

## Miscellaneous.

### Cancer Cured.

We are not in the habit of puffing or praising any person or thing, without full and satisfactory evidence of his or its deserts. Especially in the important department of medicine, which involves such serious considerations to the human family, do we cautiously eschew all undeserved and unfounded recommendations, never certifying to the success of any practice or medicine, unless convinced by the very best evidence. It was in strict observance of this rule that we told Dr. Gilbert, who came here from Memphis, with letters and testimonials of the highest character to his skill and success in curing that most terrible of diseases with which humanity can be afflicted—cancerous affections—that, when he brought ocular proof of his success, we would announce to the public the facts, which we saw and knew ourselves; but that we did not believe that certificates of unknown persons would be sufficient to satisfy the world, or, at least, the readers of the Delta, of his ability to cure this disease. We had occasion to regret that we ever made this banter; for, from that time, there was scarcely a day passed, that the Doctor did not bring to our office some respectable citizen who was full of joy and gratitude on his recovery from a horrible death, by the skill of Dr. Gilbert. We were soon compelled to violate our promise, to record all the wonderful cures effected by him. We gave up the task, and satisfied ourselves with a general recommendation derived from personal observation and experience. There are cases, however, to which we regard it our duty to call the attention of the public, as developing some new and important facts in medicine and surgery. Dr. Gilbert professes to remove and cure the most inveterate cancers, without the agency of any cutting instrument. He extracts the foreign and poisonous substance from the flesh, by the application of plasters of his own discovery, and thus entirely eradicates the disease. We have seen innumerable complete cures effected in this manner. It is vain to endeavour to refute such evidences as have been presented to our senses on this subject. We are forced to believe them whether we will or not. A few days since we were invited to be present at the extraction of a Fungus, or bloody tumor, from the shoulder of Mr. Artemon Hill, a well known citizen of New Orleans. We were called away at the time, but a few days afterwards we met Mr. Hill, who told us that he was nearly well, and that a tumor as large as two fists had been taken out of his shoulder by Dr. Gilbert, without using a knife, or drawing a drop of blood. The former was in a rapid process of healing, and, the substance extracted filled a medium-sized jar. Certainly such facts as these are of wonderful character, and we, who belong not to the faculty, will hardly be held to a very severe accountability for yielding to such strong proofs. To all persons, therefore, who are afflicted with sores, cancers or tumors of any kind, we say go to Dr. Gilbert's, (72 Magazine street,) and if he don't cure you, your case must be a very obstinate and difficult one.

[The above is from the N. O. Delta; knowing this to be a virulent disease, and one which cut off an acquaintance of ours, one of the finest of fellows, we deem it right to give publicity to anything apparently truthful respecting it.]

### Great Fire in Brooklyn.

A very large fire broke out in Brooklyn, on Saturday evening the 22nd. A number of explosions took place, and about \$200,000 of property was destroyed. There was saltpetre, sugar, cotton, flaxseed, soda and dyewoods in the building. We have no fixed data to determine what was the cause of the explosions. Some say it was the saltpetre, others that turpentine, &c., was the cause of them. There were about fifty explosions, like the firing of heavy guns.

The population of the Island of Barbadoes, in the West Indies, is 792 inhabitants to the square mile—a thicker population than China.

### Egg Hatching in China.

The hatching houses is a long shed with mud walls and thickly thatched with straw. Along the ends and down one side of the building are a number of round straw baskets, well plastered with mud, to prevent them from taking fire. In the bottom of each basket there is a tile placed; or rather the tile forms the bottom of the basket. Upon this the fire acts—a small fireplace being below each basket.—Upon the top of each basket there is a straw cover which fits closely, and is kept shut while the process is going on. In the centre of the shed are a number of large shelves placed one above another, upon which the eggs are laid at a certain stage of the process. When the eggs are bought they are put into the baskets—the fire is lighted below them—and a uniform heat kept up, ranging from 95 to 102 degrees—but the Chinamen regulate the heat by their own feelings, and therefore it will, of course, vary considerable. In four or five days after the eggs have been subject to this temperature, they are taken carefully out, one by one, to a door, in which a number of holes have been bored nearly the size of the eggs; they are then held against these holes, and the Chinamen look through them, and are able to tell whether they are good or not. If good, they are taken back, and replaced in their former quarters; if bad, they are of course, excluded. In nine or ten days after this—that is about fourteen days from commencement—the eggs are taken from the basket, and spread out on the shelves. Here no fire-heat is applied but they are covered over with cotton, and a kind of blanket, under which they remain about fourteen days more—when the young ducks burst their shells, and the shed teems with life.—These shelves are large and capable of holding many thousands of eggs; and when the hatching takes place, the sight is not a little curious. The natives who rear the young duck in the surrounding country know exactly the day when it will be ready for removal; and in two days after the shell is burst, the whole of the little creatures are sold and conveyed to their new quarters.

