

the pale corpses of their comrades. In this respect, as in all others, the rebel generals seem to show a marked superiority over those in the Union armies.

#### CITY POINT DESTROYED BY UNION GUNBOATS.

City Point has been entirely destroyed by the Union gunboats. For some time past the rebels have been firing into the transports passing up and down the James river. Commodore Wilkes sent the rebels word that if it was not discontinued he should destroy their rendezvous, City Point. On Thursday August 28, the rebels brought down to City Point eight cannon and about two hundred riflemen, and opened fire upon the Union flotilla, which at the time was abreast of the place, whereupon our gunboats opened fire upon them and demolished every building in the place, and dispersed the rebel force.

#### DISASTERS AT THE WEST.

At the same time with the great reverses in Virginia, we have the news that Lexington, Ky., was abandoned to the rebels on Monday, Sept. 1st., and that Cincinnati was threatened and placed under martial law. Tremendous excitement prevailed at Louisville, and the whole community was called upon to aid in defence of the place.

#### CARE OF THE FEET.

We have received from the publishers, Bradley & Webb, of Cincinnati, a pamphlet of 111 pages on the Causes and Cure of Diseases of the Feet, with Practical Suggestions as to their Clothing, by C. H. Cleaveland, M. D.

It discusses elaborately and with apparent intelligence the various diseases of the feet with their treatment. We give the following extracts as being of general interest:—

#### CLOTHING OF THE FEET.

From the first wearing of socks and shoes, great care and attention are requisite. In childhood, the socks in summer should be made of fine cotton or silk, in cold weather of a woolen fabric, and of sufficient length that every toe may have room to extend itself.

The feet should be washed evening and morning, the same as are the hands, and wiped thoroughly dry, particularly between the toes, and the nails should not be cut too often, nor at any time shorter than to be on a level with the tops of the toes. It is also advisable that the shoes be a size larger than the foot, and made of soft leather.

#### WASHING THE FEET.

In addition to washing the feet, as recommended above, it is quite necessary that foot baths should be resorted to in a great variety of conditions of the feet. Ordinarily the proper time for taking a foot bath is at night, just before retiring to rest; but under peculiar circumstances, to be mentioned, they may be demanded at other times in the day.

The employment of foot baths, whether hot or cold, must depend greatly on the difference of constitution and habit. For persons advanced in age, the tepid bath is preferable, particularly if they are subject to gout or rheumatism. Any sudden change of temperature in such cases might do harm, and the feet ought not to be put into water of any kind while the patient is actually suffering from either of those disorders, except by the direction of the medical attendant.

In advanced age persons should not generally bathe the feet; they would, however, derive great comfort from sponging them once or twice a week, or oftener, with soap and warm water, wiping them thoroughly dry immediately afterward, then using the flesh brush or the hand and rubbing off the loose cuticle or scales with a coarse towel. When there is an accumulation between the toes, a fine cloth, wetted with eau de Cologne or any other spirit, may be drawn backward or forward between them two or three times a week.

Adults in good health may bathe their feet every morning with cold water, wipe them thoroughly dry afterward, and then rub eau de Cologne freely over them with the palm of the hand. When dressing for dinner the feet should be washed with soap and water in the same manner as the hands.

#### EXTIRPATION OF CORNS.

Extirpation of corns, by the chiropedists, is usually effected by a careful process of cutting and tearing out the central portion of the corn, while the circum-

ference of the diseased part is left to serve the purpose of taking off pressure from the more tender portion at the seat of the disease. Some of these peripatetic operators make use of the tincture of iodine or some other substance that will produce a stain of the surface, under pretense of using some secret means to deaden the sensibility of the parts, but such washes do no good. A continued use of some solution of iodine, with the removal of all pressure, will, in time, cure some corns, and especially the softer ones, but acetic acid of the proper strength is preferable.

The only sure and complete cure for a corn is its complete removal, and the wandering chiropedists either have not skill or have not patience sufficient to produce this result, and hence seldom or never produce a radical cure. After a hard corn has been extirpated, acetic acid, or a solution of iodine should be applied to the part, until all remains of the disease have disappeared. Even then, if pressure is allowed, a new corn is quite liable to occupy the seat of the old one.

#### TREATMENT OF BLISTERS.

In marching, if blisters rise on the toes or heel, they should at once be punctured with a needle, passing the needle a little distance under the sound skin so as to produce a valvular opening to prevent the introduction of air as the fluid passes out. If not sooner attended to, all blisters should be opened in the evening after the foot bath, and the fluid gently pressed out, and then the patient assuming the horizontal position they may not fill up again, and by morning they may be nearly or quite well. Sometimes blisters form on the end of the toes, or on the heel, and the person is not required to resume the march on the following day. In such cases it may be as well to let such blisters remain unopened, and as the water is absorbed and the dead skin becomes dry it should be removed.

