

AN ANECDOTE OF THE TRADE.

THE trade jubilee of Mr. Robert Maule, of Robert Maule & Son, Edinburgh, was lately celebrated, and, in reply to an address from his assistants, told the following story of his early career

"I went direct to Glasgow, called only at one warehouse Stewart & McDonald's and was engaged by Mr. McDonald, in my eyes to this day a Napoleon in the drapery trade. (Applause) I will give you an incident that occurred on the first afternoon I entered. I was placed in the French merino department. A customer was brought who wanted to see a certain merino. The assistant next me showed me where the goods were, they were high up beyond my reach. I looked round the department for steps, but could see none. I went round to the next department, being the linen, and was helping myself to a pair of steps, when the head of the department rushed forward, clutched the steps, shouting to me: 'You dare not take these; it is against the rule.' (Laughter.) I looked at him for a moment. 'Are you trying to see what is in the young man from the country?' rushed through my mind (laughter) --and being anxious about the customer, with an almost superhuman power I took the steps from the head of the department, and served my customer, after which I replaced them. (Laughter and applause) Shortly he came to me, and said, 'You did wrong, and don't try it again.' I said, defiantly, 'If the same circumstances arise to-morrow, I shall do the same thing' --(applause)-- feeling that if every department should have a pair of steps, that someone had broken the rules, and taken away the merino steps. Before the close of the day I got to know that I had had a stand-up fight with the oldest hand in the retail (laughter) --a great favorite with Mr. Stewart, and fellow elder in a free church. Well, this made me think there would be at least a courtmartial (laughter) but no. He, Mr. Mason by name, and there are some here to-night who knew him for many years (applause) came around to me next day very bland and pleasant, and asked me where I came from; I told him I came from Kincardine. When he heard the place named, Kincardine, he appeared as if an electric shock had passed up and down his spine. You quite understand I am putting it in a little strong here (laughter and applause) --but he shortly came to himself. From that day onward we were great friends. (Applause.)"

CYCLING FOR WOMEN.

IN the current issue of The Nineteenth Century Dr. W. H. Fenton, M.A., M.D., has an article on cycling for ladies, in which he states it as his opinion that the exercise is very healthy and beneficial. We are pleased to think that the learned doctor approves of it, though we are inclined to believe that, did he not do so, his opinion would have had but little effect upon the present violent boom in cycling among ladies. Dr. Fenton also indulges in a few observations upon the question of dress, which, he declares, heavily handicaps the female rider, and it is with this portion of his article that we disagree, because one has only to make a tour of inspection of the leading wholesale drapery houses, to find not one but dozens of cleverly designed cycling costumes, in which absolute comfort in riding is combined with a due respect to the susceptibilities of that egregious old fogey, Mrs. Grundy. The subject of dress, however, is but a secondary one with Dr. Fenton, though, as far as he is concerned with costumes, he advocates high collars and tight fitting

sleeves; while as to under-clothing he advises lady riders to wear warm absorbent garments, and to avoid those made of cotton. It is when he studies cycling as a remedy for the ills that young lady shop assistants are heir to that the learned medico gets enthusiastic; for he declares that a girl who has to stand for hours and hours behind a counter gets relief untold from an evening spin on her "bike." It improves her circulation, removes the aches and pains that tend to make her prematurely old, and generally exhilarates her.—Drapery World.

ENGLISH TRAVELERS AND THE RAILWAYS.

The leading railway companies in England have come to an important decision with reference to commercial travelers. On and after July 1 commercial travelers will be granted tickets, 1st, 2nd and 3rd class, for return to their homes from Friday to Monday at single fare for the double journey, to all places over thirty miles distant. In order to prevent fraud, travelers who wish to avail themselves of this privilege must be members of the Commercial Travelers' Association or kindred bodies, who furnish them with a ticket of membership and a form to be filled up when applying for railway tickets. The association ticket of membership will bear on it a photograph of the member, and the presentation of this unquestionable testimony will secure him the advantages of the new regulation.

PARASOLS ACTIVE.

June with the retailers is always a busy month in this department, probably the most active one of the year. Just at present, the few drops of rain we have had have made umbrella counters in the big retail stores as busy as a beehive. The holiday season just commencing makes it necessary for those going out of town to prepare themselves for every emergency, and to make the less fortunate, who remain at home, carry some protection for one's self against old Sol's rays. The season, although dry, has been a good one, and, at present, that assorting is active is demonstrated by the Irving Umbrella Co. working overtime. The feeling for steel rods is strong, and orders on this style reported better than on wood sticks, especially so in the better grades.

Navies, to some extent, are seen in the store windows at \$1.50 with natural wood handles, and \$2.25 for steel rods with Dresden knobs.

Cream parasols, for the hot weather, are good property, in frills, and also without, the latter being entirely plain, and have white ribs and handles.

A HANDSOME STORE.

The Hudson Bay Co. have lately moved into their new premises erected by them at Portage la Prairie, Man.

Their store is situated in the centre of the town, and is a handsome white brick, fitted with all modern improvements, and contains basement, first and second flats. The windows are large, and fitted with plate glass mirrors; and a new feature in the dry goods department, which has a good effect, is mirrors at intervals the full length of the store. The grocery department is, perhaps, one of the most attractive in the Dominion.

FOR DECORATION.

John Macdonald & Co. have chiffon paper in all the new art shades for summer decoration purposes.