

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

THE politeness is perfect ease and freedom.

The happiest women, like the happiest nations, have no history.

Culture cannot destroy sin, all it can do is to hide or decorate it.

The mean annual temperature of the earth is fifty degrees Fahrenheit; the average rainfall is thirty six inches.

It is not until a man goes on a quest for a general servant that he fully appreciates the immense proportions of the woman question.

As opera nights at last are here
Mark what the girls are at—
From shop to shop the darlings go
To find the biggest hat.

The total population of the earth is estimated at 1,483,000,000, of which 35,639,835 die yearly, 97,700 daily and 67 every minute.

'Should parsons smoke?' is a question which is being widely discussed in England. It applies to the reverend gentlemen only while they are on the earth, of course.

'The last word' is the most dangerous of infernal machines, and husband and wife should no more fight to get it than they would struggle for the possession of a lighted bomb-shell.

TRIFLES.

The smallest crust may save a human life;
The smallest act may lead to human strife;
The smallest touch may cause the body pain;
The smallest spark may fire a field of grain;
The simplest deed may tell the truly brave;
The smallest skill may serve a life to save;
The smallest draught the thirsty may relieve;
The slightest look may make a kind heart grieve;
Naught is so much but it may still contain
The rose of pleasure or the thorn of pain.

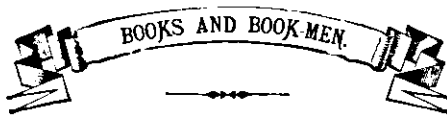
'Never fear, my dear,' remarked a wife to her impecunious husband; 'never fear; I still love you.' 'I know that,' he replied, 'but that doesn't help matters much.' 'I'll trust you always,' she exclaimed. 'Yes, my dear,' he replied, with a sigh that came from his heart, 'that is very fine, but unfortunately you are not the grocer.'

Occasional instances of brutality at Annapolis find their way into print, but ours is a model school compared with the Copenhagen naval academy. There a young cadet shot himself dead at a class dinner. The principal of the academy, who presided, had the body carried out, then ordered more wine, and the eating and drinking went on as though nothing had happened.

MODERN MISSIONARIES.—Professor Drummond, of *Natural Law* fame, has been startling those who think of becoming missionaries. He gives it as his opinion that the missionary is no longer a man who can stand under an umbrella, with a Bible under his arm, and preach the Gospel all day long. Half his day must be given to the study of philology. He must be able to translate the Scripture; he must contribute to the science of ethnology; he must be a man of culture. The time is surely coming, says Professor Drummond, when the missionaries in some fields, for example in China and Japan, will have to be theologians. A native of Japan once said to him, 'Send us out one ten-thousand dollar man rather than ten thousand dollar men.' The demand for this work to day is for 'the prizemen, and the brilliant men of the Universities.' This is a new departure, and a healthy one, from the old lazy belief that 'any fool would do to be a missionary.'

TIMING A CABLEGRAM.—A wager between a couple of brokers the other day resulted in an interesting experiment as to the rapidity with which telegraphing can be done between New York and London. It was settled by actual tests that a cablegram can be sent to London from the New York Stock Exchange and an answer received in four minutes. Ordinarily the time is much longer, but on this occasion a special effort was made, with the above remarkable result. From this it may be inferred that the cable service is as nearly perfect as it is possible to make it. The cable business is constantly growing, and at present nearly nine hundred messages are sent daily from New York to London between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock. All the commercial business is done by cipher, and so condensed is the code that a considerable message can be sent at a comparatively small outlay. The messages are sent by overhead wire to Heart's Content, Newfoundland, where they are transmitted via the ocean cable to Valencia, Ireland, thence direct to London. The commercial business between the New York and London stock exchanges has become so extensive that three or four operators are now required constantly on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange to handle that business alone.

