

IN THE CARPATHIANS.—Sunday is a very entertaining day at Sinaia. All the peasants come from round about with carpets, costumes and towels, fruits of their industry during the long winter. They station themselves in the gardens, opposite the most central hotel, and there expose their goods over the balconies and benches to tempt the visitors. On a saint's day peasants come from very long distances with their goods packed on mules, and hold quite a fair. Roumanian carpets are of a rougher texture than most oriental work, hardly bigger than large rugs, and of every shade. The costumes are often most beautifully worked in different colours and ornamented with gold and silver spangles. They find a great sale at Sinaia, as the national costume is popular among the Roumanian ladies. They think little of paying many hundred francs for one costume. The chief beauty of this dress is its extreme simplicity, but the effect is very picturesque, as it suits the dark eyes and colouring of the Roumanians. They say it dates back to the Roman days. Of course, ladies wear very elaborate editions beautifully worked; so do the richer peasants on gala occasions. The ordinary national dress of a Roumanian peasant woman consists of a coarse white linen skirt, embroidered on the breast, neck, shoulders, and wrists in blue, black, or red wool. A petticoat reaching to the ankles, also embroidered round the bottom, is of the same white linen, and over this an apron or *catrina*, of coarse, strong stuff, dark blue or black, generally bordered with a red or yellow stripe; the whole is confined round the waist by a broad band of different colors. In winter they wear an overcoat or sleeveless skin waistcoat, beautifully worked in different wools. During the warm weather they generally go barefoot. An unmarried girl either leaves her head uncovered or ties on

a handkerchief, while married women wear long veils. It is a very simple dress, which seems to suit their primitive sort of life, for the peasant woman weaves all the linen and cloth used by the family. In the Carpathians the women are, as a rule, fine and handsome, with a natural, free noble bearing and gait. They seem very strong, and do not mind hard work. I have seen them divide with the men the labour of making the roads and building houses. The men's dress consists of a coarse white linen shirt, like a short tunic, worn outside the pantaloons, and fastened round the waist with a strong, broad, leather belt. The rather full pantaloons are confined from the knee by the thongs of the sandals, or, as the Roumanians call them, *opinci*—soles made of goatskin, cut the size of the foot, and bound on by crossed bands. The mountaineers wear picturesque large hats or sheepskin caps (*caciolas*). The addition in winter is the sleeveless embroidered waistcoat, or an enormous sheepskin jacket, doubtless very warm, but which has often seen too many generations to recommend it to fastidious tastes.—*Catholic World*.

THE *Spectator* has directed the attention of its readers to the subject of technical education in connection with the possible legislation during the present session of Parliament. In the course of its observations it declares that "the use of tools, though a good thing, is not the highest thing to be desired in the equipment of a citizen, and it is only in a very limited degree that it could be introduced with advantage into any rational scheme of general education. The difference between a handy man and an unhandy man is unquestionably of some importance in all conditions of life; but the difference between an intelligent well-read man and one whose mental faculties have not been