

defies the action of the elements, and remains nearly as sound as in the time of the Pharaohs. It is said that numerous experiments have been tried, of subjecting the ancient paintings to the flame of a gas jet, but the heat thus imparted failed to destroy them. Egyptian cement, as it is well known, is almost imperishable, uniting wood, glass, stone, iron and other articles together so firmly as to resist all efforts to sever them at the point of union. Fire and water will not destroy the cement, and it is practically indestructible. This substance is supposed to have been used in embalming their dead, preserving their works of art and making their fountains durable.

CULTIVATING A PURE EXPRESSION.—Every word that falls from the lips of mothers and sisters especially should be pure, and concise, and simple; not pearls, such as fall from the lips of the princess, but sweet, good words, that little children can gather without fears of soil, or after shame, or blame, or any regrets to pain through all their life. Children should be taught the frequent use of good, strong, expressive words—words that mean exactly what they should express in their proper places. If a child, or young person, has a loose, flung-together way of stringing words when endeavoring to say something, he should be made to "try again," and see if he cannot do better. It is painful to listen to many girls' talk. They begin with "My Goodness!" and interlard it with "oh's!" and "sakes alive!" and "so sweet!" and "so queenly!" and so many phrases that one is tempted to believe they have no training at all, or else their mothers were very foolish women. There is nothing more disgusting than the twaddle of ill-bred girls; one is provoked often into taking a paper and letting them ripple on, like brooks that flow they know not whither. My heart warms with love for sensible girls and pure boys; and, after all, if our girls and boys are not this, I fear it is our own fault—that this great trust rests in the hearts and hands of the women of our land. If we have a noble, useful purpose in life, we shall infuse the right spirit into those around us.

THE IRISH-SPEAKING POPULATION OF IRELAND.—In 1871 the entire Irish-speaking population numbered only 817,165. The percentages according to the total population in the different Provinces were these:—In Leinster, 1.2; in Munster, 27.7; in Ulster, 4.6; and in Connaught, 39.0; for the total of Ireland, 18.1. Kilkenny and Louth are the counties of Leinster where the Irish language is most spoken. In Munster they are Kerry, Clare and Waterford; in Ulster, Donegal, where 28 per cent. of the population speaks the language. But in Connaught there are no less than 56 per cent. of the Irish-speaking population. In the county of Mayo and Galway respectively a great many people cannot speak English.

TEMPERATURE AT GREAT HEIGHTS.—The 'Times' of Oct. 2, says:—Professor Wahl, who accompanied Professor Wise in a recent balloon ascent, gives the following account of the temperature experienced:—The maximum temperature observed was 97 deg. at starting, and this continued at 1,000ft. At 2,000ft. it was 96 deg.; at 3,000ft. 85 deg. The fall went on until, at the greatest altitude attained—viz., 8,742ft., the temperature was but 68 deg. It fell gradually as we descended, but was lower than in the ascent, owing, doubtless, to approaching twilight and the attendant lessening of the sun's power. Observations were always made with a view to estimate the quantity and quality of any mechanical or other impurities of the atmosphere, but it will require some little time and careful work before any information on this point can be made public.

MOSQUITOES UTILISED.—The 'Scientific American' describes a strange fertiliser. At Stratford, Connecticut, where mosquitoes are as thick as a fog, lives an ingenious Yankee, so they say—believe it who may—who puts these insects to profitable uses. He has invented a large revolving scoop net covered with lace, which is put in motion by a windmill, water power, or steam. The lower half of the scoop is placed in water. The upper half moves through the atmosphere, and at each rotation draws an immense number of the "squittos" down into the water, where they drown and sink to the bottom. Every revolution of the net draws in an ounce of mosquitoes, or a ton for 32,000 turns of the machine. The mosquitoes thus collected make a splendid manure for the land, worth 45 dollars a ton.

FRENCH SUICIDES.—The following facts are extracted from a report of the French Minister of Justice. The number of suicides reported to the authorities for 1872 were 5276, or 161 more than those of 1869, and 272 less than those of 1868, the department of the Seine contributing one-seventh of the total. Seventy-eight per cent. of the total belonged to the male sex, or 15 per 100,000, the remaining 22 per cent., representing the female sex, were in the proportion of 6 per 100,000; 2312 or 45 per cent. of the suicides had recourse to strangulation, 1463, or nearly 8 per cent., to drowning, 581 to firearms, 378 to charcoal, 206 to cutting instruments, and 107 to poison. The causes were poverty and reverses, 453; family misfortunes, 732; love, jealousy, debauchery, and bad conduct, 815; drunkenness, 518; physical suffering, 629, various, 478; insanity, 1568; capital crimes, 23.

A PAGE IN NATURAL HISTORY.—A schoolboy lately handed to his teacher the following characteristic composition.—"About Dogs.—Dogs is usefuller as cats. Mice is afeard of mad cats. They bite 'em. Dogs follers boys, and catches a hog by the ear. Hogs rarely bite. People eat hogs, but not the Jews, as they and all other animals as doesn't chew the cud isn't clean ones. Dogs sometimes gets hit with boot-jacks for barking of nites. Sleepy people get mad and throw 'em. Dogs is the best animal for man; they do more for man than growned hogs or orses, or even gotes. Gotes, unlike cats, have horns. The end.

