

"He must be crazy," said the night city editor. Miss Evans walked up and laid her hand gently on the boy's shoulder, but he did not stir—he seemed nothing but a senseless writing machine.

And then suddenly she saw what he was writing and her eyes grew big with wonder, as she leaned closer, watching the flying fingers, and reading what they wrote. Her eyes shone and as she beckoned the night city editor to her side the other men all came crowding around and read with her. For a moment nobody spoke, and then the night city editor sprang back and grabbed an office boy who was skirmishing round the grove of reportorial legs in a vain endeavor to see the show.

"Run," the editor said, in a voice that made the youngsters feet tingle to be off that minute, tell them to hold those forms for more copy—not to close them till I say. Tell them I shall want a column on the front page, no matter what must be killed to get it. Hurry!" and the boy sped away down the hall.

Few of the men who saw that scene ever forgot it. The tall, slender boy sitting there, unheeding them all, with his face showing strained and white through soot and grime, his swollen hands leaving blood marks on the white keys and the sheets of paper as he wrote—the anxious group hanging over him, watching every word—the copy reader who came and stood beside him, reading each sheet almost before it had left the machine, and the eager line of office boys, waiting to take the story, page by page, down to the composing room.

At last it was done—one of the best, the most thrillingly told stories that had gone out of that office for weeks, and as the poor, tired hands fell from the keys a sigh of relief went up from every person there, and then little Greyson, half drunk and wholly joyful, cried out: "Three cheers for the kid!" and the men gave them with a right good will. Harrington started to rise, and then suddenly Miss Evans put out her arms and helped to catch and hold him as he fell back again on to his chair senseless.

The night city editor bent over him with a strange gleam in his deep, nervous gray eyes.

"Kelly," he ordered, "get a cab—quick—any flasks here boys? Thanks. This chap is a trump of the first water. He'd be a credit to any paper in the country. Some of you boys take him home and see he's safe and well cared for. We can't afford to lose him now."

And the man who had sat unknown and lonely in the office just three short hours before, left it with a name and fame that many an older man might

His first assignment was ended, and his success was made.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Baths of hot air have proven very successful in recent medical practice. They are applied by means of a metal cylinder encasing the leg or by a body apparatus which consists of a metal section, about 30 inches long with a closed canvas extension for the feet and a canvas curtain for the end from which the head protrudes, and they have been found especially advantageous in rheumatism and gout, but also in bronchial and asthmatic difficulties, and even for sprains and bruises. The temperature ranges from 250 degrees to 400 deg., the bath lasting about an hour. The skin and kidneys are stimulated, circulation is restored, sleep returned to the sleepless, and the general economy is rejuvenated. One physician states that the more one works with this useful therapeutic measure the

more enthusiastic he is likely to become. Among remarkable results reported is the cure of senile gangrene in a man 79 years old, who was discharged in two weeks although his left toes had been badly ulcerated and practically dead, and hot air had been tried as a last resort. Another striking cure being that of a Western college professor, who was obliged by gouty disease to sit with his legs straightened out and for a year had been unable to feed or dress himself, but who after twelve baths rode a bicycle six miles.

Evidence of industrial quickening in Spain may be the suggestion in Madrid that incandescent lighting by petroleum be developed. It has been found that the heaviest oils which give a very bad red light in ordinary lamps, afford in incandescent lamps a far higher illuminating power than do light oils. Spain's bituminous shales and inferior coals are well adapted to yield by distillation the heavy oils needed for incandescent lighting.

A tantalizing fact pointed out by an English astronomer is that Herr Witt's new planet between Mars and the earth was in January, 1894, in a more favorable opposition for observance than it will be again until 1924.

A scientific account of the great Indian earthquake of June 12, 1897, which was the largest and possibly the most violent on record, was given at the British association meeting by Mr. R. D. Oldham. The shock was felt over an area of not less than 1,500,000 square miles, while the focus occupied an area 200 miles long and 50 wide. Landslips on an unprecedented scale were produced in the Garo and Khasia hills and in the Himalayas north of Lower Assam. A number of lakes have formed in the depressions caused, mountain peaks were moved both vertically and horizontally, and stone monuments and forest trees were broken across by the violence of the shaking. Communications of all kinds were interrupted. Bridges were overthrown and in some cases thrust upward 20 feet, while rails on the railways were twisted and bent. Earth fissures were formed over an area larger than the United Kingdom, and solid streams of sand and water were forced to a height of three to five feet above ground from countless sand vents.

