

We are glad we speak English, and we shall not again grumble at our language. The *New York Post* says:—"The prospectus is issued of the Munich *Forstlich-naturwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift*, an organ for laboratories of forest-botany, forest-zoology, forest-chemistry, agriculture and meteorology. The entire title will appear in every number.

The marvellous progress made in the Dark Continent of late years is instanced by the fact that about three years ago scarcely anyone knew that there was such a place as Mashonaland, and there actually was no Fort Salisbury. The latter is now connected by telegraph with the Cape, and consequently with the rest of the world. It is situated in the heart of Africa, 1200 miles from the Cape.

A jarring note is struck in one of the slang expressions of the day. "Too much like work," comes very often from the lips of young people, and even mere children imbibe the poisonous idea of getting as much as they can for nothing—the same idea that has nourished the growth of lotteries, big and little, and which is inimical to energy and industry. The slang phrase has developed the sentiment of which it is expressive to an enormous extent, and if parents would forbid its use, and inculcate some of the good old-fashioned ideas embodied in such proverbs as "procastination is the thief of time," "a stitch in time saves nine," "early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise," and many others which we need not cite, it would be of true benefit to the rising generation.

The twenty-third day of last month marked the centenary of the death of the great portrait painter, Sir Joshua Reynolds, many of whose masterpieces are as familiar as household words to us. It has been well said of this famous artist, that his claim to permanent fame lies in the fact that living in an age of low ideals, of half-formed tastes, and of slightly varnished social life, he raised the standard of manhood, the beauties of womanhood, and the charms of childhood to a lofty pinnacle, and compelled his contemporaries and their descendants to live in view of his higher, nobler, purer life. He was the greatest of English artists and the charms of his pictures are fresh to succeeding generations. Sir Joshua was born at Plymton, in Devonshire, on July 16th, 1723, and died in London on February 23rd, 1792.

The value of books can scarcely be over-estimated, provided they are good books, and we sometimes feel jealous when we read in the Toronto papers the lists of new publications received at the Toronto Public Library, which is evidently a live institution. Efforts are being made by the Council of Toronto to have the power of the Library Board very much circumscribed, for a great deal of money is being used for the support of the library. Of course, books, and accommodation for them, are costly, but when we consider the influence wielded by them and the good they do by giving everyone a chance for self-improvement, perhaps money is well spent that goes to publishers. We only wish Halifax had a well-equipped public library; and considering the number of wealthy men in the community it is strange we are without it.

Mr. Oscar Wilde, erstwhile of sun-flower fame, has entered the ranks of dramatists, and his debut in this rôle has been very successful. As a leader of aestheticism, a lecturer, man of fashion, wit, poet, novelist, and essayist, this versatile man has at various times held public attention, and on the first occasion of the production of his play "Lady Windermere's Fan" at the St. James Theatre a short time ago, a large audience, including many notable people, was present. The dresses worn by the actresses are described as beautiful beyond words, and this, possibly, may account for the success of the drama in the eyes of the ladies. The audience, on the contrary, was said to be gowned wisely but not too well, with only a few brilliant exceptions. Mr. Wilde's attitude on being called for was more unconventional than ever, for he ventured to smoke a cigar on the stage. Some critics see in this act of what would have been called discourtesy a few years ago, a subtle satire on the spirit of the age, but the majority of theatre-goers will think nothing of it, and will flock to see his play.

If the women of Holland have any spunk they will prove that they are at least equal if not superior to men in the qualities of steadiness, punctuality and reliability, for they have had the opportunity placed in their hands. The men, owing to drinking habits, have been found no longer trustworthy to work switches on the railways of Holland, and women have been appointed to that important task. The ousted Lords of Creation do not, naturally, consider that any improvement has been made, and prophesy the early collapse of the feminine railway hands. That this feeling is the outcome of pure spite and malice cannot be doubted, as all fairminded men should be glad to let women have a chance to prove their metal; if they fail it will be a triumph for masculine assertions, and if they succeed it will serve to show that suppression of their talents and powers of usefulness in the past has been wrong. The claim that the Dutch women will make dressing rooms of the switch boxes, and hang mirrors in them, is absurd. Women who undertake to work for the public learn to keep themselves neat with little outlay of time, and they have (generally speaking) a stronger conscientiousness with regard to their duties than men are possessed of. Meanwhile, we suppose, the Dutchmen will have to seek employment (if they can find it) where alcoholic habits are not a drawback. Success to the sober Dutch women!

