

United States, and foreign countries, said that property in intellectual labour was recognized in most civilized nations, and the laws of such property, as regards subject matter and ownership, may be regarded as substantially the same in all countries, but the practice and procedure all widely different. The assimilation of law, practice, and procedure affecting such property was one worthy the attention of the Social Science Association. In considering the subject it would be desirable to ascertain the actual state of the existing law, the difficulties and grievances which have arisen, or are alleged in its operation, and the suggestions made or schemes proposed for their amelioration or removal. He then alluded to the various Acts relating to the law of copyright, which acts are said to have proved a complete failure. The subject of the paper was discussed by the meeting, and amongst the speakers were Mr. Frederick Hill, Mr. White, and Mr. Longman, the latter observing that if copyright was property it should have extended to it the same protection as any other property.

Telegraphic Clocks.—In Pittsburg Pennsylvania, an electric clock has been established to move the hands of seventy different clocks, scattered all over the city. The motive clock is powerful, and has a pendulum composed of hollow coils of copper wire. These swing to and fro over the poles of horseshoe magnets, and every time they pass from one pole to the opposite a current of electricity is called up inductively in the coils, flows up the wire, and thence to the seventy dials, giving a current of an opposite nature at each swing. Behind each dial is an astatic permanent magnet, suspended on a pivot, and surrounded by a coil of wire, and it rotates under the electric influence from the wires. A small weight may be used to each dial if the hands are heavy, and the pivoted magnet may merely regulate the time. Of course every clock will be exactly alike, and will run with very little attention. To prevent the pendulum of the motive clock from moving too fast by the increase in the length of vibration of the pendulum, a magnetic bridling apparatus is attached.

Warmth as a Preventive of Disease.—Dr. Whitmore, Medical Officer of Health, Marylebone, in his last report to the guardians refers to the high price of coals, and says: "The value of the means employed for preventing the diffusion of epidemics or contagious diseases may be open to question, but there cannot be two opinions as to the efficacy of bodily warmth in resisting a class of diseases which unfortunately are but little thought of, and which as a rule are ten times more destructive of life than the most fatal epidemics."

The Tomb of Napoleon III.—A firm of granite sculptors at Aberdeen have just completed, to the order of the Queen, an elegant sarcophagus for the remains of the late Napoleon III. The stone used is red Peterhead granite, and the design of the memorial is exactly like that made for the last resting-place of Her Majesty's mother, the Duchess of Kent. The sarcophagus itself weighs 2 tons 16 cwt; the lid, 2 tons 5 cwt; and two resting stones, 1 ton 9 cwt. Until the erection of a new chapel, the Queen's memorial to the deceased Emperor will be placed in the little Catholic chapel at Chiselhurst, where His Majesty's remains at present lie.

Transparent Paper.—A German invention, recently patented, has for its object the rendering more or less transparent of paper used for writing or drawing, either with ink, pencil or crayon, and also to give the paper such a surface that such writing or drawing may be completely removed by washing, without in any way injuring the paper. The object of making the paper translucent is that when used in schools the scholars can trace the copy, and thus become proficient in the formation of letters without the explanations usually necessary; and it may also be used in any place where tracings may be required, as by laying the paper over the object to be copied it can be plainly seen. Writing paper is used by preference, its preparation consisting in first saturating it with benzine, and then immediately coating the paper with a suitable rapidly-drying varnish before the benzine can evaporate. The application of varnish is by preference made by plunging the paper in a bath of it, but it may be applied with a brush or sponge. The varnish is composed of the following ingredients:—Boiled, bleached, oil, 20 lbs.; lead shavings, 1 lb.; oxide of zinc, 5 lbs.; Venetian turpentine, 1 lb.; Mix and boil eight hours. After cooling, strain, and add white gum copal 5 lb, and gum sandarac, ½ lb.—*Journal of Applied Science.*

Paper as a Building Material.—The use of paper as a substitute for wood in the construction of railway carriages has long been known, but the use to which this material can be put seems now to be without limit. The Journal of the Society of Arts says there is a paper church actually existing near Bergen, which is capable of containing about 1,000 people. It is circular within and octagonal

without. The relieves outside, and the statues inside the roof and ceiling, are all of *papier maché*, rendered waterproof by saturation in vitriol, lime water, whey, and white of egg.

