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POPULAR SCIENCE.

SOME WONDER WORKERS OF RECENT DISCOVERY

The Material of the Earth and Sea
Sold to be the Same—Asbestos Powder—
Glass Used as Wire—Explorations in the Antarctic Seas.

Asbestos Porcelain.

The name of asbestos porcelain is given to a newly invented French material, possessing, it is asserted, some special advantages over ordinary porcelain. The fibres of asbestos are exceedingly fine, French measurements showing their diameter to vary between .00018 and .0002 millimetres, an exceedingly fine powder being consequently obtainable from them. If it were possible to amalgamate such small particles without the addition of any foreign substance, it is evident, says the Electrical World, that a material could be obtained, though porous in nature, the pores of which would be so fine as to be hardly visible under the microscope. The substance in question is formed by pulverizing the asbestos from which powder is made by mixture with water, dried and kneaded, diluted with water, dried and kneaded again, and then moulded into the desired form. By heating the latter in a crucible to a temperature of 1,700 degrees, C., a porcelain is obtained with a translucency comparable to that of ordinary porcelain; or, if heated for eighteen hours, at a temperature of 1,200 degrees, porous asbestos porcelain results, of a light yellow or white color, if the asbestos powder be washed with sulphuric acid. Tests made with vessels produced from this kind of porcelain show a decided superiority of the article in certain chemical uses.

Antarctic Explorations.

The probability of a pore thorough exploration of the Antarctic continent has directed special attention in scientific circles at the present time, to that vast and remarkable region. It is an ice cap, nearly circular in form, and about 3,000 miles in diameter. Its thickness is still a problematical matter, and has been the subject of much theorizing by scientific men, who argue that, if there could be assigned to it a thickness of 15,000 feet, it would present a mass of ice large enough to displace the earth's center of gravity nearly a mile to the southward of its center; a gradual displacement of this sort, caused by the slow accumulation of ice, would, as asserted by some, produce an imperceptible tilting of the ocean from the north to the south, and the gradual emergence of southern continents. In fact, geologists claim that an examination of our globe exhibits an actual result of this sort. Thus the greatest mass of the ocean is gathered about the south pole—the northern hemisphere includes about five-sixths of the land surface of the globe—and it is affirmed that this inequality is increasing, as evidenced in the slow rising of the northern continents and the sinking of the islands of the Pacific. It is, however, considered more probable by some that the water is slowly draining away from the northern hemisphere and accumulating in the south.

A Locomotive Stone Breaker.

With the improved means of stone ballasting a railway track shown in the illustration, nothing but clean stone, substantially free from dust and with no admixture of soil, is placed upon the roadbed. The improvement forms the subject of two patents recently issued, the machine being in the form of a locomotive adapted to run thirty miles an hour, while it can be changed to a stone breaker in five seconds, by raising the drivers off the track. The machine is always ready for use, on the road or in the quarry, and will break from twenty-five to thirty cubic yards of stone per hour, while it will also haul one loaded car. The rock for ballasting can be handled in large lumps, being loaded on flat-cars and drawn to the place of use, two-thirds of the rock being undisturbed as it is dropped from the car on to the roadbed, thus saving the handling of the ballast by shovels. The distance between the crushing jaws and the size of the crushed material is regulated by raising or lowering wedges by means of a rod and nut. The material is crushed by the machine to a more uniform size and in a more expeditious manner than the same can be effected by hand for a macadam or an ordinary roadway, as well as for a railroad, and is delivered with great facility at any desired point, its means of self-propulsion enabling it to be moved at a minimum of cost, and saving expense of handling.

LOCOMOTIVE STONE BREAKER.

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Sulphur for Finishing.

Few persons outside of manufacturing circles are aware of the important part played by sulphur in the finishing part processes for textile goods. It is the practical ingredient employed in bleaching white goods. The wool in its original state is impregnated most thoroughly with a greasy matter termed the yolk, which is the natural grease of the animal, and the first operation consists in removing this yolk by means of the scouring process; this done, the cloth is in readiness for "sulphuring," which is effected by introducing the fabric into a perfectly air-tight chamber, and subjecting it to the strong fumes of burning sulphur, the latter being commonly placed in iron pots and ignited by dropping a piece of red-hot iron in the midst. The goods are suspended from slats ar-

ranged in such a manner that the sulphur absorbs two atoms of oxygen from the air, and thus forms the sulphurous acid which is the bleaching agent. White goods bleached by such a process are not, however, equal in value to those bleached by the chlorine method, the latter being more lasting.

An Inexpensive Window Awning.

