

NOT NECESSARY BUT EXPEDIENT.

Once upon a time the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cologne was catechising the children and asked a boy:

"Is the sacrament of confirmation necessary to salvation?"

"No, your Reverence," was the reply, "but when the occasion to receive it presents itself, it should not be missed."

"A good answer, my child," said the prelate, and turning to a little girl who was near, he asked:

"Is the sacrament of marriage necessary to salvation?"

"No, your Reverence, but when the occasion presents itself, it should not be missed."

CONDITION OF FARMING.

The *Irish Textile Journal* says there is room in Ireland for a joint stock farming company, and that the times are ripe for such an undertaking. It is pointed out that "land is low; it hardly seems as if it can get lower in value than now. Culture is better understood, and science is adding to our knowledge and resources every year. At the present moment, there is a great awakening of interest in improved and systematic work through the increase of co-operative creameries in the south of Ireland. There are now 27 of these dairy societies, as against 17 last year, in good going order, and, what is more, returning a fair profit. Each of these may be considered a capital object-lesson in developed agriculture and associated enterprise, and each of them represents a substantial triumph over obstinacy and prejudice."

EXTRACTION OF PERFUMES.

Six methods of extracting perfumes are known. The first is expression by means of a special press, which is applicable without too great loss of fruit skins rich in essential oils, such as orange and citron peel, previously grated. Another method is that of distillation, which consists of heating flowers with water in a boiler. The essential oil is volatilized and is condensed with the vapor of water in a worm and Florentine receiver. The water usually goes to the bottom and the oil floats. The oils of neroli, rose, patchouli, geranium, lavender, caraway, etc., are obtained in this way. The process is not applicable to the delicate perfumes of the mignonette and the violet, and for them recourse is had to maceration of the flowers in animal fat or mineral oils, which have the property of absorbing odorless substances, and are then washed in alcohol. The flowers are usually heated in the fat or the oil for a variable number of hours. For perfumes which cannot endure a high temperature, the petals are placed between frames of glass coated with fat. This is the process of enfleurage. The pneumatic process, which consists in causing a current of perfumed air or carbonic acid to be absorbed by coatings of lard on glass plates, appears not to have given satisfactory results. Another process consists in dissolving perfumes in very volatile liquids, like sulphuret of carbon, chloroform, naphtha, ether or chloride of methyl and volatilizing the

solvents, which can be done at a low temperature in a vacuum. The last method has given very satisfactory results in the extreme delicacy and great accuracy of its returns.

DISCOVERY OF COFFEE.

Once upon a time, a poor dervish living in the deserts of Arabia noticed that his flock of goats returned home every evening in a state of unaccountable hilarity, says an exchange. The phenomenon puzzled him immensely, and he proceeded to try and discover the cause. He watched his goats one day and found them feeding on the blossoms and berries of a small tree. The dervish seems to have been of an experimental turn of mind, for he decided that the best thing he could do in order to solve the mystery was to see if the berries would have exactly the same effect on his own spirits as on those of the lower animals.

So he made a hearty meal of the fruit and leaves of the shrub, and at once all anxieties and griefs disappeared from his mind, and he became as jocund as his own goats. The story goes on to relate how his wife and friends failed to understand the reason of this remarkable elevation of spirits, and roundly accused the dervish of being intoxicated. In order to prove his innocence of this charge, the dervish could only produce some leaves and berries of the tree which had so much exhilarated him, and request his accusers to try their effect. They tasted and became converted, and that was how people first took to drinking coffee.

HOW TEA IS SORTED.

Tea sorting is one of the common occupations of young girls in tea-farming districts of Japan. They carefully pick out all the seeds, weeds, bits of bark and other rubbish that unavoidably fall into the basket during the picking.

The sorting is done after the tea leaves have been fired—that is, dried by being placed in a tray, with a stout paper bottom and shaken over a charcoal fire for a time, and then placed on the top of an oven built for that purpose, when the drying operatives twist the leaves by hand.

The pickers, besides taking out the rubbish, in many cases sort the leaves into different grades, the better qualities being taken out and sold at very remunerative prices. The Japanese teas are divided into eight grades, but unfortunately the best of them are not sent to Great Britain.

After the tea has been dried and is ready for picking, it is carefully sifted, and then packed in lead-lined chests and in caddies. The dust from the sifting is saved, and large quantities of it are sent to America every year. It is sold much cheaper than the perfect tea. The dust only costs from about sixpence a pound wholesale, and by careful admixture with good tea can be made to retail at two-and-sixpence.

Omaha is flooded with counterfeit silver dollars.

The revenue of the Western Union Telegraph Company last year was \$23,700,000; expenses, \$10,300,000; profits, \$7,400,000. The net surplus is \$13,576,800.

RUN ON A BANK.

Recent English exchanges contain interesting and graphic accounts of the recent troubles in banking circles in London. The suspensions of the London and General Bank, and of several building and investment companies, created doubts as to the stability of the Birkbeck Bank in Chancery Lane, and an extraordinary scene took place. A large number of customers gathered round the door early in the day and (we quote from the *Times*) "as the morning advanced the crush became greater, and, by the afternoon, the scene, both within and without the bank, was remarkable." The directors appear to have been fully equal to the occasion and to have had their securities in such shape as would have enabled them to realize immediately a sum of over £5,500,000, amply sufficient to meet all liabilities which they could be called upon to pay on demand. On the first day of the "run" notices were prominently posted that the bank would be open till one o'clock at night in order to afford time to meet all demands, and every possible facility was afforded to enable depositors to withdraw their funds. Notwithstanding this, fully two thousand had been unable to enter the building when it was closed at one o'clock, and on the following day there was no abatement in the rush. On the second day the doors were closed at four o'clock and again there were two thousand people waiting outside unable to enter. Some idea of the excitement may be formed from the fact that three hundred constables were on duty for the occasion. On the third day there were not nearly so many customers, and confidence began to return, and in the afternoon the panic was practically at an end. It had been officially announced that the Bank of England had advanced the Birkbeck half a million sterling, and the Union Bank offered a million if required. Not quite a million of money was withdrawn during the three days the panic lasted, and it was evident that only the smaller depositors were alarmed, and that the bank had retained all along the confidence of all large investors. The statement was published that "there are only three banks that stand higher than the Birkbeck in the investment of their funds in British Government securities, viz.: Bank of England, £26,000,000; National Provincial, £13,000,000; London and County, £8,000,000; the Birkbeck coming fourth with £5,000,000," while the Birkbeck has the special advantage of having no branches, so that in case of a run like the one recorded, the energies of the management could be concentrated on a single point of attack, instead of being divided by the demands of a number of branches. The bank was established in 1851 and advertised that "for the encouragement of thrift" it receives small deposits, allowing "3 p. c. per annum on each completed £1."—*Shareholder.*

There were launched from the Scotch shipbuilding yards last month twenty-seven vessels of 25,487 tons (as against 22,733 tons a year ago) of which sixteen, representing 5,476 tons, were steamers, and eleven, measuring 20,011 tons, sailing ships.