

rosette or something of that nature. Wooden bedsteads are not draped, but have the spread and bolster to match the carpet and wall paper just the same. The real French bedstead with high head-board and foot-board has two round bolsters, one across the foot and one across the head.

The idea, you see, is to present a divan-appearance to the bed. A bed dressed in white is a discord in any but the room furnished in perfect harmony with it, and that means a scheme of color too delicate to be at all common. Even in the lovely white and gold boudoir of milady Fair the coverlet and round pillow on the polished brass bedstead are of silk in delicate white or gold design. Aside from the æsthetic consideration, this idea of a day dress for beds is a good one. Shams always suggest tumbled pillows underneath; white furnishings mean a good many more pieces for the laundry; washing heavy white spreads moreover often enough to keep them immaculate is hard work, and soon makes them the worse for wear. By all means then welcome the decorative, sensible day-spread and round bolster to accord with the chamber.

A young woman whom Frances knew at school is earning an excellent living repairing watches. She had good eyesight, was deft-fingered, and had a liking for fine mechanical work. She learned the trade, does good work, and has more than she can do brought to her. She says she likes it, as it is clean, not taxing, does not wear out her clothing, and as she walks a good deal out of business hours, and goes to the gymnasium for exercise, she does not find the confinement irksome. A watch manufacturer told me the other day that women are better suited to this kind of work than men are.

Do you know I ran across Emin Pasha's aunt the other day in Pittsburg! She is a Mrs. Kolson, and came to this country when Emin (whose real name is Joseph Schnitzler) was a mere infant.

If you are doubtful about your guests whom you have to dinner being able to amuse themselves by talking to their neighbors, you can add novelty to the affair by having a topic of conversation announced with each course, insisting that during that course the matter prescribed is the only one to be talked about. Put the topics on the menus, say, "Now figures for the German," with the soup; "The future of the newspaper," with the fish; "The destiny of man," or "Huckleberry Finn," or some other book, or some other matter with the roast, and so on. Suit your subjects to your guests, you know, so that every one will find his hobby, if not with the oysters then with the ices, and have a chance to distinguish himself. With this plan, you see, no one can be bored for very long, at any rate.

Yours devotedly,

Boston.

DINAH STURGIS.

OUR SCHOOL BOOKS.

To the Editor of *The Critic*:

DEAR SIR,—I had my attention called this morning to an article under the above heading, which appeared in *THE CRITIC* of January 10th, finding fault in a general sort of way with several of the text-books in use in our public schools, and I see that in your editorial notes in referring to the article you invite further discussion and criticism.

The subject is of great importance, and ought to be of great interest, not only to all those who have or expect to have children in the public schools, but also to all those who have the welfare of the rising generation at heart. If improvements can be made, and if Philomathes by his letter be the cause of such improvements being brought about, then far more than the man who causes two blades of grass to grow where before there was only one will he be a benefactor and deserve the thanks of the community. Thus far, however, I cannot see that he has done anything more than attract attention to the subject. To secure the banishment of a book something more is wanted, I imagine, than the bold assertion of an anonymous writer that "it is faulty and objectionable from every point of view." I have not come forward to speak in defence of the "English Grammar," about which I know nothing, but such a statement without any backing would not go very far to convince me. Let us have something definite to go upon.

But Philomathes' learning has a wide range. He does not confine himself to English Grammar. In the course of his letter he does not hesitate to deliver himself in oracular fashion on the subject of Latin Grammar. Herein he would have done well to limit himself to the same vague generalities as those with which he started, but he is rash enough to venture upon some definite criticisms, and the result is suicidal. Poor fellow! he means well, but he doesn't know. "A Latin Grammar has fallen into his hands." Unhappy Grammar, verily thou hast fallen into the hands of the Philistines! He quotes some "deliverances of the volume," with the comment that "one does not need to go further than Virgil to prove that the above rules have no foundation in the language; the rhythm of Latin verse nullifies and falsifies every one of them." Therefore the book is condemned beyond all hope of redemption, and we are treated to a homily on the enormity of getting books from the United States so long as any sort of books can be got from England or Scotland.

