## PROGRESS, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1897

## IN THE PARE MAKING GLASS EYES.

## THE MANUFACTURE IS A CURIOUS AND PROFITABLE BUSINESS.

housands Turned out Every Year-Ready Made Ones are Cheap but the Made to Order Sort Come High-These Eyes do not Often Last Long.

There are many curious industries this big city, says the New York Herald, and one that ranks pre-eminent in the peculiar line is a glass eye factory. It may seem strange that there should be a ficient demand for glass eyes to support such a factory, especially as it em-ployes a number of skilled workmen all the year round. But when one learns some of the secrets of the trade all cause for won-

der vanis The prime reason for its existence is that the glass eye does not last more than a year and very often not more than six months. Of course, this necessitates the purchase of new eyes every little while by afflicted people, and the number of people who use these eyes is surprisingly large, judged by the yearly production of the factory

Fve hundred eyes are turned out weekly or about twenty six thousand in a year. Not all of these are sold, but this percetage is very small. The unsold ones are stock eyes-that is, they are used in the sale department of the factory, or are sent to dealers throughout the country as samples.

The prices of glass eyes vary consider ably. An ordinary ready made eye costs \$5, while a made to order eye with the pupil and cornea carefully colored, costs anywhere from \$10 to \$30, and occasion ally as much as \$50, but this latter price is a rare one. Poor People can only afford the ready made eye, and a large number of these are always kept in stock in different shades of blue, gray and brown.

Gray eyes are the most common; then come blue, and then brown. Black eyes are a myth, and the factory has never had a call to make one. Ophthalmic hospitals are the largest consumers of the false eye. These buy in quantities, and naturally get the product at reduced rates.

Thep buy the ordinary ready made eye, as they are used, for the most part, on poor people who are financially unable to he fastidious in the manner of exact color.

The most startling feature of the factory is the cabinet in which the stock eyes are kept. They are placed in large trays, sectioned off into tiny squares, each square containing an eye. Blue eyes of many shapes and shades are in one tray; brown eyes of all kinds in another, and gray eyes of many varieties in a third.

When a purchaser comes in he or she is fitted with an eye from one of these trays, and if the buyer is content with the ready made artticle a duplicate is furnished from the stock. If the made to order article is wanted, the sample is sent up to the work rooms with instructien covering the minor changes or improvements that can be made.

All of the regular customers have sample eyes in the factory. This enables them to send from a distance for a duplicate, and a new eye, perfectly fitting and of the correct color is shipped to them. The reason that the eye wears out is that the action of the tear-which is acid-affects the enamel, roughing the edges and surface and causing irritation of the eyelids.

There has never been a time in the hisxist. The ancient Egyptians, four tr and five thousand years ago wore false eyes of gold and silver, and later of copper and wory. It is on record that two patriotic Lutetians, when their country was in financial distress, generously presented their golden eyes to the public treasury. During the Middle Ages porcelain su perseded metal in the making of artisticial eyes, and a century ago the glass eye arrived. Now enamel is considered to be the best material for the work, and it is used to the exclusion of all others.



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riding public. Rather than take this statement with the proverbial grain of salt, don your most critical mood, call at the store of our city agents. and ask to see the new Yellow Fellows.

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is covered by a thick layer of crystal to

form the cornes. At this stage the eye is detached from the blowpipe and cooled and then sent to the cutting room, from which it emerges shaped into a small hollow oval with ir-regular edges. The cutting is a difficult process, as a hair's breadth deviation in size will make a material difference in the fitting.

fitting. The edges are fired and the eye allowed to cool so why, this being the annealing or tempering process, which toughens the enamel and renders it less liable to break.

ename! and renders it less habit to break. The final work is the polishing, and then it is ready for the owner. The coloring work is the most delicate of all, as sometimes eight and nine colors are worked in to give the correct shade. Brown eyes of the hazel variety require a work delicate strashing of reliev and grav. very delicate streaking of yellow and gray, and some kinds of blue eyes are equally difficult to fashion. There is also a great variety in the sclerotic or white. In child-ren's eyes it is a pale china blue, in old people a gray, while with men who are heavy-drinkers or smokers it has a yellow-ish time.

ish tinge. Of course the great art lies in making the artifical eye an exact duplicate in ex-pression, size and color of the living eye, and so cleverly is the work now done that few people can detect the genuine from the

