

THE San Francisco *Call*, of the 10th inst., contains the particulars of a terrible tragedy which occurred in the South Sea. There is a company on the island of Tahiti, styled the Tahiti Cotton Company. They have plantations there, and in the absence of laborers they sent a ship to Gilbert Island for a cargo of natives to work on them. The first venture of this kind proved so successful—the natives being such good workers,—that some six months ago the same company sent for another cargo. The vessel sent reached its destination in safety, and succeeded in getting between two and three hundred natives; and with that number the ship sailed for Tahiti.

During the first few days of the voyage the natives behaved very well; but about the tenth day out, they began to show an insubordinate disposition. This change in their conduct was noticed, and accordingly the leading spirits among them were watched.

On the fifteenth night from the time of first setting sail, the Coolies made an attack upon those of the crew who were on deck, and succeeded in killing two of them. The Captain, who ran out of his cabin upon hearing the noise, was set upon and beaten to death with marine-spikes and belaying pins.

When the first mate saw what had happened, he pushed into the hold, where there were a couple of kegs of powder. These he carried under the hatchway, and, pouring a quantity of powder on the floor, laid a train from there to the afterpart of the ship. This done, he climbed up the hatchway and shot one of the Coolies with his revolver. By this means he attracted their attention. He then dropped back into the hold and ran to where his train started. The Coolies instantly began to tumble down the hatchway, cursing, bellowing and shouting in the wildest manner. The mate watched his opportunity and ignited the train. There was a flash, a report and the vessel shook and trembled as if she had suddenly struck upon a rock. The air was filled with shrieks and groans, while the dense smoke penetrated into every recess and became so stifling, that the mate was compelled to crawl upon deck. Strange to say, none of the crew, whom the Coolies had not killed, were injured by the explosion; and when they heard the mate's voice after he had regained the deck, they immediately joined him.

The explosion killed a great many of the Coolies outright, wounded many more and so frightened the remainder, that they jumped into the sea. When they attempted to regain the ship, the crew, with cutlasses and pikes soon dispatched them. There was a slight breeze blowing at the time, and the vessel was borne away from the swarm of Coolies struggling in the water.

Upon examination, the mate found that the vessel was not seriously injured; and such repairs were made as enabled her to reach Tahiti in safety.

It is likely that no more Coolies will be brought from Gilbert Island.

HON. Garrett Davis, Senator from Kentucky, was appointed delegate from that State to the Capital Removal Convention, recently held at St. Louis. On his return, he gave an account of his stewardship in a lengthy letter to the Governor of Kentucky. Mr. Davis is opposed to the removal and gives as his reasons, first, the unconstitutionality of the thing; second, the central location of Washington City when the Government was first organized; third, the expense of the undertaking; fourth, the evil of locating the seat of Government among any industrious and moral people; fifth, the non-necessity of locating the capital in any large city; sixth and last, because Rome was built upon a dirty stream and named after its founder.

From this Capital on the Tiber went forth the armies which subdued all near-lying countries, comprehended in what is denominated her western empire; also the edicts and intellectual and moral forces that conquered Europe, and all the other achievements which occupied her attention for twelve centuries. He asks: "Why should not Washington City run the parallel of Rome in the duration and splendor of metropolitan history?"

The St. Louis *Dispatch* thinks that if the fourth reason given by Mr. Davis fail to satisfy the people of St. Louis that not to have the capital will be a blessing, while to have it will be a curse, it is sure the compendium of ancient history, that Davis gives will readily remove all desire to have the Capital removed to that city. It thinks his historical reminiscences will cure St. Louis' ambition to become the Capital of the Great Republic.

BOOKS RECEIVED.—We have received from Messrs. Scribner & Co., of New York, copies of "Day's American Speller" and a "Text Book of Chemistry," by Leroy C. Cooley, A. M., works recently published by them.

After a careful examination of the "Speller" we are convinced that while it has almost if not every point of excellence possessed by any other work of the same class, it has some peculiarly its own, and as a teacher of the old method of English orthography has no superior.

The "Text Book of Chemistry" we have submitted to a gentleman in this city, a skillful amateur in the science of chemistry, well qualified from years of study to pronounce, with judgment, as to its real merits. The following is his critique of the work:

"This valuable book brings the student into acquaintance with chemistry in its present state, so far as its elementary principles permit. Nothing seems to be lost sight of to make this a complete text-book for high schools and academies. Step by step in an easy manner the student ascends from the most simple to the most advanced principles. 'One thing at a time and every thing in its natural order' are distinguishing features of its mode of imparting information; simplicity and system also characterize the work. Chemistry as it was is not forgotten, while chemistry as it is is forced upon the attention. Side by side, old and new names—the notation of the past and present, are seen, so that those familiar with standard works of earlier days may understand those of to-day. As to the student every facility to acquire knowledge is offered. Modern nomenclature is explained, the necessity for and uses of a symbolic language shown, the mode of solving problems by algebraical equations is simplified, substances are grouped in a natural order to make general investigation possible, light in its relation to chemical phenomena, the spectroscope and stellar chemistry, with results of recent analysis, the nature and conservation of forces and everything necessary to a correct understanding of elementary chemistry may be found in this interesting and instructive manual."

