

Charging for Knowing How.

American Furniture Gazette: "I paid a bill the other day," said a large manufacturer to me, "without a murmur, simply because of the way it was worded. My engineer found that his hot water pipe would not work, and after pattering at it for an hour sent for a machinist. He bothered with it half a day and concluded it must come apart. I was much annoyed, for that meant the stoppage of my factory for a long time. Before I gave the order to take it to pieces some one suggested that a neighboring engineer be sent for, as he was a sort of genius in the matter of machinery. He came, and after studying the pump awhile he took a hammer and gave three sharp raps over the valve. 'I reckon she'll go now,' he quietly said, and putting on steam 'she' did go. The next day I received a bill from him for \$25.50. The price amazed me, but when I had examined the items I drew a check at once. The bill read this way: 'Messrs. Blank & Co., Dr. to John Smith. For fixing pump, 50 cents. For knowing how, \$25.' Had he charged me \$25.50 for fixing the pump, I should have considered it exorbitant. But 50

various forms and under different names. As to the Negrito element in Japan, M. Gueit found an interesting proof of it in the island of Sikok, in the form of a small statuette of Buddha having the characteristic nose and hair of the Negritos.

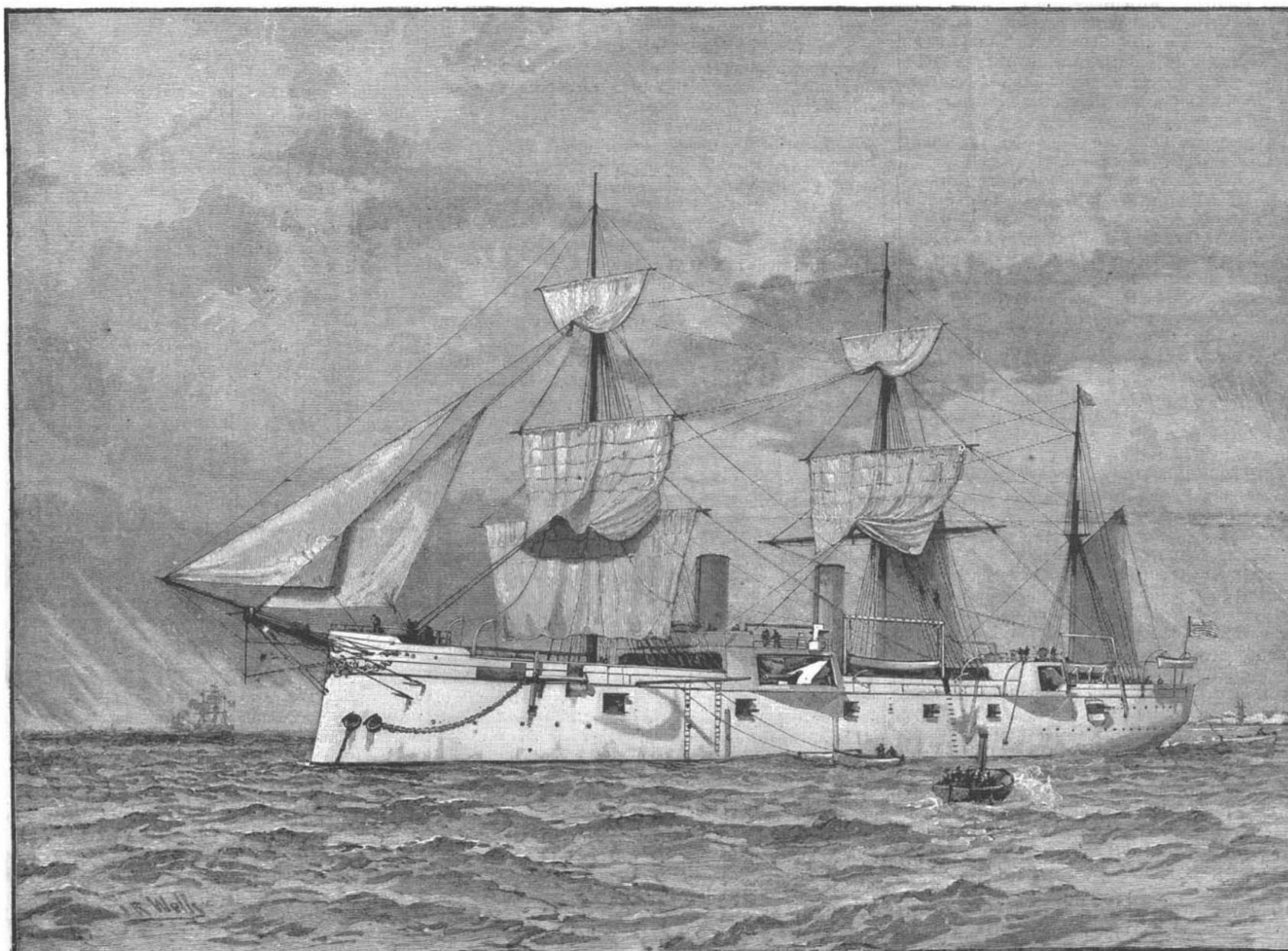
THE CHICAGO.

