

see the moon without any telescope?" Sir Robert Ball is very popular as a lecturer, and it has been said of him that he can attract larger audiences than any other living scientist. On one occasion he met a young lady who told him how sorry she was that she had been unable to attend his latest lecture. "Oh, I don't think it would have interested you very much," said Sir Robert Ball genially; "you see, it was all about sun spots." "Was it really? Then it would have interested me greatly," she replied, "for, between you and me, Sir Robert, I have been a martyr to freckles all my life!"

Very graceful and seaworthy does the Alexandra, the King's new yacht, look, according to report. In May she completed her steam trials, and the result has been entire satisfaction. Over a measured mile in the firth of Clyde, down to Ailsa Craig and back, a speed of 19.15 knots was comfortably obtained, this representing more than a knot over the speed stipulated in the contract. At a cruising speed of 13 knots the coal consumption was only one ton per eight nautical miles. The 4,500 h.p. propelling machinery was made by the Parsons Company, the builders of the vessel being A. and J. Inglis, Limited. The yacht was launched, it may be remembered, as late as May, 1907; the delay in finishing has been due to the Admiralty having introduced several alterations to the original design.

A natural phenomenon was recently the means of converting two notorious miscreants. This was the phosphorescent light which can be sometimes observed in marshy country. Stevan Yaera and Peter Taditch stole two horses from a man in Liviana (Bosnia), and were riding off with them when they were overtaken by a storm and forced to take shelter under a tree. The sight of a man with a white beard and a halo round his brow walking towards them in the midst of the lightning and thunder filled them with dismay. Peruaded that the visitor was St. Nicholas in person come to upbraid them, they spurred the horses back to Liviana, doubly terrified at find-

ing themselves enveloped by a brilliant glow, while sparks flew from the horses' side at each stroke of the whip. The animals were returned to the owner and the thieves swore never to rob again.

The homoeopathic cure for juvenile smoking should always be applied in good time—on the tenth birthday, say. A correspondent contributes a reminiscence of his school days which is to the point. The headmaster, who had a grim sense of humour and a robust taste in cigars, had intimated that he would administer three or four of his beat to any boy caught smoking for compulsory consumption. A test case arose, and the offender (aged 15 or 16) was sent out into the playing field in company with the school drill sergeant to smoke on level terms with him. An hour later the headmaster found the sergeant pale and dizzy, but the seasoned schoolboy politely ready for more. Five years earlier the "cure" might have worked. As it was, the incident was closed and the homoeopathic penalty dropped.

We have often thought that the consequent decay of any real power of thinking is an adequate explanation of an immense deal of the early mortality of prosperous middle life, thus says the "Lancet," and we think there is a great deal to be said for the view. The man of business, the banker or the merchant, learns all about his daily calling by the time when he is 40, and is often content to live in the mere practice, as a matter of habit, of what he has thus acquired. He eats and drinks too much, and the higher brain centres waste for want of exercise. He is said to die from gout, or from heart disease, or from kidney disease, but our contemporary urges that he really dies from stupidity and because there is nothing left to keep his brain active.

"Is your little girl old enough to be a companion to you?"  
"Oh, yes. She already plays a fair game of bridge."

To Make Marksmen.

PROJECT OF NEW ZEALANDERS.

Mr. F. A. Vaile has furnished the "Times" with some particulars of the scheme on which he is engaged, in conjunction with Mr. H. E. Partridge, of Auckland, New Zealand, for the encouragement of rifle shooting and the production of marksmen among the people of England. His proposal is that there should be offered annually for proficiency in rifle shooting a certain number of rifle scholarships or bonuses, perhaps 40 or more, of the value of £25 a year, which would be tenable for from one to three years, the money being either paid over to the winners in cash by periodical instalments or applied to provide them with instruction in some branch of learning. He believes that within a few weeks of the prizes being advertised applications would be received from 100,000 or more men anxious to compete for them, and that in this way an enormous stimulus would be given to the popularity of rifle shooting, not only directly among the competitors by the hope of success and the prospect of fame, but also indirectly through the interest that would be aroused in their performance among their relatives and friends. The difficulty of finding ranges at which the men could both learn to shoot and compete for the prizes he would get over by the aid of the sub-target machine. For this contrivance it is claimed that it enables a man to become an efficient shot with the service rifle without ever seeing a full-sized range. In using it the learner takes aim with an ordinary rifle in the ordinary way at a target which, though it is only a few yards away from him, presents the same difficulties as it would at full range, because its size is proportionately reduced, and the score which he would have made had he been firing at a full-sized target at full range is automatically recorded on a card arranged near the muzzle of his rifle. This machine is supplied to the ships of the American navy, the Canadian Government has provided 500 of them for its army and 250 for its schools, and in the British army there are some 400 in

use, purchased, however, by the private efforts of officers or out of regimental funds, and not by the War Office. Another contrivance of which Mr. Vaile considers use might be made in connection with his scheme is one which would permit the reopening of many rifle ranges that have been closed on account of danger to the public, and the action of which depends on a control arrangement whereby the firing of the rifle is rendered impossible unless it be aimed at a point that is within the safety area. Mr. Vaile states that Mr. Haldane has expressed approval of his idea and promised assistance, and has also pointed out to him that the county organisations under the territorial army scheme already provide a machinery which might be used with advantage in furthering the project.



MOST people are content with the belief that a headache is only a headache, and a thing to be borne with as much forbearance as the severity of the case may call for. Sick Headache is one of the most prominent symptoms of bilious attacks, some of the signs of its approach being a heavy aching pain in the front of the head, dizziness and specks before the eyes. The only reliable remedy is **Bile Beans for Biliousness**, which permanently remove the cause.

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