

'PAPYRUS EBERS.'

OLDEST WORK ON MEDICINE OBTAINED IN EGYPT.

Most Complete and Valuable Collection of Information on Ancient Medical Topics Extant.

George Ebers, who was widely known in the seventies as the author of several Egyptian romances, enjoyed at the same time a more limited but more solid fame as a leading Egyptologist, and his work proved of abiding value in the regulation of the vast historic and literary heritage which ancient Egypt has committed to modern eras, says the Hartford Times.

Dr. Klein, of Chicago, has recently read an extensive paper before the American Academy of Medicine on the "Papyrus Ebers." This is a roll of papyrus acquired by Dr. Ebers in the vicinity of Thebes in the winter of 1872 from an Arab who made ancient grave robbing a business, and who had struck a line of rock tombs undiscovered as yet by the others of the guild.

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MARK TWAIN'S STORY.

About the Schoolboy Who Played Sick So He Might Stay Out of School.

Mark Twain, on his last visit to his old home—Hannibal, Mo.—told to the school children a true story about a schoolboy.

"This boy," he said, "awoke one morning very ill. His groans alarmed the household. The doctor was sent for, and came post-haste.

Reward of Patience. Rankl—What are you going to do with all those cigar checks, or whatever you call them, that you are saving?

Mrs. Scrappy—I'd like to dance over your grave, that's what I'd like to do! Scrappy—Well, you never will. I've put a clause in my will requesting my executors to have me buried at sea.

DICKENS' LOVE-LETTERS.

Missives Show That, Though Married, He Had Attachment for Girl Who Wedded Friend.

London.—The Tribune, the latest arrival among London daily newspapers has published for the first time a short series of letters by Charles Dickens, to which is rightly ascribed remarkable value.

"I swear," he writes of a letter announcing his friend's similar wooer's mission, "that when I opened and read your letter this morning I felt the blood go from my face to I don't know where, and my lips turn white."

PATENT BUSINESS GROWS.

Commissioner Calls for Additional Help in Washington Office in Annual Report.

Washington.—In his annual report to congress for the calendar year 1905 the commissioner of patents sets forth the imperative need of an increased force and additional office facilities to cope with the business which, the report says, has shown a remarkable increase during the last year.

In 1905 there were received 54,034 applications for mechanical patents, 781 design patents, 156 reissues of patents, 16,224 applications for registration of trade-marks, 1,068 labels and 467 prints.

In proportion to the population more patents were issued to citizens of the District of Columbia than any state or territory, the ratio being one to every 1,201. Connecticut was next in order and Tennessee the last.

Nearly all the countries in the world are represented in the list of patents issued, Germany, England, Canada and Austria-Hungary leading.

The most important event in the business of the patent office in 1905, according to the report, was the new trademark law, which reduced the fee for trade-mark application from \$25 to \$10.

CAN PRINT COURT REPORTS.

Tennessee Supreme Court Aims at Fairness in Refusal to Allow Damages Against Paper.

Nashville, Tenn.—The supreme court of Tennessee handed down an important opinion regarding the rights of newspapers to publish fair and truthful reports of the proceedings of courts of justice. This matter was considered by the court in connection with a damage suit filed against the Nashville American, in which case a verdict was rendered against the American for \$5,000.

PUT ON A GOOD SHOW.

There is a scheme on foot to make George Ade, the humorist, the successor of Congressman Crumpacker in the Tenth Indiana district. Why not run "Mr. Dooley" in Chicago, and some more funny men, including Cartoonist Oppen in New York? Then the Congressional Record might become as "bright" a publication as Puck and Life used to be in the days of their youth.

Secretary Taft's Horse.

Secretary Taft, who is hard at work reducing his great weight, devotes a good deal of time to equestrian exercise, which he finds of most value. The horse he rides has been described as "a large, square Percheron, built on dry goods box lines and looking as though he might easily carry half a ton."

If They Could But Speak.

Plants, according to a scientist, can see and, perhaps, also hear. It is fortunate they cannot speak, for think of the secrets they might reveal.

LEADS ALL IN COAL.

ENGLISH MINING ENGINEER HAS IMPORTANT FIGURES.

Methods of Production in Britain Differ So Greatly from Those of America That Letter is First Among World's Merchants.

London.—Some startling facts regarding American competition in the coal trade were brought out prominently by Walter Rowley, a mining engineer of Leeds, who visited America in 1904 with the British Institution of Civil Engineers.