An improvement whereby the ordinary window shade may be used as a part of a window awning, serving when not so employed the ordinary purposes of a window shade, is illustrated in the accompanying engraving, and forms the subject of a patent which has been issued to Mr. Bernard Branner of New York City. The ordinary spring roller shade, B, is shown extended outwardly, and in the position it is supported by a keeper hook at each side in the outer ends of the stretcher rods, C, of the side wings, D. These stretcher rods



WINDOW SHADE AWNING.

are each hinged on the lower end of an upright stay rod, secured one on each side of the window, the stay rods forming the upright supports for the wings, whose lower edges are connected with the horizontal stretch rods. A cord, A, is passed through marginal rings in the wings, and by drawing on the cord the stretcher rods are folded upwardly, inclining the attached wing material, a cord, B, facilitating the extension and securing of the awning in position. Different forms of side stay rods are contemplated by the invention, and the wings and their stretcher rods may readily be completely removed. When the shade is not to be used as an awning, it is released from the keeper hooks on the outer ends of the stretcher rods and drawn into the apartment, then becoming a pendant screen for the window. By a slight change in the location of the awning material the device may also be utilized as a screen for a door.

Earth and Sun.

In a recent discussion before the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers of the theory that the earth must be composed of the same material as the sun, it was suggested that such a view receives striking confirmation from the spectroscopic, by means of which instrument it has been demonstrated that there exists in the sun many of our metals, particularly iron, in the state of vapor—while meteoric stones, which belong to the same order of substances as the planets, have been found, by actual analysis, to be largely composed of iron and its carbides. Again, the law of the diffusion of gases would lead to the presumption that on the condensation of the metallic vapor the substances of higher specific gravity, or greater atomic weight, would collect chiefly near the center of the future globe, while the lighter matters would tend to aggregate on the surface; and, as the mean specific gravity of the earth is about five, while that of its superficial deposits ranges from only two and one-half to four, it is thought to be evident that the interior of the globe must be composed of substances having high specific weights, such as iron, for example, which ranges between seven and eight. Moreover, it is certain that the rocks at a comparatively short distance down from the surface exist in a highly heated if not in a molten condition.

Wire Glass.

Some of the recent improvements made in the manufacture of wire glass leave no doubt as to the thoroughness of that new and novel article. The form of apparatus by means of which the most satisfactory results are being produced is found to be a glass rolling table, having a three-roller carriage over it, running on the side ledges, and upon this table the glass is rolled out, the ledges regulating its thickness; two of the rollers are smooth, the central roller has a series of grooves running around it, and between the leading and the trailing rollers a wire is placed for the reception of a sheet of wire gauze. Now, a proper quantity of melted glass being poured out upon the table, the hot sheet of wire gauze is placed in its carrier, and the roller carrier started; the latter having progressed a little, the wire is dropped; the first roller has rolled out the glass; the wire gauze strikes the partly fluid glass; and is drawn under the corrugated roller; the latter seizes it, and, by its corrugations, forces it into the pasty glass to the required depth. At this stage the compound mass goes under the third roller, where it is rolled to the smoothest possible condition, and the operation is completed. The sheet is subsequently annealed in the usual way, and is ready for use.

Theosophy.

Mrs. Besant was asked for a short and understanding definition of theosophy, and she said: "Theosophy is a hard to cram a science into a sentence, but the root idea of theosophy is that the material world we live in is the outcome—an expression of will and thought, and may be modified by their exercise, just so far as mind and thought are developed. The universe is the exercise of universal will and mind, and man's mind being identical with that in its essence is capable of developing power, and, in fact, has done it to some extent."

He Was Sorry.

Housekeeper—This is the twentieth time to-day that I've had to come to the door to tell peddlers that I did not want anything.
Peddler—Very sorry, mum!
Housekeeper—It's some comfort to me that you are sorry, anyhow.
Peddler—Yes, mum, I'm very sorry you don't want anything, mum!

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

Foreigner—What admire in your New York girls is their hair arms.
New Yorker—Yes. They develop them by hanging on the straps in horse cars and "L" trains so much.

Clergyman, at a parishioner's grave—Yes, my friends, our departed brother has been taken suddenly away, leaving behind a mourning widow of twenty-four summers. Widow, amid her sobs—Oh, no, sir; I'm only twenty-two.

Disgraced Passenger—It is nothing but an outrage, the way these street cars are packed and jammed every evening. Conductor—I know it; but you see the company won't let us take the seats out. If the seats were only took out there would be plenty of room to stand.

"Wonderful climate in Arizona," said the returned wanderer. "I knowed a feller to have twenty-seven bullets shot into him and still git well as ever." "He must have suffered a great deal." "He did, pardner, he did. The pore feller was so full o' holes he couldn't hold whisky."

