

MISCELLANEOUS.

Health and Heat.

There have been some exceedingly warm days during the past month, and we have heard many old people say, "they were the warmest of any within their recollection." We understand that this extreme heat has not been confined to one district of our country, but has been felt in a number of the States—South and North. In Charleston, S. C., the mercury has been as high as 101° in the shade—a heat of atmosphere about as high as that of the blood, and at which a white person is almost rendered incapable of breathing. The mortality in our cities, especially, is greatest during the warmest months. There is also more disease and sickness during such weather. Many causes contribute to this result, but means may be adopted to prevent, at least in a measure—such evils. Excess is the cause of much disease—temperance in all things, is the grand preventive. In warm weather, fat meats, and alcoholic drinks are dangerous, because these contain a great deal of carbon—the heat sustainer of the body and are therefore least necessary in hot weather. Excess of physical and mental labor should also be avoided in warm weather, one extreme is enough for the human frame to endure at once. Citizens, who seek recreation in the country should avoid, for the first few days, any extraordinary effort, and should not walk, ride, or sail, for more than one hour at once in hot sunshine. We believe that many people, especially in our cities, do themselves great injury by excessive drinking, and not that of alcoholic beverages alone, but mixed drinks of various kinds, beers, soda waters, &c., and cold water. The Arab who endures with such constancy the burning heat of the desert, is a moderate man in his drink; but while we say this much, it is impossible for any person to go through very violent exercise in hot weather, without drinking a great deal of some liquid. Our farmers, in general, are very prudent in this respect. The majority of those who die in New York City, from overheating themselves, are foreigners.

Our object in writing this article, at present, is to direct attention to the benefits of moderation—temperance in all things—as we hold it to be the grand safe-guard of health, and during the hot months of the year, people are very often tempted to forget and neglect the practice this virtue.

A Novel Bathing Apparatus.

Our hydropathic friends will be surprised to learn that the almost numberless vessels heretofore used for bathing, in taking the different kinds of baths, may be rendered quite useless, by one apparatus, which subserves the purpose of all the bathing utensils formerly requisite, besides a variety of other purposes—in fact it assumes about as many shapes and forms as Proteus had; our correspondent who is now constructing it, thus enumerates the different purposes to which it may be applied, within the small compass of 6 feet in length, 2 feet wide, and 2½ or 3 feet high:—"I combine all the following qualities in one and the same apparatus, and so construct it that it can be changed to either of these forms, at pleasure in a moment's time—first, a vessel for an immersion bath; 2nd, a shower bath; 3rd, a sitz bath; 4 a head bath; 5th, a foot bath; 6th, a cataract bath; 7th, any other form of bath desired, a hose, &c.; 8th, a bureau; 9th, a secretary; 10th, a dressing-stand and mirror; 11th, a wash-stand, bowl, and sink; 12th, a writing table; 13th, a hat and coat hanger; 14th, an umbrella stand; 15th, &c." It is stated that the article is nearly complete. No material is used that will be effected by the cold or hot water, or that will corrode, or emit an unpleasant odor. All is represented as substantial and durable. This must be a remarkably novel and ingenious invention; it will probably be more particularly noticed hereafter.

Texas Salt.

We received yesterday from Corpus Christi, through the kindness of Capt. Parker, of the schooner Star, a sample of salt taken from a salt lake about seven miles from that place. It is a part of a quantity sent to the

editors of the Nueces Valley paper, published at Corpus Christi. Those gentlemen were kind enough to favor us with this specimen. It is clear colored, clean, well crystallized, and of good taste. The editors of the Nueces Valley say they are informed that the supply of it at the lake in question is inexhaustible. Small boats can run up to the beds, and one hundred bushels is the average product in the land per diem.—New Orleans Picayune, June 28.

Manufactures of New Hampshire.

There are in this State 44 cotton establishments in operation, covering an investment of \$10,950,560; manufacturing 113,106,247 yards of cloth, using 93,026 bales of cotton; consuming 7,679 tons of coal; involving a value of raw material of \$4,839,429; employing 2,912 male, and 9,211 female operatives; disbursing to the former \$75,713, and to the latter \$124,131 per month; making an average to the males of 25 45, and to the females \$13 47 per month; and producing an aggregate value of products of \$8,830,619. Woolen establishments 61; investments, \$2,437,700; yards of cloth manufactured, 9,712,840; pounds of wool used, 3,604,103; tons of coal, 3,600; value of raw material, \$1,267,293; number of males employed, 926; females, 1,201; entire wages per month, males, \$21,177; females, \$17,451; average wages per month for the former, \$22 84; the latter, \$17 51; value of the entire products, \$2,127,745.

