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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as American Association for the Advancement of Science, Auger, improved, Beds of rivers, etc., with corresponding page numbers.

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No. 661.

For the Week Ending September 1, 1888.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Table listing sections I through XII, including Biography, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Electricity, Ethnology, Geology, Mechanical Engineering, Miscellaneous, Naval Engineering, Ordnance, and Sanitation, with page numbers.

YELLOW FEVER IN FLORIDA.

During the month of August much alarm has existed in Florida, on account of the appearance there of yellow fever. Many deaths have occurred in the smaller towns of the peninsula, but Jacksonville has been the principal seat of war in the battle between health and disease.

Every means was adopted to check the speed of the fever. Resin and tar fires were built and maintained, in the hopes that the bituminous fumes would kill the bacterial germs. Acting on the theory that concussion of the air would effect the same result, cannonading was extensively practiced.

THE GREAT AUGUST STORM.

During the week ending August 21st, the United States were visited by a severe wind and rain storm which may fairly rank among the greatest storms of the year. It began on Monday, Texas and the adjoining territory being the starting point.

In this city the wind reached the rate of thirty-six miles an hour, and in eighteen hours of August 21st the rainfall amounted to 3.30 inches. In some respects it ranks as the most severe storm of the year.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING CONVENTION.

The National Electric Light Association, which met here last week, is much increased in membership since last year, the attendance itself showing it. The papers, for the most part, were upon practical topics, explaining just how certain obstacles may be removed.

Some of the principal papers read were: Electrical Steam Engineering, by W. L. Church; Some Practical Pointers, by C. C. Haskins; Measurements of Alternating Currents for Commercial Purposes, by O. B. Shellenberger; The Ideal Motor, by F. B. Crocker; Disruptive Discharges of Underground Conductors; Electrical Conductors in New York City, by S. S. Wheeler.

It is an interesting and instructive study to note the growth of this association and the conditions surrounding it. We can all remember when the telephone appeared and startled us. It was so novel that it was hard to understand how it could be made of practical value, especially as, at that time, with the apparatus at hand, it did not work so smoothly and reliably as now.

now even faster than when it first started, one improvement following another so quickly, it treads upon its heels.

One of the most difficult problems before the officers of the association was how to get men who had succeeded in making improvements to come to the conventions and explain them. They were slow to do this, hard to be convinced that it was to their interest to do so; for that they would, like enough, carry away with them in exchange the equally valuable discoveries that had been made by others in other directions.

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science began its annual meeting at Cleveland, O., on August 15. The usual address of welcome on the part of the city was responded to by Major J. W. Powell, the president of the Association.

In the chemical section, Profs. Maybery's and Dow's paper on the Salt Brines in Northern Ohio was of special interest. They found bromine and lithium in the brines from natural gas wells in quantities sufficient to indicate a commercial value for this product.

The ever interesting subject of gravitation was treated in a paper by Prof. Erasmus D. Preston, entitled Deflections of the Plumb Line and Variations of Gravity in the Hawaiian Islands.

Prof. Atwater gave one of his striking monographs on the subject of plant food, stating that it might yet be practicable to raise crops in water, the food elements being supplied thereto by the cultivator.

Transisthmian canals were discussed by Mr. W. Nelson, who spoke of the Panama Canal as it is, while Lieutenant Peary and Commander Henry T. Taylor told of the progress made on the Nicaragua Canal.

After the election of officers for the next year, Prof. Mendenhall being elected president, the meeting adjourned.

Cholera and its Effects in Sicily.

The British consul at Palermo, in his last report, observes that business during last year suffered greatly from an epidemic of cholera in Sicily, the mortality being very great in most of the towns. The population of Palermo lived for some months in a state of "savage panic." The effects were heightened by the ignorance and superstitious character of the people generally.