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Contents.

225

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

No. 693.

For the Week Ending April 13, 1889.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers. PAGE

- I. BIOGRAPHY, James Joseph Sylvester. The blography of the eminent English mathematician, with abstract of his work and portrait. Tillustration. John Daiton. The eminent chemist, the originater of the new system of chemistry. 11075 11075

- IV. GEOLOGY.—The Artesian Well at City Park. Davenport, Iowa.— By A. S. TIFFANY.—The tabulated statement of the strata tra-versed by this representative well of the Mississippi Valley, reach-ing a depth of 1.791 feet. with fossits collected. The Urigin of Petroleum.—A theory of the origin of petroleum as a product of decomposition of animal remains, with synthetical proof. 11077
- V. METALLURGY.-Extraction of Gold from Ores.-T. R. JORDAN. -An amalgamation process, utilizing centrifugal force.-1 illus--An amaigamation process, aving or annual and the second s

A NEW ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

The President has appointed Mr. Robert J. Fisher to be Assistant Commissioner of Patents. Mr. Fisher at the time of his promotion was a member of the Board of Appeals in the Patent Office, to which position he had risen from subordinate grades of official duties, all well performed. Mr. Fisher is a man of marked ability and long experience in the practical workings of the patent laws. His appointment to the assistant commissionership gives very general satisfaction among all who have dealings with the office. He will be able to render efficient aid to Commissioner Mitchell. Under the guidance of these two excellent officers, the administration of patent affairs is likely to be much improved and rendered acceptable to the public.

**** LAGER BEER.

Lager beer, from its name, implies a beer that has been kept for a certain period. A year or six months, at least, is the time given by authorities as that which should elapse before such beer is tapped. The German and Austrian governments impose both fine and imprisonment for any infraction of this rule, because of the deleterious effect of such drink before such lager or keeping shall have expired. There is not any such law here, and, as everybody knows who has had the time and inclination to investigate the subject, many of our brewers have greatly curtailed this time of keeping and constantly seek for expedients and processes for cutting it down still more, so eager is the market, so uncritical the consumer. Indeed, the American beer drinker has little regard for his liver and kidneys, or he would have stoutly protested long ago. He takes his beer unsuspectingly, and without inquiry, till a time comes when, the liver being affected, or the kidneys, or both, nature protests, and the beverage once so pleasing to his lips is like to so much acid. A chemist recently investigating on the Friday following the first day of May in each this matter says :

"Brewers are using materials other than malted barhops, by which they accelerate its manufacture, making a sweetish, pleasing, heady beverage, but alcoholic, and people using this kind of beer in large daily quantities, with the idea that it is innocuous, has brought on a marked increase of renal complaints."

the Board of Health of this city, He could not say if these particular ingredients were used, but the general be observed. Friday, May 3, will be the first Arbor charge, he said, was undoubtedly true, neither colored Day in this State, and Superintendent of Public Inas to the intent of the brewers nor exaggerated as to struction Draper, in a recently issued circular, requests the effect on the health of the consumer. The Health earnestly that there be a general observance of the Department, he said, had not sufficient force to look day. into this matter just now, so full were its hands with . It is earnestly to be hoped that this subject will the routine of inspection.

If it can be shown the beer is injurious to health, the makers can be held and punished.

The Explorer Stanley and His Expedition for the Discovery and Relief of Emin Bey.

A long letter has been received from the heart of Africa, written by Henry M. Stanley, and serving, in its remote date and the unaccomplished crisis of affairs at which it was written, to rather excite than allay the feelings of anxiety felt for the great explorer. It tells of privations, war, and diplomacy, as far as the latter can be indulged in among the negroes and the Arabs who now curse Africa with the horrors of the slave trade. Starting from Yambunga on June 28, 1887, with 389.officers and men. he reached, in about a year, the Albert Nyanza. There he found Emin Pasha, apparently contented and in very good condition, and by no means inclined to adopt Stanley's advice and return with him via the Congo River. Stanley, with less than half his original forces, reached the Albert Nyanza on April 28, and saw the steamer Khedive in the distance coming to meet him. It was two hours later that the meeting between himself and Emin Pasha with his companions took place. The Pasha had about ten thousand souls, men, women, and children, with him.

The account, brief as it is, is thrilling. The explorer's men began to desert, and he found that minor punishments were unavailing and resorted to extreme measures, hanging two of the offenders. A vast forest,

Emin Pasha's capture, and as a reverse the news of a victory of the Pasha over the Madhi's forces. What has really happened is quite unknown, and the dark continent is silent as to the fate of her daring explorers.

..... Arbor Day.

The State of Nebraska was the first, in 1874, to inaugurate a movement to designate one day in a year in which every one was urged to plant a tree, or do something to encourage a general tree planting, and to that end a holiday was established, styled Arbor Day, In the almost treeless region from the Mississippi west to the Rocky Mountains it was felt that the climate might perhaps be somewhat modified, and the moisture be better kept back to promote the fertility of the farms, only by some abnormal encouragement of tree planting, and this it is claimed has already been effected to a noticeable degree in the State which originated the idea. Other States have followed the lead of Nebraska, an Arbor Day having been instituted in Iowa by the State Horticultural Society, in Minnesota by the State Forestry Association, and in West Virginia such a day is set apart by the State Superintendent of Public Schools. In Ohio, Massachusetts, and Vermont, an Arbor Day is designated by proclamation of the several Governors, and in several other States it has been observed in accordance with requests emanating from the State agricultural associations.

