

A PROSPEROUS QUACK was asked by a junior how it was he had so many customers. The quack took him to his window overlooking a crowded street, and said, "What proportion of the people passing do you think are sensible persons, with well balanced minds?" "Perhaps one in ten," was the rejoinder. "Just so," said the quack, "and I get the nine."

A WET silk handkerchief, tied without folding over the face, is said to be a complete security against suffocation by smoke. It permits free breathing and at the same time excludes the smoke from the lungs.

DRESSES it is stated may be rendered combustible by dipping them in a solution of tungstate of soda, one pound in two gallons of water; and that the most delicate color will not be affected by it.

NOTES ON CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS (Am. Edition, from the original London plates, World Building, New York) is probably the cheapest publication in the world. It far way exceeds in every respect any weekly published on this continent; only \$4 a year. Only an enormous circulation would warrant its publication at such a price. Every number is good; all in each is of the best.

READERS who have not seen the Dominion Illustrated since it has been enlarged and improved should get a sample copy. Both from the literary and artistic point of view the Illustrated is a credit to Canadian journalism.

ST. NICHOLAS for April opens with a delightful illustrated sketch by Mrs. Foote, "The Gates on Grandfather's Farm,"—reminiscences of a New England farm suggested by the associations with its old gateways. It is full of feeling, and while not beyond the young readers will be fully appreciated only by their elders. Mr. Frank S. Woodruff describes some "Busy Corners of Orient, and shows us the primitive forms of industry in Syria. The article is illustrated by Mr. George Wharton Edwards.

MIRACLES AND MEDICINE is the fruitful subject which Dr. Andrew D. White will take up next in his Warfare of Science papers in The Popular Science Monthly. The May number will contain the first part of this chapter, telling how tales of miraculous cures arose and grew in the middle ages. Among the shorter articles in the number will be a particularly readable one

on the evolution of patent medicine, by Lee J. Vance, in which human weakness for mysterious cures is traced from the days of saintly relics down to the much-advertisising "medicine men" of our own time.

THE GRAPHIC, Chicago, is becoming one of the best of the weeklies. It is quite up with any of the New York publications of the kind, at only \$3 a year. It gives some very handsome finely executed illustrations, many of them now superior in every way to any in the eastern weeklies, and it appears to be improving every month.

THE COSMOPOLITAN for April begins with a charming, profusely illustrated piece, the "Eldes of the Arts"—dancing. We find a good article, the "Master of Genra,"—the late eminent Meissonier; others on the "Nicaragua Canal"; the "Japanese Theatre" (all three well and profusely illustrated); "Farm Life"; and a good story, "The Mystery of a Studio"; with many other good things:—in a magazine nearly as large as Harpers, at only \$2.40 a year (New York 5th Ave. & Bd Way.)

IN THE MAY COSMOPOLITAN a story of unusual power and strange plot will begin and run through three numbers: The story of an artist who three time in his life undertakes to paint a portrait of Jesus. From a sketch of the plot, it appears to be not at all an irreverent story, but a stange one.

THE North American Review for May will be of special interest to Canadians. In addition to Sir Charles Tupper's reply to Mr. Wiman it will contain an article by the Marquis of Lorne, entitled "Canada and the United States."

\$750 in GOLD.

It is not yet too late to enter the Dominion Illustrated prize competition in which at the end of the current six months prizes to the value of over \$300 will be distributed. The first prize is \$750 in gold and the list includes a Heintzman piano, Bell, Karn, Cornwall organs, gold watches and other valuable articles—100 in all. The smallest is valued at \$5. The competition consists in finding in current numbers of the journal the answers to thirty-six questions, six of which are published each month. For sample copy and full particulars send 12 cents in stamps to the publishers, the Sabiston Litho. & Pub. Co. Montreal.