

Messrs Julian Sale & Co. have adopted a very handsome maple leaf design for use as a clasp on their purses. It is one of the most complete and attractive designs of the kind in the market.

We have to welcome into the fine Fancy Goods trade Mr. R. Lewis, of London, who has just opened up with one of the finest stocks in Western Canada. Mr. Lewis' reputation for honorable dealing is so long established that even those who will have to divide up their trade with him cannot but be pleased to know that he and not some unscrupulous "cutter" has taken up the line. We wish him success.

Mr. Geo. Ashfield, of Ottawa, who was burned out last month, was forced to ask a compromise from his creditors at 65c. on the dollar. This he is paying out of his insurance money, and we understand that he is busy making extensive improvements in his old store, where he intends opening up with a fresh stock in a few days. Mr. Ashfield is a pushing man and will make a success of it yet.

John Boyer & Co., the druggists, of Brockville, have assigned. They only started business four months ago, so most people are surprised at the suddenness of the collapse. Those who pretend to know all about it say they knew it would come, before the store had been open a month. Boyer left a fair business in Hastings, and Wright gave up a first-class position as commercial traveller to go into the partnership. There must have been a sad lack of judgment somewhere.

Eight years ago had we been told that the soft and apparently perishable silk plush was to take the place of strong and lasting leather, in books, albums, jewellery boxes, toilet cases, linings of sample cases, and so forth, we would have laughed at the idea as impracticable and extravagant. So great, however, has the demand for plush grown that in many lines it has superseded leather altogether. The Hemming Bros., of Toronto, forecasting this demand and seeing that there was no firm in the line west of Montreal, came from that city five years ago and started a small factory, beginning on jewellery boxes at first and gradually extending to other lines, such as brush, comb, and mirror, odor, glove and handkerchief, and manicule cases, whisk-holders, travellers' trays, etc. So steady and rapid was their progress that after a year and a half they found themselves compelled to move to more commodious premises, and in January, 1885, we find them occupying the top flat of No. 29 Adelaide Street East, having equipped themselves with all the latest improvements in machinery, and employing all the year round a large number of skilled operators. In less than two years, being crowded out again, they moved their office and show-rooms to the ground floor, thereby enlarging the factory, and again last month they added another flat to meet demands of their constantly increasing trade. We give this history just to show how popular plush goods have become, but still more will the fact be appreciated when it is known that there are no less than eight other factories in Canada making the same style of goods, though none on so large and enterprising a scale as that of the Toronto firm.

The *Medical Record* says:—"Blue-lined writing paper is almost universally manufactured both in this country and Europe. The School Commissioners at Mainz have, upon medical advice, decided that the blue lines are bad for the eyes, and ordered that all school writing paper shall be ruled in black."



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