### Iron War Vessels not so Strong as Wooden Walls.

England has always boasted of her wooden walls, and recent experiments at Portsmouth, in that country, in testing the effect of shot and shell upon the sides of iron vessels, justify the claim to superiority of oaken sides implied in the boast. Capt. Chads, of the Excellent, had a large iron boat made, representing the two sides of an iron vessel, each side of the strength and consistency of one of the iron steamships. This butt was erected on the mud, at a distance of 460 yards from the Excellent, and the practice took place at high water from guns of several calibre, and various charges of powder, both shot and shell, were fired. The result show pretty conclusively that iron vessels are not fit to cope with vessels of wood, neither are they fit to go against batteries, for it is now tolerably certain that the fatal effects of every shot received on board would be quadrupled by the tendency of the ironwork to splinter, fly off, and destroy everything in the vicinity of the concussion, more especially when the ball itself is also likely to split and break to pieces likewise.

### Study.

Nothing makes a man so stupid as too much study. There are some persons who pile such a load of books on their heads, that their brains seem literally squashed by them. In acquiring the ideas of others, they seem to doom themselves never to think; and while they generally know all that of which they might excusably be ignorant, they are ignorant of every thing which they ought to know. Hobbs, of Malmesbury, used to say, "If I had read as many books as other persons, I should probably know as little."

[The above, we see, has been going the rounds of the papers for some time. The author of it, we suppose, is some fellow who has neither the faculty to study himself nor appreciate it in others. There may be some persons who study too much, but the number is few and far between—the evil lies in the other direction.]

### Cingalese Veneration for the Cobra de Capello.

It is called naga by the natives, and is considered sacred; on the western coast before the arrival of Gutama Buddha, it is believed the people worshipped this snake. The reverence with which this reptile is regarded, although its venomous nature is well known, prevents many of natives destroying it;—and the most ingenious reasons are assigned by them to Europeans, to extenuate or account for the deadly bite too often inflicted by the cobra, or naga. In Kandy, when a cobra is caught, instead of slaying the noxious vermin, and thus preventing further mischief accruing, the people wishing to be rid of it will secure it, and convey it during the night to some distant village or jungle.—Those who fear and desire the destruction of the naga, but whose superstition causes them to hesitate before they take life, make a compromise with their conscience, by enclosing the snake in a mat-bag, with some boiled rice for food, and place the receptacle, inmate, and food in a flowing stream, where the snake is certain to meet death either by drowning, or from the hands of some less scrupulous devotee.

### A Runaway Locomotive.

On New Year's day, 1850, a catastrophe, which it is fearful to contemplate, was averted by the aid of the telegraph. A collision had occurred to an empty train at Gravesend and the driver having leaped from his engine, the latter started alone at full speed for London. Notice was immediately given by telegraph to London and other stations; and while the line was kept clear, an engine and other arrangements were prepared as a buttress to receive the runaway. The superintendent of the railway also started down the line on an engine; and on passing the runaway he reversed his engine and had it transferred at the next crossing to the up-line, so as to be in the rear of the fugitive; he then started in the chase, and on overtaking the other he ran into it at full speed, and the driver of the engine took possession of the fugitive, and all danger was at an end. Twelve stations were passed in safety; it passed Wolwich at fifteen miles an hour; it was within a couple of miles of London when it was arrested. Had its approach been unknown, the mere money value of the damage it would cause might have equalled the cost of the whole line of telegraph.

