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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as American Geological Society, Lock, safe or vault door, Business and personal, etc., with corresponding page numbers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

No. 677.

For the Week Ending December 22, 1888.

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Table listing sections I through XII, including Aeronautics, Arboriculture, Arms of War, Biology, Chemistry, Electricity, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgy, Mineralogy, Miscellaneous, Physics, and Technology, with page numbers.

THE AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science took its origin in a convention of geologists at Philadelphia, in 1840, who announced the object of that society to be the study of geology and natural history. During the Cambridge meeting, in 1849, a subdivision was effected into four sections—of physics, chemistry, geology, and zoology.

It is evident that this is an important movement. Among the original fellows are some of the foremost American geologists. It is not intended in any way to interfere with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. One of its regular meetings will be held at the same time and place as that association.

MADNESS AND MURDER.

The deeds of murder recently done in that noisome quarter of London called Whitechapel, all, there is reason to believe, the work of the same hand, seem to have attracted the attention of the neurologist as well as that of the police. What was the motive? Most people who have followed the history of these crimes, coming as they have one so quickly after another, have laid it to this or that cause, or, at least, it would seem so from those that have been made public.

neglected an extensive business, for the sudden impulse that came to him to commit murder. One, who was continually battling against an impulse to kill his wife, cut off his own right arm. A young man applied for medical relief for cerebral hyperæmia, admitting that with it had come a desire to kill a fellow clerk.

Such moods, it seems, may recur and may not. A young man could not see a fine dress without the impulse to injure it; running into the nearest drug store for vitriol, and before the mood was gone, ruining over one hundred fine gowns.

The "reasoning" mania would seem, from its description, to be one of the most dangerous, because attacking those from whom acts of violence are not to be looked for. One thus afflicted suddenly finds himself with a perversion of the emotions, derangement of the will; "knowing the impulse is a dangerous one, the act it imposes an unreasonable one."

MILK AND TYPHOID FEVER.

The agency that milk may assume in the propagation of fatal diseases has received much attention during recent years. Dr. Klein's investigations have confirmed the belief that milk has in a large number of cases been responsible for epidemics of scarlet fever.

Tuberculosis, it is also known, can be developed in cows, and can be distributed in like manner by their milk. Much consumption is believed to be due to this origin.

A recent epidemic which occurred in a New Jersey suburb of this city goes far toward reducing the probability of milk acting as a disseminator of typhoid fever to a certainty. A florist had been in the habit of supplying five families with milk. He was attacked by typhoid fever, and after an illness of several weeks expired. It was found that he had been in the habit of drinking large quantities of milk himself, while the other members of his household used very little.

On investigation the water supply of the milkman's premises was found to be far from satisfactory. He received water from the regular water works. He used a portion of the water pipes within his premises for the conveyance of a liquid fertilizer. This inconceivably unclean practice would offer a good clew to the source of trouble had it been continued. But it is asserted positively that, since last February, no liquid manure had entered the pipes. A well of unquestionably bad water existed on the premises, but does not appear to have been used to any extent.

The lesson to be drawn from this is clear. Greater precaution in the use of water in dairies should be taken. The mere adulteration of milk is bad as a matter of ethics, but when the addition of water may involve the absolute poisoning of the milk, the responsibility for its addition is far graver. There is also a good side to the question. The occurrence cited in confirming the possibility of milk being the active agent in contagion also indicates a preventable cause. Recent advances in sanitary engineering have gone to prove that much malaria is of house origin, and the name "house malaria" has been coined to express the condition. In surgical practice Lister introduced the carbolic acid douche, and while he supposed that it was disinfection that he was teaching, really taught surgeons to be clean, and many surgical cases now reach a successful end because of cleanliness in the operations. Typhoid fever, in one of its methods of dissemination,