

THE WORLD'S TEXTILE CENTER

Manchester's Great Cotton Milling Industry.

Suggestions for the South in a Letter to the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record.

A staff correspondent of the Manufacturers' Record, who is in England investigating the textile and iron interests, writes to that paper about the cotton manufacturing business of Manchester as follows:

Within an area of fifty miles around this city are located 1,700 cotton manufacturers, controlling 42,191,000 spindles and 638,000 looms. Manchester has indeed the right to be called the great textile manufacturing center of the world.

In and near it are numerous other industries, but the manufacture of cotton fabrics is so extensive that all of the other work is insignificant in comparison. The famous ship canal which connects it with the ocean owes its inception principally to the efforts of the spinners to cheapen the cost of transporting the raw material and finished products, although Liverpool, which is still the principal seaport for receiving the cotton, is but thirty miles distant, and connected with it by several lines of railway. But Liverpool's cotton commerce will steadily decline. This is the prediction of those best in a position to know, as they show by statistics how the American, Egyptian and Indian cotton is being received more and more at the Manchester wharves, where it is distributed to the mills, some of which are built directly on its banks.

Of all these plants, not one is operated by water-power. Such streams as are to be found in the Carolinas and Georgia, for example, are unknown in this part of Great Britain, where most of the cotton goods are finished. Neither has this district any special advantage in the way of fuel, for the coal, although mined in the west of England, costs from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per ton, and is much poorer for steam producing than the George's Creek, Pocahontas or Alabama coal, as it contains a large percentage of slate and other impurities. It comes by rail and canal, and is used almost entirely to the exclusion of other grades. Lancashire, however, has an abundance of pure water, and the population of this part of the Queen's domain seems especially adapted to handling the loom and spindle, inheriting the trade from ancestors ranging as far back as 150 years. Yet they are extremely ignorant and much poorer than the mill hands of the Carolinas, for example, in natural intelligence.

These factors have played an important part in the development of the cotton industry hereabouts, for the water supply and quality allow the goods to be bleached where manufactured, and not sent to another part of the kingdom to be whitened at an extra expense. The hands work for a very low scale of wages, and though many of the plants are in small towns, where the employes have some of the advantages of rural life, even in the hamlets land is so high in this crowded country that they are huddled together in blocks of tenements and have no conception of manner in which Southern mill hands are favored when compared with them.

The ship canal, although recently completed, has had a most beneficial effect on the Manchester factories. Although six plants, representing 90,000 spindles and 2,000 looms, discontinued business in 1898, thirty-one new enterprises were established, so that an actual gain for the present year is recorded of 395,000 spindles and 9,000 looms, in spite of the number ceasing operations. Several plants now being erected will further increase these figures by January 1, next. And the prospects of the spinners, according to the most conservative statements, are very bright. Never in their history have the companies had more demand for their product, and many of the largest plants are doing double time.

When asked as to the reason of this demand and the possibility of its long duration, one of the most extensive manufacturers said to the writer: "We have orders for our product for the next five months, and as far as I can see, will be compelled to operate our mills with a full force for the next year, if not longer. The demand comes largely from British and Continental consumers, but we are also shipping much to East India. There is no demand from any particular quarter. Orders are being received in the same proportion from all parts of our territory." It is unnecessary to say that this should be gratifying news to the American cotton-growers, since the Southern States contribute in such a measure to the supply of raw material in this district.

The disastrous management of some of the larger cotton mills of the Manchester district is familiar to readers of the Manufacturers' Record. So greatly was the confidence of investors shaken by these reverses that cotton-mill stocks until recently have been regarded with much disfavor for speculative or investment purposes. Today these securities, paying 10 per cent. annually in dividends, can be bought readily at from 150 to 175, according to the fluctuations of the market. Experience, though a bitter teacher, has been thorough, and the loose and reckless methods of financing have given place to prudence and conservatism. The writer learns on excellent authority that fully 75 per cent of the active mills in this district are earning enough to pay the dividend mentioned and 5 per cent additional to pay for new equipment.

MICROBES IN THE BEARD.

Here's a Doctor Who Has Found a New Home for Them.

In the earliest and, perhaps, the best of all "Books of Nonsense," remarks the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the reader

was entertained with the embarrassment of a certain "old man with a beard, who said it is just as I feared," the apprehension thus realized being that the fowls of the air would build their nests in the tempting thicket of hair which depended from that old man's chin. The beard of real life does not, of course, afford such ample harborage for the feathered race as this. Its invasions and appropriation by "two cocks and a hen," "three larks and a wren," is not really to be feared; yet it may, it appears, have tenants of an infinitely smaller size, but of inversely proportionate powers of mischief.

Dr. Schoull, of Tunis, has discovered that it is simply a happy hunting ground of bacilli. He has proved it upon the guinea pig, whom he has inoculated with "the material obtained from beards and moustaches," with results distressing to the guinea pig and alarming to all those who had been in more or less close contact with him. This is a very disagreeable discovery, and may seriously affect the popularity of a form of facial adornment which has hitherto been regarded as open to no other objection than that it is a nuisance to its wearer when in the act of taking soup.

