Agriculture.

Skill d Labor.

American agric sture is undergoing a rapid change. The capital invested in it is increasing more rapidly than in any other industry. The cheap lands with poor dwellings, occupied by the pioneers, have become well-tilled farms with buildings costing three times as much as the original value of the land. The sickle, scythe and cradle have given place to the mower and reaper. Most farm operations are done by machinery which requires some mechanical skill to manage. The evident ten-dency is to work larger farms, the operations of which the owner can only superintend, the labor being almost wholly hired. It costs less, in proportion, to work two hundred than one hundred acres, and still less as the farm grows larger, provided the labor is skillfully directed. And the more machinery is substituted for hand labor, the stronger will be this tendency to absorb the smaller into the larger farms. This has been the result in Great Britain, and it is not likely to be avoided in the United States. We believe it would be better for the individual independence of the farmers if the small holdings might continue, instead of their being aggregated together, and the present proprietors, more or less, becoming laborers. This result cannot be avoided, except by cooperation in the purchase of machinery to work small farms.

But this change is strongly demand-ing the substitution of skilled labor on the farm for the very unskilled labor at present employed. One of the greatest impediments to the successful carrying on of farming on a large scale, is the fact that there are no skilled laborers in the market. Farming has been carried on in this country so much at haphazard, and with so ht tle order and system, that a laborer, when he can find nothing else to do, or succeeds at nothing else, offers his services to the farmer. On the farm he regards success as certain. The consequence is that the laborers are entirely unskilled in the parts they are performing, and unless directed by unusual activity and knowledge, the work must be badly done. It requires skill everywhere in farming-skill to lay out a field for the plow, to turn a fine straight furrow, to put it in fine tilth for the seed, to sow the seed accurately; skill in cutting and curing grass, in harvesting grain; still greater skill in raising and feeding animals; skill in milking and managing cows; skill in all the operations of the dairy. Indeed, what operation in agriculture does not require skill? And yet a large part of all these operations is carried on by laborers new to the business, and who perform them in the clumsy way of novices, at wages which in Europe are only paid skilled mechanics. Perhaps this explains why the farmers' profits are all must be of the most vita gone when he hires the labor to carry to keep the channel free.

The manufacturer never carries on business with such unskilled labor. His workmen have served a regular apprenticeship at the various branches of with a reasonable certainty the profit upon each workman. The English farmer stands on as favorable ground as the manufacturer, having skilled laborers at his command, and can make a reasonably certain calculation upon the result of their labor. The English plowman serves an apprenticeship at this most important specialty from the time he is old enough to reach the plow-handles till he becomes an expert; while the American farm hand thinks he can perform this skilled operation without any previous practice! The American farm-hand makes up in assurance what he lacks in practical knowledge. But assurance, however important in desperate enterprises, will never lay a straight and even furrow. The American farmer is, no doubt, saved from even greater losses through unskilled labor, because a large percentage of his labor is done by machinery, which works much more perfectly than the unskilled hand. But the cost of wear and tear of machines operated by unskilled hands, is much greater than if they were run by ex-

It is evident that the changed condition of our agriculture must soon compel the employment of skilled hands, and these skilled hands must be educated before they can be employed. Agricultural laborers are composed too largely of a floating, unsettled class, and this must be changed before amendment in the degree of skill can be expected. They must be composed of a class with settled and definite ends and aims, who are educated to the business as earnestly as mechanics. With such assistance agriculture will attract capital and afford it a safe investment. Skilled labor is the immediate demand of the future in agriculture.—Rural New Yorker.

Ashes Beneficial to Cattle.

One of our substantial subscribers. in a recent conversation, gave his experience in treating neat stock affected with the habit of eating wood, chewing bones, etc. His cattle were one spring affected in this way; they became thin in flesh, refused to eat hay, and presented a sickly appearance. He put four bushels of leached ashes in his barnyard and threw out to them a shovelful every day. They all ate it with evident relish. After turning them out to pasture he put a peck of ashes per week upon the ground in the pasture. They ate it all up, and gnawed off where it had been lying. The cattle began to improve, gaining flesh and looking better than they had for several years. He now gives one quart of ashes, mixed with the same quantity of salt, to twelve head of cattle, about once a week, and finds it to agree with them wonderfully.

Domestic.

Household Receipts.

LEAD PIPE.—Clean lead pipes leading from wash-bowls by pouring down them a strong solution of potash dissolved in hot water. Don't get the mixture on the hands or clothing. It destroys all animal matter, bair, etc., and saves employing a plumb.