false HOW PRISONERS COMMUNICATE. Ingenious Methods Employed by Them to

Talk to Each Other. The prisoners makes every conceivable effort to hold intercourse of some kind with their tellow culprits, if only to relieve the silence and solitude-intolerable to persons of their class, who have not sufficient cultivation of mind to supply them with food for thought. Knocking on the walls of separation between the cells, scratching sentences on the sides of the baths or the bottoms of the tins used to contain their gruel, and many other devices of that inadequate nature, are instantly detected and stopped by the officials. The chapel is perhaps the most favorable ground for enabling them to let their presence at least be known to acquain tances who have been incarcerated at earlier or later period from themselves. The male and female prisoneers are, of course rigidly separated during the services. A high and strong wooden partition divides the portion of the building they respectively occupy, but they do not allow this serious obstacle to deter them altogether from the communications they spe There has never been a time in the his-tory of the world that artificial eyes did in singing the hymns they often try to inir own, or n ver peculiar responses, which can be under stood over the wall. A male prisoner will be afflicted with an extremely bad cough, which in measured attacks, makes known to a lady friend on the other side that he is 'in quod,' but he is seldom oppressed by this bronchial malady on more than one occa-ion, since the governor informs him that as his cough is so distressing, he is to remain in his cell, and not be exposed to the air of the chapel until he is better—a cure for his complaint which is at once perfectly complete. On the female side of the partition a woman permitted to take her infant, born in prison, to chapel with her, pinches the unfortunate mite until its shrill yells reveal her proximity to its father, attentively listening through the wall. be afflicted with an extremely bad cough,

the mystery. Although strictly led, as we have said, both the male the female prisoners faced the altar in seats, and over it had been fixed a their seats, and over it had been fixed a very large brass cross against the wall, so highly polished as to form a very good mir-ror. In its clear surface the women saw the reflection of every man as he passed to his place and had enjoyed the spectacle with impunity till a wite, much interested in the appearance of her sponse, had made an imprudent remark to one of the officers, which revealed the fact. The brass cross instaneously disappeared, and the bland wall behind it no longer tells any secrets.— London Hospital. London Hospital. WHAT PRESIDENT LINCOLN HAD LEARNED.

He Found out How to Spell Mai

Mr. Albert Blair, writing in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat about President Lincoln, remarks especially upon his inaf-fectedness, and in so doing relates a story which may prove an encouragement to readers who have sometimes found themselves ignorant where they had supposed

readers who have sometimes found them-selves ignorant where they had supposed themselves well informed. In February, 1865, Mr. Blair was present at a White House reception; a general reception, open to everybody. Mr. Lincoln was attended by Judge David Davis, who took the names of all comers and introduced them to the President. Of course there was a crowd, and no-body had time for more than a word and a handabake. Mr. Blair was presented to the President, and then stepped aside to watch the show. Mr. Lincoln and Judge Davis carried on a conversation, constantly interrupted though it was. 'Now,' says Mr. Blair, 'it was 'How do you do, colonel ?' or 'My brave boy (this te a young soldier)!' or 'I am glad to see you, or some other phrase of cordial recog-nition.' There was no official starch, but what especially impressed Mr. Blair was a re-mark made by Mr. Lincoln in a perfectly matter-of-fact, unaffected tone, loud enough to be heard by many of the by-standers. 'Judge,'s sid he. 'I never knew until the other day how to spell the word 'mainte-nance.'' Here a hand interrupted him. I always thought it was mainte-ination.' Hencestv.

## Honesty.

It is difficult for a young man to get into a good house unless he understands how to do something well-has a "real business" education, and is thoroughly honest and reliaable. I say frankly I do not want students unless they come with honesty of purpose to work and amount to something. If you like my way, come. SNELL, Truro, N.S. CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS









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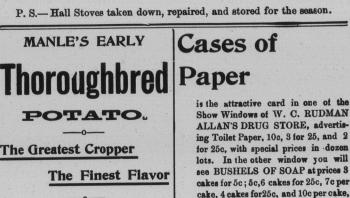
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The process of making the eye is easily described, but the work calls for much delicate and pain-staking labor on the part of the seven or eight skilled workmen. Formerly one man made artifical eye from the crude to the finished state, but now the work is divided into a number of specialties each man performing only a fraction of the whole task

In its initial stage the eye is a long, slender stick of enamel, made of perfectly transparent and tusible flint glass. This transparent and fueible flint glass. This is placed in a crucible and exposed to great heat. The globe maker places the enamel over a blow-pipe supplied with wind which is pumped by engine power into a large cylinder and stored under water pressure. Under the careful manipulation of the workman the enamel tube is formed into an oblong globe, just the size and shape of a buman eve.

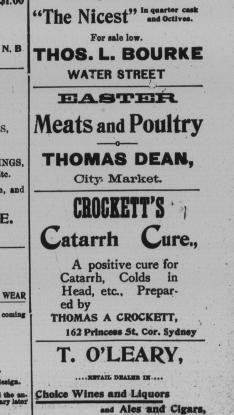
an obtoing globe, just the size and single of a human eye. Next i: pisses into the coloring room. A piece of colored enamel'is placed on the summit of the globe, and this is gently heated in a small flame and coatinuously rotated. Gradually this takes the form of the iris, and then a spot of darker enamel is added to represent the pupil. Then this

Recently the governor of one of our county prisons was greatly perpleved by the discovery that the temale prisoners in his charger managed in some mysterious manner to ascertain the presence of every individual man on the other side of the impervious dividing barrier. One of the women inadvertently let drop the fact that she had recognized her husband, whose position there must, according to rule, have been completely unknown to her. None of the officers could account for an unpermitted knowledge which was found to be shared by all the other women. At last a very careful examination of the chapel gave an explanation Recently the governor of one of our

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