

**Subsidy to Pasteur.**—The French minister of Agriculture has lately placed at the disposal of M. Pasteur a new sum of 50,000fr. (\$10,000), in order to continue his admirable investigations upon the contagious diseases of animals. The government had already granted to the illustrious savant, for the same object, 50,000fr. in 1880 and 40,000 in 1881. The minister consulted a special committee who, in view of the brilliant success obtained by Pasteur in his previous investigations, unanimously recommended a renewal of the grant.—*Les Mondes*, Sept. 9, 1882. C.

**Solar Cannon of the Palais Royal.**—The little cannon of the Palais Royal, in Paris, which automatically notes the hour of noon, dates from a greater antiquity than is generally known. It thundered during the commune, under the empire, during the days of '48, under Louis Philippe, under the Restoration, during the wars of the Grande Armée, during the guillotines of the Reign of Terror, on the day when Camille Desmoulins harangued the people, under Louis XVI, under Louis XV. In his charming "Journey from Paris to St. Cloud, by Land and by Sea," published in 1751, Néel makes his young tourist regulate his watch by it. The pillar on which it is fixed stands at the point where, in 1641, a year before his death, Cardinal Richelieu established a bound between the manors of St. Honoré and of the Archbishopric.—*L'Astronomie*, i, 241. C.

**Improvement of Marshes.**—In the province of Venice there are still extensive tracts of marsh, especially in the territory comprised between the Tagliamento and the Livenza, and between the latter and the Piave, in the two districts of Portogruaro and of San Dona. These two districts include 38,000 hectares (146'57 sq. m.), besides many tracts already under cultivation, which suffer greatly from obstructions to the free flow of water. In these districts there are improvements, which have been executed by intelligent occupants, who draw large profits from them, although they have sustained the entire burden at their own expense; but they are true oases in the midst of broad filthy marshes, and serve as an eloquent proof of the great advantages which might be derived from the redemption of the fertile virgin soil. The Italian government has offered subsidies and other measures of protection and encouragement, in the hope of extending these improvements for hygienic as well as agricultural purposes.—*Il Politecnico*, xxx, 458.