SOFT SOAP.-Three-quarters of a pound of washing soda and a pound of brown soap cut in small pieces; put them in a large stone jar on the back of the range, when the range is not very hot, and pour over it a pailful of cold water, stir it once in a while, and after some hours, when thoroughly chloride, possess a like property. When dissolved, put it away to cool. It a dilute solution of these salts is used forms a sort of jelly, and is excellent to as an ink, the writing, although in-

DYSPEPSIA .- A simple and effectual remedy for dyspepsia is to abstain from drinking immediately before and during meals, and for an hour afterward.

To REMOVE ink stains, wash the cloth thoroughly in milk, then in hot water with soap, and the stains will disappear.

POMMES DE TERRE FORSCEE .-Mince finely some cold meat, and season; pick out your largest potatoes, peel and core them, only be careful not to core them through; fill as full as you can with minced meat, and put into a dish to bake, with about a cupful of water, and a little butter or good dripping of beef. If large, an hour is required to bake them; if not, one-half that time does.

To PRESERVE EGGS .- Put some lime in a large vessel and slack it with boiling water until it is of the consistency of thin cream; you may use a gallon of water to a pound of lime; when it is cold pour it off into a large stone jar, put in the eggs and cover closely. See that the eggs are well covered with the lime water, and lest they should break, avoid moving the jar. It will be well to renew the lime water occasionally.

DIRECTIONS FOR WASHING WOOL-ENS .- If you do not wish to have white flannels shrink when washed, make a good suds of hard soap and wash the flannels in it, without rubbing any soap on them; rub them out in another suds, then wring them out of it and put them in a clean tub and turn on sufficient boiling water to cover them and let them remain till the water is cold. A little indigo in the boiling water makes the flannels look nicer. If you wish to have your white flannels shrink, so as to have them thick, wash them in soft soapsuds and riuse them in cold water. Colored woolens that incline to fade should be washed with beef's gall and warm water before they are put in the soap-suds.

IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN SKIN.-Most of our invalids are such, and millions of more healthy people will become invalids, for the want of paying the most ordinary attention to the requirements of the skin. The membrane is too often regarded as a covering only, instead of a complicated piece of machinery, scarcely second in its texture and sensitiveness to the ear and eye. Mana treat it with as little reference to its proper functions as if it were nothing better than a bag for their bones. It is this inconsideration for the skin that is the cause of a very large proportion of the diseases of the world. If; as claimed by some scientists, four-fifths, in the bulk, of all we eat and drink must either pass off through the skin or be turned back upon the system as a poison, and that life depends as much upon these exhalations through the skin as upon inhaling pure air through the lungs, it must be of the most vital importance

Scientific.

Symphathetic Inks. - The Scientific his manufacture, and he can estimate American prints the following article: Under the name of sympathetic inks are designated certain liquids which, being used for writing, leave no visible traces on the paper, but which, through the agency of heat or by the action of chem cals, are made to appear in various colors. The use of such means for secret correspondence is very ancient. Ovid, Pliny, and other Roman writers speak of an ink of this kind, which, however, was nothing more than fresh milk. It merely sufficed to dust powdered charcoal over the surface of the paper upon which characters had been traced with the colorless fluid, when the black powder adhered only to those places where the fatty matter of the milk had spread. Such a process, however, was merely mechanical, and the results very crude.

"A great number of sympathetic inks may be obtained by means of reactions known to chemistry. For instance, write on paper with a colorless solution of sugar of lead; if the water that is used for the solution be pure, no trace of the writing will remain when it becomes dry. Now hold the paper over a jet of sulphuretted hydrogen, and the characters will immediately appear on the paper, of an intense black color. The following recipes for inks of this kinds are more simple: If writing be executed with a dilute solution of sulphate of iron, the invisible characters will appear of a beautiful blue, if the dry paper be brushed over with a pencil full of a solution of yellow prussiate of potash; or they will be Those of us who sleep in the old strawblack, if a solution of tannin be substituted for the prussiate. If the characters be written with a solution of sulphate of copper, they will at once tern

blue on exposing to the vapors of ammonia. Another sympathetic ink is afforded by chloride of gold, which becomes of a reddish purple when acted upon by a salt of tin. A red sympathetic ink may be made in the following manner: Write with a very dilute solution of perchloride of iron—so dilute, indeed, that the writing will be invisible when dry. By holding the paper in the vapor arising from a longnecked glass flask containing sulphuric acid and a few drops of a solution of sulpho-cyanide of potassium, the characters will appear of a blood-red color, which will again disappear on submitting them to the vapors of caustic ammonia. This experiment can be re-

peated ad infinitum. "During the war in India some years ago, important correspondence was carried on by the English by means of the use of rice water as a writing fluid. On the application of iodine the despatches immediately appeared in blue characters.

