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NEW	YORK,	SATURDAY,	MARCH	24, 1877.	

Cont	ents.							
(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)								
Acids which attack steel (44) 187 Alloys forcoinage (39)	Idmestone, cracking of (65) 187 Magnets, electro (21)							
Answers to correspondents 186	Magnets, powerful (70) 187							
Arctic navigation, lesson in 177	Magnets, winding (105)							
Astronomical notes 183	Magnets, wire for (86) 188							
Ball on a blast of air, a 150	Mass of a body (100) 199							
Battery fluid (20) 186	Manures, vitriol for (41)							
Astronomical notes. 183 Ball on a blast of air, a. 190 Bathor parking (rag. ray. 190 Battery for heating (rag. ray. 196 Battery for heating (rag. ray. 198 Bitod's skins, tunning (83). 197 Biod, analysis of (50). 187 Biode, galass in a nutshell. 194 Boilers, pressure in (75). 186 Soliers, mail (18,14,17,28,38) 186(,35) 187 187 Soliers, mail (18,14,17,28,38) 186(,35) 187 188	Metal cane, a (61)							
Battery for plating (102) 188	Metal rods, strength of (15) 186							
Battory, Franklin's	Millatone trying (95) 188							
Birds' skins, tanning (88),	metal roas, strength of (13)							
Blood, analysis of (50) 187	Oil for Watches (103) 188							
Blue glass in a nutshell 184	Paris Exhibition, space taken 181							
Soat, pulling a (32) 186								
Roilers pressure in (75) 187	Patents, American and foreign. 184 Patents, official list of 184							
Sollers, small (13,14,17,28,33) 186,(25) 187	Patterns, staves for (79)							
Sollers, water in (101) 188 Bread, durable (55) 187	Patterns, staves for (79)							
Bread, durable (55) 187	Photographic lenses (1) 186							
Srushes, softening (47) 187	hotography, coffee in							
Samera the Wonder (24)	Photo backgrounds (77)							
arbolic soap (78) 187	Pneum tic transmission*175, 178							
Freed, Durable (33)	Propellers, proportions of (81) 186							
cementing coins on wood (76) 187	Pump, new rotary							
	Propellers, proportions of (31) 186 Pump, new rotary*							
Coal in steam engines (16):								
Compressed air railway 179 Coal in steam engines (16): 186 Connecting rod, point on a* 180	Ropes for caracterize and for the formation of the format							
ravon drawings, setting (48) 18(Rubber corks (84) 188							
Dyeing raw cotton	Rubber in telegraphy (12)							
Glectric machine. medical (19) 186	Saws, speed of (69) 187							
mery wheels, varnish on (53) 187	Selection applied to man 176							
yeing raw Coton 125 Barth's radius, the (34). Blectrio machine, medical (13) 186 Duery wheels, varnish on (33) 187 Dugine economy (24, 29, 30) 186 Engine, horse power of (104) 188 Engines, small (25) 186 Excevation calculations (18) 189	Sleigh runners (10) 186							
Engine, horse power of (104) 188	Smoke tubes, underground (89) 188 Spectroscope for direct vision* 184							
Travation calculations (18) 186	Steam condensers (25)							
Eccavation calculations (18) 186 Explosion in a foundry (8) 186 ans, capacity of (36) 187 Tlight, experiments on* 179	Steam heating and Oxygen (38) 187							
ans, capacity of (36) 187	Steam pressure (97)							
light, experiments on* 179	Steamboat, fast French 179 Steel, frosting (46) 187							
ranking privilege, the 184	Storooscono Janses (3) 198							
Tranking privilege, the	Stereoscope lenses (3)							
Hass, cutting holes in (5) 186 Freen dyes, etc. (53) 187	Sulphur on horseshoes (59) 187							
reen dyes, ētc. (53) 187	Bwitchman, a machine 182							
leat and motion (93) 188 leat conduction by metals (57). 187								
nduction coils (88)	Telegraph relays knocking in (85) 188 Telegraph, the Atlantic (23) 186							
nduction coils (88)	Testing coal oil (60)							
nertia (98) 188	Timber, rotten (6) 186							
	Tin for roofs (7) 186 Trees, pl nt vigorous young. 181							
neetot, the stain (2),	In the roots (J) 150 Trees, n bit vigorous young. 181 Turbine power (29)							
Kerosene lamp explosions 176	Verdigris, removing (67) 187							
acquer for telegraphs (57) 188	WEEning fluid (45) 187							
amp wicks, forms of (42) 187	Water, discharge of (37) 187							
eather, cleaning pale (81) 157	Water, numping (94) 107							
Joht and the star distances 177	Water, pumping (94)							
lightning and telegraphs (71) 187	Waterproofing raw hides (51) 187							
emons, preserving (64)	Weight, human 180							