THE MEETING OF HAWTHORNE AND TENNYSON.—Referring in the course of some literary recollections to Nathaniel Hawthorne's visit to the Art Treasures Exhibition, held in Manchester in 1857, Dr. Alexander Ireland writes that a curious coincidence occurred:—While we were looking at the pictures of the old masters I saw Alfred Tennyson and Woolner, the sculptor, enter the room together. I pointed them out to Hawthorne, who looked long and steadily at Tennyson. I said to him, 'Will you not speak to him and shake hands with him?' to which he replied, 'Oh, I could not do that. I never saw him before; it would be obtrusive, etc.' 'Nonsense,' said I; 'let me go to him and tell him you are in the room. I am sure he will be delighted to meet you and exchange greetings.' 'No, no; I cannot allow you to do this.' I again remonstrated with him. I urged him to join hands with Tennyson, in spite of conventional introductions and staid earthly limitations and customs. I contended that the fact of their being in the same room and within a few insignificant feet of each other on this very day had been evidently ordained from the beginning of time, and that it would be a wilful thwarting of the designs of Providence if the meeting did not become an actual and accomplished fact—that such meeting was in accordance with the eternal fitness of things, etc. All to no purpose. He was inflexible. So these two men never spoke to each other in this world. Hawthorne afterwards recorded in his journals how Tennyson was pointed out to him on this occasion, and he devotes several pages to a minute and elaborate description of him, showing the quickness and keenness of his observation.



LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL'S letters from South Africa to the *Daily Graphic* have proved a bad speculation. They were paid for at the rate of £200 per letter, and were certainly conspicuous by the absence of correctness in regard to statements, terseness in style, and general interest. Mr D. C. De Waal, a sturdy burgher and a member of the Cape Parliament, was the travelling companion of Mr Cecil Rhodes during the three months spent by the latter in a rapid journey from the Pungwe to Bechuanaland and back to Cape Town. He is at some pains to expose various errors into which Lord Randolph allowed himself to fall. 'Mashonaland,' says Mr De Waal, 'is the richest land in South Africa.' He also says it is a mistake to think that the Cape is English and the Transvaal Dutch; they are both English Dutch and Dutch-English.

FROM Fort Salisbury to Fort Victoria there is a broad expanse of magnificent pasture land. The crowning absurdity of Lord Randolph's letters is his report that this land is devoid of water, and that the grass is sour. The region which he praises is absolutely valueless on account of the presence of a poisonous tulip. Another fatal mistake of Lord Randolph's was his refusal to accompany Mr Rhodes to the lost city of Zimbabwe. This is situated fifteen miles from Fort Victoria, and is certainly one of the most wonderful relics of antiquity in the world. It is described by Mr De Waal as 'a great empty city, built round a rock or citadel in the centre of the ruins like the Acropolis at Athens. I should say the circuit of the city is five miles. It belongs to the Chartered Company, and should prove a goldmine to them.' There is not a trace of the old population of some 50,000 to 100,000 people. A building as large as the Coliseum at Rome—the Temple of the great Phallus—occupies the centre. The original inhabitants were evidently gold-smelters. There is no doubt that when Mr De Waal finds time to write his book on Mashonaland, from the material which he has already in hand, and from which these notes are taken, he will have a host of willing readers. Just now this part of the world is exceedingly interesting.

DR. CONAN DOYLE'S 'The White Company' is pronounced by competent authorities to be equal to some of Sir Walter Scott's historical novels. It is well and amusingly written, and though the fair sex do not play an important part in its pages, yet there is sufficient mention of them in various guises, from the stately dame to the dainty maiden, to attract every variety of reader. The brave and pugilistic little knight, Sir Nigel Loring, is a favourite from the beginning, and Dr. Conan Doyle has cleverly conserved his identity throughout the story. Another work by this author 'A Study in Scarlet,' is not nearly equal in style to 'The White Company,' but for all that it is very readable. The story is exciting, rather sensational, and introduces a murderer, who apparently vanishes from the earth. The description of the founding of Salt Lake City and the Mormon religion is an agreeable change from the account of the murders and the detective's chase after the perpetrator thereof.

THE wife of Count Tolstoy recently had a private interview with the Czar. She desired to call His Majesty's attention to the severity exercised by the Russian censors respecting her husband's works. The Czar promised to consider her prayer, and an after report has it that he has already issued an order that less criticism shall be put at work upon the writings of the celebrated novelist.

WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY.

THE reappearance of influenza in Roumania has led Dr. Rabener to use again and to make known the method of treatment which gave him such surprising results two years ago, and which consists in the administration of creoline.

It may be well to say that creoline is an antiseptic and deodorizer of the highest order, and that it has no harmful effects on man. It is a species of patent remedy, or at any rate a compound and not very well defined substance, coming from the distillation of a certain variety of coal and supplied to the trade in the form of a dark brown liquid of syrupy consistency, smelling like tar and giving a milky emulsion when mixed with water. Creoline is considered by Dr. Rabener as a panacea for influenza; he claims that it is not only a specific remedy, but also an efficacious way of preserving one's self from the disease, a fact which he proved on himself both two years ago and during the present epidemic. Whereas his colleagues and the entire *personnel* of the Roman hospital contracted influenza, he alone was preserved from it, thanks to the internal use of creoline.