"Sympathetic inks which are developed under the influence of heat only are much easier to use than the foregoing. The liquids which possess such a property are very numerous. Almost every one perhaps knows that if writing be executed on paper with a clean quill pen dipped in onion or turnip juice, it becomes absolutely invisible when dry; and that when the paper is heated the writing at once makes its appearance in characters of a brown color. All albuminoid, mucilaginous and saccharine vegetable juice makes excellent sympathetic inks; we may cite, as among the best, the juices of lemon, orange, apple and pear. A dilute solution of chloride of copper used for writing is invisible until the paper is heated, when the letters are seen of a beautiful yellow, disappearing again when the heat that developed them is removed. The salts of cobalt as the acetate, nitrate, sulphate and

exposed to heat. The addition of chloride of iron, or of salt of nickel, renders them green, and this opens the way for a very pretty experiment: If a winter landscape be drawn in India ink, and the sky be painted with a wash of cobalt alone, and the branches of the trees be clothed with leaves executed with a mixture of cobalt and nickel and the snow-clad earth be washe over with the same mixture, a magic transformation at once takes place on the application of heat, the winter landscape changing to a summer

scene. "There is a well-known proprietary article sold in Paris under the name of 'Encre pour les Dames" (ink for ladies). Hager, in a recent scientific journal, states that this consists of an equeous solution of iodide of starch, and is "specially intended for love letters." In four weeks characters written with it disappear, preventing all abuse of letters, and doing away with all documentary evidence of any kind in the hands of the recipient. The signers of bills of exchange who use this ink are of course freed from all obligations in the same length of time."

Dumorous.

-Why is a nursery a good place for dancing? Because it is a regular bawlroom.

-When a policeman finds a man full he takes him to the station-house and his friends bail him out. -What is sweeter than a sugar-

house? Why, a young ladies' seminary when it is full of lasses. -"Is this the Adams House?" asked a stranger of a Bostonian. "Yes," was the reply, "It's Adam's house until you get to the roof; then it's

eaves.

-A consequential young fop asked an aged country sexton if the ringing of a bell did not put him in mind of his latter end. "No, sir," replied the grim old grave-digger; "but the rope puts me in mind of yours."

-A courtly negro recently sent a reply to an invitation, in which he "regretted that circumstances repugnant to the requiescence would prevent his acceptance of the invite."

-Not over one person in three has egs of equal length, and every man should be posted on the relative length of his limbs that he may know which one to use for short and which one for long kicking. -"Will the boy who threw that pep-

per or the stove please come up here

and get a present of a nice book?" said

a school teacher in Iowa; but the boy never moved. He was a far-seeing boy. -"My dear Julia," said one pretty girl to another, "can you make up your mind to marry that odious Mr. Snuff?"

"Why, my dear Mary," replied Julia, "I believe I could take him at a pinch." -When some one was lamenting Foote's unlucky fate in being kicked in Jevons has traced the phenomenon Dublin, Johnson said: "He is rising in back through the eighteenth century the world. When he was in England

no one thought it worth while to kick

him. -"Do you see this stick, sir?" said a very stupid acquaintance to Sydney Smith. "This stick has been all round the world, sir." "Indeed!" said the remorseless Sydney. "And yet it is only

—A modest ring at the door-bell of a house on Brady street called the lady to the door yesterday to discover a tramp, who, to her great astonishment, pulled off his hat as he said: "Madam, did a big tramp with one

eye call here to-day?" "Yes-about an hour ago," she re-

plied. "His breath smelt of onions, didn't it?"

"Yes, terribly. "And he asked for mince pie and cold beef tongue, didn't he." "Yes, he did. I never saw a more

impudent fellow." "Well, madam, I am following him around to tell the people just what sort of a fellow he is. Don't you give him a mouthful-not even a drink of water.

