

from their hysterical tendencies, are a source of constant anxiety to their friends, but who, nevertheless, have never any definite outbreak. It occurs almost exclusively in the female sex, but still we meet with it every now and then both in men and boys. Thus the case is recorded of a young doctor who was distinctly hysterical. He was exceedingly attentive to his own sensations, and fancied that he laboured under a number of diseases that had no existence but in his own imagination; he showed great uneasiness and infirmity of purpose; was what is called "very nervous," and had occasional outbursts of choking tears and laughter, exactly resembling those so frequently met with in the other sex. In women hysteria generally makes its appearance about the age of sixteen, or from that to twenty. When once established it may last for years—in fact, for a life-time. When it occurs in men, it generally begins later—about the age of forty. In them it is usually the result of over-work or excessive worry and anxiety, and that is about the age at which these begin to tell. There is often considerable deterioration of health, an impaired nutrition, and a feeble circulation, with exhausted brain. Hysteria occurs in all conditions of life, but it is more frequently met with in the unmarried than in the married, although it is by no means confined to the former. Its more frequent occurrence in single women is probably the result of their social surroundings. A woman, if not married, has, as a rule, very little to do—at all events, in the middle classes of society. She has no house-keeping to attend to, no children to look after, nothing, in fact, to occupy her mind and rouse her out of herself, and this condition is pre-eminently favourable to the development of hysteria. On the other hand, a wife with a family has a good deal to occupy her attention, in fact, she is more likely to be over-worked than not; she has to think of other people besides herself, and an attack of hysteria finds no place in the routine of her daily duties. An active employment and hysteria seem almost to be antagonistic.—*Family Physician.*

THE STERLING DISHWASHER AND DRYING MACHINE.—This machine can be taken to the table where the dishes stand ready for washing, and after being charged with them, can be easily carried and placed in the hot suds bath—operated, rinsed, and taken out—placed on the stove, or over a furnace, or in warm weather in the sun to dry.

The machine will hold 21 plates, and a large quantity of silver at the same time. It will ordinarily contain at one time all the dishes used by an averaged sized family. Machines can be made of any desirable size. In hotels where four hundred plates are used at a meal, a machine can be used which will wash fifty plates at once, that is just the time washing one by hand would occupy. In such a place two men or women could do the work of at least a dozen girls. A succession of several machines could be used in connection, with the same water, and rapidly accomplish the work.

There is nothing intricate or delicate in the construction of the machine, which will render it liable to get out of order, and after a person has used it a few times it can be filled rapidly. Any child can easily learn how to use it.

The dishes are placed in the machine and held firmly in their places by simple attachments, so that they are not allowed to knock or jar against each other. In this position they are washed and dried, and there is no opportunity for them to be thrown about as is often the case in hand labor. Every housekeeper is annoyed by the nicking of her plates and dishes, destroying the neat appearance of her table, while at the same time the dishes are not sufficiently broken to be thrown aside.

The machine enters a field never before reached by machinery. "A good many efforts have been made," says the Solicitor of Patents in Washington, of twenty-five years experience, "to get up such a machine, and some have been patented. It seems they have all been failures, but they did not have that simplicity, combined with real effective working, possessed by Mrs. Sterling's machine."

THE NAILS.—That the possession of a beautiful hand is a great joy to a woman is undoubted; but what hand would be lovely if each finger terminated in a flat, unsightly, colourless nail? In Paris, where "manicures" are plenty, and their fees reasonable, one seldom sees such a sight on the hands of a lady; but here, where the business of a manicure is not properly appreciated, their customers few, and, of necessity, their prices high, an unsightly nail is frequently seen on hands that, like the lilies of the field, "toil not, neither do they spin." Lately, however, a fashion has arisen for rubbing and polishing the nails, and now quite often a gentleman, in shaking hands with a lady, will notice that this fair friend offers her hand palm outward, so that he may have an opportunity to notice and admire the bright polish and

rosy tinge of her well shaped nails. How is this done? Why, by patience, perseverance, chamois-skin, and a little paste composed of rotten-stone and rouge. A small quantity of the mixture is put on the rubber—a tiny brush covered with chamois—and constant friction does the work. The oil and rotten-stone smooth and polish the nail in the same way that the workman does ivory, and the rouge imparts a pinkish glow. So much of this rubbing is done, and such ardour displayed, that a well known editor fears some of the ladies will have an unhappy fate—by constant rubbing the nail will break. An old story tells of an Irish-woman who scrubbed her kitchen-floor so much, in an over-laudable desire to be clean, that she fell through to the cellar, and this is what is feared will happen to some of the fair rubbers. After a severe course of constant friction, the centre of the nail will give way; but this will not happen if the method be practised for only a few moments each day; then the result will be attractive and beautiful.—*Phrenological Journal* (New York).

Mechanics.

MECHANICS AS A SCIENCE.—Although no department of science—no portion of the advancement of civilization that take us further from barbarism—is so marked in its triumphs and so certain in its beneficial results as that devoted to mechanics, it is a fact that it does not meet its proper approval or proper reward. It is really true that the mechanic is to-day paid much less for his labor, and very much less for his ideas and practical form, than others who merely reproduce and adapt the facts and settled opinions of their predecessors. The physician, the lawyer and the theologian charge and receive for their presentation of long ago acknowledged axioms, and even of new theories, handsome returns for their trouble. They are acknowledged necessities, while the mechanic is a sort of hanger-on to our civilization—a camp follower, with no recognized rank, and merely allowed place that he may prove his fitness. Certain prerequisites follow the lawyer, the doctor of medicine and the theological instructor, all of which are lacking in the case of the mechanical engineer. It is unnecessary to refer to the chances of the lawyer for rich legal fees; to mention the opportunities of the physician with his rich and hypochondriac patients; and the recognition of the religious instructor, with his faculty of dealing with the doubtful, the troubled and the despairing. From these prolific sources these professors draw their incomes, and generally without question as to their individual fitness.

But the mechanical engineer, the adapter of theoretic science to practical utility, has no such resources, and even his legitimate income is limited and its amount frequently disputed. Yet he deals with facts and realities, and not with problematical hypothesis and impractical theories. When he gives an opinion or reports a diagnosis, his statements are based on unvarying laws, which are well understood by those of his profession who are competent. On his opinion vast enterprises, involving the labor of hundreds of men for years, and the expenditure of thousands of dollars, are readily undertaken by capitalists, and it is rare that they or the poorer stockholders find themselves wrong depending on his acumen and scientific knowledge. In short, the professional opinions of the mechanical engineer are worth all that is paid for them, seldom misleading, rarely extravagant, generally reliable. Can as much be said with truth of the professional advice of others?

Men possessing these qualifications, and on whose opinions such vast enterprises rest, ought to be well paid. It costs much in time, labor and money for a lover of mechanics to become an expert—one whose opinion and direction may be accepted as absolutely reliable, and after the groundwork of theory has been prepared there is a long novitiate of practical service before the mechanical engineer can assume the position of director. It may be said, with entire truth, that in no profession are the exactions preparatory to profit so many and the time of apprenticeship so long.

The opinions of the lawyer are subject to reversion and reversal by a higher authority; those of the theologian are contracted and disputed by a hundred sects; those of the physician have other schools to deny their conclusions, and at best are but individual ideas, liable to be set at naught by another practitioner. But the opinions of the mechanical expert are based on known and proved facts, and are similar to those of every other competent expert. On such opinions the success or failure of vast industrial enterprises may be predicted, and on them are safely risked millions of money in untried experiments.