

"Vorstand des Vereins Berliner Kiinstler."

Bjornstjerne Bjornson is at present staying in Rome. He has just written the last pages of a novel, which will soon be published in English and Norwegian at the same time.

The total number of practicing physicians in Norway is at present estimated at 850. There are about 1,000 persons per physician in the cities, and 5,000 in the country districts.

The largest Norwegian steamer in the world will soon be built in England. She will be paid for by the ship-broker and congressman Christian Michelsen and employed for the freight traffic between Norway and China.

DENMARK.

A new church is to be built in Odense.

Several fishermen were drowned off Laaland.

Seven large guns will be added to the Danish artillery.

Dr. Blichert, president of the Soro Academy, died at Roskilde.

The number of Catholics in Copenhagen is increasing.

Severe storms are reported from several parts of the country.

The handelsbanken has declared a dividend of 5½ per cent for 1893.

Many fishermen's families in Jutland are suffering from want of food and fuel.

N. Hansen's farm in Herfølge, near Kjøge, was burned to the ground and many cattle were roasted to death.

Jens Chr. Jensen's farm in Grimstrup was burned to the ground and many cattle were roasted to death.

Lieutenant-General, P. F. Steinman died at Naestved at the age of 82 years.

A sugar refinery will be built in Maribo. The capital stock is to be 1,500,000 crowns most of which has already been taken.

The Danish Folketing has passed a bill according to which only such insurance companies which have a capital exceeding 200,000 kroner are to be assessed.

The clergymen of the State church have been granted permission by the king to assist at funerals of bodies, which are to be cremated. All religious ceremonies, however, must take place in the home of the deceased, or in the church, before the body is sent to the crematory.

Henning Jensen, who is causing the state church clergy of Copenhagen no small amount of worry writes: "The bulk of the workmen of Copenhagen and all the intelligence of Copenhagen are through with orthodoxy never to return to it. The hope of recovering them for the dogmatic faith of the church is floating only dimly in the air and the sooner it is given up the better. But in many of them there is a religious craving which now cannot be satisfied. They never put their feet inside the door of the church, because they are not religiously edified but religiously scandalized there. But if they could possibly hear preachers holding religious views in common with themselves, that religious life which now is either dormant or entirely crippled would have favorable chances for a healthy development."

OUR STOCKHOLM LETTER.

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 17.—It is said that the physical development of the three sons of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess is very poor on account of the ill health of the mother. The weakness of the chest of the Zaehring dynasty is also traced in their dispositions to sickness. Of the three brothers Prince Erik, the youngest, is the weakest. He is also said to possess an intelligence, which is below the average.

This is the more deplorable as all of King Oscar's sons are of robust health, two of them being regular giants in size and strength.

About Soto Maior, the late Portuguese minister to Stockholm, a paper relates the following story: The vicomte, who descended from a very wealthy family, was at first a lieutenant in a mounted regiment of the Portuguese army. He married a very rich Spanish lady. During several years' stay in Paris he succeeded in spending all what he possessed, and returned to Lisbon without having a sou in his pocket.

For the purpose of earning a livelihood he became a newspaper man, and was some time managing editor of the *Tribuna*, until he was elected a member of the chamber of deputies, where he made himself known as a very witty opposition speaker. At one time he had, in one of his speeches, styled the secretary of the treasury as a spendthrift. The secretary answered that such a reproach sounded a little peculiar when uttered by a man who had himself spent a whole fortune.

"That is true," Soto Maior answered; "I have even made away with three fortunes, but the difference is, that I have spent only my own money, while your excellency is managing the money of other people too carelessly."

At another occasion the vicomte undoubtedly showed himself still more prepared for emergencies. The president of the chamber had called him to order, and finally commanded him to be silent, whereupon Soto Maior left the hall, reappearing, however, in a few minutes. When he again rose to speak, the president having recognized him, he put two pistols on the table before himself and commenced his speech with the following words: "One pistol is intended for you, Mr. President, if you again dare to call me to order, and the other is for that one of my colleagues, who tries to interrupt me." Seldom, indeed, has a speech been listened to with more reverential silence than this one was.

It goes without saying that the Portuguese government used the first opportunity to get rid of such a dangerous adversary as the little vicomte, and so it happened that Soto Maior was appointed minister to Stockholm, where he soon became the doyen of the diplomatic corps and so popular, that there was not one inhabitant in the city of Stockholm who did not recognize the Lilliputian Portuguese and "knew all about him."

In the interest of the many American tourists, who visit Sweden every summer, it may be mentioned that the most easily accessible point, from which to view the midnight sun, is the Gellivara-Dundret, a mountain connected by a railway with Lulea, whence there is

regular communication with Stockholm by steamer, and will soon be by rail. The sun does not sink below the horizon from about the 5th of June to about the 10th of July. The midnight sun may, of course, be seen, generally speaking, from every isolated eminence within the arctic circle; but the Gellivara-Dundret has the advantage of being situated in a populated district, where better provision is made for the traveler's comfort. In order to reach this mountain the visitor has to make a short excursion on the most northerly railway in the world (the only one that crosses the arctic circle), and on his arrival he finds himself in one of the richest iron districts in the world, where untold wealth still slumbers in the bowels of the earth, and where whole mountains of iron ore meet the eye.

The two universities in Sweden, that of Upsala, and that of Lund, where founded respectively in 1477 and 1668. From both the female sex was excluded. It was not till the fourth decade of our century and in consequence of the movement for woman's rights as well as for a higher standard of female education, that a call arose for the abolition of such an antiquated statute.

At the riksdag of 1865 a Swedish yeoman, C. J. Svensen, presented a bill for the admission of women to the universities. This bill caused a lively debate; one side pronounced women to lack both physical and psychical power to carry on learned studies; the other side showed how unreasonable it was to form a decided opinion on that question, when no opportunity had been given woman to try the power of her intellect. Her fitness for the professions of teacher and physician was especially put forth.

Not before the 3rd of June, 1870, however, a writ was issued conferring upon woman a right of passing the examination for the university, and of matriculating at the university, and of following the profession of a physician. Since that time the number of female students has been increasing year by year. The number, however, only comes up to about one per cent of that of the male students, of whom may be said, that they are too numerous in proportion to the population.

The examination for the university is passed either in the classical division, or else in the mathematical division. The first comprises the following compulsory subjects of examination: Swedish composition, theology, Latin, French, German, mathematics and physics, history and geography, zoology and botany, and propædæutics of philosophy. Optional subjects are: Greek, Hebrew and English; one of these languages, however, is obligatory.

In the mathematical division classical languages are not studied, but the claims on knowledge in the three modern languages, German, French and English, in mathematics and in physics are greater than in the classical department, and, besides, chemistry has to be studied.

Most of the women have passed their examination in the classical department. Of the young ladies, who have passed the examination for the university, only about 38 per cent have matriculated at the universities. Some have gone back into private life, while some have found employment as post, railway or bank officials, or else, as teachers.