Write—Here's an advertisement in the paper that you'd better look into. It says that a man is wanted, and he won't be worked to death, and he'll get paid enough to live on. Husband—Says he won't be worked to death, eh? "Yes, and they pay enough to live on." "Huh! Some catch about that."

"Don't you," said the earnest young woman, "sometimes have thoughts that are beyond your powers of expression?" "Y'as! I frequently have thoughts that are verwy hard to express, and the worst of it is that when I get them expressed I can't help wondering why I went to all that trouble."

Genre-Painter, to Peasant—But why do you refuse to let me paint your kitchen? Peasant—In the first place it would cost too much, and secondly, it would soon be black again, anyway.

Waggleigh—I guess poor Lunleigh is not long for this world. Tagleigh—Why so? Waggleigh—The doctor sent him in his bill yesterday.

WILD AND WOOLLY.

Watts—How do you spell whisky—k-y or k-e-y? Potts—K-y. Same as Kentucky.

My precept to all who build is that the owner should be an ornament to the house, and not the house to the owner.—Cicero.

You can always find out how much a man is worth when he dies by looking at his will. It is a dead give-away. "Carrie," said the bashful youth, with a gasp. "If you liked somebody else about the same as you like me, would you care to marry him?"

Little Johnny—May I hitch the dog to my sled and let him pull me? Mother—I'm afraid he'll bite you. Little Johnny—It's the other end I'm going to hitch.

An exchange says a man's full mental power is not reached before the age of 25. Either this is wrong, or the college freshman has been misinformed as to himself.

The Vicar—Oh, that's your boy, Smithers? And what's he going to be? A shoemaker like yourself? Smithers—Oh, no! sir. He's uncommon fond of animals, you see; so we're thinking of making him a butcher.

Indignant Manager—See here, Spriggs, you have got to get some new gags. The audience will never stand them mouldy chestnuts you are giving 'em. You might as well understand right now that you ain't neither a senator nor a bishop. See?

Last Friday evening two men walked into an uptown restaurant. They sat down at one of the tables and began studying the bill of fare. "Well," said one of them, "I'll take a little fish." The other glanced at the clock and read the bill of fare again. "I think," he said slowly, "I think I will take a Welsh rabbit." The man who took fish looked up in alarm. "Great heavens! Charley," he said, "remember that it's Friday."

GRAINS OF GOLD.

Whenever there is selfishness there is sin.
The greatest of all duties is the present one.

Every good man on earth is a pillar to hold heaven up.
Wherever there is a sin it is sure to be followed by a sorrow.

No man is good who behaves himself simply because he has to.
The best answer you can make to self-conceit is to keep still.

There are too many men who love to preach but hate to practice.
Many there be who buy nothing with their money but repentance.

Modest appearance, good humor and prudence make a gentleman.
No man can be truly brave who is not seeking to be truly good.

For every fault we can point out in others we have two of our own.
If you want to keep out of darkness, never let the sun go down on your wrath.

The man who thinks that his sin will never find him out makes a great mistake.
We should not make our profession of religion a receipt in full for all other obligations.

There are people who think their neighbors houses need painting because they neglect to wash their own windows.
Putting your enemy in the wrong in the sight of men is the worst kind of defeat, against which neither individual nor nation can long persist.

It is hard for a man to bear his own good luck; it is harder still for his friends to bear it for him, and but a few of them ordinarily can stand the trial.

PEOPLE OF NOTE.

Miss Anne Hamilton will write a biography of Mr. Blaine.

Henry Villard's name was originally Hilgard, and he took his present one from an intimate friend of Lincoln.

A handsome park, in the memory of Edward P. Roe, the late novelist, is to be laid out in Cornwall, N. Y.

The people of Rhode Island are moving in the matter of raising funds for the erection of a monument to the Indian chief, Massasoit.

"Regis voluntas suprema lex!" wrote the Emperor William some months ago. Now he has had the words "Nemo me impune lacessit!" inscribed upon a portrait of himself.

Hoke Smith's real name is Michael Hoke Smith. He is named after his grandfather, Michael Hoke, who was the Democratic candidate for governor of North Carolina in 1844.

Professor E. E. Barnard of the Lick observatory often devotes twenty hours of the twenty-four to work at the telescope and in the computing room during clear weather.

Two sons of the novelist Dickens reside in Australia. The elder one, christened Alfred Tennyson, has acquired a moderate fortune in business; and the younger, named after Edward Bulwer Lytton, sits in the parliament of the great southern continent.

Lord Chief Justice Coleridge of England visited this country in 1883 and became well known to New York newspaper men. He was then 63 years old, spare, tall, stoop-shouldered, with a pink face and white hair. He was a great favorite with reporters.

