

little capital was the nucleus of a series of investments that ultimately swelled into shop, factory, warehouse, country seat, and a carriage.—*British Workman*.

9. CURIOUS ARITHMETICAL FACT.

If 12 persons were to agree to dine together every day, but never sit exactly in the same order round the table, it would take 13 millions of years at the rate of one dinner a day, and they would have to eat more than 479 millions of dinners, before they could go through all the possible arrangements in which they could place themselves. A has only one change, A B two, A B C six, four letters 24, five 120, six 720, seven 5,040, eight 40,320, nine 362,880, ten 3,628,800, eleven 33,916,800, twelve 479,001,600.—*Public Opinion*.

10. THE WORTH OF TIME.

To show us the worth of time, God, most liberal of all other things, is exceedingly frugal in the dispensing of that; for he never gives us two moments together, nor grants us a second till he has withdrawn the first, still keeping the third in his own hands, so that we are in perfect uncertainty whether we shall have it or not. The true manner of preparing for the last moment is, to spend all the others well, and ever to expect that. We dote upon this world as if it were never to have an end, and we neglect the next, as if it were never to have a beginning.—*Fenelon*.

11. TALENT APPRECIATED BY TALENT.

The notion that genius will excite the deepest reverence in those by whom it is least understood is an ever-recurring and yet manifest delusion. Talent is best appreciated by talent, knowledge by knowledge; and the man who imagines that the higher he is removed above his judges the more they will admire him, might equally expect that he would look larger the farther he receded, or his voice sound louder the greater the distance from which he spoke. Excellence must be perceptible before it can be applauded, and for a cultivated understanding to display its stores to untutored ignorance is much like exhibiting colors to the blind. Thus Johnson was subjected to the complicated misery of conscious power, general neglect, and helpless poverty; and, with his expectations baffled, wretched in the present and without hope for the future, a less gloom: temperament than his would have been sunk in despondency.—*Early Life of Johnson*.

12. A PLEA FOR THE DOZEN.

A schoolmaster, in a letter to the *Times*, says: "Though not descended from a six-fingered family, the Englishman uniformly reckons by the dozen. His very earthly existence is measured by his favourite number. At twelve he is in the thorough enjoyment of mere being; at twice twelve, in the full vigour of mental and corporal maturity; and at three times twelve at high tide of domestic happiness. At four times twelve he has reached the extreme verge of the table land of life; at five times twelve he has touched or nearly so, his grand climacteric, thinks of his latter end, and makes his will, and at half-a-dozen times a dozen, he is gathered to his fathers. Shirts for his back, buttons for his coat, and nails for his coffin, are manufactured and sold all per dozen. He furnishes his house from the wine-cellar to the napery-closet, with articles per dozen. He arms his ships with guns, regulates the weight of their balls in pounds, and administers discipline to those that work them, all per dozen. He fearlessly commits his property, his fame, and his me, to twelve of his peers, not to ten. His readiest measure for small things is his thumb, a dozen of which he calls a foot; and his commonest coin is a shilling, which he breaks into a dozen of pence. Rather than use a power of ten he adds a dozen to the 100th., and calls that 1 cwt. He indites his lucubrations on slips of 12, or quires of twice 12 sheets, with metallic pens assorted per dozen, and publishes his opinions, if he writes for the press, in "folios of four pages;" if fellow of a learned society, in quarto; if on the staff of a review or magazine, in octavo; if he works for the million, in twelves—never in decades. Homer is divided into twice 12 books; Virgil and Milton into 12 each. Spenser proposed to give twelve books, each of twelve cantos, and another noble poet says:—

"I've finished now
Two hundred and odd stanzas as before,
That being about the number I allow
Each canto of the twelve or twenty-four."

