

## SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

It has been demonstrated by Mr. J. W. Slater that caterpillars are affected by magnetic currents, which hinder their development and even kill them.

A study of 650 Italian thunder-storms has shown Signor Terrari that every thunder-storm is behind a depression of barometer and hygrometer, and before one of the thermometer.

Glass plates have been substituted for copper in the sheathing of an Italian ship, the advantage claimed being exemption from oxidation, and incrustation. The glass was cast, like iron, in plates to fit the hull.

An interesting field for scientific research has been opened by Prof. S. P. Langley, by the discovery that the heat radiated from the soil is of an almost totally different quality from that which comes from the sun.

A German chemist concludes that, on account of its great digestibility, cheese is the most nourishing of all foods, meat and eggs excepted. Of eighteen varieties of cheese tried, Cheddar is most readily digested.

In the mining centers of England and Scotland are to be established danger signals in connection with the weather service, for the purpose of making known such atmospheric changes as may affect the working of the mines.

The larger animals are being rapidly exterminated in Algeria, and the lion of the desert is fast becoming a myth. During the eleven years from 1873 to 1884 bounty was paid on 202 lions, 1,214 panthers, 1,882 hyenas, and 27,000 jackals.

In a paper on harbors Prof. L. M. Haupt mentions that from New York to the Gulf of Mexico there are only four natural entrances where the depth at mean low water is over sixteen feet, while the largest ships draw from twenty-six to twenty-eight and a half feet.

An unusual number of white varieties of animals have been noticed in Germany this winter. A white chamois was shot in the Totengebirge, a white fish-otter was caught near Luxemburg, white partridges were shot near Brunswick, and a white fox was killed in Hessen.

Late investigations indicate that the chlorophyll, or green coloring substance of the leaves, is most liable to pick up metallic matter absorbed by the roots of plants. When vines have been manured with sulphate of copper, most of the metal is deposited in the leaves, merely a trace appearing in the juice of the grapes. Tea-leaves contain much iron, doubtless due to the ochreous soil on which they best grow.

In the construction of a tunnel at Stockton cold air has been applied in a novel manner. In passing under a hill of light wet gravel it was found practically impossible to underpin the houses overhead. It was therefore decided to freeze the gravel by means of cold air, and put in the lining while the material was solid, the undertaking having now been successfully carried out. None of the houses passed under have been injured.

Vivisection experiments upon cats and dogs lead Mr. A. Herzen, a German author, to the following conclusions: 1. The so-called sense of heat and cold is composed in reality of two senses quite independent, both anatomically and physically. 2. Observations on healthy and diseased subjects show that the sensations of heat and cold are transmitted through different nerves, by different routes, and to different brain-centres. 3. The gyrus sigmoides contains the center (or centripetal branches leading thereto) of touch and cold perceptions. 4. These sense-perceptions are transmitted through the posterior columns of the spinal cord, while those of the senses of pain and warmth are conveyed through the gray substance.

### Good Words.

The grandest of all empires is to rule one's self. There are few grand who are not also calm. If you hear that others have spoken ill of you, consider if you have not done the same about many people. How much better to heal an injury than to avenge it! Guard vigorously that social tie which binds man to man, and establishes the rights common to the human race. Life is a pilgrimage, a warfare, and those who climb up and down steep paths and go through dangerous enterprises, are the brave men and the leaders in camp. To rest basely at the cost of others' labors is to be a coward, safe because despised.

## Comfort from Newspapers.

Many years ago, in one of the severe winters when there was much hardship among the poor, a city paper suggested that old newspapers, spread over the bed, would form an excellent substitute for blankets and coverlets. This brought upon the journal a great deal of harmless ridicule from other papers, but it brought comfort to many a poor family. In the matter of bed-clothing, especially, we are apt to associate warmth with weight, and do not consider that there is no warmth in the coverings themselves, but that they merely prevent the heat of the body from passing off. Whatever is a poor conductor of heat will make a warm covering. Paper itself is a poor conductor, but still poorer are the thin layers of air that are confined when two or three newspapers are laid upon one another. A few newspapers laid over the bed will keep one much warmer than some of the heavy, close-woven blankets. We do not propose newspapers as a substitute for blankets and comforters, but it is one of those make-shifts that it is well to know. In traveling one may, by the aid of a few papers, secure a comfortable rest in a thinly-clad bed, and if we cannot afford to give a destitute family a blanket for a comforter, we may show them how to increase the usefulness of their thin coverings by stitching a few layers of newspapers between them. It may be well to remind those who grow window-plants that, by removing them away from the window, and arranging a cover of newspapers over them, they may be preserved from harm in severely cold nights. With the plants, as with ourselves, it is not so much that cold comes in as that the heat goes off, and often a slight protection will prevent the escape of heat.—*American Agriculturist*.

A MEMBER of the Western New York Farmers' Club sprayed his orchard with a solution of paris green, to exterminate the canker-worm, and reports that the apple aphids, which had formerly infested his trees, had wholly disappeared.

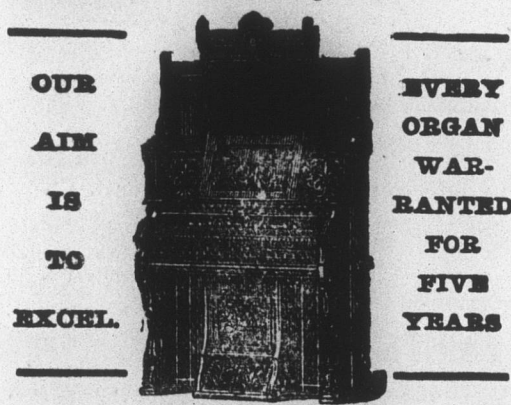
THERE is no excuse whatever for the slovenly appearance of many yards or lawns about the farmer's home. It is not the sign of good farming, since carelessness in one place denotes very clearly carelessness in another.—*Chicago Journal*.

TURNIPS FOR COWS.—I have tried every way to destroy the flavor of turnips in milk, but without success. I have boiled it, fed the cows after milking, but it was all the same—turnip flavor unmistakable—and as we do not like our butter so flavored, I only feed turnips when the cow is dry.—*Mrs. G. Bournot, Ottawa, Canada*.

GOLD fields are scarce, but those who write to Stinson & Co., Portland, Maine, will receive free, full information about work which they can do, and at home, that will pay them from \$5 to \$25 per day. Some have earned over \$20 in a day. Either old, young or old. Capital not required. You are started free. Those who start at once are absolutely sure of snug little fortunes. All is new.

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