

Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

An Even Temperature.

The most even temperature known is believed to be that of Surinam, Dutch Guiana, where the summer averages 78 per cent. and the winter 77½ per cent.

Novel Use of Roentgen Rays.

Novel use of Roentgen rays is made by a Berlin company manufacturing submarine cables. The cables are tested by being passed over two eye pulleys over an X-ray tube, the screen above showing any defect more directly and with greater certainty than the resistance tests usually employed.

Variegated Wool.

A sheep with variegated wool is an anomaly, but such a one exists on Omarama Station (says the 'North Otago Times'). It is a splendidly fleeced animal, with wool of the finest quality. The wool next the skin is of a light brown color, then in well-defined divisions come black, pure white, black, and then a light brown. The divisions are well-defined, and each different color stands distinct and prominent.

The First Canaries.

Canaries, which were originally green and grey in color, were native of the islands from which they take their name, and were first taken to England on ships plying between English ports and the south of France. From this stock has been derived a number of distinct varieties, such as the crested, the green, the lizard, which imitates the reptile in its variegated markings, and the Belgian, which has a strange, hump-backed appearance.

Taming the Zebra.

A new agent in the civilisation of Africa is now being brought into use. Zebras are numerous in certain parts of the country, and Major Cambier has reported herds sometimes numbering 80 to 100 animals along the east shore of Tanganyika, while in Katanga Dr. Reichard has met in a single day about ten herds of 20 to 30 zebras each. In isolated cases these animals have been tamed and trained to harness. An attempt at wholesale domestication was begun by Lieutenant Nys, of the Belgian army, on July 30, 1901, when 90 zebras were captured at Sampwe, in Kotanga, and were placed in a large enclosure. For two hours the captives galloped madly about their prison, while in the first few days many refused food and drink. Some starved to death, others died from over-eating after a long fast, and on being placed in stalls at the end of fifteen days a few were killed by throwing themselves against the walls. This reduced the herd to 60 members. These were in good health, had become quite docile, and could be approached without kicking or biting. Success in taming is confidently expected, with great results for the Congo country.

The Care of the Teeth.

Hippocrates, about four centuries before the Christian era, wrote of the care of the teeth, and a tomb at Tanagra, of about the same period, has yielded a set of false teeth. Following up ancient dentistry further, Ernesto Mancini, an Italian archaeologist, finds that the art had reached a high development at an earlier time in Assyria, Egypt, Phoenicia, and among the Etruscans. Perfectly-adhering gold fillings from mummy teeth at Thebes have been reported by Benzoni, though denied by other authorities. In European museums are preserved Phoenician teeth bound together with gold wire, Etruscan gold teeth, and 'bridge work' 3000 years old from Cervetri. A museum of Rome has a plate fitting over three sound teeth and having a place for a false tooth. Dentistry declined in Europe after the early part of the Christian era. The Arabs kept up the Greek art, however, and late in the sixteenth century the protection of teeth became common in Europe. Pare, physician of Charles IX, filled ordinary teeth with cork and lead, but used gold for royalty.

GREGG SHORTHAND—A NEW ZEALAND RECORD.

At an Examination held by the Gregg Shorthand Association of N.Z. C. Hammond, 15 years of age, secured a certificate for 180 words a Minute. This is a New Zealand Record for one so young. Gregg Shorthand is used in more schools in America than any other Three systems combined, and is recognised by the N.Z. Government in all examinations. Being based on longhand, with few rules and NO EXCEPTIONS, it can be acquired in One-quarter of the time required by other systems, and is especially adapted for INSTRUCTION by POST in 8 lessons. Write for particulars.

J. W. IRWIN, N.Z. Representative,
229 Kilmore Street, Christchurch.

The Home

By 'Maureen'

Bombay Toast.

Cut some slices of bread in rounds or squares, removing the crust. Make a batter of one egg, two tablespoonfuls of milk, a desertspoonful of sugar, and some ginger syrup, or chopped-up ginger, and soak the bread in the batter for about ten minutes or so. Put a little butter or dripping in a frying pan, and fry the bread, and serve hot.

To Cook Asparagus.

The asparagus must be washed and cleaned very carefully. Cut away all the superfluous hard part at the bottom, leaving enough only to take it up comfortably between the fingers. Scrape this thoroughly, cut and trim them of equal lengths, and tie them in parcels. Now lay them in boiling water, with a teaspoonful of salt. Boil them rather quickly, and when tender lift them out. Toast bread to the shape of the dish the vegetable is to occupy, dip it in the liquor the latter was boiled in, and put it for the asparagus to lie upon. Serve with melted butter in a sauce tureen.

Gooseberry Tart.

Take 1½ pints of gooseberries, ¼ lb of short crust, ¼ lb of moist sugar. Mode. With a pair of scissors cut off the tops and tails of the gooseberries, put them into a deep pie-dish, pile the fruit high in the centre, and put in the sugar. Line the edges of the dish with short crust, put on the cover, and ornament the edges of the tart. Bake in a good oven for about three-quarters of an hour, and before being sent to table, strew over it some fine-sifted sugar. A jug of cream should always accompany this dish.

Damp Rooms.

To ascertain whether or not a room is damp about a couple of pounds of fresh lime should be placed therein after hermetically closing doors and windows. In twenty-four hours it should be weighed, and if the lime has absorbed more than about 1 per cent. of water the room should be considered damp, and classed as unhealthy. The question of the dampness of dwellings is a frequent cause of dispute between landlord and tenant, and is naturally solved in the negative by the former. The question can be settled in the future by the test of the hydration of lime, which will give irrefutable proof of the validity of such complaint.

Worth Remembering.

Four even teaspoonfuls liquid make one even tablespoonful.

Three even teaspoonfuls dry material make one even tablespoonful.

Sixteen tablespoonfuls liquid make one cupful.

Twelve tablespoonfuls dry material make one cupful.

Two cupfuls make one pint.

Four cupfuls make one quart.

One dozen eggs should weigh one and a half pounds.

Use: One tablespoonful soda to one cupful molasses.

One teaspoonful soda to one pint sour milk.

Three teaspoonfuls baking powder to one quart of flour.

One teaspoonful salt to two quarts of flour.

One teaspoonful salt to one quart of soup.

One scant cupful of liquid to two full cups of flour for bread.

One scant cupful of liquid to two full cups of flour for muffins.

One scant cupful of liquid to one full cup of flour for batters.

Maureen

HOW TO PAINT A HOUSE CHEAP.

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