Tobacco Seed Oil.

Foreign papers state that a British resident in Russia, who is a member of the Imperial Geographical Society of that country, and gardener to his Excellency, General Vsvoldj-sky, near Kizlior, has found, by experiment, that the seed of the tobacco plant contains about fifteen per cent of an oil that has superior desiccative qualities, which may be employed with advantage in paints and varnishes. The process of extraction is said to be simple and easy, requiring only a reduction of the seed to powder, which is to be kneaded into a stiff paste, with a sufficient quantity of hot water, and afterwards submitted to the action of a very strong press. The oil, when expressed, is exposed to a moderate heat, which, coagulating the vegetable albumen of the seed, precipitates all the impurities to the bottom of the vessel, leaving the oil in a perfectly clear and limpid state.

There is nothing particularly new in this discovery.

Population of Britain.

The Census of Great Britain, in 1851, has just been published in two thick volumes.—The number of people returned were 21,121,967, of whom 10,386,048 were males, 10,735,916 females, thus giving the ladies the advantage. On the night of the census, 12,924 were sleeping on barges, (vessels,) 9,972 in barns, and 8,277 in the open air or under tents. The number of families in Great Britain were 4,312,388; inhabited houses, 3,648,347. The towns, villages, &c., in Great Britain, 17,150. The British isles 500; inhabited, 175. Great Britain has upwards of 21,000,000, and Ireland upwards of 6,000,000 of souls. Anglesey Jersey, and the Isle of Man have 50,000, and Guernsey, Lewis, Skye, and Shetland over 20,000. These numbers, however, rapidly descend in the remaining islands from 10,000 1,000, 500, 400, 100, 40, 20, 10; and finally, at Inchcolm, an appanage of Fife, there is an island with one man only on it.

Trial of Reaping and Mowing Machines.

We learn from the "Germantown Telegraph," that a trial of reaping and mowing machines took place on the 31st ult., at Flourtown, Montgomery Co., Pa., which was well attended by the farmers of several counties and by Professor Wilson, one of the British Commissioners to the New York Exhibition, who is said to possess much knowledge of agriculture, and who appeared to feel much interest in the operations of the day. For mowing, but two machines were entered; and of these, Ketchum's proved the favorite. For reaping, but three machines entered, two of Hussey's patent, and one of Seymour's. The former worked admirably, but required seven men to bind and clear the track for each machine, as it throws the grain behind instead of at the side. The "Norristown Herald" says

that the trial was unsatisfactory to the spectators, and the "Germantown Telegraph" conveys the same impression. The judges awarded the premium of \$50 to Seymour's combined mower and reaper. According to the "Bucks County Intelligencer," 2,000 spectators were present.

At Mount Holly, N. J., on Saturday the 2nd inst., another trial of reaping machines took place under the auspices of the Burlington County Agricultural Society, at which a very large number of Jersey farmers were present. For mowing, Ketchum's machine proved the favorite there also. For reaping, Hussey's and McCormack's machines were tried and worked very well, the latter appearing to be the favorite among the farmers.—Such exhibitions have resulted in the diffusion of a better knowledge of the subject among the agricultural fraternity, and have produced a more general disposition to adopt agricultural machinery.

Fair of the American Institute.

The Managers of the Institute, we see, are determined to give the Crystal Palace a rub in competition, in the month of October next. The 26th Annual Fair will be held in the old place—Castle Garden—commencing on the 6th of that month. We see by the card of the Managers that they claim the merit of originating World's Fairs. Prince Albert, who originated the World's Fair in London, may put that in his pipe and smoke it, if he pleases. We perceive that no Ray premiums are offered this year, and not a word is said about railroad inventions. Nevertheless, we must say, the Institute has done good, if by misrepresentation in calling out railroad inventions. This was done upon the principle, we suppose, of "doing evil that good might come." We hope the Institute will have a good fair. \$500 have been appropriated as rewards for ingenious works of apprentices and minors—a course of policy which we esteem highly, and for which the Managers deserve credit.

Some have called the Institute "Old Foggy," but this fair will show to the world, that this epithet will be wiped out by a zealous activity and patriotic devotion worthy of patriots determined to conquer or die in a good cause—leaving out the Ray Premiums.

The Safest Seat in a Car.

