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In a recent lecture, Professor Dewar showed that very fragile bodies, such as soap-bubbles, may be frozen solid.

M. Grandeau, of Nancy, states that the world uses 19,500,000,000 bushels of wheat and 25,000,000,000 bushels of maize annually. Of the latter about 7,500,000,000 bushels are used by man, the rest being fed to animals.

According to a recent report of the Belgian Ministry of Finance the consumption of alcohol per inhabitant in the various countries of the world is as follows: Germany, 11 quarts per inhabitant; Great Britain, 5.42; Austria-Hungary, 6.39; Belgium, 8.86; United States, 5; France, 8.07; Italy, 1.97; Holland, 9; Russia, 6.3; Switzerland, 6.

The Venus' Fly-trap (*Dionaea muscipula*), one of the best-known types of insectivorous plants, has been found by recent investigation to be better adapted to the capture of creeping than of winged insects, a far larger number of the remains of the former than of the latter being found in the trap. The escape of winged insects is much facilitated by the slowness with which the trap acts.

It is said that a fraudulent door-mat has been put upon the market, which, though apparently made of textile material, is nothing but cheap wood-pulp pressed into strand through tubes and rendered elastic by treatment with tallow, glue, borax, etc. Such mats can be made for a few cents and sell for \$1.50. They are very attractive and deceptive in appearance, but moisture soon turns the whole fabric back into pulp.

Among the new and curious uses to which photography has been put by M. Marey and by other French scientific men, some of whose work has recently been described in *The Digest*, are the recording of the locomotion of serpents, eels, and insects; the movements of liquids, little drops of silvered wax being suspended in it to make them visible; making pictures of the interior of the eye; and detecting fraudulently obliterated cancellation marks on postage-stamps.

Of the seventy-nine works which use natural gas in whole or in part, forty-two are in Allegheny County, Pa., fifteen in other counties of western Pennsylvania, five in Ohio, and seventeen in Indiana. One now being rebuilt in West Virginia and two in course of erection in Indiana will also use natural gas. In 1892 only seventy-four works used natural gas, but their consumption of this fuel was much larger than that of the seventy-nine works which now use it. It is only in Indiana that the consumption of natural gas has increased during the last two years. In January, 1892, it was used by only six works in that State.

Professor Frohner, of the Berlin Veterinary School, has investigated the prevalence of tuberculosis among small domestic animals. In the clinic for small animals, during the last seven years, out of a total of 70,000, only 281, or 0.4 per cent., have been found to be suffering from tuberculosis. The proportion of tuberculous dogs was as low as 0.4 per cent.; cats seem to be considerably more subject to the disease, the proportion being 1 per cent. The animals most severely affected are parrots, the ratio of tuberculosis among them being as high as 25 per cent.; no doubt owing to imperfect

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acclimatization. Living as these birds mostly do in rooms constantly used by members of the family, their liability to tuberculosis makes them somewhat dangerous pets.

A phenomenal gas-well was recently drilled on a farm in Hancock County, Ohio, near Fostoria. The drill only reached the depth of 350 feet and the well had just been cased, when the drillers heard a roar of gas as the drill tapped the reservoir. They ran for their lives, but none too soon, as the ponderous drill was hurled as from a gun nearly 100 feet above the tree-tops. The casing followed in quick succession and was scattered and bent in a tangled mass. The gas soon ignited from the fires of the boiler and flame shot up 150 feet. The oil thrown out with the gas formed a lake of fire, making it impossible to get within 100 feet of the well. For quarter of a mile round the well, the gas rushed up through the boggy earth with such force that dirt and water were thrown ten feet or more. The entire wood is still filled with the gas coming through the ground, and people have left the place in fear. The roar of the gas can be heard nearly ten miles. Oil men declare that nothing like this well has ever been known. It is in entirely new territory, and is supposed to be a crevice or pocket which will soon blow itself out. At its present rate of speed it can never be brought under control.

Old age is at our heels, and youth returns no more.—*Cowper.*