

THE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOLDSMITHS' Co. held their annual picnic about the middle of July, and had a jolly time generally. Athletic competitions of all kinds were indulged in for the very handsome prizes offered by the firm, and not a little amusement was thereby afforded—to those who did not compete. As such pic-nics are becoming an annual institution why would it not do to have all the firms in the city unite and have a combined jewelers pic nic? Such things go a long way to create a better feeling amongst the different members of the craft.

"NO PROTEST."—A few days ago we received a letter from an esteemed jeweler not a thousand miles from Toronto, protesting against our allowing the advertisement of an opposition firm appearing in our columns on account of his business methods. We take this opportunity of saying that so far as THE TRADER is concerned, we never have and if we know ourselves, never will insert the advertisement of any firm that does not bear an honest reputation. Our readers can, therefore, confidently look to our pages for the business messages of honest men seeking to place their wares before them with a view of doing an honest legitimate business. If opponents in business don't see eye to eye with each other as to the best methods of doing business we can't help it, and don't propose to take any side in the quarrel, provided neither party does anything dishonest or calculated to mislead the trade. Trade has always been a warfare and always will, and success in nine cases out of ten perches itself upon the banners of those who have the largest supply of brains, grit and greenbacks. Our advertising columns are free to any honest dealer who has money to pay for them, and we don't propose to be a party to any boycotting schemes that may be engendered through business rivalry.

THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION.—They say in England, that the Colonial Exhibition has been a great success and that the display of manufactured goods in the Canadian department has astonished the visitors more than anything else. An exhibitor who has just returned from there informs us that not one half of the goods sent from Canada are on exhibition at all. The space allotted to Canada although large in the first place, and almost doubled later on, was altogether inadequate to show the goods that our manufacturers sent there for display. While the other sections are not much more than three-quarters full, the Canadian section is so badly overcrowded that very few if any of the goods can be seen to advantage. We think it would be a good plan for Canada to start a world's fair of her own next year in the Sydenham Crystal Palace, and fill it up as she could undoubtedly do. A Canadian world's fair held in London, would do Canadian manufacturers more good than a dozen such exhibitions in Canada, because in London they would attract thousands of customers from foreign countries who could never be induced to visit Canada for the purpose of seeing an exhibition. A Canadian world's fair in the City of London would be a revelation to more than even the people of England, and if it became an accomplished fact, the people of that country might as well cable Macaulay's New Zealander to come on by first express (c.o.d.) and carry out his part of the programme.

SAVED AGAIN.—We thought we had got through with the adventures of our esteemed friend John Sheppard, the genial manager of the Boss Watch Co.'s New York business, but it appears that we were mistaken. John struck Toronto, during its invasion by the Knights of Pythias, and would have had to roost on a telephone wire only that Mr. George J. Bray acted the good Samaritan and took him home with him. John's striking Toronto would have been all right, however, if an attack of cholera hadn't struck him and doubled him up in less than no time. Samaritan Bray dosed him with burned brandy and John rubbed the part affected with his patent Boss case, and between the outward and inward applications his life was saved. The good Samaritan ascribes the cure to the brandy. John says that the brandy didn't have anything to do with it—it was the Boss case that fetched it. When doctors disagree, who shall decide such a knotty question. We don't pretend to, but all the same we lean to John's theory of the case and put our money on the Boss case in preference to brandy every time. Mr. Sheppard says all the silver dollars in the U. S. treasury couldn't buy that case now. He thinks the Company will apply for a patent for their Boss case as a specific against cholera, but is not certain. At any rate they will continue as heretofore to make their cases twenty penny-weights to the ounce, of fourteen, and two tenths quality of gold and throw in all its life saving properties free gratis, for nothing. Their new four-size is a daisy.

WORKSHOP NOTES.

For giving the final or black finish to lenses use the finest jeweler's rouge on a pitch lap. Vienna lime is used by some for the last finish, in the same manner as the rouge.

An excellent cement for mending marble can be made by adding to $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of skimmed milk $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of vinegar. Mix with this the whites of 5 eggs well beaten; then sift in with constant stirring sufficient powdered quicklime to form a paste.

TO MAKE A LEFT-HANDED SCREW-PLATE.—Screw a piece of steel of the desired size in an ordinary right-handed screw-plate. Then file it away to a feather-edge and harden it. A good left-handed screw-plate may now be cut with the top thus made, if it is turned the reverse or left-handed way.

TO REMOVE STAINS FROM WATCH-DIALS.—To remove black or cloudy stains from porcelain watch-dials, which are generally caused by the tin boxes they are shipped in, wet a piece of tissue paper in nitric acid and wet the dial. This will instantly remove them. After applying the acid the dial should be immediately washed thoroughly in water and then be dried in boxwood saw dust.

VARNISH FOR GLASS INSTRUMENTS.—An excellent gold varnish for brass objects, surgical or optical instruments, etc., is prepared as follows: Gum lac, in grains, pulverized, 30 parts; dragon's blood, 1 part; red sandalwood, 1 part; pounded glass, 10 parts; strong alcohol, 600 parts; after sufficient maceration, filter. The powdered glass simply serves for accelerating the dissolving by interposing between the particles of gum lac and opal.

THE SCREW-DRIVER.—The watchmaker's screw-driver should be as light as possible, consistent with strength, properly proportioned to the work, with well-polished points of a width nearly equal to the diameter of the screw heads to be operated upon, and of a thickness to fit the slits, with only sufficient taper to secure it from breaking. A tool with a blunt taper will ruin the best of screws. Screw-drivers made from pinion wire collect dust in the ridges and are therefore objectionable. A better form is readily made from square steel while hot.

To make a cheap but very good battery use flat carbon plates, about 8 inches by 4 inches by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, and zincs to match, but thinner. Amalgamate the zincs by rubbing with mercury, keeping the surface moist with dilute sulphuric acid. One zinc may be used as a rubber for the other. For exciting fluid, mix five fluid ounces of oil of vitriol with three pints of cold water, and after it has cooled add six ounces finely powdered bichromate of potash. A little nitric acid will improve the constancy. Each cup contains one plate of zinc and one of carbon; connect zinc of one to carbon of next; do not let the plates touch each other under the fluid.

TO EXTRACT BROKEN WATCH SPRINGS.—All mechanical appliances will sometimes be of no avail for extracting the piece of a screw broken off with its hole, if this has been drilled only partly through the plate. In such a case slightly warm the plate, and cover it well with beeswax. Be careful not to let this touch the broken screw; then make a solution of oil of vitriol—one part of oil of vitriol and four of water. Let it stand until quite cold, then put the plate in, and in a few hours the acid will dissolve the screw. The wax may be removed by warming it in olive oil, and washing in hot soap and water.

TO BRONZE POLISHED STEEL.—Methylated spirits, 1 pint; gum shellac, 4 ozs.; gum benzoine, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Set the bottle in a warm place and shake it occasionally. When dissolved, decant the clear part for fine work, and strain the dregs through muslin. Now take 4 ounces powdered bronze green, varying the color with yellow ochre, red ochre and lamp black, as may be desired. Mix the bronze powder with the above varnishes in quantities to suit, and apply to the work, after previously cleansing and warming the articles, giving them a second coat, and touching off with gold powder, if required, previous to varnishing.