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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Answers to correspondents... 11 Iron pyrites, fool's gold... 7 Aquarium, a colossal*... 7 Lantern, hang up the... 4 Asphalt tiles... 7 Leather, human... 7 Astronomical notes... 9 Meridian, to obtain the... 4 Battery, a simple (3)... 11 New books and publications... 10 Bats... 9 Oxygen from sulphuric acid... 11 Buffalo, domesticating the... 10 Paper box making*... 5 Business and personal... 11 Patent decisions, recent... 10 Butter, artificial... 9 Patents American and foreign... 10 Calliper, a micrometer*... 9 Patents, official lists of... 11 Callipers, the furra and use of... 3 Pear trees, fertilization of... 7 Captain, steam*... 11 Photo-copied engravings... 6 Coral bed, a new pink... 3 Photographs on glass... 4 Dumper, lightning*... 4 Pipes, mensuration of (1)... 11 Dyeing light rose... 5 Practical mechanism—No. 174... 8 Dyeing red on flannel... 9 Pumping water (6)... 11 Engine, automatic cut-off*... 1 Rats, a safeguard against... 5 Fire alarm and bell pull*... 4 Refrigerators, filling for (5)... 11 Fish, the tobacco pipe*... 7 Roofs, cast iron... 11 Fox, a cunning old... 7 Roofs, tin (4)... 11 Geometrical teachings, defective... 2 Rouen cathedral spire... 6 Gun cotton, a new use for... 9 Ruthenium, investigations on... 4 Heating cities by main pipes... 6 Sawmill, portable gang*... 6 Ice cream freezer*... 6 Telegraph wires, length of (2)... 11 Ink, stencil (7)... 11 Theater scenery, outlining... 3 Inventions patented in England... 10 Theaterscenes, unflammable... 2 Inventors, opportunity for... 6 Treasure trove, a wonderful... 2

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT,

Vol. III., No. 53,

For the Week ending January 6, 1877.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

I. ENGINEERING AND MECHANICS.—Extension of the Metropolitan Underground Railway, London, with 4 illustrations, showing the arches of the tunnels and sewers, station roof in machine for Straightening Railway Rails, with 2 engravings.—New Narrow Gauge Locomotive, with dimensions and 1 engraving.—The French Railway Mail-Bag Catcher, with 2 engravings.—Street Car Stables of the Fourth Avenue Railway, N. Y.—The Tallest Lighthouse in the World.—Water Gas as a Fuel, by G. S. DWIGHT.—The New Low Gas Process, as employed at the Philadelphia City Gas Works.—Construction of Vertical Drills, with 6 figures, by F. G. WOODWARD.—Overhead Travelling Cranes, as used at Woolwich, 2 engravings.—Cranston's Air Compressor, 3 illustrations.—Brakell's Blower and Exhauster, 4 illustrations.—Steam Travelling Mortar Mixer, 1 engraving.—On the Increase of the Water Supply of New York City, by SAMUEL McLELLROY, C. E.—Why Fine Gold Floats.—Village Drainage.—Impossibility of Sand.—Pressure of the Glaciers.—Discoveries at Bonn.

II. LESSONS IN MECHANICAL DRAWING.—New Series. No. 1. By Professor McCORD, 5 illustrations.

III. TECHNOLOGY.—Sideraphite, a new and valuable alloy.—New Series of Prizes offered by the French Society of National Industry, for New Inventions. A most valuable paper, enumerating the large number of subjects for improvement, with suggestions as to the character of improvements wanted, the amounts of the prizes offered, and particulars in full. This competition is open to the inventors and discoverers of all nations. The prizes vary in amount from \$200 up to \$2,400.—Photography on Wood, for engravings, by EDWARD PODOCK. An excellent process, with full details.—A Solar Distillery.—Chinese Silk Production.—Economic Production of White Lead.—Manufacture of Sulphuric Acid.—Hermann's New Bleaching Process.—Twenty-two New Recipes for Dyeing, Printing and Bleaching. By M. MICHEL DE VINANT.—Kroting of Colors.—The Two Favorite Colors.—Sulphuric Acid in the Milk Trade.—Absorption of Salicylic Acid.—Suspension of Clay in Water.—New Reagent for Glucose.—Detection of Watered Lard.—Adulterations of Pepper.—A Crystalline Coating for Paper or Wood, by Professor BOTTGER.—Preparation of Russia Leather.—Soap from Salt. Automatic Civilization.—New Zealand Crayfish.—Art Design in s.—A Staircase in the Jacobean style. Full page engraving.

IV. CHEMISTRY AND METALLURGY.—New Reagent for Glucose.—Triethylene.—Production of Cold Temperatures by Sulphuric Acid.—Bartum.

V. ELECTRICITY, LIGHT, HEAT, ETC.—The New Electro-Motor Printing Telegraph, with 4 engravings. By GEORGE B. FLETCHER.—Fa t Telegraphy.—A New Electric Lamp, by M. P. JABLONCHOFF.—Theory of Spectral Rays. By M. G. SALET.—Theory of Luminous Flames, by Dr. R. HEUMANN.—Friction of the Ether.