The squadron of evolution sent by the United States government to the Mediterranean, under command of Rear-Admiral John G. Walker, attracted much attention. The admiral's flagship was the frigate-built steel cruiser Chicago, which is represented in our illustration, for which we are indebted to *The Illustrated London News*. This ship, constructed of mild steel, at a cost of about one million dollars, and launched in 1885, is 334 ft. long, 48 ft. broad, and draws 19 ft., having a displacement of 4,500 tons. She has two screw propellers, with engines of 5,500 horse power, indicated; the machinery is protected by a partial steel deck. Her speed is 15 knots an hour, and she carries 940 tons of coal. The armament consists of four 8 in. breech-loading guns, on the spar deck; eight 6 in. breech-

The Areca Nut.

A recently published paper on "The Narcotics and Spices of the East," which was read by Dr. Dymock before the Anthropological Society, of Bombay, contains, according to the *Calcutta Englishman*, some interesting information about the areca nut, which is called *supari* by natives, and usually betel nut by Europeans.

Although the nut is so well known, it has only been scientifically investigated in comparatively recent years. The palm on which it grows is supposed to be indigenous in the Malayan peninsula and islands, but is now only known in the cultivated state. Few persons have any idea of the consumption of the nut in India; but, as a matter of fact, in addition to the vast quantity locally produced (Dr. Dymock says 100,000,000 people eat it every day of the year), there is an annual import of about 30,400,000 lb. from Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Sumatra. On the other hand, there is a small annual export of less than 500,000 lb. for the use of Indians living in Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden, China, and other countries. It is well known to the



THE STEEL CRUISER CHICAGO, AS SHE APPEARED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

cents was reasonable, and I recognized the value of knowledge, so I paid and said nothing."

[That man evidently knew as much about making bills, the *Railway Review* adds, as he did about fixing pumps.]

The Kidney Bacilli.

There is a disease in Japan known as *kakke*, a disorder of the kidneys communicated by bacilli, and closely related to the more virulent *beri-beri*. From the distribution of *kakke*, M. Gueit, says *Nature*, has recently drawn conclusions as to the ethnic composition of the present population of Japan. The fact that Chinese always escape the disease, even in localities where it is very prevalent, indicates (in his opinion) that the Chinese or Mongolian element is not the dominant one. He finds three constituents in the population: (1) descendants of Ainos; (2) of Negritos; and (3) a Malayan element, which is the most prominent. Wherever the Malayan goes, he brings with him the *beri-beri* order of disease; his liability to this being probably due to the Hindoo blood in him. From India we find *beri-beri* spread, like the Malays, to Madagascar on the one side and to Japan on the other; we meet with it also in Java, Sumatra, etc. According to the proportion of Malay blood in the natives of Japan is the frequency of the malady, which occurs in

loading guns, in broadside, on the gun deck; and two 5 in. breech-loading guns aft; with six machine guns.

Medical Uses of Anilin.

It is a well-known fact in biology that bacteria and bacilli absorb anilin and are killed by it. Two German observers—Stilling and Wortmann—have recently considered the possibility of utilizing this property in medical treatment (Humboldt). The diffusibility and harmlessness of violet anilin dyes (called, for brevity, "methyl violet") without arsenic, in small doses, were first demonstrated on rabbits and guinea pigs. Then certain eye disorders were produced in those animals, and treated with anilin solution, the results being excellent. The authors proceeded to operate on the human subject. A skin ulcer on a scrofulous child, which had been treated for a month with the ordinary antiseptic agents without success, was gradually healed by daily dropping a little anilin solution on the sore; and similar good results were had with bad cases of eye disease. It soon appeared that many surgical cases were open to successful treatment in this way; and that, in general, wounds and sores developing suppuration could be sterilized with anilin. It is also thought that cases of internal inflammation, as in pleuritis and peritonitis, may prove to be not beyond the reach of this order of treatment.

natives that the fresh nuts have intoxicating properties and produce giddiness, and that the nuts from certain trees possess these properties to an unusual extent, and even retain them when dry. These intoxicating properties are much diminished by heat, and as the nuts which possess them are apt to be mixed up with the common sort, many cautious people decline to use any except the red nuts of commerce, which have all undergone a process of cooking. Dr. Dymock inclines to the opinion that the original wild nut must have been an intoxicant, especially as the unripe nuts of the best trees produce slightly intoxicating effects. The betel leaf or *pan*, with which natives eat the areca nut, is highly esteemed, and its thirteen properties are enumerated in the ancient books of the Hindoos. Until very recently the nut was supposed by European medical writers to be simply astringent, and the intoxicating properties of the *bira* or *pan*, the universal native pledge of friendship, were supposed to be due to the leaf, and to the spices which with lime are put into the *pan*. But the process of organic chemistry has led to the discovery of organic properties in the nut, the active principle of which, if injected under the skin of rabbits and cats, causes their death in a few minutes. At the same time the essential oils of betel leaves have been found to be highly beneficial in catarrhal affections and throat inflammations.