I feel almost afraid to take the part of the Grammar against such a learned man, and one who can use so many big words, (he surely has been making a study of Sam Johnson lately,) but, as I had something to do with the introduction of the Grammar in question, some sort of defence for it against this scathing criticism may be looked for at my hands. Well, my reply is that the obnoxious "deliverances of the American instructor" are correct in every particular, and that Philomathes is in blissful ignorance of the fact that in Latin there is an accent of prose as well as an accent of poetry, and that the one is essentially different from the other. If Philomathes be really a Philomathes he will feel grateful to me for giving him this hint, but one can't help wondering how far back in point of time his claim to that title extends that he should not have acquired such an

elementary piece of knowledge. He curtly dismisses the volume with the remark that he "cannot pursue the subject further than merely to say that the Grammar throughout is faulty as in its first pages." Now, admitting that, what has been proved? I am quite ready and willing to admit that the book does contain other things just as "faulty" as those pointed out by our severe censor, and some even more so, but these latter I hardly look for Philomathes to find out. To borrow some of his own language, it appears to me that "to the ordinary apprehension it would have been better for his reputation if having examined the work" he had observed a discreet silence. For the future I would commend to his notice the homely Latin proverb: "*Ne sutor ultra crepidum.*"

With regard to the idea of instilling patriotism into youthful minds through the medium of Latin Grammar, I can only exclaim with Mr. Squeers as he dosed the unhappy inmates of Dotheboys' Hall: "Here's richness!"

Apologizing for trespassing upon so much of your valuable space,

I am, yours respectfully,

HOWARD MURRAY.

Classical Master, Halifax Academy.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The St. Croix Soap Manufacturing Company's factory is thoroughly equipped with all the modern machinery for turning out soap of all kinds. Their output is chiefly high grade laundry soaps, of which "Surpris-" soap is the leader; with Soft Foam, a white flaking soap, and White Cross Granulated soap, a soap powder, next in output. Their factory is supplied with fine large kettles or pans which give a capacity of about 25,000 boxes per year. They employ eighteen hands altogether during the entire year, with the exception of two or three weeks in winter when about half the hands are at work. This year, however, the outlook is that the factory will be run full capacity the full year. Their goods find a large market in the Maritime Provinces, and in Montreal district, and are very extensively advertised in the Maritime Provinces, and to a lesser extent in other parts of the Dominion.

A. Robb & Sons, of Amherst, shipped one of their lath machines to River Philip a few days ago, and have very lately sent to Moncton for the I. C. R. a portable hoisting machine with engine attached. The mill sent to Mr. Fownes, Pollet River, had been started, and Mr. Fownes expresses himself as more than delighted with the way it works, cutting a fifteen inch dry birch log with 40 lb. pressure, and the engine did not slack speed any. The Messrs Robb also sent out from their boiler works last week a new Monarch Economic boiler to Summerside, and as the season closed very early at Point du Chene, the boiler had to be sent via Pictou. The shunting engine took out of A. Robb & Sons' yard yesterday a boiler and engine for Campbellton, N. B. and another for Ottawa.—*Exchange*.

CHEESE FACTORIES.—The second annual report of the four Antigonish cheese factories has been published in the *Eastern Echo*. The total number of lbs. of milk used for the season of four months ending with October, was 1,893,704; the average price paid per 100 lbs. 76½ cts.; total number of the cheese made, 185,179; average number of lbs. of milk to lb. of cheese, 10.95; average price of cheese per 100 lbs for season, \$9.53; amount paid to patrons, \$13,859.12; manufacturing, boxing, etc., \$3,705.58; total cheese sales, \$17,562.70. July was the best month for milk and the production of cheese, indeed it appears, from the table published, to have been the best all round month in the season, except that 75 cts. was paid per 100 lbs. for milk in September and 95 cts. in October. It, however, took 10.56 lbs. of milk in July, as against 9.12 lbs. in October, to produce a lb. of cheese. The report goes on to state that "the result of the cheese business during the past season shows an increase over 1888 of 60 per cent. The average price of milk, which was only one half cent per 100 lbs. less than last season, would have been more had it not been for the great shrinkage in milk caused by the drought of the latter part of the season when the price of cheese was highest. About two-thirds of the season's make was disposed of to Mr. Chas. H. Harvey, of Halifax, and the balance shipped to England and Newfoundland, all of which sold for the highest market prices, every cheese being warranted. Notwithstanding the fact that the past season has been one of the hottest and most trying cheese makers have had to contend with for many years, not a cheese has been thrown on my hands, nor has any rebate on accounts of defects in quality been asked. The reputation of our cheese is now so well established in our home market we are not likely to have any surplus to ship to the English market for some time to come. I purpose operating two more factories next season, which, with the anticipated increase of milk at the others will probably increase the entire production of cheese to 150 or 175 tons.

L. C. ARCHIBALD,

Proprietor.

Messrs. Stairs, Son & Morrow, Halifax, N. S. have just purchased a carload of the "Dodge" patent pulleys for the Nova Scotia trade, in which they report a brisk business.

Rhodes, Curry & Co. sent to Halifax a carload of flooring and finish this week, also a quantity of sheathing to Port Hawkesbury. The factory is running at full capacity.

The lobster pack of Westmoreland, N. B., during the past season amounted to 9,514 cases, or 456,672 pounds.