#### A CURIOUS SURGICAL SUCCESS— TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.

[From the New York Post, October 28.]

The *Medical Record* for October 1st publishes an account, by Dr. Joseph Buchser, of this city, of a successful operation, of a kind commonly dreaded and avoided by the most skillful surgeons:

The patient, a young German woman, lost much blood after an attack of typhus fever, became reduced in strength, and was apparently dying. As a last hope, Dr. Buchser proposed to her husband the dangerous operation of a transmission of healthy blood from his vigorous body into her veins. The husband consented; and Dr. Guleke, who was called in consultation, assisted at the experiment.

The following account is given of what occurred:

"After a satisfactory trial of the transfusion syringe of Eulenburg-Landois, we proceeded to the operation. We bandaged her right upper arm, previously having done the same to her vigorous and healthy husband, aged twenty-seven. A graduated glass, ready to receive the blood, and syringe, were lying in the water of 40 deg. C. The median basilic vein was the most prominent. I made an incision of an inch in length, and dissected the skin till the vessel appeared, covered by its sheath. The cellular tissue of the vein was raised and cut, a sound introduced in the hollow, the cellular tissue in both directions separated, and the vein was free.

"An eared curved soude, provided with two silk threads was pushed under the vein; both threads were separated at a distance of about six. Thus by raising these threads every flux and reflux of blood was impossible, at the same time the influx of air after the opening of the vein was prevented.

"We then proceeded to the venesection of the husband. During a powerful flow of the blood a solution of carb. soda, Na O + CO<sub>2</sub>, was added—two grains to dr. ij. aq.; as far as it united with the blood the same took a lively red color. Lifting the vein, a V-shaped incision was made with a small scissors. The large syringe of Eulenburg-Landois was rapidly filled, surrounded by a warm cloth, the canule affixed, the air expelled, and the point of the syringe introduced into the vein about 12. The transfusion of about two ounces was easily accomplished. At once a decided resistance was felt; immediate change of position of the canule proved of no avail. The syringe was withdrawn, the canule detached; coagulated blood was found in it. Syringe and canule were emptied and cleaned, about three ounces of fresh blood were received in the instrument, and above one ounce was again injected.

"The patient, who could not possibly be anesthetized, underwent the operation with ease.

"The vein was on both sides unbound; the patient looked instantly refreshed, and said, 'I feel better.' She relished at once a glass of claret and water.

"In three-quarters of an hour the operation was accomplished. Pulse immediately after the operation had fallen to 116, respirations, 16. One hour later, pulse 108, respirations, 18.

"During the afternoon patient felt very hungry and thirsty; took light food and drank a pint bottle of claret.

Evening pulse 116, respirations 22, temperature 37 deg. 5 C."

The great danger of this operation lies in the possibility of injecting coagulated fibrine into the vein, or a bubble of air, either of which will be fatal to the patient. Dr. Buchser thinks his plan of using "defibrinated blood," and that after Dieffenbach's method, as described in this paper, a perfect security against both dangers.

Of course no unpracticed hands, and no mind unfamiliar with the history of transfusion, both in its few brilliant successes, and in its terrible accidents, will venture to attempt such an operation as this. But a few such cases as this would afford the hope that, in skillful hands, transfusion of blood may become a powerful agent for good, in an important class of cases.

A PRODIGY IN MATHEMATICS.—H. Glaze informs us, that he recently found at Fayetteville, (Fayette?) Mo., a young man by the name of Fields, seventeen years old, and entirely ignorant of letters or figures, who could, inside of three minutes, solve any problem given. The following are a few of the examples, and the time taken in the solution: The number of flax seeds necessary to reach the sun, allowing six flax seeds to one grain of wheat, and thirteen grains of wheat to the inch: Ans. 469,497,600,000,000, given in two minutes. What would \$3,000 amount to in ten years, compounding interest at 10c?

This example he worked in three minutes, absolutely correct, although he had to carry a score of decimal fractions. What would a horse bring (there being 52 nails in his shoes) allowing 3 cents for the first, 6 for the second, 9, 27, 81 and so on? This required 32 distinct multiplications, and ran up into trillions, yet he did it in three minutes. These examples will suffice to show his wonderful power. He is very ignorant on all other matters, having never learned his letters and does not know one figure from another. He is very uncouth in appearance and has no faith in his fellows. He can do anything in mental arithmetic, even in complex fractions.—*Macon Journal*.