Lewis Carroll (as the author of "Alice in Wonderland," Rev. Charles Ludwidge Dodgson, is known to the reading public) has not lost his love for children, and he constantly entertains groups of them, including little actresses from the London theaters.

Now that Fanny Kemble is dead it is recalled that in her youth she took a most gloomy and pessimistic view of life, though endowed with every blessing that makes life enjoyable.

But in her old age she was the personification of optimism, eminently cheerful and unrepining.

Rev. Dr. A. G. Lawson of Philadelphia when once sitting next to Edward Everett Hale at a banquet, asked the great Boston divine why Boston is called the hub.

With one of his sudden flashes of wit Dr. Hale replied: "Boston is the hub because out of it go spokesmen of the wheel of mankind who never tire of doing good to their fellows."

ALL SORTS AND SIZES.

Over 800 varieties of cotton are said to exist—400 in Asia and Africa and 200 in America.

In the South an average mule is worth \$70, and a pair of extra good ones will bring \$300 or more. Louisville is the great mule market of the South.

Mr. Blaine was superstitious in regard to the number seven, and believed that if he should outlive the completion of his ninth seven years he would recover. He did not.

Pere Chantant, founder of the order of the White Fathers, who was born in France in 1844, has been appointed to succeed the late Cardinal Lavergne as primate of Africa.

A number of vagabonds are said to make a living in New York by following express wagons around the city, on the alert to steal packages while the expressman is in the house doing business.

Chicago milkmen keep in their wagons a decoy can containing undiluted milk. When the inspector demands a sample for test, he is supplied from the decoy can, while customers must be content with the skimmed and watered article.

The late Bishop Phillips Brooks was to confirm a class in a highly ritualistic parish, and the rector, an old friend of the bishop's and well acquainted with the latter's broad church views, wrote to say that as there might be some features of the service which Bishop Brooks would disapprove, any such would be omitted if he would be kind enough to indicate them. The bishop's reply to this communication is said to have been a note which ran about thus: "Dear —: Turn it all on."

CHOWCHOW.

A school for spinning has been opened in London.

Europe reports 70,000,000 people wearing wooden shoes.

The Mexican government has adopted measures to retire the big copper cents from circulation.

A little borax put in water in which scarlet napkins and red bordered towels are to be washed will prevent them from fading.

A pet dog, it is said, recently died at Elkton, Ky., from licking its mistress' cheek. She painted, and the poor dog died of poison.

The shah of Persia, who has 10,000,000 sterling stored in his palace, has been borrowing a sum from the state to defray the cost of his summer outfit to the distant provinces of his empire. His suite comprises 10,000 people, including 300 wives.

When wooden ware is washed, such as bread boards, chopping knives, etc., they should never be dried by the fire, as they will warp and crack if exposed to dry heat while wet. If it is possible to dry them in the sun they will be so much sweeter and nicer.

John D. Mann was killed by a falling rock in Dorchester, Mass., and his brother James, who came from Franklin to Hyde park to arrange for the funeral, was himself killed at the railroad station by a passing train. Six years ago the father of these men was killed by the cars in Hyde park, he also having come there from Franklin.



Koenig's Nerve Tonic
Genuinely gives the poor.
Two years ago you were kind enough to send me some of Koenig's Nerve Tonic, which I gave to two poor girls who were suffering from falling sickness, and they got well after using your excellent remedy. My parish is poor to the utmost, but your charity will be your crown, for your remedy so generously given to the poor, and so excellent, cannot but be an eternal reward.
REV. E. V. LEBERSON.

Streator, Ill., Oct. 28, '91.
Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic is the only medicine that ever helped one of our sisters who was suffering from nervousness and sleeplessness for ten years; we also recommended it to many others and it always had the desired effect. A lady who was suffering from a rupture for several years and found no relief, until she used Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic; three bottles cured her entirely.
SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS.

FREE A Valuable Book on Nervous Diseases and a sample bottle to any and all who will send for it. Four patients also get them free.
This remedy has been prepared by the Rev. Father Koenig, of Fort Wayne, Ind., since 1841, and is now under his direction by the

KOENIG MED. CO., Chicago, Ill.

Sold by Druggists at \$1 per Bottle, 6 for \$5.

Large Size, \$1.75. 6 Bottles for \$9.

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DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?

His name is a household word throughout the United States. His medicines performed cures that were called miracles. His prescriptions are in the hands of his druggist, A. F. Sawhill, who filled over 50,000 of them. MEDICINES FOR THE CURE OF: Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Headache, Toothache, Stomachache, Backache, Catarrh of the Bladder, Gleet, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Skin Diseases, etc.