

His snakeship is supposed to be eagerly seeking for a good square meal, and when the tit-bit arrives in his neighborhood he sticks his ugly, three-cornered head into the trap; then snap goes the spring and the patient proceeds to draw in his line, hauling the tape up through his throat. How he is to know when the trap is sprung, and how avoid being choked to death in the process, is not the inventor's business, but his own.

One might go on for a week with tales of these odd patents; but the one last mentioned makes a farther dose inadvisable for the present.

FANNIE BRIGHAM.

THE COLORADO MISSION.

1139 So. Evans St., Denver Col.,
January 30, 1898.

On the evening of January 24th there arrived at Denver a number of Utah brethren, delegates to the National Live Stock Growers' convention.

The Elders in the city chanced to meet these brethren at the Albany hotel, headquarters for the delegates. What a happy meeting. During their three days' sojourn in the city we were made partakers of their extreme hospitality, being made guests with them at the hotels, and taken to the best theaters in the city.

Our brethren from Zion having heard that Elders Chas. R. Jones and Chas. E. McClellan had been called to a distant part of this mission, to Nebraska, to walk the distance, having neither purse nor script, they took timely compassion on the two boys and made a neat collection among themselves of \$16, which they presented with a true brotherly spirit.

The Elders fully appreciate the handsome gift thus given, and are truly grateful to God and the brethren for the same.

On the night of January 28th, Elders Ensign and Graham, vocalists and Elder Clive, violinist, were requested to furnish music for the graduation exercises of the Keely Institute. We and our delegate brethren were asked specially to attend. The event was a huge success, and we gained the friendship of all officers and friends of the institute. From here we all went en masse to the Albany hotel, and through the labors of Brother O. P. Hatch of Woods Cross, Utah, we gained access to a piano on a corridor near the sitting room.

Elder Clive furnished violin music, while Elders Graham and Ensign sang solos and duets. Soon crowds of people took the elevators for the corridors above, where the music could more plainly be heard. A wonderful interest was manifested.

The favorite Mormon hymn "O My Father" was sung by Elders Graham and Ensign and was climatic and even moved a Catholic priest one "story" higher.

After he had drunk a goodly portion of the rich flood of music, the proprietor came and desired our acquaintance, complimenting the event, and extending a kind invitation for the Elders to call at the hotel next afternoon and engage in a rich repast. An invitation was given us to repeat the evening's performance when it met with our pleasure, and to call at his home and meet his family.

The mission at present is in an excellent condition, good reports coming in from all parts.

Just recently the Colorado mission has been made to comprise Nebraska, Wyoming and New Mexico.

Conference has been postponed for the present. And while the weather has not been pleasant thus far this winter yet the Elders everywhere have been active, energetic and alert to their duties, Elder John W. Taylor has gone to look after labors in the

southern part of the mission and New Mexico and Arizona, and his assistants are visiting conferences.

An excellent spirit prevails nearly everywhere that the Elders have made openings, and large audiences have the Gospel taught in its fullness.

Your paper is our ever welcome visitor.

JOHN C. HOUSTON,
Secretary Colorado Mission.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A novel method of feeding plants grown in pots is credited M. Georges Truffaut, a French horticulturist. The needs of the living plant are first ascertained by analysis, when the salts necessary for a certain number of months are weighed out and formed into a "pill" by enclosure in a metal covering, and the pill is planted in the pot. The salts slowly diffuse through the metal without acting on it, such regulation of the thickness of the metal and solubility of the salts being said to be possible as to give a pill to last either three or six months. It is not clear what advantages are expected to justify the expense of periodical analyses, but it is stated that large, well-colored plants are grown in pots of less than half the usual size.

Much of the danger attending the use of acetylene, according to Prof. Vivian B. Lewes, may due to the making of the calcium carbide from impure materials. An appreciable amount of sulphur, phosphorus of silica compounds in the coke may give rise in the resulting acetylene to phosphoretted hydrogen and similar gases liable to spontaneous ignition, and giving off on combustion products injurious to health and to fabrics. The pure acetylene, can be decomposed abruptly into carbon and hydrogen by contact with a detonator or by heat, the danger, however, being slight between two atmospheres of pressure and greater as the pressure increased.