"But you look like a tramp, too," she

observed. "Well, I is one, ma'am, but I don't eat onions, and I never ask for mince pie. All I wants is a slice of bread with a bone on it, and if they dips the bone in vinegar first so much the better. stack back here wants to give families a chance to get through the winter, while that ere chap with one eye rushes around and demands the very luxuries of kings and queens. Don't encourage him, ma'am; he can't appreciate good wittles after he gets 'em." - Free If this explanation is correct, the Press.

-"No," the honest farmer remarked in tones of the deepest dejection, "the big crops don't do us a bit of good. What's the use? Corn only thirty cents. Everybody and everything's dead set agin the farmer. Only thirty cents for corn! Why, by gum, it won't pay our taxes, let alone buy us clothes. It won't buy us enough salt to put up a barrel of pork. Corn only thirty cents! By jocks, it's a livin', cold-blooded swindle on the farmer, that's what it is. It ain't worth raisin' corn for such a price as that. It's a mean, low robbery." Within the next ten days that man had sold so much more of his corn than he had intended, that he found he had to buy corn to feed through the winter with. The price nearly knocked him down. "What!!!" he yelled, "thirty cents for corn! Land alive thirty cents! What are you givin' us? Why, I don't want to buy your farm. I only want some corn. Thirty cents for corn! Why, I believe there's nobody left in this world but a set of graspin', blood-suckin' old misers. Why, good land, you don't want to be able to buy a national bank with one corn crop! Thirty cents for corn! Well. I'll let my cattle and horses run on cornstalks all winter before I'll pay any such an unheard-of outrageout price for corn as that. Why, the country's flooded with corn, and thirty cents a bushel is a blamed robbery, and don't see how any man, lookin' at the crop we've had, can have the face to

ask such a price. "-Hawkeye. —The sickles found by Belzoni under the pedestal of the Sphynx, at Karnac, near Thebes, the blades which Wyse found imbedded in the wall of the Great Pyramid, and the piece of a saw which Layard dug up at Nimroud, are the oldest known pieces of wrought iron in the world. They are treasured in the BritREVOLUTIONS IN TRADE.

among us of men and women who are

carried round and round the eddies of

opinion, and, as far as can be observed.

with no other feeling than one of satis-

Among many examples of cyclical

theories there is one in favor of which

many remarkable facts may certainly

be adduced. Within certain limits it

would appear to be established that

there is a period of revolution in trade

and commerce of something like ten

years. In that time the series of

are left where we began. Depression,

timid revival of activity, a stronger

development of energy, the full tide of prosperity, rapids and breakers, a di-

minished rush of business, and then

depression again follow one another in

succession in the course of a decade.

The recurrence of commercial crises

every ten years has been an observed

tury, and it is understood that Prot.

also. Attempts are sometimes made

law to other countries, but, while there

is a reason to believe that other nations

have their commercial periods like

ourselves, the evidence as yet accumu-

lated fails to establish an identity of

cyclical recurrence, and it rather leads

to the conclusion that national periods

another. It is also to be observed that

on the present occasion the acute phase

of depression, culminating in a crisis,

which ought to have occurred last

year or the year before, did not happen

precisely as might have been expected.

It was anticipated in 1873 out of due

course, or it was deferred till 1878 with

an equal irregularity. This distur-

bance is of some importance. Astrono-

mers recount with pride the history of

the discovery of Neptune. It had been

observed that the outermost planet

previously known to us did not move

with that decorous observance of its

orbit so desirable in a well-ordered

system, and it occurred simultaneously

to Mr. Adams and M. Leverrier that

another unknown planet was perhaps

causing it to swerve from its proper

path. Forthwith they set to work

with feigned hypotheses, calculations

and corrections, until each was able to

declare where the disturber ought to

be found, and when the look-out men

of the observatories searched that way

they found it. As our decennial mone-

tary crisis did not come round in 1876

or 1877, we are driven to search the

disturbing cause of the variation; and

it seems that a crisis in America in

1873 precipitated the occurrence of our

point of acute depression, just as a pre-

vious excessive inflation of trade in the

States had exaggerated our activity.

