

## PAPER FROM WOOD.

The *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer* gave, in a recent issue, a description of a new process for treating wood to obtain fibre suitable for papermaking, invented by Mr. Karl Daniel Ekman, of Sweden. The invention consists in boiling wood under a pressure with a solution containing sulphurous acid and magnesia in certain proportions, and under certain conditions, also in blowing off gas and steam during the process of boiling.

The writer describes the process as applied to Swedish white fir of good quality and fine grain previously freed from bark and knots, and cut into pieces of suitable form and size, and subsequently crushed between rollers so as to render the wood easily permeable by the liquid solution in order to produce fibre of the best quality for papermaking; but the mode of preparation may be varied. White fir and trees of the same order are especially suitable, as they give long and strong fibre, very clean, and similar in its properties for papermaking to that of flax; and this kind of wood is comparatively cheap and abundant in many countries.

The raw material of wood is selected with more or less care, according to the purpose for which it is required, but when a superior quality of pulp has to be produced, all exceptionally resinous and hard pieces of wood, as well as those damaged by rot, are thrown out. The fibre resulting from the treatment of the wood is suitable for good ordinary printing paper, and may be made suitable for superior papers by means of treatment with bleaching powder. The resulting fibre may be suitable for coarser kinds of paper, such as millboards, papier mache, and similar materials. The invention can be easily applied to other kinds of wood besides the white fir.

## GUMPTION.

Mr. Edward Atkinson, of Boston, recently addressed the members of the Golden Branch Society, of Phillips Exeter Academy, upon "What Advantage Does an American Boy Possess?" Mr. Atkinson urged that the young who are soon to become the workers and controllers in the business of life should be careful not to become one-sided, and not to lose the "gumption" which every Yankee boy ought to possess, and which does not form a part of the curriculum of the school or college, but is developed or lost in that part of the process of education which is outside the books and independent of the teacher. Gumption is that power of applying the work of the hand and the brain together under the quick application of the will, which makes a boy or man ready for any emergency, and enables him to decide at a glance, or with a single thought, the right way of doing something. In the old time, although the organization of the schools was not as perfect as it is to-day, and although the teachers were perhaps not as competent as those of modern time, while the variety of instruction was far less, there was a far less number of idle and capable men among the graduates of schools and colleges in proportion to the whole number of pupils than there is to-day. The necessity which was imposed on the rich and poor alike to do some part of the work of life with their own hands, while they were attempting to develop their mental powers, worked in the direction of that readiness and versatility which we call gumption. It is obvious to men who have been engaged from very early years in the active work of life, and have been charged with the duty of selecting men to fill important places, that the number of school or college graduates who have been adequately prepared to apply their instruction to immediate use constitutes a painfully small proportion of the whole number. It may be admitted that the only true result of school and college training is to enable a young man to know when and how to begin the real education which must form part of his life and which will not end except with life, but it ought not to happen that the method of preparation is so ill-advised that it disqualifies the graduate in a measure for the work he must do. Mr. Atkinson advocated for boys and young men in school and college an organized system of sports as a means of developing manual dexterity, urging the development of hand and brain together. His address throughout was an argument in

favor of students endeavoring to acquire not only that knowledge that will enable them to design, but the gumption that facilitates the ready application of knowledge to the execution of design in whatever work may demand their attention and effort.

## TREE BURIAL IN NEW ZEALAND.

The recent fall of an enormous puketea tree near Opoitiki, New Zealand, disclosed the fact that the hollow interior from the roots to the ground, had been filled with human bodies. A confused heap of human skeletons burst out of the butt of the tree when it fell. A local paper says: "A more extraordinary sight than this monarch of the forest lying prone and discharging a perfect hecatomb of human skeletons can scarcely be conceived. Some are nearly perfect, while others are mixed up in a chaotic mass of heads, hands, feet and arms, indiscriminately. All the Maoris here seem to have been quite unaware of this natural charnel house, and declare that it must have happened long before their or their father's time. Indeed, the appearance of the tree fully justified the supposition that it must have been some hundreds of years since this novel family vault was filled with its ghastly occupants."

## LUMBER FOR EMIGRANTS.

The *Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, of Minneapolis, says of the immense influx of emigrants now in progress:—"The tide of European emigration which is pouring into this country this spring far exceeds anything which has ever occurred in our history. Northern Europe furnishes the bulk of these new comers, and as emigration preserves its latitude, the northwest is receiving the lion's share of these people who are to help to develop the resources of this new world. Minnesota, Dakota and Manitoba will catch more than any other three states. This is especially important to the lumbermen of this country. Every family of emigrants coming in means more lumber to build houses, barns, fences, etc., to be sawed. This marvelous growth in population must be met by an equal enlargement of the lumber manufacturing. The chief difficulty now seems to be in finding means to get the lumber carried to these people."

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