power of the higher is no match in the long run for the barrels: A man struck a match, in order to light a pipe, upon unrestricted fertility of the lower. Our civilization, like all an old petroleum barrel, and it exploded at once, nearly killthose which have preceded it, thus carries in itself the ele- ing him. The barrel was filled with a mixture of petroleum ments of its own ultimate destruction: or, at the least, ele- vapor and atmospheric air, which happened to be in the ments which make its overthrow possible at any moment, by proportion necessary to make an explosive mixture, namely, II. TECHNOLOGY.-Details of a new and excellent Process for Printing in Water Colors.-Process for ob inin Impressions from Leaves and causing the lower grades of culture to preponderate in num. '1 volume of vapor to about 10 volumes of air. In fact, the in Water Colors. — Process for ob inin Impressions from Leaves and other objects. Production of Photo-Transparencies and Enlargements without Ni-trate bath : a new and valuable process, with full details. Improvement in the Manufacture of Glass. — Poisonous Pottery. Bleaching Cutton. — Indigo Steam Blues. — Woolen Printing. Several new and valuable recipes. Pipes for Gas and other purposes, with 9 illustrations, showing the best methods of coupling pipes, use of movable finanges and Packings. Perspective fina wing in One Lesson. By HENRY F. LiceBets. With one page of illustrations. A useful practical paper for self-instruction in the art of Perspective. bers and political power. This, of course, on condition that addition of 10 per cent of petroleum vapor to common air human societies continue through future ages to be regulated makes a most dangerous mixture. It is, therefore, an error by the social laws which now prevail: a condition which, we | to suppose that a lamp can be too full; and we advise houseare happy to believe, must sooner or later cease to hold. The keepers to fill them, and never let them burn out, and to danger is too serious, and the enlightening influence of avoid as much as possible any empty space over the oil. 3. It is a popular mistake to test the oil at the common Science too persuasive. Already there is a growing disposipage of illustrations. A useful practical paper for self-instruction in the art of Perspective. Desi n for Vase, Clock, and Candelabrum, style of Louis XIV., with Sengravings. tion on the part of intelligent lovers of humanity to break temperature. Only benzine and naphtha will take fire under Sengravings.
Sengravings.
CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, ETC.—On the Flow of Marcury in Capillary Tubes. -Sluging Hame Experiment.—Action of Chlorochromic Acid.— New Derivative from Albuninoids.—Anchol from Beet Leaves.—Gal-ing Phosphorus in Copper.
Physical Society, London.—Columnar Structure.—New Mercurial Ba-rometer. By Prof. GUTHRIE.—Vortex Motions in Fluids. By Prof. RYTNOLDS.—New Pocket Photometer.
On the Luminous Sulphides. By WILLAM THOMPSON, F.R.S.E. — On the Luminous Sulphides. By WILLAM THOMPSON, F.R.S.E. — Chemical Society, London.—New Reactions in Organic Chemistry.— Intersting Discussion Menzine Symbols.
Chemical Society, Berlin. Notices of a large number of papers.
Y. MEI CINE, HYGLENE, ETC.—A Graphic Study of Brain Motion. these circumstances; but if the kerosene is adulterated with away from the unscientific customs that have come down to the latter, the mixture may be ignited also. Good kerosene, us from barbaric ancestors; and the instinct of race-preservation will compel a radical change in many of them, particu- when cold, will burn only with a wick; but if we warm it, arly those which determine our treatment of the physically the vapor will first flash on nearing a flame; if we warm it more, the oil itself will take fire. and morally tainted. Preventive measures are rising more We should, therefore, warm the oil when we test it: the and more above those that are palliative and remediable; charity is becoming broader and more far seeing; the rights simplest way is to pour some in a tablespoon and keep it in contact with the surface of hot water, of which the temperaof future generations begin to weigh against the privileges IV. ME ICINE, HYGIENE, ETC.-A Graphic Study of Brain Motion.-Coagalation of Fibrine.-Cure for Ringworm.-On the Poisonous Prop-erties of Yew Leaves.-How to Prepare Raw Meat.-Color in Oysters.-Nature of Protoplasm. of the present; and there is infinite promise of good in the ture can be found with a common thermometer; if the oil is claimed to stand the fire test of 150°, it ought not to burn bechange. V. ASTRONOMY, METEOROLOGY, ETC.-The New Starin ygnus.-Po-sition of the Equinoz.-Spectrum of a Lyrse. It would be sheer presumption and foolishness to predict fore being heated to that degree. We published an illustra-