mutual influence of national crises is

established, and at the same time the

independence of their normal periods

of commercial revolution. If commer-

cial crises could be traced to a common

cause, the crises of all nations ought to

have the same period and to happen

at the same time. The greater the

development of international trade as

compared with domestic trade, the

more marked will be the tendency to

synchronous crises in nations; but the

evidence as yet accumulated suggests

the conclusion that the cause of pro-

gress from depression to activity and

back again has hitherto followed a law

of its own within each community, and

that its period in each case depends

upon national opportunities of saving

and on national characteristics of tem-

perament. Where an accumulation of

wealth is rapid and the people are san-

guine and speculative, the oscillation

from the appearance of extreme pros-

perity to that of depression will happen

within a very shart time; and where

the circumstances of the case are other-

wise the period will vary in a corres-

The well-ascertained existence of a

recurrent period in trade and commerce

has naturally excited the hope that

we may emerge from our present sea-

son of comparative distress more

rapidly than we sank into it. The law

of change which has been so often ob-

served justifies the belief in a return of

prosperity. It may, however, be objected that though similar phases re-

ponding degree.

are distinct, though liable to effect one

fact in England throughout this cen-

changes is run, and at the end of it we

faction with themselves.

comparison of the present with the past; and Mr. Lefevre, as President of In one of Marryat's most healthy the Statistical Society, has just laid before that body an analysis of the novels a warrant officer is introduced rejoicing in the euphonious name of facts of our commercial and manufac-Chucks, who held the simple theory turing position now compared with that after a certain precise number of what it was during a similar time of thousands of years all the events of depression ten years since. The exlife, public and private, were repeated in an unerring cycle. Few can be as exact as Mr. Chucks in his calculation amination thus instituted is altogether satisfactory. We are not prosperous as we were six years since, but we are of the period of recurrence, but a vague better off than we were during the bad faith that things do come round in the times ten years since. We have not same fashion after a limited number ef slipped back as far as we had come years is pretty widely spread. How many are confident that France has to forward. The population of the country has, of course, increased; but, acpass through endless alternate fits of cording to Mr. Lefevre, wages and Republicanism and Imperialism! It is wealth and commerce have increased not a century since neither Republic nor Empire had been heard of in in a still greater proportion. Some of Mr. Lefevre's figures may, perhaps, France, but the oscillation once estabadmit of fuller examination than he lished must apparently remain for ever. has given them; and a comparison such We, too, are tossed to and fro. We as he has instituted is often obscured shift from parsimony to panic, and and perplexed by changes in the sale of back again to parsimony, out of which prices of commodities; but there are panic reappears. We suffer from gusts many of his most significant statements that cannot be questioned. We have of change and impulses of reaction. We are ardent in favor of some Liberal had to witness, for example, an inprogramme, and then subside into a crease in pauperism in the last twelve wearisome contempt of all promises of months such as happened in 1867-8, reform. We have a confidence to-day but the increase has been relatively in the peace and good-will of all the less, and our pauper roll is 30 per cent. world, and to morrow we discern in the less than it was ten years since, in movement of every shadow the forespite of an increase of ten per cent. in warning of an approaching foe. We should be glad to think, for the sake of the population. The deposits in the saving banks are greater than they humanity, and especially of English huwere; and the amount assessed to the manity, that these shifting changes and Income-tax under Schedule D shows vacillations of feeling could be ascribed an increase of 60 per cent. In spite of to different sets of men succeeding one all the deductions that may be made another. The movement of some of from these figures, enough must remain the longer cycles of opinion may perto show that the nation as a whole is haps be accounted for in this way. If much better off now than it was in we compare the active spirits of to-day, 1868, which was a corresponding period whether in science, in arts, in politics. of depression; and though our progress or in literature, with those of ten years may be for the time checked, we have ago, we may find there has been a sufnot lost much ground, and may fairly ficient disappearance of certain names look for something more than a renewal once well-known, and emergence of of our former prosperity when a revival does recur.—London Times. others from the obscurity that once enfolded them, to allow the predominant sentiment of the mass to have been transformed without any considerable change in the opinions of individuals; but the explanation thus suggested is too often insufficient to explain the changes we are forced to recognize. There is a too appreciable proportion

THE LONDON OBELISK.