### Southern Vegetable Diet.

We can have vegetables the year round, and with so little labor, that it is a matter of wonder to a provident man that an independent citizen is content with so small a variety.—The cabbage tribe will give us boiled vegetables from first of May to the first of January, even if we could not grow the cabbage heads; we then have the turnip until April or May.—We can have sweet potatoes from January to January. Then there are pumpkins, parsnips, and winter squashes for winter; squashes for summer; beans, peas, corn, &c., for summer turnip tops, spinach, asparagus, &c, for spring. What living for we of the South!—But fruits in their season are not to be forgotten. Strawberries from 15th of April to 15th of May; then Chickasaw plums until first or middle of June; figs, then raspberries; nutmeg peaches; soon after, Early York, Early Tillotson, and other peaches; June apples; Early Catharine, Jargonelle, and other pears. A family can have fruit from the tree and vine from middle of April to first of January, without resorting to hot-house culture.

Notwithstanding these varied gifts of God to us, we will continue to gourmandize meat; and for this simple reason, we are accustomed to it, and will not try another plan.—[Southern Cultivator.]

### California.

The Philadelphia arrived here from Chagres on last Saturday evening, bringing \$2,500,000 of the real dust. There had been a number of battles with the Indians. The foreigners have resisted the tax of \$20 per month. Gold was still plenty. Merchandise was reasonable in that land; provisions were also within a striking distance of a gold digger. The state of things was still favorable.

### Laying it on with a Vengeance.

We had hitherto supposed that we were on the most friendly terms with our excellent neighbors, Messrs. Fowlers & Wells, but since they advise "their friends all over the world to avoid the Scientific American," we must be at issue with them. Only hear what they say in the last number of the Water Cure Journal:—

"Who ever saw this paper without regretting that he had not seen it before; or did not wish to obtain all the back numbers? If the opinions, feelings, or emotions of other people be like our own, we answer "nobody." Now, friends, all over the world, we are about to give you a word of caution. It is this, let your circumstances be what they may, be you rich or be you poor, avoid the Scientific American,—don't even look at it, for if you do, you will read it, and if you read a single sample number, you will get "stuck" for a volume, and that will cost you \$2. So beware. The danger, should you send for a sample number, would not end here. You would be "in for it" during the remainder of your life, for no other than this one reason, viz., you could not do without it."

### Cotton Growing in the East Indies.

The New Orleans cotton planted in the District of Dharwar, present a most favorable appearance; 23,000 acres have been planted; and the successful cultivation of American cotton is said to be established beyond dispute. This is certainly news: last year we had accounts from India of the complete abortion of India cotton cultivation—now a new face is put upon the matter this year. Is it to affect the market, or what? A great number of good American cotton gins have been sold this year. There is an English factory for making them in the Candish district.

### Infusoria on Teeth.

Dr. H. I. Bowditch, of Boston, in a paper in Silliman's Magazine, has given the results of a microscopic examination of the accumulation on the teeth of 49 individuals, most of whom were very particular in their care of the teeth. Animalcules and vegetable products were found in every instance except two. In those cases the brush was used three times a day, and a thread was passed between the teeth daily. Windsor soap was also used by one of these two persons with the brush. Dr. B. had tried various substances for destroying the animalcules, and especially tobacco, which seemed to be without effect. Soap suds and the chlorine tooth wash, however, were potent destroyers.

### Cure for the Dropsy.

Take one half cup of black mustard seed, one large root of horse radish, two cloves of garlic, one lump of saltpetre about the size of a large nutmeg; chop these all fine, then put them in a quart bottle, and pour it full of good rye whiskey; then let this remain for three days, after which take one table spoonful three times a day.

An immediate cure for drunkenness has been discovered by a French chemist. It is acetate of ammonia dissolved in sugar and water.

[These two cures are selected; we cannot warrant one of them, but rather express our strong doubts about their value; as they relate to cases of experimental physics, we give them for what they are worth, premising that if a man drinks the acetate of ammonia, he will not get drunk on cider.]

### Hempfield Railroad.

We learn by the Banner, (Sidney, Ohio), that the Belfontaine and Indiana Railroad is not located by way of Greenville, but runs on an air line from Sidney in Ohio, to the Indiana State Line.

We are indebted to Messrs. Thompson & Hitchcock No. 149 Pearl st., for a fine lithographic print of the burnt district of San Francisco as it appeared after the great fire of the 4th of May last. The sketch was taken on the spot by one of the firm and is no doubt very correct in every particular.

About twenty-two tons of strawberries were brought into this city by the New York and Erie Railroad, last week.