PASTIMES

PUZZLES.

1 Divide one hundred and fifty by nothing, add two thirds of ten, and so ends the name of a celebrated bishop.

2. Mrs. Betsy Jones, trudging to market one morning with a basket of eggs, overtook her friend, Mrs. Smith, similarly laden, and with the same goal in view. "Good morning, Mrs. Smith," said Betsy; "how many eggs have you in your basket this morning?" Now Mrs. Smith was averse to giving straightforward answers, and, after inspecting her friend's basket, replied: "If I give you two eggs, you will have as many as I have; but if you give me two, I shall have double the number you have." How many eggs had each?

CONUNDRUMS.

1. Why is a hot muffin like a caterpillar?
2. What is the most *sifting* question a person can be asked?
3. Why is the sun the strongest thing within our system?
4. Why is a church like a skull with an *imperfect* phrenological arrangement?

RIDDLES.

1. Why is a blind man like a water-pipe?
2. What is that which must stand before it can sit?
3. Why is a spendthrift's purse like a thunder cloud?
4. Why is playing chess a more exemplary occupation than playing cards?
5. Why is a fool like twenty hundred weight?
6. What is the longest and yet the shortest thing in the world?

A RHYME WANTED.

I'm a word of three letters—an * * *
D makes me what truth should be D * * *
N what lovers all like to be N * * *
F what most people sometimes feel F * * *
T what few like to see, called a T * * *
I think now I've made it quite CL * * *
And expect soon the answer to H * * *

ANAGRAMS.

1. A rare study, dear.
2. O rot not.
3. We drive the rate.
4. Potatoes.
5. Minister.
6. Gold mine.
7. Wealth.
8. Presbyterian.
9. Parliament.
10. Sovereigns.
11. A woodpecker.
12. Caledonia.

CHARADES.

1. The bed was soft, the room was neat,
The trav'ler sought repose;
Whilst faint and fainter from the street
My *first* in murmurs rose.

But scarcely had he closed his eyes,
When forth my *second* crept;
Who deem'd his blood a welcome prize
And drew it whilst he slept.

The trav'ler rose, the wound he tore,
With mingled rage and pain;
The landlord came amid the roar—
My second sought in vain.

Nought living had been near that bed,
The host, with fervour droll
Declared, but this the sufferer knew
Was nothing but my whole.

2. Your ear does my first in my ear,
Oh! that I were admitted as near!
In my second I've held you my fair,
So long that I almost despair,
But my prey if, at last, I o'ertake,
What a glorious *whole* I shall make.

DECAPITATIONS.

1. What country beheaded, another will remain?
2. What country beheaded, will shew you what nobody likes?
3. What musical instrument beheaded, another will remain?
4. What bird beheaded, another will remain?
5 What stone beheaded, a soft substance will remain?

PROBLEMS.

1. If A can do a piece of work in 10 days, and B in 13, in what time will both do it working at the same rate?

2. If a person have an annual profit rent of £75, which is payable yearly, and is to continue 32 years, how much ought he to get for it at present allowing the purchaser compound interest at 4 per cent. per annum on what he pays for it.

3. A hare starts 40 yards before a greyhound, and is not perceived by him till she has been up 40 seconds; she gets away at the rate of ten miles an hour; how long will the course last, and what distance will the hare have run?