VI. MEDICINE, HYGIENE, ETC.—Removal of Lead from the Human System by Electricity.—Action of Alcohol on the Brain, by Professor KINGZETT.—Oil of Smut of Corn for Eczema.—New Variety of Liquorice.—Tobacco Smoking.

VII. AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, DOMESTIC ECONOMY, ETC.—Table of the Relative Merits of Forty Varieties of Potatoes, showing the productive value of each.—Poultry Fertilizers.—Composition of Eggs and Nutritive Value compared with Meat, with tables.—Green Hay.—The Rootlet Hairs of Plants.—Development of the House Fly.—Calculus in Horses.—New Mash for Horses.—Rat and Mice Protector.—How to Soften Hard Water.—Remedy for Verbena Rust.

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A WONDERFUL TREASURE TROVE.

That indefatigable explorer and archaeologist, Dr. Schliemann, has recently made a discovery which, if future critical examination substantiate his present interpretation of it, will not only necessitate the re-writing of a great deal of ancient history, but will prove that many legendary and heroic personages, hitherto regarded only as myths, really existed. The surprise that all scholars will feel, on being assured that Agamemnon, "bravest of the Greeks," Clytemnestra, his wife (sister of Castor Pollux, and Helen, and daughter of Leda the Swan), Cassandra the true prophetess, loved and cursed by Apollo so that no one believed her predictions, and many other characters supposed to be fabulous lived and died, is as genuine as that which all would experience if the daily journals some morning should announce the discovery of the wine jars containing the bodies of the forty oil-scalded thieves, or of Aladdin's lamp with his name carved on it, or of the original plow invented by Dagon the fish-god of the Babylonians, or of the tomb of Perseus containing a mummy of the Gorgon's head.

Dr. Schliemann is a man of extraordinary genius for archaeological investigation; and his labors have been fortunate far beyond those of most explorers. In 1868, he astonished classical students by claiming to have found remains of the home of Ulysses on the island of Ithaca; and in the same year, he began the studies at Mycenæ which have recently culminated in the wonderful discoveries above alluded to. He also undertook an examination of the topography described in Homer's Iliad; and becoming convinced that, even if the Greek poet himself was a myth, the story of the Trojan siege was not, he began excavations (at his own expense) on the plain of Hissarlik, which he considered to be the site of ancient Troy. In 1871-3, he dug to a depth of about 50 feet, unearthing layer after layer of ruins, showing that cities and towns had been built, one on the buried ruins of another. Finally, he exhumed vases and treasures of gold and silver and laid bare, as he maintains, the walls of Priam's palace and the streets of the Homeric city. But in his conclusions archaeologists have failed to agree; and the prevailing opinion has been that he has merely found the site of some unknown Phœnician trading post, or some other ancient city of little historical importance.

Early in the autumn of last year, 1876, Dr. Schliemann returned to Mycenæ, the scene of his previous labors, where are located some of the grandest ruins of modern Greece. The site is a rocky hill on the northeastern extremity of the plain of Argos, on the eastern coast of the Morea, at present about two miles from the small village of Khayati. The ruins are notable for the colossal stones employed in their construction, the same being the largest blocks used in ancient building, with the exception of those found in the remains of Baalbec. Some of the stones are 25 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 4 feet thick, and tradition asserts that they were put in their places by the one-eyed giants, the Cyclopes. During the reign of Agamemnon, Mycenæ was the principal city of Greece, and here, it is supposed, that king was entombed. For any one but so uncompromising a believer in his own theories as Dr. Schliemann to dig into the ruins of Mycenæ, in order to find tangible remains of the Greek mythical hero, would be considered as foolhardy as to excavate the supposed tomb of Adam in Palestine with the hope of finding the bones of our legendary progenitor; but Dr. Schliemann, caring not a whit for general opinion, attacked the tombs with pickaxe and spade, and the result is that he has found a mine of gold and silver ornaments, etc., of enormous value even intrinsically, besides bones and human remains which he declares to be those of the hero-king and his contemporaries. In the first tomb which he opened, he found thirteen gold buttons, curiously engraved, besides a mass of gold blades scattered about. In the next tomb, he discovered a square ditch some 30 feet below the surface of the mount. This was surrounded by an immense wall, in which were human bodies which evidently had been burned. The bones of one person were covered with five thick gold leaves some 25 inches long, on which were inscribed crosses. Then, in a great circle of parallel slabs beneath the archaic sepulchral stones, Dr. Schliemann has discovered huge tombs containing jewelry. In one tomb, containing male and female bones, he obtained eleven pounds of ornaments of pure archaic gold, and two scepters with heads of crystal. Then he found a cow's head of pure silver, with great horns of gold; then a helmet, two diadems, a woman's large comb, a breastplate, vases, girdles, and an enormous quantity of buttons, all of the finest gold. There were some vases in silver, a number of arms in bronze, and a stag cast in lead; but no trace of iron work.

The above magnificent treasure trove was unearthed prior to November 15; but since that date, a telegraphic dispatch has reported the discovery of enough more treasure to fill a large museum, besides further evidence as to the identity of the human remains, and (according to Dr. Schliemann) showing them to be those of Agamemnon and his court.