The population of our globe is now about fifteen hundred water, and the largest possible reclamation of waste and

SELECTION APPLIED TO MAN.

densely populated as China now is, and a very considerable petuation of its best-which will studiously eliminate every portion of the earth's land surface is and must ever remain practically uninhabitable. Assuming such an increase of the world's population to be possible, the question naturally arises: When is the limit likely to be reached-and what then? The contingency may seem unborn generation are in favor of physical and moral health, at first sight to be very remote. but in reality it is not, provided human progress continues at the present rate. The dominant race of to-day is that which is fairly represented such an interference with individual liberty as shall restrain by the people of England. The influences of modern civili- the vicious and the diseased from being over-represented in zation have been felt on that island as manifestly as anywhere; and we shall not go far wrong if we estimate the vitally necessary to prevent such debasing elements from progress of the immediate future by the ratio of the immediate past. The population of England at the beginning of the present century was, in round numbers, a little under ing a proper system of artificial selection to humanity, and 9,000,000. It is now not far from 24,000,000. With the same steadily purifies its stock by eliminating vitiating strains, rate of increase for seven generations more, the English peo- criminal or otherwise, that people will lead the world in civple will equal in number the present population of the entire ilization and power. It will do more: it will retain that globe! At the end of the fifteenth generation the descendants of the English people, if they continue to increase at dure and improve as long as the earth remains habitable. their present rate, will number (if statistics and mathematics tell no lies) fifteen times as many as the world now supports, and fifty per cent more than we have set as the limit of the earth's possible population. In smuch as the English are

not the only people that are rapidly increasing in numbers,

it is clear that the struggle for existence among the tribes of

humanity is likely to be rapidly and seriously intensified. Thanks to the dvancement of knowledge, scientific and and more favorable; the average duration of human life is increasing, and the plagues and fevers that formerly scourged the world and kept the population low are being brought under control, if not entirely stamped out. The tendency of civilization is toward arbitration inste d of war, and so that means of keeping down the number of the human swarms is likely to be lessened rather than increased; and the same may be said of the increasing abolition of personal strife and individual murder. The means so frequently resorted to by crowded peoples heretofore to keep the natural increase within bounds-the general destructions of infants-grows more and more abhorrent to human instincts, and is not likely to be revived: certainly not by people of the higher types that are destined to inherit the earth. The multiplication offacilities for transporting food, incident to modern civilization, with its improved agriculture, combine to make the famines once so frequent and destructive of life more and more rare, more and more impossible. The great scourges of humanity-pestilence, famine, war, and murder, domestic and social-are thus clearly on the wane; and as no substitution for them can be foreseen, there is no reason to infer that the present rapid increase in the earth's population is likely to be stayed by natural means. Such being the case, the earth's sustaining capacity will be reached before the race is many centuries older.