Now that the famous obelisk, long miscalled Cleopatra's Needle, is at length erected on the banks of the Thames, all students will be interested to know the very tasteful inscriptions proposed to be graved on its pedestal. The text of these inscriptions has been prepared by the joint counsel of Engand's most prominent scholars, including Dr. Birch and Dean Stanley, and approved by the Queen. The following are the proposed inscriptions. Facing the roadway:

THIS OBELISK WAS QUARRIED AT SYENE, AND ERECTED AT H. IOPOLIS) BY THOTHMES III., ABOUT 1500 B. C. FURTHER INSCRIPTIONS WERE ADDED 2 CEN-TURIES LATER BY RAMESES II. (SESOSTRIS). REMOVED TO ALEXANDRIA, THE ROYAL CITY

OF CLEOPATRA, IT WAS ERECTED THERE IN THE SEVENTH TEAR OF AUGUSTUS CÆSAR, B. C. 25. TRANSPORTED TO ENGLAND AND ERECTED ON THIS SPOT IN THE FORTY-SECOND YEAR OF QUEEN VICTORIA

ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S. JOHN DIXON, C.R. Below this will be inscribed the date,

In a panel still below, on the same "The work was further aided by H. also. Attempts are sometimes made H. Ismail Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt, to extend the operation of this apparent Gen. Sir J. E. Alexander, Hon. C. H. Vivian, Giovanni Demetrio, Charles | hone. You should wipe your hone be-Swinburne, John Fowler, C. E., Ben-

iamin Baker, C. E., H. P. Stephenson, C. E., Waynman Dixon, C. E., S. Birch, L.L.D., George Double, Managen of Works," The principal inscription on the

river side is the following: "This obelisk, having fallen prostrate in the sand at Alexandria, was in grateful remembrance of Nelson and Abercromby, presented to the British nation, A. D. 1819, by Mohammed Ali, Viceroy of Egypt. Encased in an iron cylinder it was rolled into the sea August 29, 1877. Abandoned in a storm in the Bay of Biscay, it was recovered and taken into Ferrol Harbor, whence, in charge of Capt. Carter, it reached the Thames, Jan. 20, 1878. For the panel of the top step on the

same side: "William Askin, James Gardiner, Joseph Benbow, Michael Burns, William Donald, Edwin Patan, perished in a brave attempt to succor the crew of the obelisk ship 'Cleopatra,' during the storm, October 14, 1877.

On the east and west sides of the pedestal will probably be placed bronze plates representing the obelisk-ship leopatra and the raising of the monolith.

Rameses II., or Sesostris, mentioned in the first inscription, was, in all probability, the "new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph" of Exodus i ; his son Menephtah, or Mernephtah, being the Pharoah of the Exodus. The condition of Egypt under Rameses II. has been most charmingly pictured in Ebers in "Uarda." The fact of the erection of the obelisk at Alexandria in the seventh year of Augustus Cæsar, was learned from the inscription still extant on one of the bronze feet of the obelisk yet standing at Alexandria, by diggings made about it at the same time the prostrate obelisk was being prepared for its voyage to London. This inscription is in both Greek and Latin, and reads as follows:

"In the eighth year of Augustus Cæsar, Barbarus, prefect of Egypt, caused [this obelisk] to be placed [here], Pontius being architect.'

As Cleopatra had been dead for seven years when the obelisk was erected by her conqueror, there never could have existed any good reason for connecting her name therewith. It is easy, however, to understand why later generations should ignorantly ascribe all that was glorious in Alexandria to her who was, in several ways, the cause of so much of its splendor.

The name of "The London Obelisk," given it of late in many journals and some books, is a very natural designation, and much better than its old false name. It is convenient and useful in its meaning, and follows the modern modes of denoting the several obelisks at Paris, Rome, and other places.—S. S. Times.

The reason that milk boils more readily than water is because it is a thicker liquid, and consequently less heat is carried off by evaporation of steam; therefore the heat of the entire mass will rise more rapidly. Again, there is a thin skin which forms upon cur they may differ immensely one from another. We may pass from adthe top of heated milk, which of course confines the steam, and increases the versity to prosperity, but will it be heat.

such prosperity as we knew before, or must we look for something more or —An opposition newspaper in Japan less encouraging? Unless we are to reproduced an item about resignations assume a continuous growth not warof Ministers and characterized it as ranted by the examples of history, we unfounded. The editor was sent to jail must admit of a possible variation in for a year. A Government paper the maximum development of returning started an unfounded story that the prosperity. We may, however, turn | torture had been revived, but nothing

HOW TO SHAVE.

A FEW HINTS TO GENTLEMEN. The shaving-brush should be ample and rather soft, the scap of the most soft and lubricant sort that can be got Lay it on hot and work it freely; the thicker, hotter, and softer the lather, so much the pleasanter and easier will be the shave. Never use biting or acid soap; probably the more glycerine, honey and grease that enters into the composition of the soap the more agreeable it will be to the skin; but in this, as in so many other great affairs, experience will be the surest guide. The man who has shaved for a year or two and has not found out what soap is pleasantest to the cheek is deficient in the bump of research, and will never do great things in the world.

