

THE WONDERS OF MICROSCOPY.

We have a glass slide upon which, in a space less in diameter than the head of a small pin, are arranged, in perfectly symmetrical order one hundred and four diatoms. These wonderful vegetable or animal organisms are placed upon the glass in accordance with exact scientific classification, and represent most of the existing and extinct species. They are not frustules or fragments, but perfect specimens, so admirably prepared that, when the glass is placed under the microscope with a first class half-inch objective, they are seen each distinct and perfect, with all the wonderful and beautiful curves, lines, and cells, which so astonish every observer. This great work of microscopic art is due to the consummate skill of J. D. Moller, a German microscopist. How he is able to accomplish this feat, is no better understood than the process of art by which M. Nober of Pomerania is able to rule upon glass lines so fine, that it requires more than 12,000 to equal an inch of length. The little speck upon the glass in which are arranged these beautiful organized bodies, is scarcely perceptible to the naked eye; and yet, in this infinitesimal space, are grouped with exactness and order, and in the same manner as would be observed by a scientific anatomist in grouping one hundred specimens of moths or butterflies upon a sheet of paper. In the space a whole volume of scientific information is contained, and an anatomical and physiological museum which can be studied only by the aid of a microscope of the most perfect construction. We have spoken of this plate, for the purpose of affording our readers some idea of the wonderful results of modern scientific skill in one department of study and research. Such facts cannot fail to awaken, even in the most indifferent, a respect for scientific investigation, and also for the investigators who are doing so much to bring to light the hidden things in nature. Boston Journal of Chemistry.

A BROOCH OF BRASS PINS.

A brooch worn by the Countess K. has recently been the subject of conversation in an eminent company of polished nobility who are now exiles in London. Encircled by twenty brilliant upon a dark blue ground of lapis lazuli, and protected by a glass in front which may be seen—What? A portrait? A lock of hair? No neither the one nor the other; but only four bent pins wrought together in the form of a star. The history of this singular ornament is contained in the following communication: The Count K. was, some years ago in his own country, suspected of being too much inclined to politics, and was, consequently, one night, without examination or further inquiry, torn from the bosom of his family by police officers, conveyed to a fortress in a distant part of the country, and thrown into a dark, damp dungeon. Days, weeks, months passed away without his being brought to trial. The unhappy man saw himself robbed of every succor. In the stillness of death, the darkness of the grave, he felt not only his strength failing him, but also his mind wandering. An unspeakable anguish took hold upon him. He no longer could appear before his judges nor tremble before himself. Conscious of his danger, he endeavored to find something to relieve himself from the double misery and idleness and loneliness, and thus preserve him from a terrible insanity. Four pins which happened accidentally to be in his coat had fortunately escaped the notice of the jailor. These were to be the means of deliverance to his spirit. He threw the pins upon the earth, which alone was the floor of his gloomy dungeon, and then employed himself in seeking for them in the darkness. When, after a tiresome search, he succeeded in finding them, he threw them down anew, and so again and again did he renew the voluntary labor of the day, until, lying, or kneeling, he groped about with his hand until he found the pins, which he had intentionally scattered. This fearful and remedial recreation continued for six years. Then, at last, a great political event opened suddenly the doors of his prison. The Count had not abandoned his pins, but would not leave his cell without taking with him the little instruments of his own preservation from despair and madness. He soon found them, for now the clear bright light of day shined in through the doorway of his dungeon. As the Count related this sad story to the Countess she seized the pins with holy eagerness. Those crooked, yellow brass pins, which during six fearful years had been scattered and gathered alternately, had become to her as precious relics; and now, set in a frame of brilliant worth \$400, as a treasure of much greater value, she wears them on her bosom.

HEATHEN CHINESE COOK.