The successful plating of aluminum with copper has been announced by a German named Wachwitz. Many objections to aluminum are thus overcome, and the copper coating is so thin as not to add materially to the weight, while the union of the two metals is so perfect that plates may be rolled or stretched without peeling. The copper-covered wires may be plated with silver or gold.

Five or six years ago so-called "dark meteors" were observed by M. du Cellie Muller to cross the moon's disc. Announcements of this discovery were received with much scepticism by astronomers, some of whom suggested that the dark bodies were birds in flight, others that they were seeds floating in the air, and still others that they were particles of dust in the eyes of the observer. Subsequent observations have proven beyond all doubt, if we may accept as conclusive a recent paper to the British Astronomical society by Mr. Fritz Hopman, that the objects are really bodies moving in space outside the earth's atmosphere. The size of these bodies varies greatly, most of them appearing very small but two having looked as large as the lunar crater Tycho, and their apparent velocity also is very different for different meteors, the passage across the lunar disc having occupied from a fraction of a second to three seconds. The dark meteors have been seen passing before the sun, too, in considerable number.

Curious results have been obtained by M. Guillaume in experiments with alloys of iron and to 45 per cent of nickel, the object of the tests being to determine the metal most suitable for

measuring instruments on account of permanence in length under varying temperature. A rule made of an alloy with 25 per cent of nickel, and annealed, continued to elongate when kept at a lower temperature. An alloy containing 22 per cent of nickel expanded on heating considerably more than ordinary steel, but with 37 per cent of nickel the character of the metal was entirely changed, the alloy scarcely expanding at all.

Vaccination has received fresh endorsement from the late severe epidemic of small-pox at Gloucester, England. Dr. Sidney Coupland reports a total of 1,878 cases, with 434 deaths, the mortality having been 40.8 per cent among the unvaccinated and only 9.8 per cent among the previously vaccinated. Only 3 cases, moreover, of the 507 accounted severe were among the vaccinated. The severity of the epidemic is attributed to the large number of unvaccinated children.

The best color for school exercise boards is stated by an authority to be cream white, with ordinary crayons of sky-blue, and extra colors of canary yellow and a clear dark green. Black is the worst of all for the eyes.

The effects of sea-water on metals during prolonged immersion have been studied anew in France, various metallic objects dredged from the harbor of Brest having been presented for examination. A bronze arquebus, supposed to date from the end of the sixteenth century, was found to contain somewhat more than 80 per cent of copper, about 9 per cent of sulphide of copper, about 9.5 per cent of tin and traces of lead, and the metal was in an excellent state of preservation. Such was the case also, it is recalled, with the bronze guns of the English vessel Mary Rose, which were recovered after being under water 292 years. Cast iron shot found at Brest, however, had become so soft that they could be cut with a knife; but wrought iron objects were a little better kept, having a core of sound metal under the rust. The same effects on iron were noted in the cannon of the Royal George, after being sunk only 2 years.

While alchemy has been revived in the United States, the divining rod has gained a fresh hold in England. The mystery of this instrument is explained by Prof. M. E. Wadsworth, of the Michigan School of Mines, who has often shown his classes that if any tough twig fork is grasped with the palms upward, the branches entering the clenched hands from the sides farthest apart, the twig will bend downward whenever the grasp is tightened. The harder the grip the more it must curve. Water or no water, mineral or no mineral, the result must always be the same when the conditions are fulfilled; and it can be easily understood, Prof. Wadsworth adds, how an ignorant operator may deceive himself and be perfectly honest in supposing that some occult force, and not his hands, forces the fork downward.

Color-hearing is found by Dr. W. S. Colman to be of two kinds. In one a transparent colored film seems to appear in front of the person on hearing certain sounds, as those of the vowels, musical notes, or particular musical instruments. In the second group each letter or word, when spoken or thought of, is brought to view in a characteristic color. Dr. Colman regards the phenomena as "associated sensations," analogous to shivering at sight or thought of an accident, or at the squeak of a slate pencil. The colors are rarely the same in two individuals.