K. D. C. Restores the Stomach to Healthy Action.
K. D. C. Acts Like Magic on the Stomach.

It is still a common thing to hear otherwise enlightened people express disapproval of women entering business life, for which opinion they give various reasons. A comparison of Halifax business firms, male and female, as far as satisfaction to patrons is to be considered, is favorable to the latter. To be sure there are but few firms in our city the members of which are ladies, but the well-known type-writers will occur to everyone as favorable examples of feminine push and industry, combined with accuracy and reliability in the work turned out. They are skilled in their profession, have as pleasant an office to enter as there is in the city, they do not smoke or indulge in unbusinesslike habits, and taken all in all they are a splendid example to men of all professions.

Telegraphy without wires has from time to time been talked of as a possibility, but never until of late seriously considered. Mr. Edison, "the wizard," claims to have solved the problem, and whatever he says is always attentively listened to. His plan is to secure a sufficient elevation to overcome the curvature of the earth, and to reduce as far as possible the earth's absorption, and then carry on electric signalling by induction without the use of wires connecting the distant points or signalling stations. This method, it is said, will be particularly serviceable at sea, either between vessels or between vessels and land, and the height required, 100 feet, can be obtained on the masts. In this way many disasters could be averted; collisions at sea in fogs would be less frequent, and vessels could be warned off dangerous coasts. There is no telling what stupendous results may be the outcome of this latest discovery of the power of electricity. The principal claim made for the invention is as follows:—"I claim as my discovery means for signalling between stations separated from each other, consisting of an elevated condensing surface or body at each station, a transmitter operatively connected to one of said condensing surfaces for varying its electrical tension in conformity to the signal to be transmitted, and thereby correspondingly varying the tension of the other condensing surface, and a signal receiver operatively connected to said other condensing surface, substantially as described."

The dehorning of cattle question in all its pros and cons has been widely discussed of late, and it appears to be very difficult to come to a decision as to the effect on animals so treated. There is no question of the fact that domestic cattle are better without horns, and the only thing to be decided is whether the operation of destroying the germ of the horn is more painful than is consistent with humane treatment of the dumb creatures. From the testimony of those who have had active experience in the matter, we think the weight of argument is in favor of dehorning; but as we have never assisted at the operation, and know nothing personally of the pain inflicted, we will not go so far yet as to recommend it. We are most emphatically down on the bearing-rein, the docking of horses' tails, blinders, etc., and we think if some of these very humane people who are interfering in the dehorning business would exert themselves to put a stop to practices that are undoubtedly injurious to animals, and permitted only because they are fashionable, it would be productive of not a little good. The Secretary of the S. P. C. in this city has been informed by the Secretary of the Toronto Humane Society that a Commission is about being issued by the Ontario Government for inquiry into the matter of dehorning cattle, and requests any information on the subject that can be given. In this connection we would like to commend the action of the *Morning Herald* in publishing as a serial Miss Sewell's splendid story of "Black Beauty." It is a powerful plea for kindness to animals as well as being, at the same time, a highly interesting tale.

Principal Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, has some interesting facts in reference to the University extension movement in the current number of *School and College*, Boston. He gives a brief history of the infancy of the idea from the time when Queen's made her first experiment seven years ago. The Principal says that in Ontario five or six thousand pupils leave the high schools annually, of whom rather more than a thousand proceed to universities or professional colleges. This leaves a number that may be supposed to have some taste and fitness for further study, but have not the opportunity. To this class the University offered permission to go up for the regular examinations leading to Degrees in Arts if they matriculated, and offered assistance by the professors and tutors attached to the different departments of study. To this end correspondence classes were formed, and all the success that was expected, which was not very much, was achieved. This, the Principal says, was genuine University extension, and although the generous offers of the college were not largely taken advantage of, the second experiment, just commenced, of sending lecturers to classes, promises to be attended with greater results. They did not expect much for the first movement, and many of the extra-mural students failed to pass the final examinations, so that Dr. Grant says "evidently, even the majority of the young men and women who leave our high schools seem glad to get away from the necessity of further study." As far as that goes, it is difficult to conceive how it could be otherwise, for the necessity of earning a living presses on many young people, and they are obliged to give up all thought of continuing study when school days are over. After being present at the two first lectures delivered at Ottawa by Prof. Cappa in connection with Queen's, Dr. Grant left "persuaded that genuine work could be done in connection with the University extension movement, if only those in charge of it can manage to steer between Scylla and Charybdis."

K. D. C. The Greatest Cure of the Age.
K. D. C. The Dyspeptic's Hope.