WHAT SMOKING A CIGAR LED TO. — On Sunday evening, Brickfields Congregational Chapel, Stratford, was the scene of great excitement in consequence of an alarm of fire being raised in the midst of the service. The chapel, which has lately undergone a thorough cleansing and repair, has only during the past several weeks been re-opened, and on the present occasion the Rev. Knox Stallybrass was officiating for his brother, the Rev. John Stallybrass, the pastor of the place. The first chant, prayer, and hymn had been proceeded with, and the reverend gentleman was reading the first lesson, when many of the congregation exhibited great uneasiness at the strong smell of fire, but from whence it proceeded, all for some moments seemed at a loss to imagine. As the smell became stronger the chapel keeper, Mrs. Brinstow, fancying she saw smoke issuing from the chapel, walked down the aisle for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of the case. On opening the vestry door a volume of smoke rushed into the chapel, and then a scene of indescribable fear and confusion ensued. The cry of "fire" now being openly raised, the fear of the congregation was increased by another cry "Take care that the gas does not explode." It required all the coolness and courage of the most prudent to guard against a panic and catastrophe. There was a general rush to reach the doors, and it being between the lights, and the chapel fast filling with smoke, the excitement was rendered still worse by the darkness of the place. As the outlet at the doors was blockaded, and people could not get out quickly enough, many jumped over the pews and endeavoured to reach the doors by scrambling over the heads and shoulders of others. Shrieks for help now came from the gallery, the staircase of which was literally crammed, and it was only by the greatest efforts that some in their uncontrollable fright were prevented from jumping into the body of the church. At length the chapel got cleared, and the deacons and others having gone into the vestry, the congregation, many of whom were waiting outside, were called together, and informed that, though the excitement had been great, there was really very little damage done. It appeared from the statement current that the rev. gentleman had been out for the afternoon, and, having been smoking a cigar, on coming into the vestry, put the remaining part of it into his over coat pocket, which he hung up It appears that, being entirely of cloth, it only smouldered and smoked, but communicated the fire to other woollen things in the vestry. Fortunately there was nothing highly inflammable, or, added to the excitement, the consequences would have been disastrous. We are glad to say we have not heard of any bodily injury.—*London Star.*

PRINTING.—An intelligent Montreal printer furnishes the following interesting table, showing the countries, and dates in which this important art was first introduced:—

1457. Mentz in Germany.
1465. Italy.
1467. France.
1470. Switzerland; Poland.
1472. Flanders; Belgium.
1473. Netherlands; Hungary; Wirtemberg; Bavaria; Saxony, Sicily.
1474. Spain; England.
1475. Hanover; Sardinia; Holland, Bohemia, Naples.
1476. Austria.
1478. Tuscany; Franconia.
1479. Piedmont.
1481. Silesia; Burgundy.
1483. Sweden.
1484. D. Brabant; Savoy.
1486. Denmark.
1488. Friesland; Corinthia.
1489. Portugal.
1490. Turkey.
1492. Prussia.
1493. Baden; Russia.
1507. Scotland.
1508. Jutland.
1517. Lithuania.
1520. Westphalia.
1525. Suabia.
1530. Iceland.
1533. Transylvania
1535. Brescia.
1540. Majorca.
1546. Polynesia.
1549. South America.
1550. Lusatia.
1551. Ireland.
1560. Helvetic Rep.
1563. Hindostan; Palestine.
1568. Madrid.
1577. East Indies.
1579. Moravia.
1582. Japan; Walcheren.
1583. Azores.
1586. Upper Pyrenees.
1588. Pomerania.
1590. China; Phillipine Isl.
1605. Syria.
1612. Guelderland.
1615. Zeland.
1618. Alsace.
1632. Bombay.
1637. Mexico.
1639. N. America.
1642. Thuringia.
1645. Holstein.
1647. Malta.
1655. Tyrol.
1656. Norway.
1658. Asia Minor.
1703. Java.
1730. Barbadoes.
1734. Wales.
1737. Ceylon.
1751. Nova Scotia.
1764. Lower Canada.
1767. Paraguay; Martinique.
1776. Montreal, Canada.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

HOOKE counted seven thousand facets in the eye of the house-fly; Leeuwenhoek more than twelve thousand in that of the dragon-fly; and Geoffroy cites a calculation, according to which there are thirty-four thousand six hundred and fifty of such facets in the eye of a butterfly.

METHOD FOR KEEPING A VESSEL AFLOAT.—Among the most recent scientific discoveries in France, may be mentioned a method invented by M. Néant for keeping afloat a vessel about to sink, and putting out any fires that may happen to break out on board. His plan is to attach a certain number of balloons made of india rubber, and inflated with air, to the sides of the sinking vessel. M. Chattenmann proposes to render vessels externally incombustible by whitewashing the wood with chloride of lime. This, he thinks, would prevent the rapid propagation of the flames, and allow sufficient times for extinguishing them.

