

A NOVEL HYPNOTIC.—Dr. Cowan, in his "Medical History of the Himalayas," speaking of a native tribe in the northern district of the peninsula, says, when a mother goes into a field to work, or is otherwise unable to take her child with her, she selects some sheltered spot near a stream, in which she places a little straw for a bed for her infant, and then directs, by means of a piece of split bamboo, a current of water, of from one to two or three inches in diameter, on its uncovered occiput and temples. This produces a soporific effect, which generally lasts as long as the water continues to flow. The sleep is said to be very soothing, and children who have been much subjected to its influence are known to have been unusually free from the annoyances incidental to the period of dentition.

SYRUP OF COFFEE.—This preparation is of great use to those who have long journeys to make. Take half a pound of the best ground coffee; put into a saucepan, containing three pints of water, and boil it down to one pint. Cool the liquor, put it into another saucepan well scoured, and boil it again. As it boils add white sugar, enough to give it the consistency of syrup. Take it from the fire and when it is cold put it into a bottle, and seal. When travelling, if you wish for a cup of good coffee, you have only to put two teaspoonfuls of the syrup into an ordinary coffee-pot, and fill with boiling water. Add milk to taste if you can get it.

WHAT IS IN THE BED-ROOM?—If two persons are to occupy a bed-room during the night, let them step on a weighing scale as they retire, and then again in the morning, and they will find that their actual weight is at least a pound less in the morning. Frequently there will be a loss of two or more pounds, and the average loss throughout the year will be a pound of matter, which has gone off from their bodies, partly from the lungs, and partly through the pores of the skin. The escaped matter is carbonic acid and decayed animal matter or poisonous exhalation. This is diffused through the air in part, and in part absorbed by the bed-clothes. If a single ounce of wool cotton be burned in a room, it will so completely saturate the air with smoke that one can hardly breathe, though there can only be one ounce of foreign matter in the air. If an ounce of cotton be burned every half hour during the night, the air will be kept continually saturated with smoke, unless there be an open window or door for it to escape. Now the sixteen ounces of smoke thus formed is far less poisonous than the sixteen of exhalations from the lungs and bodies of two persons who have lost a pound in weight during the eight hours of sleeping; for while the dry smoke is mainly taken into the lungs, the damp odours from the body are absorbed both into the lungs and into the pores of the whole body. Need more be said to show the importance of having bed-rooms well ventilated, and of thoroughly airing the sheets, coverlids, and mattresses in the morning, before packing them up in the form of a neatly-made bed?

LIQUID GLUE.—An excellent liquid glue is made by dissolving glue in nitric ether. The ether will only dissolve a certain amount of glue, consequently the glue cannot be made too thick. The glue thus made is about the consistency of molasses, and is doubly as tenacious as that made with hot water. If a few bits of indiarubber, cut into scraps the size of a buck-shot, be added, and the solution allowed to stand a few days,

being stirred frequently, it will be all the better, and will resist the dampness twice as well as glue made in water.

TO PRESERVE BREAD A LONG TIME.—Cut the bread into thick slices, and bake it in an oven, so as to render it perfectly dry. In this condition it will be kept good for any length of time required. It must, however, be carefully kept from pressure; otherwise, owing to its brittleness, it will soon fall to pieces. When required for use, dip the bread for an instant into warm water, and then hold it before the fire till dry; then butter it, and it will taste like toast. This is a useful way of preserving bread for voyages, and also any bread that may be too stale to be eaten in the usual way.

ORNAMENTING GLASS.—Bleached shellac is colored by alcoholic solutions of any of the aniline colours; this is spread upon glass or mica after they have been warmed. Guncotton, dissolved in ether, when colored with any of the aniline dyes, forms beautifully tinted films. This colored collodion can be cut into any pattern, and the film attached to any transparent surface.

NEW ANEMOMETER.—A new anemometer has been invented by Mr. J. E. Gordon, of which four instruments are now in action, for indicating and registering the force and direction of the wind at any distance from the vane, the communication being made by means of electric wires. The vane might be at Portsmouth, and the printing instrument in the Meteorological Office at Westminster.

EXTRACT OF MEAT.—Professor Artus, of Jena, recommends a new method of making extract of meat, which possesses the advantage over that of Liebig in retaining the albumen, gelatine, and fat, which are all removed by Liebig's process, and which would seem, from recent experiments, to be the only nutritious elements of the meat. For this purpose, by a very simple apparatus, an extract of the meat is made first with cold water; this dissolves out the soluble salts, the albumen, and part of the gelatine and creatine. The meat, after extraction in this way with cold water, is then boiled for an hour in a Papin's digester, and the liquid pressed out. The fat is skimmed off the surface, and this extract is mixed with the cold extract. The mixed extracts are then evaporated down to a proper consistency in a sand-bath or, better, in a vacuum-apparatus.

SUNFLOWERS AS DISINFECTANTS.—Attention is being directed to the sanitary advantages of the cultivation of the sunflower in malarious districts. Many facts have been adduced to show that the sunflower has the property of purifying air laden with marsh miasm, absorbing a great quantity of moist and noxious gases, and exhaling an ozonised oxygen. Moreover, the French Sanitary Commission has lately pointed out that the sunflower is a most useful plant; it yields about 40 per cent. of good oil, the leaves furnish an excellent fodder, and the stem, being rich in saltpetre and potash, makes a good fuel.

SINGULAR GERMAN THEORY.—The curious theory is propounded by a physician in Germany that small-pox originates from an excess of albuminous matter in the blood, and that this is to be prevented by the administration of common salt. The habit of children indulging over freely in sweetmeats he considers one great cause of this undue development of albumen, and coffee and tea if highly sugared, tend also to excite it