But what are a few stray shreds of vermicelli compared with a whole army of able-bodied bacilli lying in ambush for their victims, and what is more, ready to make victims of anybody who happens to come within their range? No wonder Dr. Schoull insists on the thorough disinfection of all beards and moustaches which their wearers refuse to remove. The next step to be taken by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis is to require all persons who have been certified as suffering from consumption to be clean shaven, a well-skilled barber being for that purpose added to the staff of each one of the new sanatoria for tuberculosis which are shortly to be built throughout the country. Who is to protect the well-skilled barber is a question on which we are not informed, or even as to who is to disinfect him before operating on a patient who has not suffered from consumption. Until, however, some provision is made for this, his "Next, please!" will have a very ominous sound. Mentally completed, the phrase would run: "Next candidate for tuberculosis."

On the whole, we cannot but hope that the learned Dr. Schoull is mistaken. Perhaps the guinea pigs who were inoculated with the doctor's "material obtained from beards and moustaches" were alling to scold with, or the germ from some external source. Or, possibly, the beard itself was really like the old man's in the nonsense rhyme, and a mare had made her nest there, to be afterward found by Dr. Schoull.

FALSE CURIOS.

A well-known curio expert states that there are factories in Europe for the manufacture of all kinds of works of art that are likely to attract the collector. Modern articles of China are stamped with old marks so cleverly that even experts have been deceived says the Pottery Gazette. Arms and armor are treated with acids which eat away the metal, thus producing the same effect as the ravages of time. Carved ivories are stained with oils to make them yellow, and are subjected to heat to make them crack. Pieces of furniture have holes drilled to represent the worm holes, and so on, until there will, in time, be very little in the way of curios which are themselves really curious. Paris is one of the strongholds of this class of forgers, while in Hungary there is a factory where Dresden china is imitated in a fine manner. There is, however, one safe way, and that is to buy through reputable dealers. Forgeries in all works of art very rarely get into the dealers' hands. As a rule they are sent to auction rooms.

Many amateurs have an idea that they may pick up priceless works of art or curio for a mere song. That is the chance for the forgers. They know all this and work accordingly, and thus the amateur is deceived. The spurious curio makers hunt out-of-the-way auction rooms, where amateurs look in with the idea that nobody but themselves can know of the room in question. The sale takes place, and they come away with a gem, so they think, and are perfectly happy until undeceived.

There was, curiously enough, in this connection, lately been discovered a disease which eats away bronze and give it a sign of antiquity. All objects of antiquity fabricated from metallic copper and its important alloy, made by adding tin in certain proportions, are liable to be attacked by this destructive corroding affection. Skilled artists of these false antiquities are known to inoculate their reproductions with spots of bronze disease.

FORESTS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Self Culture. But it is to the forests of the Philippines that we are wholly unable to do justice. Timber exists in great variety and of most excellent quality. There are to be found kinds of wood suitable to every purpose. Many are of dense and tough fiber susceptible to the highest polish. Four kinds are so heavy that water will not float them, nor can they be cut with ordinary saws. One variety is of a bright emerald green, and another rich yellow, and they retain these colors when polished. Another, "narra," perhaps the prettiest, and much used in fine furniture, varies in color from light straw to deep red. Perhaps the best known is "molave," a very heavy dark-brown wood, used for finishing in the interior of the Jesuit church at Manila, where it is said the carving are by master hands and of surpassing beauty. Ebony is abundant. There are the cacao tree, the cocoanut palm and the bamboo, all invaluable to the natives, and also a tree which yields a kind of cotton.

A pitcher plant is found with receptacles that hold as much as a quart of water. There is a very curious plant with long pendent feelers that hang near the ground and have remarkable prehensile properties, taking the strongest hold on anything that happens to touch them. It is with the greatest difficulty that a passer-by can extricate himself from one of these many-fingered, hanging hands.



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DURHAM AND CHARLOTTE R. R. Time Table.

Table with columns for Northbound and Southbound trains, listing stations like Parkerwood Junction, Putnam, Glendon, Linwood, Haw Branch, Caribton, and Palmers, along with arrival and departure times.

SUMMER EXCURSION RATES.

Commencing June 15, up to and including September 31, the Southern Railway will sell summer excursion round-trip tickets to all summer resorts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. For full particulars write or call on THAD. C. STURGIS, City Ticket Agent, Yarrowburgh House and Union Depot.

NOTICE.

A general meeting of the stockholders of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company is hereby called to be held at the office of the company in the city of Raleigh, N. C., on Wednesday, the 6th day of September, 1899, at 10 o'clock a. m. Said meeting is called to consider the terms and conditions upon which the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company may consolidate with the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad Company, the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad Company, the Georgia, Carolina and Northern Railway Company, the Durham and Northern Railway Company, the Roanoke and Tar River Railroad Company and the Louisville Railroad Company, or any one or more of them; and to provide for increase of the capital stock of said Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company, and to take any other action that may be necessary or expedient in the exercise of the powers given to this company under the act of the General Assembly of North Carolina entitled 'An act to amend the charter of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company, and to authorize said Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company to consolidate with other railroad, transportation or other companies or to lease or otherwise acquire the property and franchises of the same. By order of the president. J. M. SHERWOOD, Secretary.

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE BONDS FOR SALE.

Under "An act to authorize and direct the issuing of State bonds for the purpose of raising funds to purchase State or Penitentiary farms, and for other purposes," Chapter 607, Laws of 1899, bids will be received by the State Treasurer at Raleigh, N. C., for \$60,000 North Carolina four-per-cent bonds, running ten years from January 1, 1899, interest payable January and July. These bonds bear interest from July 1, 1899. Bids under 104 not considered. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved. Bids will be received to 12 m. August 16. W. H. WORTH, State Treasurer. Raleigh, N. C., July 14, 1899.

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