The buran, or snow hurricane, of the Pamirs is a meteorological phenomenon of great interest. A work by Seven Hedin states that even in mid-summer the temperature during a snow-buran frequently falls to 14 degrees F., while in the winter of 1892-93 it dropped to 45 degrees below zero at the end of January, and snowstorms were an every-day occurrence. The buran comes with startling suddenness, the atmosphere growing dark with whirling snowflakes where scarcely a minute before the sky was perfectly clear. It is impossible to see a yard ahead, and separation from one's caravan by even a few paces would mean almost certain death, for to shout is useless, and even the report of a rifle would be drowned in the awful roar of the hurricane.

The color of natural waters has been specially studied by Prof. W. Spring of the University of Liege. In a recent address to scientific men, he showed experimentally that the true color of pure water is blue, and that this is a characteristic of the water itself and is not due to reflection from the surface nor from suspended particles. Lake Geneva is an example of the blue of pure water. When pure water has a very slight cloudiness, due to finely divided whitish or colorless particles, in

suspension, even when these particles are of pure rock crystal, a yellow tint is imparted to the water, which with the natural blue produces a green color, as in Lakes Neuchâtel and Constance. Various observers have noted that green lakes have occasionally become absolutely colorless. This was shown to be due to washing into the water of fine mud tinted reddish with oxide of iron, the green color being thus neutralized and the water rendered for a time perfectly colorless.

Next to palms, ferns are the most conspicuous features of tropical vegetation, and Nicaragua is described by Mr. B. Shimek as the world's fern paradise. No other like area is distinguished by such a number of species, by so many peculiar to itself, or by such variation in form, size, structure, and habits of growth. The topography of tropical America, giving within narrow limits every degree of moisture and temperature, explains this. In size this species vary from those a fraction of an inch high to splendid tree ferns or vines with single fronds 30 feet long; in texture some rival the flimsiest lace, while others develop

v. leathery fronds; and in habit the range is as great, some ferns of western Nicaragua enduring parching draughts on bare volcanic rocks while other in the moist and shady eastern jungles develop delicate or gorgeous ferns under the conditions most favorable to them.

Inoculation against plague bids fair to become universal in India, one town of a population of about 40,000 having only about 5,000 uninoculated, while many have been inoculated twice. The results justify the practice, a report for one week in September showing only 69 attacks among 32,000 inoculated persons and 417 attacks among 8,500 uninoculated.

HAWAII NOT A KLONDIKE.

The "News" is in receipt of a copy of The Commercial Advertiser, Honolulu, under date of October 29th, giving a description of the territory of Hawaii, its people, government, laws, commerce, finances, educational system and resources. Besides these matters the paper is full of interesting local and telegraphic news, which, with its mechanical make-up, reflects much credit on the publishers. The name of W. N. Armstrong appears at the head of the editorial columns. Mr. Armstrong has many warm friends in Salt Lake City who will be pleased to learn he is connected with such an enterprising paper as the Advertiser.

The final remarks regarding the advantages of engaging in business, or securing employment on the islands are as follows:

"No one interested in Hawaii desires to discourage the settlement of a good class of citizens in the country; but it is more in the interest of both the people of Hawaii and intending settlers that the full truth be known before settlers come to Hawaii thereby avoiding possible disappointment and the incurring of unnecessary expense.

"The following facts should be borne in mind by all intending settlers:

"1st. Hawaii is not a new country. It is not a Klondike where gold can be picked up or an Oklahoma where land can be had for the asking. Honolulu was an established city before San Francisco was on the map. In the latter 40's and early 50's the people of California sent their children to Honolulu to be educated. People coming to Hawaii, therefore, must not expect to find the opportunities incidental to a new and undeveloped country, but must expect to meet the conditions, so