

090. The death-rate of negroes has always averaged from one-third more to twice as great a mortality per 1,000. For the week ending March 9, 1889, when the population of the city is estimated at: Whites, 184,500; colored 69,500, the death-rates are given per 1,000 persons at: Whites, 14.13; colored, 30.03, or more than twice as great a mortality for the negroes as for the whites. It thus appears that in this city the negroes are dying off twice as fast as the whites per thousand of population, and the mortuary statistics of all the Southern cities show generally a like result. Nothing can be predicted of the negroes in the country in the absence of statistics, but the same cause of neglect of hygienic laws, lack of comforts in their habitations and general unrestrained indulgence of all animal appetites and in vicious practices contribute largely to increase mortality among the colored people. Nothing but detailed statistics acquired by the United States Census Bureau in the course of a number of successive decades will give any reliable information upon which to base laws of comparative race growth.—*New Orleans Picayune*.

An Odd Effect of a Brain Injury.

A distinguished physician of this city tells of a recent case in his practice that has certain features of interest. In a household of this city there was a boy of twelve who possessed many excellent qualities, being amiable, truthful and upright. Passing along the street one day a piece of board fell from the second story of a house that was being built and struck him, inflicting a wound on his head. After a time the wound healed and left merely a slight scar. But it soon afterwards appeared that the boy had undergone an unaccountable change of character. He had become a liar and a thief, and was almost brutal in his nature. At last the parents consulted the physician to whom we have referred, and who made a study of the case. He finally suggested that the boy should be trephined, in order to ascertain if any injury had been done to the brain when the skull was struck. When the operation had been performed in the vicinity of the scar it was found that a splint from the inside of the skull had pierced the brain. After this splint had been carefully removed and the wound properly dressed the boy rapidly recovered. To the delight of his parents, it was then made apparent that the evil traits which had been brought into play by some unknown means had disappeared. He was changed again and was once more the amiable, truthful and upright boy that he had been before he was wounded. "This case," said the distinguished physician who narrated the facts of it, "would be remarkable if the medical books were not full of similar cases."—*New York Sun*.

Literary Activity.

The summary of the books pub-

lished here and in Great Britain during 1888, as given in the *March Book Buyer*, is very suggestive. Fiction leads in both countries, but Great Britain publishes 929 novels, while the United States bring out 808. England issued 748 books of a theological character, as against the United States, whose list contained 339 separate works. Here 329 law books were published, and there the number was limited to 115. Here the publications in political and social science numbered 200, and there the list stopped at 111. Here history claimed 110 books, and there history and biography included 377 volumes. With us the works on fine art were 143, and in England they were 184. In America the educational books were 306, and across the water they were 690. The imported works suggest something. The United States imported 112 juvenile works, as against 298 made in this country; 115 books of poetry, while 165 were made here; 102 biographies, as against 145 made here. In all popular lines of books the English importation is from a third to a half of the American product. The dependence on England in theology, education, poetry, biography, the fine arts and juvenile books is in about this proportion. A large number of these works could not be reprinted here, and the proposed copyright law would have greatly limited their circulation in the United States. Where England leads, however, on the great lines of production, the United States is not far behind. It is usually conceded that the riper scholars and the best writers are found on the other side of the water, but every year the distinction between the two countries in point of thoughtful and important literary production is less and less. Probably if a strict comparison were made between the interchanges of publications, it would be found that a large part of the English people who read books at all would be frequently found reading books by American authors.—*Boston Herald*.

How The Sparrows Were Saved.

A man was recently at work plastering up a crack in the outside wall of a house on Drolet Street. The lady of the house at the time noticed the "cheep, cheep" of some young sparrows and requested the plasterer to leave room for the old birds to come and go to and from the nestlings. The man refused. A little later the lady could not bear to hear the poor little things crying for food, and rather than let them starve in their dark prison she took a chisel, and working from an upper room, finally reached the nest through the interior walls. In the meantime the old birds had congregated. As soon as the nearest window to the nest was opened, the lady retired to a distance and watched proceedings. The old birds at once entered the room and began to feed their young. This continued until yesterday, when old birds and young departed by way of the window, which was constantly left open. In the meantime the old birds had grown so familiar with the family as to pay no heed

to them, no matter how many might be in the room. This little incident is much talked of in the neighborhood where it occurred. Talking of birds' nests, an old soldier who recently visited the Government portion of St. Helen's Island says that the surest sign of peace he ever saw is there in the shape of a bird's nest, full of young fledglings, in the mouth of a canyon.—*Montreal Witness*.

Mr. Cleveland.

Every Saturday afternoon he makes his way to the pier of the Fall River Line and takes a sound boat for an over-night trip. He travels without a servant or valet—a luxury he has never indulged in. He is then on his regular weekly trip to spend Saturday and Sunday, at Marion, Mass., about forty miles journey by rail from Fall River. He has taken a small cottage there—the property of a Boston clergyman—for only two months. This quiet village is situated on a little arm of Buzzard's Bay, and is, in no sense, a fashionable resort. He leaves on Monday afternoon, reaching New York on Tuesday, and putting in an appearance at his office. Mr. Cleveland, contrary to the general idea of him, is a reader of the best books—not an omnivorous consumer of everything from the printing press, but an intelligent student of the best. He does not read much general history, nor a great deal about politics, aside from certain special subjects in which he becomes interested. Novels which have commended themselves as worthy of attention get it from him. Few men in politics or business life read so much poetry as does Mr. Cleveland—something which seems to have gone almost out of fashion. He reads the best newspapers and has a genuine respect for them. When the summer is over he will settle down in a house on the west side of Madison Avenue, just above Sixty-eighth Street, where it is certain that less attention will be given to personal and political ambitions than in 5000 other homes within five miles of the city hall.—*Florida Times-Union*.

An Odd Way.

Mr. W. H. Levy, who is blind, says in his book, "Blindness and the Blind," that he can tell when he is opposite an object, and can perceive whether it is tall or short, slender or bulky. He can also determine whether it be a solitary object or a continuous fence, whether a close fence or an open one, and sometimes whether a wooden fence, a stone wall or a hedge.

None of the five senses have anything to do with this perceptive power, but the impressions are made on the skin of his face, and by it transmitted to the brain. He therefore names this unrecognized sense facial perception.

The presence of a fog interferes with facial perception, and the impressions are faint and untrustworthy; but darkness is no impediment. A noise which distracts the attention interferes with the impressions.