The year (from the division of the Zodiac, of immemorial antiquity) is divided into twelve months—the day and the night into twelve hours each; and not even the French, when at their maddest they abolished the religious week, ventured to unbind the fasciculus

of the months and hours. Inorganic matter has declared against decimals, for the discrepancies between the authorities for the atomic weights of the chemical elements are greater than their average would be from the nearest multiple, or submultiple of the dozen.

"Had we single marks for ten and eleven, our language, and our notation would be complete in the duodecimal scale; and when the great body of the people are educated and taught arithmetic intelligently, and not by empiric rules and formulæ, the transition to that scale will most certainly come."

"In the meantime, to force the decimal scale on a nation which by the light of nature, has pronounced so unmistakably against it (not one unit in the popular measure of space, time, weight, or value being divided, or bound up decimally), would be nothing short of insanity."—*English Journal of Education*.

13. LEARNED DOCTORS.

Besides other titles to public estimation won by the profession, there is that which is due to the increasing amount of mental culture among our brethren, and which must inevitably lead to their gradual elevation in the social scale. At all periods in the history of our art there have been men eminent at the same time for their professional skill and for their general learning. Dr. Freind thus speaks of some of the Greek physicians:—"If we compare any of the Greek writers in our faculty, from the very first of them—Hippocrates—to the time we are now speaking of, with the very best of their contemporaries of any art or profession whatever, they will be found not at all inferior to them, either in the disposition of their matter, the clearness of their reasoning, or the propriety of their language. Some of them have even written above the standard of the age they lived in, an incontestable instance of which is Aretæus * * * Galen himself was not only the best physician, but the best scholar and writer of his time; so great an honour have these authors done to their profession, by being versed in other arts and sciences as well as their own. (*History of Medicine*, vol. i., p. 220).

It was not less so in later times. Jerome Cardan was so celebrated for his practical skill, that an Archbishop of St. Andrew's sent for him from Padua; and on his way, the Italian physician prescribed for our poor young king, Edward the Sixth. But he was not less renowned for his learning. He invented a system of arithmetic, and a system of algebra. He wrote treatises on the sphere, on circles, on Ptolemy's geography, and on Euclid's Elements; also on astrology, on chiromancy, on physiognomy, on fate, and on games of chance. Among his miscellaneous works we find mention of epigrams and poems, and of discourses on wisdom, on consolation, and on the immortality of souls. His professional writings were considerable, the chief being a "Commentary on Hippocrates," also a work entitled "Contradicentia Medicorum," and another, "De Malo Medendi Usu." In the 17th century flourished Sir Thomas Browne, author of immortal works, which not only proved him to be master of all the science of his own and of past ages, but which now, after having been for a time partially forgotten, are placed on the same shelf with the best productions of English literature. And in the next century Dr. Meade was not only the most eminent physician in London, but his name was dear to every one in Europe who cared for science, and learning, and the fine arts. But why should we go for instances beyond our own locality, when we can remember Dr. Pritchard, who possessed an amount of knowledge and power that might have been divided amongst several persons, every one of whom would have been endowed sufficiently to attain to high renown in the several departments of science with which Mr. Pritchard's name is indissolubly united. Echnology, the science of language, psychology, and practical medicine, may all point to him as one of the illustrious dead.—*Dr. Symonds' Address, Social Science Review*.

14. THE CHINESE LANGUAGE IN ENGLAND.

Before Hongkong was ceded to the British Crown in 1842, no thought of teaching Chinese in England was entertained. There had been before that time means afforded for this object in France, Germany, Russia, and Bavaria; but it was not until 1847 that the Professorship of Chinese was endowed in King's College, London, mainly by the energy and liberality of the late Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., for the purpose of affording to gentlemen about to proceed to the East the benefit of instruction in the rudiments of the Chinese language. Since that time more than twenty gentlemen have been appointed by Her Majesty's Government, from the Chinese class, to posts in China as Student Interpreters; and several who are now holding lucrative offices in mercantile firms in Hongkong and Shanghai commenced, and prosecuted with success, the study of Chinese at that college.—*Chinese & Japanese Repository*.