#### INFLUENCE OF WEATHER ON SICKNESS.

Dr. Ballard, in his report on the health of Islington, for 1867, thus aphoristically states the influence of the weather on sickness:

1. That an increase of atmospheric temperature is normally associated with an increase of general sickness.
2. That a decrease of atmospheric temperature is normally associated with a diminution of general sickness.
3. That for the most part the increase or decrease of sickness is proportional in amount to the extent to which the atmospheric temperature rises or falls.
4. That it is an error to suppose (as is popularly held) that sudden change in temperature are (as a rule) damaging to public health. A sudden change from cold to hot weather is indeed very damaging; but a sudden change from hot to cold is one of the most favorable circumstances that can occur when sickness is regarded broadly as respects a large population.
5. That, remarkably enough, these influences are most marked in the directions I have mentioned in the colder season of the year, and more certain in the winter than in the summer.
6. That rises and falls of temperature are more certain and effectual in their special operation upon public health, when at the same time the daily range of temperature is lessened, than they are when the daily range is at the same time increased; rises of temperature increasing sickness more certainly and markedly, and falls of temperature decreasing it more certainly and markedly.
7. That a fall of rain lessens sickness generally, sometimes immediately, sometimes after a short interval; and that, as a rule, the reduction of general sickness is greater when the fall of rain is heavy than when it is light.
8. That drought, on the other hand, tends to augment general sickness.
9. That the weather in the summer season operates more certainly in improving public health than it does in the winter season.

A colored cook, expecting company of her own kind, was at a loss how to entertain her friends. Her mistress said:

"Polly, you must make an apology."

"La, missis, how can I make it? Got no apples, no eggs, no butter, no nuffin to make it with?"

#### FEEDING CHILDREN.

Children, who, while growing, must form more tissue than they waste, consume more food in proportion to their weight, and possess more active digestions than adults. They should have their meals with shorter intervals, and care should be taken to avoid all influences that may disturb digestion. Prominent among these is a deficiency of clothing. The human body, like any other thing of greater warmth than the surrounding air, has a constant tendency to part with its excess of heat by radiation, and to check this cooling process we envelop ourselves in non-conducting fabrics. It stands to reason that the greater the surface exposed the more rapidly will radiation occur; and yet we frequently see children with chest, arms and legs bared by fashion in the coldest weather, without regard to the general depression of temperature, which must involve that of the digestive organs.

The diet of children should be regulated by a consideration of their functional capacities. In infancy, nature furnishes in the mother's milk all requisite elements in a condition requiring no mechanical treatment, but merely simple chemical action. A little later, as the first teeth begin to make their appearance, food easily separable may be allowed, and as the masticating apparatus advances towards perfection, articles requiring more tearing and grinding may be gradually added to the catalogue. The activity of the digesting secretions increases in proportion to dental development, so that many substances (such as potatoes) which are easy to masticate are not digestible in early childhood.

The milks of different animals vary in constitution as regards the proportion of their constituents, human milk containing more water and sugar than that of the cow. For this reason, when an infant is "brought up by hand," or in the process of weaning, it is usual to dilute and sweeten cow's milk in order to bring it nearer the human standard. Goat's milk for the same purpose would require more dilution, but no sweetening—its percentage of sugar exceeding even that of the cow. It is extremely doubtful, however, whether the addition of water to cow's milk serves any good purpose, and it is certain that far too much is usually added. Human milk contains about 89 parts of water in 100; cow's milk about 86—or three parts less in 100; yet to compensate for this slight difference, the latter is commonly diluted with double its bulk of water before giving it to a hungry baby. Be it always remembered that an infant's most proper food is its own mother's milk, and that she who can suckle her child and does it not, is guilty of a serious offense against God's law.—*A. L. Carroll, in Harper's Magazine for November*.

CURE FOR SNAKE BITE.—About 20 years ago, the Smithsonian Institute embarked in a series of experiments testing the practicability of neutralizing the poison of snakes, founded purely on a chemical basis, which developed great results. The fact was illustrated that the poison of the most venomous rattlesnake can be neutralized in an incredible short time. After the most extraordinary results from all the experiments witnessed, there was promulgated from the Institute, at the time above mentioned, the following simple but certain cure for snake bites, and for the sting of all kinds of insects. Thirty grains of iodide potassium, thirty grains of iodine, one ounce of water; applied externally to the wound by saturating lint or bathing—the same to be kept damp with the antidote until the cure be effected, which will be effected in one hour, and some times instantly. The limb bitten should be corded tight to prevent circulation. The liquid should be kept in a vial with a glass stopper. This simple remedy can be obtained at any drug store, and costs a trifle. Every family might keep a vial of it ready at hand. Fruit gatherers may feel some security in having it with them. Hunters and fishermen may not find it inconvenient to go forth thus prepared for "the mishaps of the hour."—*Farmer's Home Journal*.

A singular strike took place lately in the French city of Alais. All the kitchen girls in that place suddenly refused to work any more unless the following three points were granted to them: Increased wages, less labor and the privilege of receiving their "cousins" in the kitchen. Only the last point was acceded to by their mistresses, and as the girls attached more importance to it than to the other two, they went back to their kitchens.