#### Production of Cork.

In the "Mémoires de la Société de Physique" of Geneva, is an interesting paper by M. Casimir de Candolle on the growth of cork. Although this useful substance exists in varying quantity in the bark of all phanerogamous plants and in several cryptogamous, yet for commercial purposes it is wholly procured from two species of oak, *Quercus occidentalis*, growing in the south-west of France and in Portugal, and from *Quercus Suber* (the cork tree), growing in the south east of France, in Italy, in Algeria, and in the isles of the Mediterranean. The acorns of the former species take two years to ripen. In 1859 M. C. de Candolle, while staying in Algeria, studied the development of the bark of the latter species. It is composed of four layers—the epidermis, the corky envelope, the cellular envelope, and the liber which covers the soft wood. These four parts increase independently of each other year by year. In the third or fourth year the epidermis, having attained the limits of its elasticity, splits longitudinally, and a marked change takes place in the corky envelope, which gradually takes up the appearance of true cork: new layers are produced, and the transformation of cellulose into cork steadily goes on. The cork thus naturally developed has no commercial value. It is termed "male;" and the first act (*démascage*) of the cultivator is to separate it from the trunk, which thus leaves exposed the liber, termed "mother." The tree is then left to itself, and the cork begins to grow again, while the sap is flowing in consequence of the exposure of the liber. If a trunk left in this state several months be cut down, in the section a ring of cork will be found formed in the interior of the "mother," at a variable distance from the surface of the trunk. All the exterior portion of the "mother" is dead, and splits as the tree grows, and the interior portion (new cork, termed "female") is developed. This "female" cork grows in the same manner as the "male," that is, by the addition of annual layers on the internal surface; but it is much finer and more elastic, and is the cork of commerce. These various stages of growth are exhibited in a series of beautiful plates. In the course of his researches M. de Candolle was led to observe the importance of the desiccation of the "mother," and to infer that, in proportion as this desiccation could be hastened, so much sooner would fresh layers of cork be produced. This idea he

found to be correct. He observed several trees in which fires, after having charred the male or female cork, had determined the formation of a layer of female cork in the interior of the "mother." He states that he has seen a specimen, composed of three layers of "female" cork, separated by little zones from the "mother;" the fourth layer, which enveloped the whole, having disappeared in consequence of the fire. The thickness of these zones, increased by the application of boiling water, does not diminish by cooling. Other peculiarities of this remarkable substance are noted in the memoir.

#### Extracts for Young Men.

Give a young man a taste for reading, and in that single disposition you have furnished him with a great safeguard. He has found at home that which others have to seek abroad, namely, pleasurable excitement. He has learned to think even when his book is no longer in his hand, and it is for want of thinking that youth go to ruin.

Some of those who have been most eminent in learning and science made their first attainments in snatches of time stolen from manual employment. Hans Sachs, the poet of the Reformation, and the Burns of Germany, began life as did Burns, a poor boy; he was a tailor's son and served an apprenticeship, first to a shoemaker and afterward to a weaver, and continued to work at the loom as long as he lived. The great dramatist, Ben Johnson, was a working bricklayer, and afterward a soldier. Linnaeus, the father of modern botany, was once on the shoemaker's bench. Our immortal Franklin, it need scarcely be said, was a printer. Herschel, whose name is inscribed on the heavens, was the son of a poor musician, and at the age of fourteen years was placed in a band attached to the Hanoverian guards. After going to England he undertook to teach music, and then became an organist. But while he was supporting himself in this way he was learning Italian, latin and even Greek. From music he was naturally led to mathematics, and thence to optics and astronomy. John Dollond, the inventor of the achromatic telescope, spent his early years at the silk loom; and continued in his original business even for some years after his eldest son came to an age to join him in it. Few cases are more celebrated than that of Gifford, the founder and editor of the *Quarterly Review*. He was an orphan, and barely escaped the poor-house. He became a ship boy of the most menial sort on board of a coasting vessel. He was afterward for six years apprenticed to a shoemaker. In this last employment he stole time from the last for arithmetic and algebra, and for lack of other conveniences, used to work out his problems on leather with a blunted awl. Few names are more noted in modern literature.

#### Government Tax on Gas.

OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK GAS LIGHT COMPANY. }  
August 1, 1862. }

In conformity with the act of Congress, the United States tax of one and one-half cents per hundred cubic feet, will be added to all bills for gas consumed after the first day of September next.

THOMAS K. LEES,  
Secretary.

The above notice has been left at our office and at the dwellings, stores, shops and offices of all gas consumers in this city. Now, we object to the Gas Companies in this or any other city transferring Government tax from themselves to the consumers. It was not the intention of the framers of the law that the consumers should pay this tax, but that the companies who furnish the gas should pay it as their proportion of the income tax. If the consumers are obliged to pay the tax, the Gas Company is relieved from the assessments which nearly all other classes in the community are unable to shirk.

#### The Great Exhibition as Seen by a Votary of Science

On another page will be found a very interesting letter from London describing some of the most important articles to be seen at the Great Exhibition. The writer is a distinguished scientific gentleman who is spending a few weeks abroad, and his impression of the Exhibition and a description of what he saw will be found of interest.

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR POSTPONED.—The annual State Fair of Illinois, which was to have been held at Peoria, on the 16th of this month, has been postponed until next year on account of the grounds upon which it was to have been held being taken possession of for military purposes.