Some weeks since, says the San Jose Independent, of Dec. 23rd, a certain lady of San Jose, after a long experience with servant girls, and being unable to find one to suit her fastidious taste, came to the conclusion to employ a Chinaman to do her cooking and housework. Accordingly, after various inquiries, an intelligent officer, kept by the Customs and Hong-Kongers, she procured the services of a moon-eyed Celestial, warranted to "heap saucy cookies." For a few days everything went on in the household like clock-work. John performed his duties faithfully, his mistress was delighted, and, to show how she appreciated the services of her new help, determined to give a dinner to certain of her friends who were groaning under the yoke of those terrible "servant girls." The friends were invited, and came; the dinner was served in grand style; the dinner table was prepared for the occasion was cooked "to a turn," and the hostess was literally borne down by the congratulations showered upon her by her admiring friends. The last course, being the luscious compound in dishes, and placed it before the guests, whose most enthusiastic admiration was excited by the manner in which the "dip," or "dressing" was poured over the dishes. It so happened that three of the guests were unprovided with dessert, and the hostess directed John to wait upon them. In the meantime, the guests were not being able to resist the temptation, had begun eating. His mistress, thinking the Chinaman was absent rather longer than was necessary, went into the kitchen to see what was the matter. A slight mist had been dropped on the fire with her. John was smoking the "dip" into his mouth, and ejecting it over the pudding in the same manner that he would spit the tobacco preparatory to ironing. Whether the lady acquainted her guests with the discovery, is not our province to relate.

THE DISOLUTION AND DEVIATION IN FRANCE.

Whatever ideas may have been formed in the mind of a reader of the English papers concerning the army which was to march to France, and strike her, crushed and bewildered, to the earth, a journey along and across the German lines of communication cannot fail to reveal a picture of a different nature. This army, which, as it is called, though it were better to say this nation of warriors, has

rushed over its borders with a force which must apparently be irresistible, compounded, as it is, of impetuosity, vigor, persistence, and intellectual power. The army of lions with foxes' brains has been so disciplined and trained that it has become as harmonious in its action and as easy put in motion as a steam engine. The same hand that set it going can stop it if that hand be not held back, but mean while it seems as if everything must go down which stands in its way. So far, my route has only been through the coal stores of the engine, or, to drop the metaphor, the supplies whence supplies are drawn and through which they pass to the German army. But if trains of provisions are scarce, and trucks loaded with ammunition hardly to be seen between Metz and Meaux, another sort of convoy is only too frequent. Pale faces may be seen gazing sadly from the windows of horse trucks, and open doors disclose heaps of uniform, each covering but not protecting from the cold a suffering human body. A train of wounded officers came into Nancy while I was there, and I was told that six passengers had died of cold on the route.—London Times, Dec. 11.

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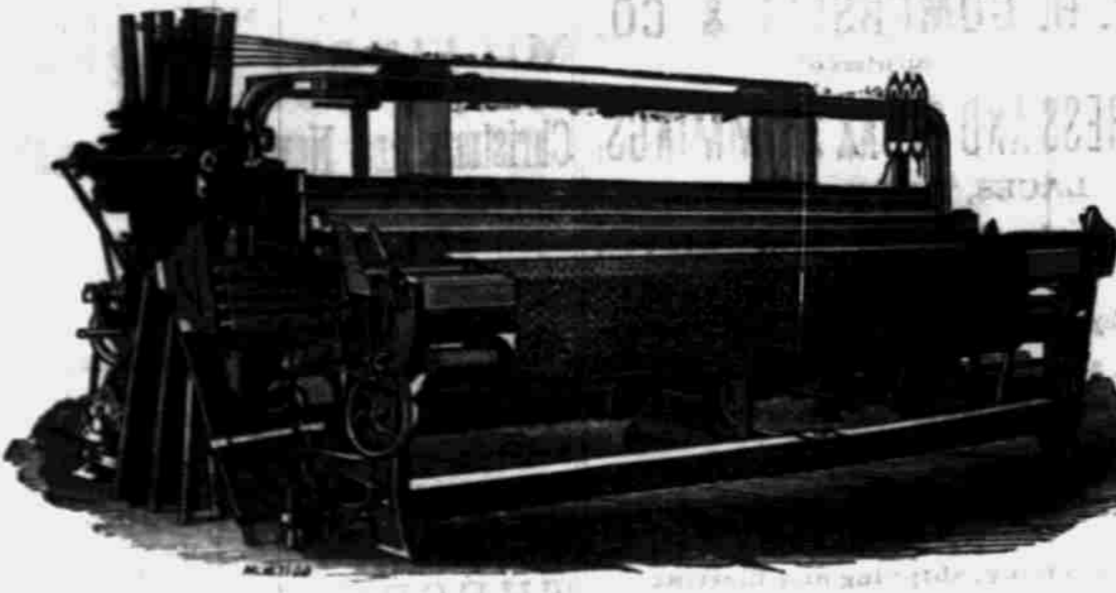
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