The choice of a razor is commonly

thought so difficult that many give up

all attempts at forming an opinion of

their own, take what the cutler pleases,

and rely upon his good faith and the credit of the house for a happy result. Possibly there exists tradesmen who will take back a razor which after a few days' trial does not prove up to the mark. If so, we shall be only too happy to make their acquaintance; personally, we never met with one. And this is hardly to be wondered at, for nothing equals the delicacy of a good razor edge except perhaps the tenderness with which it requires to be treated. If a razor in tempering has not received sufficient heat, its edge will be brittle; if, on the other hand, it has been too much heated it will be soft, but how is the purchaser to tell? He may, however, take with him a microscope, and carefully examine the edge all along. If it shows no bluntness no inequalities under this test, a prima facia case is made out in favor of the razor. We ourselves do not use the microscope, but never on any account, buy a razor which will not with any part of its edge sever a hair plucked from our own head and held freely between the left finger and thumb, while we chop at it with the razor in the right hand. The tool which will successfully pass this test seldom turns out badly. We may also here record another fact, namely, that mounting has nothing whatever to do with excellence, and that expensive razors are not as a rule a whit better than the cheap ones. A shilling razor, bought of a small cutler, in a country town, is just as likely to do its work well and long as one mounted in torto se shell, costing ten times the money, and purchased at a West End establishment. That is, of course, if you have taken the trouble to verify the state of its temper by the means which we have

above pointed out. Never dip your razor into boiling or very hot water to make it cut better; it is a most wasteful and deceptive proceeding. At first it certainly seems to answer and to make the edge keener, but in the long run it softens the steel, and you will find the weapon fail you at some critical moment when smoothness and dispatch may be invaluable.

If you put your razor away wet, or with the edge ill-cleaned, you have no sort of right to blame any one but yourself when it fails to do duty the next day. Treat it tenderly, as if you like it, like Izaak Walton's worm, and you will, if you have a fair start, sure of a good and faithful servant. From time to time you must use the fore using it with some soft rag or piece of old silk to remove all dirt; next spread a few drops of oil on the hone, and then, gripping the razor firmly by its handle with the thumb and forefinger, firmly holding it below the shoulder of the blade, push the razor away from you, taking care to press evenly, flatly and firmly, and to give the blade a sliding motion along the surface of the hone; when the whole of the blade has traversed the hone, reverse it, and do the same thing over again on the other side, always remembering to work from shoulder to point: by this means the minute teeth of the saw, which, as a microscope will show you, from the razor, will all be set in a proper direction, so as to give you the most benefit from their touch against the bristles of your beard when you set to work at your morning shave.

Recollect that a razor strop must be used in the same manner; but that however carefully you strop your razor, it can never prevent your being sometimes driven to the hone. When choosing a razor strop, be careful to pick out a flat one. This is very important, as otherwise you will never get the teeth of your microscopic saw to be evenly set on the edge of the razor with an equable, keen and fine-cutting faculty all along from one end of the blade to the other. The leather on the smooth side of the razor strop should be calf, and of the best quality, and this side of course used after the razor has been sufficiently sharpened on the side spread with the composition. It has the effect of smoothing the edge, and will so far be found useful .- Vanity Fair.

THE WHIRL OF LOGIC.

Said Jeremy Taylor: "I dreamt one night that all my dreams were false. But if all my dreams are false, then this dream was also false, and hence all my dreams are not false, but are true. But if my dreams are true, then this dream was also true, and therefore, as I dreamt last night, my dreams are

—A physician, finding a lady reading Twelfth Night, said: "When Shakspeare wrote about Patience on a monument, did he mean doctors' patients?" "No," she answered; "you don't find them on monuments, but under them."

-The English marine magistrate at the port of Singapore is a judicial person of muscle. He lately sprang from his bench and soundly thrashed a submagistrate sitting with him; the next day he dragged a reporter out of court by the collar, and his only virtue, apparently, is the impartiality with which he abuses every shipmaster who comes before him.

-That every day has its pains and sorrows is universally experienced, and almost universally confessed; but let us not attend only to mournful truths; if we look impartially about us, we shall find that every day has likewise its pleasures and its joys.

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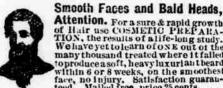
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