WHAT THE MICROSCOPE SHOWS.—Lewenhoeck tells of an insect seen with the microscope that multiplied twenty-seven millions times would only equal a mite. Insects of every kind may be seen in the cavities of a grain of sand. Mould is a forest of beautiful trees with branches, leaves and fruit. Butterflies are fully feathered. Hairs are hollow tubes. The surface of our bodies are covered with scales like a fish; a single grain of sand would cover one hundred and fifty of these scales, and

yet a scale covers five hundred pores; through these narrow openings the sweat forces itself like water through a sieve. Each drop of stagnant water contains a world of animated beings, swimming with as much liberty as the whales in the sea. Each leaf has a colony of insects grazing on its like cows on a meadow.

POWER OF THE HUMAN EYE.—George Pitt, afterwards Lord Rivers, declared that he could tame the most ferocious animal by looking at it steadily. A friend said: "Well, there is a mastiff in the court-yard of the neighborhood; will you try your powers on him?" Pitt agreed to do so, and the company descended into the court-yard. A servant held the mastiff by a chain. Pitt knelt down a short distance from the animal and stared him sternly in the face. They all shuddered. At a given signal the mastiff was let loose, and rushed furiously towards Pitt, then suddenly checked his pace, seemed confounded, and leaping over Pitt's head, ran away, and was not seen for many hours afterwards.

CONSUMPTION OF AIR IN ACTIVITY AND REPOSE.—Dr. Radclyffe Hall makes the following interesting statement, with regard to the amount of air we consume in repose, and at different degrees of activity: When still, we use 500 cubic inches of air in a minute; if we walk at the rate of one mile an hour, we use 800; two miles, 1000; three miles, 1,600; four miles, 2,300. If we run at the rate of six miles an hour, we use 3,000 cubic inches; trotting a horse, 1,750; cantering, 1,500.

ROYAL NEEDLEWOMEN.—The Empress Eugenie is said to be an accomplished artist in needlework and embroidery. During the last year she has beguiled the hours of their tedium by working a set of "vestments," and also a stool and cushion for the use of the priest. So jealous was the fair devotee of sharing the pious task with another, that she would not allow a stitch to be set by any hand but her own. The gentle craft of needlework has been practised by many royal ladies before the time of Eugenie. Matilda of Flanders, the spouse William the Conqueror, was particularly famed for her skill in embroidery; and the Bayeux Cathedral attests her ingenuity and industry with a needle. Into a piece of canvas nineteen inches wide and sixty-seven in length, the royal lady, stitched the history of the conquest of England, by her martial consort, commencing with the visit of Harold to the Norman court, and ending with his death at the battle of Hastings. The leading transactions of these eventful years, the death of Edward the Confessor, and the coronation of Harold in the chamber of the royal dead, are represented in the most regular order in this piece of needlework, which contains many hundred figures of men, horses, birds, beasts, trees, houses, castles, and churches—all executed in their proper colors, with names and inscriptions over them to elucidate the story. We may hope the beautiful but hapless Mary Queen of Scots was able to cheat the hours, during the long and weary imprisonment, of a part of their misery, by her close application to the needle. She wrought several curious and elaborate works in embroidery, while a captive in her haughty cousin's toils, which are noted in history. In a letter to his friend, "rare Ben Johnson," Sir William Drummond describes a bed of state which Queen Mary covered with emblems and devices embroidered in gold and silk. She was considered to possess great talent for composing these pictorial allegories. Thirty rebusses and punning devices, besides much herald blazonry, were stitched into this bed of state. "The workmanship," concludes Sir William, "is curiously done, and truly it may be said of it, the execution surpassed the material." We read also that Mary spent many months embroidering a rich scarf for her only son, whom she parted from when he was only an infant, and longed hopelessly to see again during her eighteen years of imprisonment. How many sad thoughts and bitter fears must have been sewed into that garment by the unhappy mother who mourned, with much else, the loss of her liberty, her crown, and her child.

A MEMENTO OF MOORE.—A little book of French epigrams which once belonged to Thomas Moore was sold in London for a few shillings. It contains one or two translations in pencil on the fly leaves. They are altered and polished most carefully, but do not seem to have ever been published. One is as follows:—

Cecilia, that scribbling, chattering poet,
To me the other morning said,
"Which of my works do you like best?"
I answered, "Those I have not read."

Another is varied several times:—

Prometheus, to punish his pilfering art,
Had a vulture to feed day and night on his heart;
Hadst thou, my good friend, been in his situation,
Alas for the bird! 'twould have died of starvation.

This is a different version:

Prometheus, to punish his pilfering, they say,
Had a vulture to feed on his heart night and day;
Hadst thou, my good friend, been in his situation,
The vulture, by Jove! would have died of starvation.

NAMES OF COUNTRIES.—Europe signifies a country of white complexions; so named because the inhabitants there were of lighter complexion than those of either Asia or Africa. Africa signifies the land of corn, or ears. It was celebrated for its abundance of corn and all kinds of grain. Spain, a country of rabbits and conies. This country was once so infested with these animals that the inhabitants petitioned Augustus for an army to destroy them. Italy, a country of pitch; from its yielding great quantities of black pitch. Gaul, modern France, signifies yellow-haired; as yellow hair characterized its first inhabitants. Hibernia, as utmost, or last habitation; for beyond this, westward, Phœnicians, we are told, never extended their voyages. Britain, the country of tin; as there were great quantities of lead and tin found on the adjacent island. The Greeks called it Albion, which signifies in the Phœnician tongue, either white or high mountains, from the whiteness of its shores, or the high rocks on the western coast.

The 'Germania' is informed by a correspondent in Rome that on hearing of Count Arnim's arrest the Holy Father exclaimed, "Ecco, ecco! Arnim in prison like myself! He does not deserve it. Should it be of any use I would gladly give him a certificate testifying him to have served his Government well here. For he has in truth done all that he could to injure myself and the Church."