Dr. Rabener prefers to give this preparation in the form of pills, each one containing a centigramme of active substance. The ordinary dose is three pills during the day; twelve to twenty-five of them can be taken by grown persons, according to the case. In the catarrhal form of the complaint, and in bronchitis, laryngitis and even pneumonia brought on by it, as well as in tuberculosis, he always recommends, besides the pills, inhalations of steam coming from an apparatus to which a few table-spoonsful of a ten per cent. solution of creoline have been added. These inhalations should be made twice a day.

DANGERS OF THE BARBER SHOP.

THE frequency with which the contagion of parasitic zycosis (minute eruptions) has been traced to its source in a barber's shop is almost characteristic of the disease. Our attention has been directed to this point in a note on four cases, all of which appear to have owed their origin to the attentions of one particular operator. The writer, probably with justice, attributes the transference of the infective germs in these cases to the use of unclean brushes and a common soap supply. He suggests that the former evil be obviated by immersing the brush after each time of use in boiling water. As regards the soap, a safeguard already exists in the practice, now common among hairdressers, of using for each client a separate portion of soap-cream, thus avoiding all danger of intermixture. The suggestion respecting the brush is well worthy the attention of barbers, and we might add a further injunction that the water be not only boiling, but fortified in its cleansing property by some simple antiseptic. It is taken for granted that the razor being both easily and regularly cleaned is rarely, if ever, a medium of infection. As a razor cut may occasion the transference of more serious diseases by the mixture of blood with soap suds, every cleanly precaution becomes the more imperative.

A NEW TREATMENT OF HICCOUGHES.

THIS disagreeable phenomenon is caused by a sudden spasmodic contraction of the diaphragm, producing a brisk jar of the abdominal and thoracic walls, and accompanied by a hoarse and inarticulate sound caused by the tightening and sonorous vibration of the vocal cords. Up to the present time the treatment of this difficulty has been very uncertain; at one time directed against disorders of the digestive, respiratory and other organs on which it seemed to depend, and at another, following merely the symptomatic indications, making an absurd use of tisanes, cupping, bleeding, and anti-spasmodic drugs—in a word, of the so-called resources of empiricism.

In one of the last meetings of the *Académie des Sciences de Paris* M. Leloir called attention to a method of treatment by compression of the phrenic nerve to which he had recourse five years ago in the following circumstances:—He was shown a little girl, twelve years of age, who had been hiccoughing incessantly twice a minute for a year. This infirmity interfered with her sleep and with her growth, and had reduced the child to a very poor condition of health. The little patient's father had consulted a large number of physicians, who had in vain prescribed a great variety of forms of treatment. The idea occurred to M. Leloir to use compression of the phrenic nerve at the neck, a little above the inner extremity of the collar bone. The action of the diaphragm depends on this nerve, the section of paralysis of which puts a stop to its contractions. This compression, made with the fingers, was quite painful and lasted three minutes, but at the end of that time the symptom had entirely disappeared and has not occurred again since.

M. Leloir has applied his process a number of times to put a stop to acute or chronic hiccoughs, and has always succeeded by pressing for a few minutes or even for a few seconds on the phrenic nerve at this point. This process is so simple and so practical that it will no doubt find a great many applications.

PERSPIRATION AND MICROBES.

THE question has been raised as to whether microbes can pass through the different organs, kidney, liver, intestine, etc., and particularly whether their elimination by perspiration is possible. To settle this question a German physician, Mr Brunner, has injected beneath the skin of animals the microbes of a disease that is entirely exceptional with them; after which, causing them to salivate and perspire by means of pilocarpine, he regularly found in these secretions the microbes he was looking for.

This fact, which has a marked theoretical and practical importance, gives to spontaneous or artificial crises of perspiration a curative value that can be logically defended, and explains the danger of a person in profuse perspiration absorbing this secretion again through not changing his garments, through not rubbing himself off, or at least through not wearing a woollen garment capable of absorbing the perspiration. In such cases the perspiration lays hold of all the microbes that are on the surface of the body and brings them back into the circulation with itself. In this way could be realised a complicated infection by the different pathogenic micro-organisms that are widely spread, such as those of pneumonia and erysipelas.

From this can be seen that discoveries which seem purely speculative at first can supply, when examined more closely, very clear and eminently practical deductions.