Archæological authorities in this city, who have been asked for expressions of opinion on the above, admit that there is a much greater probability of Dr. Schliemann's being correct in his views as regards the Grecian than as relating to the Trojan remains. Mr. William Cullen Bryant believes that the tomb is not that of Agamemnon, but of some later king; but, with other authorities, he reserves any positive statement until further and more accurate details are obtainable. He suggests that the tomb of Achilles in Ithaca be searched for, as corroborative of Schliemann's views.

The treasure has been presented to Greece and will be placed in a national museum. Meanwhile it is probable that

a gold fever will break out in that classic land, which will result in the wholesale digging up of her abundant ruins.

Apropos of this subject, we may add that, through the liberality of several of her wealthy citizens, New York has recently secured one of the most valuable archæological collections ever got together, many articles in which probably antedate the supposed period of Agamemnon. General Cesnola, whose first collection of Phœnician relics, found in the tombs of Golgos on the Island of Cyprus, the New York Art Museum already possesses, recently found, under the temple of Kurium, in the same vicinity, some 7,000 objects in gold and silver, stone, etc., all of the greatest historic interest as shedding new light on the habits and customs of the long-extinct race which fashioned them. The list includes jewelry, weapons, inscribed plates and coins, utensils, glass, sarcophagi, etc. For some time, the destination of the collection was doubtful, as the British Museum made strong efforts to obtain the objects, but was unwilling to pay General Cesnola's price—\$60,000. Finally, to the intense and openly expressed disgust of the English press, after a canvass of three days, \$40,000 was raised in this city by private subscription, and the antiquities were at once purchased. The remainder of the amount will be obtained after the delivery of the collection in this country.

UNINFLAMMABLE THEATER SCENERY.

Mr. Dion Boucicault, the well known actor and dramatist, has, with very commendable promptitude, instituted experiments in accordance with some of the suggestions for rendering scenery fireproof, elicited by the recent calamity in Brooklyn. If we may judge from recent tests, held in Wallack's Theatre in this city, Mr. Boucicault's efforts have been entirely successful; and although, as he says himself, he has invented nothing, he at least is entitled to the gratitude of the public for his demonstration of the value of the fireproofing washes which he uses, and his public exhibition of the fact before the assembled managers and theatre owners of this city.

The process consists in first soaking the canvas in a solution of tungstate of soda. The solution is a weak one, and the exact percentage of the salt is not determined. Pure tungstate of soda costs about 75 cents per lb., crude tungstate (not quoted by prominent drug firms) probably considerably less, if bought in large quantities; so that the application is not an expensive one. If nothing further were done, this single saturation would be sufficient to prevent the blazing of the material; but as it is, the latter on ignition is apt to smoulder slowly. To prevent this, Mr. Boucicault, before painting on the fabric, applies a wash of silicate of soda (water glass). This answers as an excellent priming; or the pigments themselves may be mixed with the silicate instead of with glue, as is now done. The cost of the glue is thus saved, and the paint seems to have gained something in brightness by the substitution of the water glass as a vehicle.

At the trial referred to, two large squares of canvas, which had previously been prepared as above described, were suspended over the stage. Gas was led through a hose, and escaped at the nozzle; and when ignited, it gave a large, strong flame. This, applied to the canvas, wholly failed to ignite it. If the flame was persistently held against one spot, the place was blackened, and in a few minutes the jet forced a hole through the fabric; but not the slightest evidence of combustion appeared. The burnt material seemed to be a hard cement, externally brittle and easily crumbling in the hands. In fact, the effect of the chemicals appeared to be to cover the canvas with a strong coating of very refractory material. Rope, previously saturated with the solutions, and pine wood, which had been given a couple of coats of the same, likewise were perfectly fireproof.

Mr. Boucicault states that the entire cost of treating the rigging and scenery of an average sized theatre with tungstate and silicate will not exceed \$200. There is no difficulty in applying the tungstate wash, which is merely a white-wash, and is put on in the usual rough way. It may be applied to the back of scenery already painted, and may serve as a priming for the paint in every part of the theatre.

DEFECTIVE GEOMETRICAL TEACHINGS.

Although we give all possible credit to Euclid, the ancient Greek geometrician, for having for the first time collected the principal geometrical truths known in his time into a well connected system, based on strictly logical, progressive principles, it cannot escape the attention of any mathematician who has a clear insight into this sublime science that two defects, in the otherwise excellent books which Euclid left as a legacy to the world, have been the cause of much strife, contradiction, error, and loss of time among the unlearned, especially among beginners. These defects are, first, the insufficiency of his definitions of the point, line, and superficies; and second, the total omission of any information in regard to the relation between the diameter and circumference of the circle. As for many centuries the books of Euclid were the only ones used by students of geometry, the influence of these defects has been very great, while the works of Archimedes, Apollonius, and others, who came after Euclid and completed his labors, were unfortunately either entirely ignored, or were studied by very few indeed. Euclid's authority in geometry being thus undisputed, his definitions were adopted as indisputable, and as the real base of the science of geometry; but those which he gives of the point, line, and superficies, which all subsequent geometricians have adopted, are by no means correct geometrical concep-