

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.**—An accident of a rather serious nature, happened about two weeks ago to Mr. Arthur Rutter, well known in connection with Messrs. Warwick & Son's establishment. Mr. Rutter was driving a buggy in which also his wife and child were seated, when the horse, being startled, made a sudden bolt, tossing out without ceremony, the occupants of the buggy. Mrs. Rutter and child escaped with sundry bruises and scratches of an unpleasant nature; but Mr. Rutter's foot having caught in the lines, he was dragged some distance with considerable rasping of hands, face and clothing. One of his legs suffered severely, and is so much hurt as to incapacitate him from walking, and although no bones were broken, the damage is such as to require constant surgical supervision, which is likely to be somewhat prolonged.

### THE FIRST ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

The idea of the practical application of the electric telegraph to the transmission of messages was first suggested by an anonymous correspondent of the *Scots Magazine*, in a letter dated Renfrew, Feb. 1, 1753, signed C.M., and entitled "An Expeditious Method of Conveying Intelligence." After very considerable trouble, Sir David Brewster identified the writer as Charles Morrison, a native of Greenock, who was bred a surgeon, and experimented so largely in science that he was regarded in Renfrew as a wizard, and eventually found it convenient to leave that town and settle in Virginia, where he died. Mr. Morrison sent an account of his experiments to Sir Hans Sloane, the President of the Royal Society, in addition to publishing them anonymously as stated above. The letter set forth a scheme by which a number of wires, equal to the letters of the alphabet, should be extended horizontally, parallel to one another, and about one inch apart, between two places. At every twenty yards they were to be carried on glass supports, and at each end they were to project six inches beyond the last support, and have sufficient strength and elasticity to recover their situation after having been brought into contact with an electric gun barrel placed at right angles to the length about an inch below them. Close by the last supporting glass a ball was to be suspended from each wire, and at about a sixth or an eighth of an inch below the balls the letters of the alphabet were to be placed on bits of paper, or any substance light enough to rise to the electrified ball, and so contrived that each might resume its proper place when dropped.

With an apparatus thus constructed the conversation with the distant end of the wires was carried on by depressing successively the ends of the wires corresponding to the letters of the words, until they made contact with the electric gun barrel, when immediately the same characters would rise to the electrified balls at the far station. Another method consisted in the substitution of bells in place of the letters; these were sounded by the electric spark breaking against them. According to another plan, the wires could be kept constantly charged and the signal sent by discharging them. Mr. Morrison's experiments did not extend over circuits longer than forty yards, but he had every confidence that the range of action could be greatly lengthened if due care were given to the insulation of the wires.—*Engineering.*

## SCHOOL SEASON, 1884-5.

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In calling the attention of the Trade to the re-opening of the Schools in September, we would remind them, that carrying one of the largest and best assorted stocks of

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