What then? Will the fittest survive? If natural selection TABLE OF CONTENTS OF spread the oil, and set the house in flames. were the law with man as with brute nature, that would THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, IN a series of the series of th Our correspondent's accident illustrates the following popmost probably be the result; but it is not. That is, not No. 64, ular errors: 1. He states that the lamp was of the flat kind, wholly. Under the influence of charity and other religious said to be the best. Some of the flat lamps have the flame sentiments, it is usually the weakest, often the worst, that is so near to the body of the lamp that the containing vessel most favored in the struggle for existence. The burdens of and the oil become warm; then the latter easily reaches the social and political life fall chiefly upon the worthy, who temperature of the flashing point, 110, 120, or more degrees. have to support not only themselves and their own offspring, This shows that flat lamps are not by any means the safest. but the idle and the vicious and their multitudinous spawn. 2. He also says: "The lamp had been burning the greater The artificial selection which religions, governments, and part of two evenings since it had been filled, and so could societies chiefly foster tells steadily against the best. The not have been too full." A full lamp cannot explode; exsense of responsibility which the struggle for existence cre plosion is caused by the space in the lamp over the oil, ates in the minds of the thoughtful tends in the same direction, in putting a check upon the natural increase of the which, when filled with air mixed with vapor of the oil, higher orders of humanity; while the heedless animalism of forms an explosive mixture. A barrel full of petroleum can the unthinking and the vicious, on the contrary, leaves take fire, but will never explode. Not long ago, we had an them free to multiply without stint, and the superior life. illustration in New York of the dangers of empty petroleum

specifically the issues of conditions so complicated as those of existing humanity; but having in view the intensifying millions, or about an average of thirty to the square mile of struggle for existence in store for future generations, and land surface. With proper cultivation of both land and knowing the immense advantage which a pure and high race must always have over lower races, it is safe enough to predesert land by irrigation and otherwise, the earth is capable dict that the ultimate dominion of the world will rest with of supporting perhaps ten times as many people: probably not that people, whether black, yellow, or white, which will so more, as that would require every inch of dry land to be as shape its political and social system as to rigidly favor the perserious moral or physical taint from its life-stem. As all cannot survive, it is becoming more and more the duty of humanity to elect wisely which shall survive, the good or the bad: or more correctly, perhaps, whether the chances of any or the contrary. To favor the former does not imply or necessitate the destruction of any life; but it does necessitate generations to be; and the time may come when it will be being represented at all. At any rate, it is clear that, whatever high-grade people first rises to the moral level of applyleadership, and develop a type of humanity which will en-All others contain the seeds of their own destruction.

EXPLOSION OF KEROSENE LAMPS.

A correspondent writes as follows:

"A few evenings ago, a lamp burning in my kitchen sud-denly went to pieces; the oil at once blazed up and ran off the table in a burning stream, setting fire to the floor. The oil blazed up two or three feet high, and but for prompt at-tention the results would have been serious. The lamp was sanitary, the physical conditions of life are becoming more of glass, of the flat form, said to be the best; the oil vessel would hold half or three quarters of a pint; the wick was long enough to reach the bottom. The flame was turned rather low, but by no means as low as possible, and the lamp had been burning the greater part of two evenings since it had been filled, so that it could not have been too full. It was not exposed to a draft and could not have been upset or shaken; no one had been in the room for at least half an hour previously. The oil was claimed to be able to stand 150° fire test; and immediately after the accident some of the oil was tried with a lighted match, but it would not burn. explosion did not throw any pieces of the lamp more than a few inches, and the oil was not scattered at all; the noise was so slight that, when heard in an adjoining room, it was supposed that the chimney had broken and fallen off. Ques-tion 1. Why did the oil that ran from the lamp burn as reely as turpentine, while the oil poured from the can would not burn at all? 2. Is any kind of kerosene oil safe, and (3) if so, how can the consumer test it?"

As this subject involves the protection of life and property, and as similar instances have lately become common, we think it of primary importance that the causes of such accidents should be well known, and that some prevailing errors should be corrected, as they lead to precisely such catastrophes as the one in question. But our correspondent was more fortunate than one acquaintance of ours, who, coming home late in the evening, found his house entirely burnt down, the only possible cause being that a servant had lefta kerosene lamp, partially burnt out, alight in her room, and as the flame burned down an explosion doubtless followed,