

PLUCKED!—"The Proctor receives the names and fees of candidates for the public examinations, and plays a conspicuous and highly amusing part in the ceremony of conferring degrees. After each batch of new-made graduates have had a Latin incantation mumbled over them by the Vice-Chancellor, two Proctors—in the presence not only of university officials and students, but also of any outsider who chooses to look on—sheepishly stride up the long room and back again without saying or doing anything. At first there is an attempt at solemnity in their gait, but after the senseless exercise has been repeated two or three times, they look, as they doubtless feel, thoroughly wretched; the effort to appear dignified, and the desire to get it over as soon as possible, combine to produce one of the most comical effects ever seen. The reason for this absurd performance is not far to seek. In ancient days any tradesman who had money owing him from an undergraduate, might arrest the Proctor's course by plucking his sleeve, and so prevent the defaulter from taking his degree till his debt had been discharged. Few people know that this is the real origin of the term 'plucked' as applied to failure in examination."—*Varsity*.

WHY need we drown? Here is Dr. Sylvester with a plan which enables us all to inflate ourselves, and become our own buoys. Like as the butcher blows up the membranes of a joint of mutton, so Dr. Sylvester will blow out our skin until we are turned into unsinkable masses which no wave can depress into the depth, and which will float in any sea. Nay, we can blow ourselves out, and take no such harm as is caused by such proceedings at Christmas time as commonly, not to say vulgarly, are associated with the term. "The operation consists in making a small puncture—not larger than would allow of the passage of an ordinary blow-pipe—in the mucous membrane of the inside of the mouth; the object being to open a communication for the passage of air from the cavity of the mouth into the subcutaneous space of the neck." Then, with closed mouth and nos.,