

## SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

THE efficacy of the new remedy by inoculation for diphtheria, now in use in certain hospitals in Paris and Berlin, has gained sufficient credence in scientific circles to induce the municipal authorities of several other European cities to decide that the remedy shall be supplied in their hospitals free of cost. It is a very costly article, however, the serum required for injections in each case being worth from \$7 to \$20; and takes considerable time to prepare. So it is beyond the reach of most private practitioners. The New York Board of Health is sufficiently impressed with the importance of the discovery to ask for an appropriation to do some experimenting at home. Diphtheria is one of the fiercest and most implacable enemies of human life, and a shield that will really turn its darts cannot be too costly.

A Boston professor of mathematics has got into trouble by attempting to do a simple sum in addition on the plan made so popular by Cupid. It is a well-known fact that Cupid makes 1 plus 1 equal 1, and that is what Professor L. Derry Passano, of the Boston School of Technology, tried to do in Baltimore. The sum apparently came out all right, but later it was found there was something to carry. It was nothing but a bruise or two made by the fist of the bride's father, but it disturbed the Professor's calculations, and for a time he was not sure that 1 plus 1 was not going to equal 0. Groom and father were separated in time to preserve their anatomy, however, and at latest accounts Cupid's arithmetic has proved correct. Aside from the mathematical feature of the case, it is something of a surprise to learn that a Baltimorean dared object to a representative of classic Boston. True, Miss Bissell, the bride, was only 16 years old, but it must be conceded that a Boston Professor has education enough for two, and it is not necessary for his wife to finish school. Mr. Bissell ought to have known that. He was taking big chances in tackling a man from Sullivan's city, anyway.

Toronto on the 13th was *en fete*, owing to the unveiling of a monument to Sir John A. Macdonald in the Queen's Park. The speeches were excellent; the most interesting passage in them being the statement by the Premier—the living "Sir John"—that his great predecessor used the following words when speaking to the Queen on the Confederation Act: "We have desired in this measure to declare in the most solemn and emphatic manner our resolve to be under the

sovereignty of your Majesty and your family forever." In these words is found the inspiration of his whole policy as a statesman; these words give the key to his unrivalled popularity in life, and from then comes the reverence of Canada for his memory. Mr. McCarthy, the sculptor, has our congratulations on his success with this historic statue.

"He clings to the old flag still," said Inspector Hughes, of Toronto, when they had difficulty at the unveiling of the Queen City statue of Sir John Macdonald in loosing the folds of his loved Union Jack from the image of the old Chieftain. And, adds the *Montreal Star*, it was his puissant hand that, more than any other, made it certain that his country too, would cling to the old flag as long as Canada is Canada.

In an interview with a reporter of the *Winnipeg Nor'-Wester*, last week, Premier Davie said: "Yes, we have got over the hard times," as he discussed matters generally on the Pacific coast, and his tone was decidedly hopeful. "There was no occasion for a despondent view of things in British Columbia. Indications were not wanting of a revival of the mining enterprises, and the coming summer promised great development of the mineral resources of the Province. During the coming session of the legislature, measures would be introduced to encourage the building of railways to the placer country in the north, and reports from Cariboo were exceedingly satisfactory as to the result of hydraulic operations. There is promise of considerable railway construction in British Columbia, as in addition to contemplated extension of the C.P.R. systems in the Kootenay and Okanagan districts, south of the main line, there is a projected road from Ashcroft northward into the Cariboo country, while the promoters of the Pacific Railway were also manifesting much earnestness lately." Speaking of the railway from Ashcroft into the Cariboo district, Premier Davie said that while in British Columbia, Mr. D. D. Mann inspected the route and manifested much interest in the enterprise, and the prospects were that work would be commenced on this line before long.

Many projects have been mooted for regulating the bicycle by legislation. Before they came into such general use they frightened horses, and it was proposed that whenever a wheelman saw a horse he should secrete his machine in a ditch, or put it on the ground flat and lie on it, or otherwise conceal it from equine view. At Toronto an attempt was made to equip the machines with bells and lamps and the riders with tags,

and compel them not to exceed a certain speed, the policeman being the cyclo-meter. The Federal tax was to be increased to 100 per cent., and there was to be a municipal tax of ten dollars a year, on the ground that the wheelmen get more fun out of the asphalt pavements than anybody else. A bicycle is about as hard on an asphalt pavement as a man running over it in his bare feet; and it is rather an odd notion to tax the wheel and let the hay waggon, the coal cart and the load of furniture go free. A wheelman ought not to run through streets to the danger of foot passengers, and he ought to be held to strict account for any recklessness of that kind. But the fact is that the bicycle, simply because it is a novelty, is regarded as a fit subject for all sorts of experiments in legislation, while virtually no attempt is made to regulate the drivers of other vehicles, who recognize no law but that foot passengers and bicyclers alike must keep out of their way.

A project is afoot to organize a company to operate a line of steamers in competition with those running from Canada to Australia. I trust the scheme will fall dead, it has in it no promise of success; it could only result in disaster to the investors, and injury to the existing enterprise, which is not now so prosperous as to be regarded as thoroughly established on a paying basis.

At Brandon, last week, fire broke out in a small house situated in the eastern portion of the city. There was the usual rush to the scene of the conflagration. In the yard an engine of the C. P. R. was resting noiselessly near the depot, when the engineer in charge thought to move in the direction of the fire. Just then two or three men stepped on the engine and were promptly and brusquely ordered off. One of the strangers, a man about 45, appealed to the engineer, stating that he also was an engineer. This was sufficient, so he was invited to retake his position, and according to custom was also asked to take the lever, which he did, opening wide the throttle. The party were soon on their flight to the fire. In the meantime the stranger was being taken in by the crew. Imagine their surprise as the glare of the cat-light revealed the features of the Governor-General of Canada. In a few moments their destination was reached. All hands, including Lord Aberdeen, enjoyed the affair.

A protest has arisen in England against the absurd length to which the custom of providing flowers at funerals has been pushed. It is called "a survival of the sentimental ages," and a great many