

# THE CRITIC:

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL NOTES	1, 2
CONTRIBUTED.	
Is it a Visitation?	Citizen 8
Letters to Cousin Caryl	Eleanor Wynne 14
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Poetry—In Happy Days	6
Judge Thou	6
The Fall of Man and Anthropology	6, 7
Industrial Notes	7
City Chimes	8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial—Sweetheart Mine	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Chess	15
Draughts—Checkers	15

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The necessity for legal restraint upon experiments in hypnotism is strongly emphasized by an incident which occurred in St. Louis recently. A physician of that city hypnotized a young man and then was unable to awaken him from the sleep—if sleep it may be called—into which he had thrown him. The mysteries of hypnotism are very far from being understood, and when even a medical man shows his inability to cope with the results of his own action, how much greater the danger must be in the hands of a man who has not made a study of the subject. No one should willingly submit themselves to be thus influenced by another unless it be an exceptional circumstance and after coming to a conclusion that the result would be beneficial and not otherwise.

English papers are crying out against an advertising dodge recently come into fashion. It is called the "Sky Sign." The immense network, with huge letters suspended from it, setting forth the name of some tradesmen who wishes you to patronize his instead of other men's shops, threatens to become an eyesore to the general public. Not only in London, it is said, are the views being spoilt by these erections, but the "Sky Signer" has made his appearance in the Provinces with the same unpleasant results. Some tradesmen have yielded to public opinion and removed their signs, by which action they will by no means injure their business. The best way after all in which to advertise is in a first class newspaper. That is where the public look for advertisements.

Mr. Goring Thomas' opera of "Esmeralda," founded on Victor Hugo's great novel of Notre Dame, which was brought out by the late Carl Rosa in the spring of 1883, has just been translated into French for performance at the Royal Italian Opera. The music of "Esmeralda" is smooth and pleasing, sometimes rich and melodious. There are, however, no catching airs, such as live in the memory, and are echoed on the barrel organ; only one of the many solos in the English version, the baritone song "What would I do for my Queen?" ever achieved much popularity apart from the work. In the opera Captain Phœbus is transformed from a heartless profligate into a faithful lover, who is made to die from the wound inflicted by Claude Frollo, and Esmeralda kills herself over his corpse.