A CERTAIN aerial machine, said to be under such perfect control that it may be made to move against the wind, or to descend without opening the valve, has been creating some stir on the Continent of Europe. The papers have hailed it as the solution of the old problem of making a balloon that will steer. The *Espérance*, for such is its name, is now in London, and has been exhibited several times at Cremorne Gardens by the inventor, M. Delamarne. Its success seems to have been very indifferent, and for the present a steering balloon must remain amongst what Bacon calls the things "yet held impossible or not invented." The *Espérance* might perhaps take its place as one of the contrivances "extant which cometh the nearest in degree to that impossibility;" but more than this we do not think it is entitled to.

MUSHROOM CULTURE.—Mushrooms may be raised in plenty in old frames or at the back of a shed. Get together a good heap of short dung that has not been fermented, spread it out, and turn twice, at intervals of a week; then add turfy loam in the proportion of one-sixth, and make up the bed eighteen inches deep, beating it down well as the work proceeds. Let it remain till there is a brisk heat, then insert the spawn in pieces of the size of an egg, about four inches apart, and cover the bed with two inches of fine loam or rotted turf.—*Gardeners' Magazine.*

A FURNACE, used by Palissy the potter, has recently been discovered in Paris. In a letter to the French Academy, M. Read gives some details of this interesting relic. It appears that whilst digging the foundation of the new *Salle des Etats*, on July 27, the workmen came across a brick construction, which appeared to be a furnace for tiles. This would have been passed by without much notice had it not been for an archæologist, M. Berty, who traced the furnace to the celebrated Palissy. A careful examination of the interior revealed a dozen models of figures, and other objects, such as plants, &c., all having a most *bizarre* appearance. These strange moulds were at once recognized as belonging to Palissy by those who are best acquainted with his works.

AN interesting archæological discovery has just been made in the island of Elba, the particulars of which have been communicated by M. Simonin to the Paris Academy of Sciences. A number of bronze and stone implements have been found, nine-tenths of the latter being made of a flint entirely unknown in Elba, and which must have been brought from Naples, if not further. The principal articles found, beginning with the most perfect, are *arrow-heads* of a long triangular shape, recalling those which have already been found in Greece and Italy; *knives*, similar to those found in the caves of Aurignac, &c.; *scrapers*, resembling those now used by the Esquimaux; *adzes*, of the same shape as those found by M. Boucher de Perthes, but smaller, and also other objects of indeterminate form. The discovery of remnants of the Bronze Age in this island explains a passage of Aristotle hitherto obscure, in which he remarks that in Elba bronze was worked before iron.

PROCESS OF ENCAUSTIC.—The following process of encaustic is given by M. Brocklin;—Moist plaster of Paris is painted with water colours as usual. When the design is perfectly dry, it is painted over with a hot solution of wax and resin, and this coating is burnt in with a strong heat. The wax, sinking in, fixes the colour, and gives together with its compound with resin a solid transparent surface, which effectually protects the painting from injury by damp or dust, the colours at the same time being greatly heightened and improved.

ANTI-FRAUDULENT INK.—A French gentleman has recently patented an ink or writing fluid for preventing fraudulent alterations in written documents, to be used in combination with a peculiarly-prepared paper, the colour in which it discharged, and the texture changed, by the action of the ink. The writing fluid is composed of dilute sulphuric acid, coloured with indigo, and the paper is ordinary writing paper tinted with ultramarine or any other suitable colour which is capable of being discharged by the acid. By this means the texture of the paper in the parts affected by the acid will be so changed and weakened as to prevent the possibility of alteration or erasure, and the ink or writing fluid, by penetrating through the paper, will be seen on both its sides.

ECONOMY AND PROFUSENESS.—Economy is the parent of integrity, of liberty, and of ease; the sister of temperance, of cheerfulness, and health. Profuseness, on the contrary, is a cruel and crafty demon, that gradually involves her followers in dependence and debts; that is, fetters them with iron that enters into their souls.