The Forest Commission of New York State, in 1886, recommended the establishment of such a day as an additional holiday, to be especially a school holiday, to be devoted to tree planting, tree culture, and education in forestry. The State Legislature of last year passed a law in pursuance of this recommendation, entitled, "An Act to Encourage Arboriculture," The summarized provisions of this act are to the effect that year all public school authorities in the State shall assemble the scholars in their charge in the school ley, such as corn and oats, etc., mixed with barley and building or elsewhere for the participation in such exercises as shall tend to encourage the planting, protection, and preservation of trees and shrubs. Following such exercises] trees and shrubs will be planted, where practicable. This is designed to overcome the destruction of trees, made necessary by the demand of This statement was shown to a medical inspector of business and commerce. In cities the tree planting will necessarily be omitted, but the other exercises will

> hereafter receive more practical attention than has hitherto been given to it. Nothing is more certain than that, as the years roll on, our children and our children's children will look upon our wastefulness in the matter of tree destruction and our improvidence in providing for new growths to take the place of trees destroyed as among the reckless and wanton follies of the present generation. It is a matter in which all can do something, and the man or child who plants one tree where it will live is surely doing something that those who come after us will have cause to be grateful fo**r**.

Trade Mark,

The question was raised before the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice (England), in the recent case of Burgoyne vs. Pownall, whether the word 'Oomoo" could be registered as a trade mark in respect of wine and spirits. The defendant opposed the application on the ground that the word was a colorable imitation of the mark Emu, and calculated to deceive, that the word was not "an invented word, or a word having no reference to the quality of the goods," and that it was not a fancy word in common use. It was shown that the word "Oomoo" was an adjective in the aboriginal language of Australia, signifying "choice." Mr. Justice Chitty, before whom the case was tried, permitted the registration. He said that in Great Britain the word "Oomoo" was obviously a meaningless word. Granting that "Oomoo" did mean "choice" among the aboriginal inhabitants of Aus-

	its emporium city, with statistics.—1 illustration	1063	a veritable infanti sea of trees with definitely located	tralia, it carried no linguistic meaning to an ordinary
	Base Sall - An English account of the game of base ball, with " Illustrations of the players 8 illustrations		margin, with indentations and the other irregularities	Englishman, or to Englishmen in any numbers, and
	of 18451 illustration		of shore outline, was encountered. One hundred and	was therefore to all intents and nurnoses a meaningless
V	II. PHARMACYCold Prepared ExtractsAn interesting appli.		sixty days were occupied in traveling through it. It	word.
-	cation of cold to the preparation of pharmaceutical products 11	1071	covers at least 246,000 square miles. Nine distinct	······································
¥.	III. PHYSICS.—Steam Jet Phenomena.—Some curious physical ob- servations upon escaping steam	1065	languages were encountered. Near the Nyanza a	Fall of Black Snow,
13	. PHYSIOLOGYClinical Study of BacteriaBy CLIFFORD MER-		great mountain, snow-capped, was seen, probably 17,000	
	CER, M.DNote on the microscopic mounting of clinical mate- laj. Rables RUSH SHIPPEN HUIDEKOPER A valuable paper giv-		or 18.000 feet high. He found three natives who had	
	INK LOW IN DISLOTY OF DY GROUDION as affecting different animate	- I	seen the great lake south of the Nyanza. They des-	
	and human beings, with note of the prophylactic treatment of Paeteur	1073	cribed is as inferior in size. The narrative stops at the	black and dirty as though it had been trampled into the
X	TECHNOLOGY. Machine for Compressing Coal DustA ma- ening for the utilization of coal slack and production of artificial		point where Emin Pasha had been found. The forces	earth. Six ounces of snow and one-fourth ounce of dirt
	Idel2 mostrations	1071	under him comprised over a thousand regular soldiers,	and sand were found in the bottom of a dish. The dirt
	paratus forthe production of bleaching powder, causing lime and		whom he described as leading a very happy life and as	
	a stream of chlorne gas to travel one over the other in opposite directions		being probably strongly opposed to leaving. After	
	The Economic Uses of Flowers.—By P.L. SIMMONS.—An inter-	1	August 28, 1888, all is uncertain.	to the depth of half an inch. The atmosphere at the
	esting abstract of flowers as a source of perfume and the pre- permision of the various varieties	1077	Stanley proposed returning to Wadelai. Mean-	time presented a peculiar greenish tinge. There was a
	the manufacture of the explosive, with views of the works where		while Stevens is in Africa searching for Stanley, hav-	little wind blowing at the time from the northwest
	It was made and apparatus employed.—The cur ous method of barricading adopted in the Cengio, Italy, nitro-glycerine works. — Illustrations		ing by a bicycle journey around the world proved his	though there seemed to be considerable wind higher in
	-4 illustrations	1070	fitness for such employ. Rumors of a disquieting	the sir Solid chunks of ice and sand are reported to
	phia carpet weaving industry, -interesting figures of the product and its value.	1069	nature have been brought, announcing Stanley's and	have been nicked up in various places
			interest and seen steaging announding stantey stand	have been picked up in various places.