

Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

Insanity in Canada.

The insane in the asylums of Canada number 16,662, an increase of 25 per cent. since 1891. One authority attributes the increase to immigration and lax medical inspection at ports, 3000 of the 699,500 immigrants of the last ten years having been at least partially insane.

Using up Sawdust.

An interesting new material for using up sawdust is wood-stone. It is a mixture of sawdust and calcined magnesia reduced to powder, the moistened ingredients being thoroughly mingled, pounded, ground, and submitted to moderate pressure for a number of hours. The finished products are further compressed in a hydraulic press. The material is incombustible, impermeable to water, and takes a high polish, being adapted for pavements, linings, coverings, and ornamental purposes.

A Cosmopolitan City.

The most cosmopolitan city in the United States seems to be Chicago. Here is the census of its speakers of languages other than English:—German, 500,000; Polish, 125,000; Swedish, 100,000; Bohemian, 90,000; Norwegian, 50,000; Yiddish, 50,000; Dutch, 30,000; Italian, 25,000; Danish, 20,000; French, 15,000; Croatian and Servian, 10,000; Slovakian, 10,000; Lithuanian, 10,000; Hungarian, 5000; Greek, 4000; Frisian, Roumanian, Slavonian, and Flemish, 1000 to 2000; Chinese and Spanish, 1000; Finnish, Scotch Gaelic and Irish Gaelic, 500; Russian, 7000; Arabic, 250; Armenian, Manx, Icelandic, Albanian, 100; less than 100, Basque, Breton, Esthonian, Gipsy, Japanese, Portuguese, Turkish.

Spectacles.

It is hard to realise what our ancestors did without the help of spectacles. The first mention of them seems to be toward the end of the thirteenth century, when convex spectacles were invented, it is supposed, by Roger Bacon. Concave glasses were introduced soon afterward, but the Spectacle Makers' Company of London was not incorporated until 1630. It seems that the ancients knew nothing of these aids of vision, and it is more than likely that Homer and even Milton might have been spared their blindness had they understood the use of a powerful lens. Eyeglasses came in much later, when the spectacles were considered too cumbersome for fashionable wear, and lorgnettes came even later when the great ladies wished an ornamental case for their eyeglasses. The eyeglasses of to-day fit on the nose with a spring; formerly they were held in place with the hand.

Path of Ocean Cables.

There seems to be no logical reason why cables cannot be laid across any section of the oceans of the world, no matter how great the depth. Some portions of the Atlantic cables are three miles below the surface, and this is not necessarily the extreme depth, for the cable may and probably does pass from the top of one submarine hill to another without drooping materially into the deep valleys between (says 'Lippincott's Magazine'). The greatest known depth of the sea is 40,036 feet, or 7 3-5 miles, found in the South Atlantic midway between the island of Tristan d'Acugna and the mouth of the Rio de la Plata. Soundings have been made to the depth of 27,180 feet in the north Atlantic south of Newfoundland, and about 31,000 feet, or nearly 6 1/2 miles, is reported south of the Bermudas. Even such enormous depths as these need not hinder cable-laying so far as the theory is concerned, but in practice, for reasons of economy in maintenance and otherwise, it is found best to take advantage of favoring conditions in the ocean's bed. To illustrate, all of the cables between the United States and Europe run up along our coast until they reach the neighborhood of Newfoundland before starting across to their destination in Ireland or France. The reason for this is found in the range of submarine tablelands, which lies between the three last-named countries.

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The Home

By 'Maureen'

Baked Lemon Pudding.

Beat 3 eggs, add to them 1/4 lb of sifted sugar, 6oz of butter melted, then grated rind and juice of 1 lemon. Beat together, line a dish with puff paste, stir up the mixture, and put it into it. Bake at once in a hot oven.

Baking Potatoes on Range.

Place an asbestos mat on the range, and on it lay the potatoes, previously washed clean and dried; cover with a deep tin or pan. In one hour the potatoes will be bursting with mealiness.

Two Effective ways of Cleaning Silver.

Put some borax into boiling water, and when dissolved soak the silver in it for a few minutes, then dry with a towel and polish with a chamois leather. Another method is to soak the silver in sour milk, wash in hot water, dry, and polish with chamois leather.

Lemonette.

Three pounds of loaf sugar put to a quart of water; boil gently for about 10 minutes; pour into a basin, and stand till cold; then add 2oz of citric acid and 10 drops of essence of lemon; stir well, and pour into bottles. A little lemon peel boiled with the sugar and water improves it.

Castle Puddings.

Take 3 eggs, the weight of 2 in butter, sifted loaf sugar, and fine flour. Beat the butter to a cream, add the eggs well beaten, next the sugar, and the flour last, beating all the time. Butter small cups, fill three parts full, bake half an hour in a moderate oven. Turn out; serve with lemon or brandy sauce. Less sugar can be used if not liked so sweet. Half a teaspoonful of baking powder should be mixed in the flour.

Christmas Mince Meat.

Ingredients—1 lb suet, 1 1/2 lb raisins, 3/4 lb currants, 1 lb apples, 1 lb sugar, 2oz candied peel, 1 1/2 lemons, 1oz almonds, 1/2 oz allspice, 2 glasses brandy, and a few cloves. Method—Chop suet finely, stone raisins and clean currants, blanch almonds, peel and chop apples small, cut candied peel coarsely, mix well all dry ingredients and add lemon juice and brandy last. Tie down closely in jars. When required line patty pans with good pastry, put in the mince meat and cover with pastry. Strew with sugar when sending to table.

Gooseberry Fool.

Ingredients—1 quart gooseberries (green), 1/4 lb moist sugar, 1 strip lemon peel, 1/2 pint cream, 1/2 pint milk. Method—Top and tail the gooseberries, wash them, place in an enamelled stewpan over the fire with a few spoonfuls of water, the sugar and lemon peel; stew gently till tender, rub through a sieve to remove the skins, when quite cold stir in the milk and cream; the latter should be stiffly whipped. The yolks of 2 eggs may be substituted for the cream, but will not be so nice. Serve the fool in a large glass dish, or in small custard glasses.

A Cement for Attaching Metal to Glass.

Take 2oz of a thick solution of glue, and mix it with 1oz of linseed oil varnish and half an ounce of pure turpentine; the whole are then boiled together in a close vessel. The two bodies should be clamped and held together for about two days after they are united, to allow the cement to become dry. The clamps may then be removed.

Maureen

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