The frequency of collisions on railroads has raised the question, which is the place of greatest security in a railroad train? The Railroad Journal gives the following as an answer:—

"It is very well known that the car nearest the engine is exposed to the least dust, and that the rear car of a train is generally safer than the front car. The safest is probably the last car but one, in a train of more than two cars; that is, there are fewer chances of accidents to this than any other.

If it is a way train at moderate speed, or any train standing still, a collision is possible from another train in the rear; in which case the last car receives the first shock.—Again, an engine and the front cars of a train will often go over a broken rail, or a cow, or stone, without derailment, while the last car, having nothing to draw it into the line of the train, is free to leave the track. Next to the forward car the rear car is probably the most unsafe in the train. The safest seat is probably near the centre of the last car but one, and in a very long train in the centres of the last two or three cars next to the last."

{This is the only rational answer that could be given, but how can every passenger be accommodated with a seat in the central car?}

American Bells.

Few persons have an idea of the extent to which the manufacture of bells is carried on in the United States. In the foundry of Meneely's Sons, West Troy, N. Y., there have within the last year been cast and sold 500 bells; and the demand therefore is so much on the increase as to compel them considerably to enlarge their works. In almost every part of the civilized world may the chimes of Meneely's bells be heard. Within a short period they have filled orders to China, St. Helena, Cuba, Jamaica, California, and Oregon, besides several to Canada, and almost

every State in the Union. They are now making to order a peal of ten bells for a new Episcopal Church in Savannah, Ga., and one of six bells for a church at Troy, N. Y.

Soap Suds as a Fertilizer.

The value of this liquid as a stimulant of vegetation does not appear to be generally appreciated by our agriculturists, many of whom make no use of it. In a state of incipient putridity, soap suds is replete with the element of vegetables, in a state of actual and complete solution; the only condition, indeed, in which it is susceptible of absorption and assimilation by the roots of plants. Besides its value as a powerful stimulant, it possesses, also, very potent anthelmintic properties, and when used in the irrigation of garden and field crops—the best way, perhaps, in which it can be applied to vegetables—operates as a remedy against the ravages of bugs worms, &c. Every farmer should have a large tank or vat, capable of holding from three to four cart-loads, it should be constructed in some place easy of access, and to which, without difficulty, the wash from the sink and laundry can be regularly conveyed. In this reservoir all the wash matter produced on the farm should be thrown—bones, refuse, ashes, muck turt, rich soil, and chip manure from the woodshed; in short, every substance capable of absorbing the rich fertilizing liquid, and retaining it for the benefit of the soil on which it is to be applied. Nature has everywhere supplied in munificent abundance, the means of fertility, and we have only to appropriate and apply them judiciously, to secure the best and most flattering results. Some agricultural writers have estimated the value of a hogshead of suds, in a state of incipient putridity, to be very nearly equal to that of a cord of prepared manure, but as its value depends entirely on the grease or fatty acids, and the soda or potash of which it is composed, non-nitrogenous materials, its virtues may be over-estimated.

Walking Under Water

A Frenchman in Paris, M. de St. Simon Sicard, has recently contrived an apparatus for submarine exploration, apparently very similar in its principal features to the "armor" in common use for this purpose in the United States. It consists of a complete clothing of caoutchouc, including helmet and sack, enveloping the wearer from head to foot, and allowing him to descend below water without danger from contact with anything he may encounter. The helmet has a valve, which permits the air to escape at the moment of submersion; and no sooner is this submersion complete than the pressure of the water closes the valve hermetically. A provision of air to be inspired, is carried in a box, placed like a hump on the back of the diver. This box is furnished with a tube which carries the air into the helmet, in order that the breathing may take place without difficulty and a little stop cock enables the distribution of the air to be regulated at pleasure the instant respiration is performed with effort a signal can be made and the diver brought to the surface.

A Most Singular and Shocking Accident.

On the 2nd inst., a girl by the name of Sarah Hobb, about fourteen years old, at work in the Charles Ford Company's Mills, Dracutt, met with a shocking accident. She was in the act of combing her hair, and throwing it back it caught on a craft revolving over her head and wound her over it till it carried her up against a beam, cutting off both her thumbs, which had become entangled in her hair, and taking the entire scalp from her head—from her forehead back. The scalp was removed. We learned from Dr. Kimball, who was called to dress the wound, that she cannot recover.—[Lowell Courier.

We shall give an elaborate description of the opening of the Crystal Palace in our next number. The ceremonies came off too late for this week's paper to admit of our publishing a description of the same.

Professor Silliman says, that the aggregate destruction of human life annually, in this country, from the use of fluid and camphene, is greater than by all the accidents with steam-boats and railroads.