In a paper read the other day before the Institution of Civil Engineers Rowley, whose paper was entitled "Some Observations of a Mining Engineer in America," remarked that citizens of America may thank the geological features of the great coal field of the Appalachian chain for their comparative freedom from smoke.

The use of coal cutting machines had been received far more favorably in America than it had been here, and while in England only about two per cent. of the output was got by the use of machinery in America no less than 26 per cent. of the output was machine mined.

In 1941 the record tonnage of coal got in the states was 220 tons; in 1902 the output had risen to 318,000,000 tons. The output of the United Kingdom for 1903 was 230,000,000 tons.

OUR LARGEST RIVER PORT.

Memphis Claims the Title with Eighty-Four Boats—St. Louis Next in Line.

Memphis, Tenn.—Memphis has 84 boats enrolled here at the home port, with a total tonnage of 12,318 tons. St. Louis comes next, with 75 boats, showing a total tonnage of 22,820 tons.

As a result of the advance in prices abroad the selling price of American rails in foreign markets is gradually being raised. The difference in the price here and in Europe has practically eliminated foreign competition for the time being.

The iron and steel business abroad is exceptionally strong in all lines, which accounts for the action of steel plate manufacturers in removing rebates on steel plates destined for Pacific coast ports.

UNITED STATES CHEAPEST.

Steel Expert Says That Quotations Are Lower in This Country Than Elsewhere.

New York.—Steel experts figure that the United States is now the cheapest market in the world for steel rails. One manufacturer reports that recently a sale of rails was made in England on a basis of \$29.40 a ton, as compared with \$28 a ton, the price that has prevailed in this market for the past several years.

BURIED RELICS WITH HIM.

Widow Wanted No Reminders of Husband's Previous Wives, Hence This Method.

Bangor, Me.—"Coffin plates are not in such common use as they were some years ago," said an Ellsworth undertaker who is a veteran in the business. "I remember the time when you could find one in the spare room of most every farmhouse, framed or carefully protected under glass. It was one of the most treasured relics.

PLANTS SEE, FEEL, TASTE.

Botanists Say They Display the Same Sense as an Animal Except Cannot Hear.

Baltimore.—Plants can see, feel and taste, according to Dr. Henry S. Conrad, of the botanical department of Johns Hopkins university, but he has never been able to find any evidence that they can hear.

One Bedeeming Feature.

People have been dying in Mexico of the cold, while up in Maine the oldest inhabitant confesses that he never knew of such a balmy winter. It is a strange way, but wonder over nature's ways does not interfere with a satisfied contemplation of the coal pile.

Delay Letter Only 20 Years.

Delayed 20 years in transmission, a letter mailed in Richmond, Ind., April 15, 1886, to Howard Knight, who then lived in Bloomington, Ill., has been delivered to Knight at Peoria, Ill.

SNAPS BRAIN WAVES.

LYONS, N. Y., SCIENTIST TAKES THOUGHT PICTURES.

Experimenter Declares That Sensitive Brain is Necessary for This Method of Perceiving Mental Strain.

Rochester, N. Y.—Photographs of thoughts and mental impressions will soon be as common as cabinet portraits, according to Dr. M. A. Veeder, a scientist of Lyons, near Rochester. He believes he has solved the problem of photographing brain waves.

Dr. Veeder on a recent evening invited a number of friends to a photograph gallery to participate in an experiment intended to demonstrate the possibility of affecting a photographic plate by a purely mental process.

It was found that all of those who assisted in the experiment were capable of exercising supersensitive powers that are ordinarily latent. This having been shown, a plate from a package which had not been opened before was put in the holder and laid on the table, the shutter being closed.

After an exposure of about one minute the plate was taken into a dark room and developed. It was found that a spot had formed about the size of a silver dollar, which, it developed, was what the persons participating in the experiment had in mind.

Dr. Veeder believes that the fact that brain waves or something of that sort are capable of producing photographic impressions is not unreasonable and is of remarkable interest in many ways.

MEXICANS OWN THE SOIL.

Industries of the Republic, However, Are Very Largely in Foreign Hands.

The tenacity with which the great estates of Mexico are maintained intact by the old families of this country appears all the more remarkable when it is considered how generally all lines of industry, aside from that of the farmer, are in the hands of foreigners.

Not so, however, the agricultural resources of Mexico. Luring recent years a great deal of American capital has entered the republic for investment in tropical plantations, particularly in southern Mexico, but the great bulk of Mexico's rural land is held in the form of extensive haciendas or ranches, often hundreds of thousands of acres in extent.

ONE BODEEMING FEATURE.

Intelligent Foreigner—Your president seems to have a great many of what you call fool friends.

