

absence of confusion between the morning and afternoon hours being particularly noticeable in their time-table. Objection is made to the new system of reckoning time in consequence of all existing time-pieces being arranged to suit the twelve-hour system; but it surely would not be difficult to have a second ring of numerals placed on the dials inside the old ones, if the mental exertion of adding twelve to the indicated number, for the afternoon hours, were found to be too great. The prospect of clocks striking to twenty-four has been productive of much ponderous pleasantries; but it appears scarcely necessary to change existing arrangements in this respect. It is very unlikely that the change in the hours will be adopted as rapidly as was standard time; but it must come eventually, and the most probable issue will be that the two methods of notation will be carried on for a generation or so side by side.

THE BLACK DEATH.—Nothing brought about greater changes of every description, not only in England, but throughout Europe, during the Middle Ages, than the awful mortality of the Black Death of 1348-9. It has generally been assumed that the somewhat vague statements of the old chroniclers were considerably exaggerated, but as the research becomes more definite and localized, the terrible truth of the mortality becomes more and more established. It is not long since that the records of Lichfield were searched for a single county of that diocese, when it was found that more than three-fourths of the clergy of Derbyshire perished of that sickness. Equally appalling are the results of Dr. Jessopp's investigations. The annual average of institutions in the episcopal registers of Norwich about that period is eighty-one, but in 1350, the year following the plague, no less than 831 persons received institution within the diocese. In six months no less than twenty-one religious houses had lost their rulers, while at Hickling only a single canon survived, and he a novice who made his profession to the prior as he lay dying. It is impossible to estimate the number of clergy (regular and secular) in the diocese of Norwich whom the Black Death carried off at less than two thousand.