Metallic Thermometer.—Professor Palmieri, director of the observatory of Mount Vesuvius, has constructed for the Empress of Russia a metallic thermometer, which gives a signal at every appreciable change of temperature. The apparatus is so sensitive that the indicator is almost always moving. When the variations of temperature reach a certain degree, little bells begin to ring, and notice is then given of the rising or falling of the mercury. The instrument also marks the highest and lowest degrees of temperature which have taken place during a certain period.

Advice with a Vengeance.—At the last meeting of the Scotch Education Board in Edinburgh various documents were read concerning the action of the Greenlaw School Board in regard to Mr. Williamson, the teacher of the public school. After a careful consideration of all these documents, the Board resolved that the majority of the School Board have, in numerous instances, claimed and attempted to exercise authority to which they are not entitled under the Education Act, and that they have exercised their statutory power in a manner calculated to destroy the usefulness and comfort of the teacher, and seriously to injure the educational interests of the parish. Further, as the three before-mentioned members of the Greenlaw School Board "earnestly crave the advice of the Board of Education in reference to this matter," the Board unanimously and earnestly recommend, that as the only effectual mode of restoring harmony both in the School Board and the parish, Messrs. Kynoch, Gibson, and Milne should without a day resign their seats at the said Board, and allow the rate payers the opportunity of electing in their room persons who will discharge the duties of their office in a peaceful and efficient manner.

It will be seen, says *the Schoolmaster*, from the foregoing that the Education Board has acted very justly towards the teacher of the Greenlaw Public School in a controversy between him and his local Board. The majority of the local conclave have systematically annoyed the teacher in his work, and for their pains the worrying trio have been officially snubbed. They ask earnestly for the advice of the Department in Edinburgh, and have received it in the form of a very strong recommendation to seek the shades of private life. We are gratified to find the shield of the Board thus held over the head of the struggling schoolmaster, and trust the profession in Scotland will note the incident, and give credit where it is undoubtedly due.

Teachers' Services and Worth Appreciated at last.—We (*The Schoolmaster*) hear from Dublin that a commission is at present investigating the condition of the Civil Service. The Education Office there is under consideration at the present time, and it is understood that considerable changes are to be introduced. Several of the Inspectors are to be called upon to retire or resign, and their places are to be filled from the ranks of the National School Teachers. There is thus a prospect of promotion for a class who have long groaned under their difficulties. If the plan be adopted in Ireland, it cannot long be delayed on this side the Channel. It is one of the things that are sure to come, and its coming will not be delayed by agitation in the proper quarter. As the public is becoming more directly informed on the details of elementary school work, it is beginning to understand that no better Inspectors could be found than those who have gained their experience by actual teaching. The representatives of the people also are acknowledging that such is the case; and it rests with the teachers themselves if the former are not in every district instructed on the question. Let teachers allow no opportunity to pass which gives them the means of informing Members of Parliament and others in power regarding the claims of the profession in this direction.

Classical Philology in Russia.—The Russian Government, which is much in want of University and Middle-Class school teachers, has created, at Leipsic, a high school for the study of classical philology, at the head of which are Professor Ritchie and Dr. Horschmann. The pupils, who are kept at the cost of the Government, are obliged to serve for every year which they have passed at the school two years as Professors in the Russian Government Schools. Persons able to teach classics or science in middle class schools are, it is stated, eagerly sought and well remunerated by the Russian Government.

Manchester Free Library.—The free library Committee of the Manchester (England) City Council has its annual report which shows that the institution is working with great success and maintains its popularity. In the past year 609,462 volumes were issued for home reading, and 1,741,960 persons used the reading-rooms.