Intelligent Native—Yes, but he has just as many fool enemies, and they offset each other.—Chicago Tribune.

OUR LANGUAGE.

"Who is that fellow in the load, flashy suit?" "That is a plain clothes man."—Chicago Sun.

ORE IN GRAND CANYON.

Copper Found in Great Abundance on the Sides of the Enormous Chasm.

The Grand canyon of the Colorado is so closely associated with the barren country of the southwest that its possession of valuable mineral resources is comparatively unknown. As a matter of fact, however, the erosion which has been continuing for centuries on such an enormous scale has brought to the surface indications of metal which are familiar to the few prospectors who have explored the canyon.

The most notable deposit of this kind thus far discovered is copper ore. A mine is now in operation on what is known as the Grand View trail, which is undoubtedly one of the richest in the world.

Little work in the way of development was undertaken until recently, when an organization known as the Canyon Copper company exploited it on a scientific basis, with the result that ore was found which actually assays 75 per cent. carbonate, being largely of the malachite variety.

The mine is situated in a formation over 1,000 feet below the rim and in one of the buttes or pillars in proximity to the southern side of the canyon. The ore lies in such a position that it can be readily reached by lateral openings and so extensive is the deposit that in places the width is no less than 500 feet.

As yet the ore is extracted almost entirely by hand labor, and while enough of it has been taken to the smelter to determine its commercial value, the bulk of it has thus far been placed in the stock pile.

DESCENDANTS OF VIKINGS ENGAGED IN THE WORK.

Some Particulars of the Business as It is Carried On by the Bugged Fishermen of Norway.

This strictly commercial business of shark hunting is done in small sloops, whose headquarters are in the more northerly Norwegian ports. The crews are for the most part made up of pure-blooded descendants of the Vikings, who are still to be found in any number among the codfishers of Hammerfest and Tromso.

The fishing is done off the coast of Iceland in about 80 fathoms of water. Three or four gallowlike structures are rigged up around the sides of the sloop, and from each of these hangs a pulley block, over which runs a strong rope; and to the end of this the baited hook is fastened. A plentiful supply of ground bait is thrown out to attract the quarry, and such is the eagerness with which the sharks take the bait that sometimes each of these gallowlike fishing rods will have its fish hooked and fighting for life all at the same time.

There is no "playing" the fish; it is not necessary or possible, and the powerful tackle is hardly likely to break, no matter how fiercely the shark may struggle.

As soon as a shark has taken one of the baits the hauling tackle attached to his particular gallow is manned, and without any superfluous fuss or ceremony he is hauled up to the sloop and hoisted clear of the water.

All this sounds very horrible, but there is one curious fact which goes far to make us believe that this death cannot, after all, be such a cruel one as at first appears. It is this, the fishermen say, that unless they put out the shark's eyes he will afterward cause them a lot of trouble by coming and taking the bait a second time.

It sounds incredible, but the statement is thoroughly well authenticated by eye witnesses who have seen a liverless shark do just this very thing. Scientists, doubtless, are right in saying that the shark (which by anatomical classification is one of the lowest of the fishes) does not feel pain in the way more highly organized animals feel it.

It is a secret not to be spoken aloud. Norway is one of the great centers of the cod trade, and from the cod is made cod liver oil, and—shark's liver oil tastes and looks exactly like it.

BORN REFORMERS.

American women are born reformers. Nine out of ten feel themselves commissioned to rebuke, regenerate or redeem their fellow mortals. It is this passion for conducting other persons' lives, says an American woman in the London Telegraph, that is responsible in a large degree for the character, extent and prosperity of women's clubs in the United States.

Zeal of a somewhat riotous kind finds here an opportunity to express itself, in words at least. The ambition to preside over meetings, to run committees and to promulgate various doctrines and views takes such hold of a large class of women that the care of home and family and other "commonplaces" fall into the background.

SEA GYPSIES.

In the archipelago of Meragu, off the coast of lower Borneo, live the "sea" gypsies. Instead of carts they own covered boats, in which, with their families, dogs, cats, chickens and pigs, they float about on the sea and wander from island to island. By day they fish or harpoon turtle or dive for oysters, but every night they put back to the shore. In the case of bad weather, at sea they lead with their dogs and then poach, catching porcupines, squirrels and the like, of which they make savory dishes.

CLERGYMAN SMUGGLER.

The other day customs officers at Dover caught a clergyman from Ossett trying to land with twelve pounds of tobacco and snuff concealed about his person and three hundred cigars in his trousers legs. He begged hard to be released for the sake of his "cloth."