

point it becomes itself a crime. This matter is somewhat of a hobby horse of mine, and on this occasion has run farther with me than I intended I crave pardon "Mes Amis," but also your assistance in agitating for increased care of animals, and for the heavy handling of the birch in cases of active brutality.

Minor Matters

As an instance of the wealth which can be readily acquired by those who ho upon the land may be mentioned (says the Oamaru "Mail") the case of a farmer at Alma. The settler in question sent a consignment of two tons of onions to Dunedin for sale. These were sold in lots of from one to four bags, and the whole lot realised a total of £2 11/10. Against this were charges for railage, commission, etc., totalling £1 12/5, leaving a net return of 19/5. This was remitted by postal notes, and, as the commission on the notes were charged to the settler, his receipts were further diminished to 19/4. His own charges preliminary to despatch were 8/ for bags and 8/ for carting from Alma to Oamaru, which further reduced the returns to 3/11, or at the rate of 1/6½ per ton. Go on the land, young man.

The singular experiment conducted by Professor Atwater, of the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, has just ended (writes the New York correspondent of the "London Morning Leader.") It consisted of enclosing a man named Osterberg in a large cubical chamber for 10 days, and taking accurate observation of the results. On the scientists querying the state of his feelings after his release, Osterberg, who is an unemotional Swede, replied: "I am dying for a bath." Professor Atwater proposed to establish with mathematical accuracy the value of foods which are rich in starch and sugar. For this

purpose the temperature, perspiration, and energy of the subject were all measured. The man's breath even was caught at the nostrils and frozen with ammonia. Professor Atwater announces that his experiment had been successful, but refuses to give details till he has reported to the Agriculture department at Washington. He reveals the fact, however, that alcohol, although it does not build up tissue, is no less a food than sugar or starch, for it generates heat and energy. The "Graphic" would remark that this last result will be rather a facer for the temperance fanatic who in season and out declares alcohol is not a food.

The following "true story" is from the "Government Insurance Recorder," which, being printed "by authority" at the Government Printing Office, could not, says a Wellington scribe, possibly contain a taradiddle. One of the Department's most energetic and popular agents, who seeks for business in every possible nook and corner, recently canvassed a large asylum in the South Island. Business was fair among the warders, one individual especially (whom we will call Ebenezer) showing great intelligence and knowledge of life insurance. He thoroughly believed in it, and the agent got him to sign a proposal form without much difficulty. The day's work over, the agent prepared to return to the bosom of his family, and in bidding farewell to the medical superintendent, through whose courtesy he had been permitted to canvass the institution, he spoke of the great success he had experienced, saying that he had insured several of the warders, including Ebenezer, of whom he was especially proud. An official of this name not being known to the superintendent, inquiries were made, and it transpired that one of the warders had, in order to escape the astute canvasser, placed his coat and cap on one of the most intelligent lunatics in his charge as soon as the agent hove in sight. The patient was

then left to face the music, and in insurance matters the looney showed more appreciation and knowledge than the average sane man. The transaction was, however, not a paying one for the agent, who in future will probably make sure that the right man wears the uniform.

It may not be generally known (remarks the Bruce Herald) that the use of the Rontgen rays in inexperienced hands may lead to very serious results. A case has occurred in the South Island where, through the repeated application of the rays, a hole was practically burned through a patient. After a time the tissues penetrated by the rays became absolutely dead and mortified. It is evident that there is still something to learn about the recently-discovered rays.

Referring to the first appearance of Mr Stratford on the Bench at Balclutha, the Free Press says that "he is remarkably punctilious in his methods, and in that respect presents a great contrast to Mr Hawkins." It also says that "Mr Stratford was hugely disgusted when he found Balclutha's Hall of Justice unprovided with a lavatory; that the only remnant to the fore was an old cracked wash-basin, and the Magistrate was unable to wash his hands on the premises; that Mr Hawkins, worthy man, did not trouble about such subliminary matters, but his successor has ordered a big supply of soap, towels, etc."

"In all directions," said Professor Hickerton addressing the students during the "degree ceremony" at Canterbury College, "science has learned to anticipate phenomena, and this power of prophecy possessed by it is causing it to be trusted, and as a result we have that growing reverence for truth that is perhaps the most striking characteristic of the age. It is not that kind of reverence for truth that is said to be characteristic of a well-known politician—a reverence so great that he only uses it on very rare occasions." The "Graphic" wants to

know to whom the genial "Prof." alludes.

The other morning a boat manned by two men came into the Lyttelton Harbour from Sumner, and when it was within a reasonable distance of the Loch Linlithgo a sailor took a header from that ship and struck out for the boat. The sailor had been in goal and put on board by the police, but had evidently been prepared for an attempt at rescue. He soon got on board the boat, which was at once rowed away, and landed him near Gollan's Bay. The authorities on the ship lowered a boat to pursue him, but soon gave up the attempt.

A distressing occurrence happened at the Christchurch Railway Station, shortly after the arrival of the express from the South recently, when, as a well-dressed young lady was walking along the platform, she was suddenly seen fall. Guard Horsnell assisted her to rise, but she seemed as if she were fainting, and some water was got from the refreshment room, but was found to be lukewarm and practically useless. By this time the lady was hysterical, and she was taken to the ladies' waiting room. The stationmaster, Mr Pilkington, telephoned for Dr. Thomas, who, when he arrived, ordered her removal to the Hospital. A constable and a porter took the lady out to a cab, but on the way, whilst the constable was catching her by the waist, she unexpectedly planted a blow on the porter's nose, inflicting a cut which bled profusely. But what this paper would like to know is what was the matter with the young lady?

Suspicions of "Rank and Elegance" notes evidently lurk in the minds of some business people in Invercargill (says the "Southland News"). At least this much is to be inferred from their refusal to cash the new issue of the Bank of New Zealand notes. One particularly cute individual scornfully brushed the paper aside when offered in payment, and indignantly wanted to know if the tenderer "took him for

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