microbes, it certainly frequently does them harm by attacking their lungs and bringing on bronchitis and asthma which sometimes prove rapidly fatal, to say nothing of the minor discomforts of a disagreeable taste, filthy smell, stuffed nose, husky throat, smarting eyes, and headache. We think that, healthy though the London fogs may be, the discomforts they cause are so great that Londoners would be really better without them, and that less disagreeable and equally efficient means might be found to clear the air of microbes, while at the same time these other remedies would be enormously cheaper, for they would not entail the almost complete stoppage of traffic or the enormous expenditure of gas and electric light which a bad fog occasions.—*Lancet.*

WHEN weak, weary and worn out, Hood's Sarsaparilla is just the medicine to restore your strength and give you a good appetite.

CURRENTS of water serve to a vast extent the purpose of distributing seeds, says the *Boston Globe*. Walnut, butternut and pecan trees are found close to streams where they drop their nuts into the passing flood, to be carried far away and start other groves perhaps hundreds of miles distant. Tree seeds of many sorts are carried by oceanic currents.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

EVERY TESTIMONIAL in behalf of Hood's Sarsaparilla is strictly true and will bear the closest investigation. No matter where it may be from, it is as reliable and worthy your confidence as if it came from your most respected neighbour. Have you ever tried this excellent medicine?

MESSRS. C. C. RICHARDS & Co.

Cents.—I have used your MINARD'S LINIMENT successfully in a serious case of croup in my family. In fact I consider it a remedy no home should be without.

Cape Island.

J. F. CUNNINGHAM.

SO SAY ALL.—That MINARD'S LINIMENT is the standard liniment of the day, as it does just what it is represented to do.

THE BOYS AT SCHOOL.—Boys who are away at school should always have some quick and sure remedy for sudden attacks of Cramps, Diarrhoea, or Dysentery, for a physician is not always near, and an hour's delay in cases of this kind often leads to serious results. Therefore parents should supply their sons with PERRY DAVIS' PAIN KILLER, which is as efficacious as it is simple and harmless. Directions are with each bottle, and one dose rarely fails to bring relief to a sufferer from any bowel complaint. Only 25c. for a bottle double old size.



Emma J. Frederick

Our Baby

Was a beauty, fair, plump and healthy. But when two years old **Scrofula Humor** spread over her head, neck and forehead down into her eyes, one great sore, **itching and burning.** Hood's Sarsaparilla gave her new life and appetite. Then the humor subsided, the **itching and burning ceased,** and the sores entirely healed up. She is now perfectly well." I. W. FREDERICK, Danforth street, near Crescent ave., Cypress Hill, Brooklyn, N.Y.

HOOD'S PILLS cure all Liver Ills, biliousness, nausea, sick headache, indigestion.

MACHINES AND MEN.—A writer in one of our exchanges bewails the decay of mechanical skill in the following words: "The decrease of manual skill and of artistic sense among mechanical workmen results not merely from want of such all-round practice as they got half a century ago, but from a want of that sort of loving interest in their work the old-timers used to feel, when they could put something of their individuality into everything that they made. Nowadays the workman has simply to work out a design—or rather to run a machine to work out some part of a design—prepared by some artist whom he does not know and never has seen. The general result may be beautiful when the different parts are assembled, but the workman feels that he has no personal share in the production of its beauty. He has become a regulator of a machine; he simply sharpens tools, adjusts them, keeps his machine oiled, and puts into it the material to be worked upon. All the precision, the nicety of operation are due to the inanimate rather than the living tool. What interest can such work beget? What lofty ambition can it stimulate? What workman, when the bell rings the time to quit work, feels reluctant to leave his task, or lingers over it to bring out some beautiful effect or interesting combination that he feels he must see before he can depart contentedly! If machines were invented to play billiards, and only by their use could this kind of games be played, how long would the game be a favourite? If violins could be performed upon only by automatic mechanism, or pictures painted only by machine-actuated self-charging brushes, who would be charmed any longer by art? Neither the artist nor the dilettante; the artist and the dilettante would cease to exist. So, while we have gained much from the enormous increase in labour-saving machinery that has characterized the latter half of the present century, we have lost what probably will not soon be restored, the love of work and pride in work for its own sake, the love and pride that were the parents of mechanical skill, skill which, now they are dead, is itself decaying. The loss appears inevitable to those who scan the social horizon philosophically; it is, however, no less to be regretted because unavoidable. This tendency of labour-saving machines was many years ago pointed out by Ruskin, who, in the light of the fulfilment of his prediction, proved only too true a prophet. It is this effect upon the masses, more than unequal distribution of wealth, that is separating society in America into distinct classes."

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.