

A. TRUE ANECDOTE.

BY H'ZZ.

A number of years ago there lived in one of the small villages of Ireland a Catholic family, consisting of man and wife. Paddy, like all his countrymen, thought they must have a cow; and the best offer being given by a Protestant neighbor, he concluded to buy the cow from him. On bringing it home, his wife, before milking, suggested that they should bless it by sprinkling Holy Water on it. At this time they happened to have a bottle of vitriol in the house, and Paddy, in his haste, picked this up, and sprinkled the cow well with this, instead of the Holy Water. The cow began to leap and plunge, and on seeing this the wife exclaimed, "Ough, Paddy, but she's got the Protestant in her strong!" On discovering his mistake, there was a laugh all round, and ever afterwards, Paddy took care when about to sprinkle himself, that it was Holy Water and not vitriol that he was using.

NEEDLE-MAKING.

Needles are made from soft steel wire, which is received from the manufactory in coils. The wire is cut by fixed shears into length sufficient to make two needles. These blanks, being bent, require straightening, which is done by placing several thousands of them between two broad, heavy rings, and heating them to redness in a furnace. They are then removed and placed, still in position within the rings, on a flat iron plate, and by means of a curved bar, termed a smooth file, rolled back and forth until perfectly straight. Each piece is then sharpened at both ends. The workman takes up a number at a time and holds the ends against a grindstone, forming the points. By means of a die and counterdie, two grooves are stamped by a press on each side of the wire, which is next pierced under a press with two holes forming the eyes. A number of pieces are then strung on two fine wires and broken each in two by filing and bending. The roughness about the head is removed by filing, several at a time being placed in a small vice.

During these processes, the needles, having become somewhat bent, are straightened by rolling on a flat plate, as before. They are now brought to a red heat, and tempered by plunging them into oil. Fifty thousand at a time are then put in a canvas bag with emery, oil, putty-powder and soft soap, and rolled to and fro under pressure until they become bright. The better class of needles have their eyes drilled. The final process is polishing the points, which is affected first by a rotating hone, and afterward by a buff-wheel. Of late years machines have been introduced by which needles are formed from the roll of wire without the intervention of hand labor.

MONEY.—Before any regular system of coinage was introduced, the metals which circulated as currency were rather irregular in size, their value being indicated by their weight. In the reign of Servius Tullius, King of Rome, 578-534 B. C., pound-weights of copper received the name of *pecunia*, because they were stamped with the image of cattle (*pecus*), and hence the term pecuniary has gradually come to be applied to whatever relates to money and monetary affairs. This was two hundred years before the circulation of gold and silver coin. In England, as late as the date of the Norman Conquest (1066), the currency was of two kinds, the "live" and the "dead"—the former indicating cattle and slaves as a medium of exchange; the latter, gold, silver, and other metals.—*Philological Journal*.

WONDERFUL TREES.—In the great West, they grow wonderful trees. The Indians cut off cylindrical pieces two feet in diameter, from which they peel the red fibrous bark, without making any longitudinal incision. This bark affords them a sort of garment which resembles a sack of very coarse texture and without a seam. The upper opening serves for a head, and two lateral holes are cut to admit the arms. The natives wear these shirts of Marina in the rainy season; they have the form of the ponchos and mantos of cotton which are so common in New Grenada, at Quito, and in Peru. As in this climate the riches and beneficence of nature are regarded as the primary causes of the indolence of the inhabitants, the missionaries do not fail to say, in showing the shirts of Marina, "in the forests of Orinoco, garments are found ready-made upon the trees."

SILENCE AND SPEECH.—By abstaining from speech, under some circumstances, the wise man shows his wisdom. Silence has its proper place. There are subjects veiled by natural delicacy, and marked off by confidential barriers, and trifles which a healthy mind shakes off like dust, and wounds to be gently shielded, and delightful discoveries to be reserved for favored explorers, and many other spots sacred to silence. The question is, how to combine the perfect preservation of these sanctuaries with the openness which inspires perfect trust. We can no more confide in one whose mind seems to be full of dark places than in one who lays every thing bare. We look to a friend for sheltering wings to brood over our confidences, not for magpie tricks of concealment.

BEAUTY.

Beauty is said to be only skin deep. This is not strictly true. It is true that delicacy of complexion, combined with a certain healthful glow, constitute no inconsiderable item in the combination, in the sum of which constitutes beauty; but there are other points quite as essential, at least in our estimate, of what is implied in it. Form and feature are quite as important elements to be considered in estimating the characteristics of that somewhat fanciful, but admirable thing which we designate beauty. Neither rouge and enamel, however artistically applied, nor the more desirable qualities of skin which they are meant to imitate, can compensate for irregularity of features, or want of symmetry of form, and a lady who lacks regularity of features, symmetry of form, or gracefulness of carriage, is not entitled to the full credit of what is implied in the designation "a beautiful woman." There are, however, other qualifications quite as essential to beauty as any of those we have enumerated; qualifications which may be more universally possessed, and which if they do not fulfil all the conditions that aspirants for admiration might covet, yet they possess a charm, without which, beauty, though it may be temporarily impressive, is nevertheless unsatisfying and evanescent.

They are of a moral character. They consist in that peculiar illumination of countenance, that light of the eye, and that kindliness of expression which are the natural and spontaneous outflow of purity of character and generous impulses. These, with gracefulness of form, symmetrical features and healthful complexion constitute a high order of beauty in youth, and when the form loses its rotundity, and the light of the eye fades, and the grey hairs and wrinkled brow mark the changes of advancing age, they illumine the countenance with a halo of beauty as the western horizon glows with the subdued radiance of Summer's sunset.—J. F. L.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

NOISE OF THE CIRCULATION.—Many people are puzzled to know the source of the curious noises which are sometimes heard in the ear, even when all about is still. While there are several sources for these strange sounds, one of the most common is the peculiar roar or murmur made by the circulation of the blood. A large artery, the carotid, and also the jugular vein, pass very near the internal parts of the hearing apparatus. In certain states of the blood and of the circulation, sounds are occasioned by the passage of the blood extruded through these vessels, and the proximity to the ear enables them to be heard. These sounds can be heard by the aid of a proper instrument in other large veins and arteries, as those of the neck. The character of the sounds is very diversified. Now it is a gentle murmur, a moment later it has a roar like that of a distant cataract, and again it closely resembles the soft sighing of the wind or the musical humming of an insect.

Another way in which the circulation can be heard and at almost any time, is by placing the end of the finger in the ear. The slight roaring sound which is then heard is said by Dr. Hammond, of New York, to be the sound of the blood rushing through the blood-vessels of the finger.

VARNISH FOR STAINED WOODS.—A solution of four ounces of sandarac, one ounce gum mastic, and four ounces shellac, in one pound of alcohol, to which two ounces oil of turpentine is added, can be recommended as a varnish over stained woods.