## Literary Notes.

If, as some think, Mr. Rudyard Kipling has been the subject of too much laudation, a wholesome corrective is afforded in the keen and biting treatment which he receives at the hands of Mr. Robert Buchanan, in the paper called "The Voice of 'The Hooligan'" which *The Living Age* for Jan. 6th reprints from *The Contemporary Review*. The true estimate of Kipling lies somewhere between the extreme of laudation and such unsparing criticism as this.

Readers of *The Living Age* are promised a new short story by Selma Lagerlöf in the number for Jan. 13th. It is called "Our Lord and Saint Peter."

## Britons and Boers.

Mr. Worsfold recalls in the January *Cassell's Magazine* a reminiscence which is timely: Some idea of the strange position in which the Afrikanders of the Cape Colony are placed may be gathered from the following circumstance. At the time of the last Boer War the two young princes put in at Cape Town on their voyage round the world. While they were at the Cape they were invited, among other festivities, to a garden party at one of the many handsome residences which are to be found in the suburbs of Cape Town. To this party a number of Cape Dutch had been invited to join in welcoming the young princes. Nevertheless, although they had thus assembled to do honor to the grandsons of the Queen, they apparently saw nothing incongruous in circulating at the same time a subscription list in which an appeal was made for funds to supply the Boers—then in arms against the Queen—with artillery.

## Substitute for Peppermint.

Kestner & Cie. obtained a patent for a product from tar-oil, intended as a substitute for oil of peppermint. The tar-oil is treated with caustic soda to remove phenols, then shaken with hydrochloric acid. The acid solution is diluted with water to cause separation of the ketones formed, which are distilled with steam. A mixture of ketones is thus obtained, of which the greater proportion distils between 185° and 205° C. By fractional distillation of this mixture and purification of the ketones (through conversion into benzoyl derivatives) two ketones may be isolated, one having the formula $CH^{16}O$, melting at 10° and boiling at 192° C., the other answering to the formula $C^8H^{12}O$, with a boiling point of 192° to 193°C. Neither of the compounds combines with bisulphites, but both absorb bromine when dissolved in carbon disulphide. The products so obtained have a fine odor of peppermint.—*Pharm. Post.*

## A Pill Counter.

Take the lid of a cardboard box, say, a tooth brush box, and hold it in such a position that a single pill shall run into the nearest right-hand corner, then, keeping it in the same position, count in as many pills as are required for each box, 12 or 18 ad lib., letting them form a single row in the corner of the box nearest to you. Mark the end of the row, and with a pair of scissors cut down the edge of the lid and sufficiently far across the top to give the scissors free play in the lengthway of the lid, then cut parallel with the corner and about half an inch away towards the right-hand end of the lid, thus cutting out a little trough which will hold the required number of pills in a single row, one end being blocked with the remains of the lid end edge. In use, strew in the pills with the left hand until full, and then shoot them into the box.—*Chemist and Druggist of Australasia.*

## Purified Coal Tar.

Coal tar is purified for pharmaceutical purposes by being dissolved in three parts of acetone or benzene, and filtered. The solvent is distilled off, leaving about 80 per cent. of purified tar. The purified preparation is a thick fluid in the cold, less dense when warm, having the peculiar tarry odor, and is of a brownish black color. It mixes readily with vaseline, lanoline, etc.—*Pharm. Centralh.*

## Posters Old in Service.

A correspondent sends the following letter about posters:

The insistence with which certain posters and hangers reappear in advertisements of various theatrical attractions was referred to by a travelling man the other day, and an ex-advance agent gave him an explanation of the reason. The particular poster which led to the conversation happened to be one of those woodcut monstrosities, engraved in the days when Janauschek was a young girl, by the great American Printing Company, which once occupied a building near the *Printers' Ink* offices. The travelling man said he had seen it first nearly a quarter of a century ago, when it advertised a comedy that failed. Afterward it delineated one of the comedians who has since become famous. At a subsequent date it advertised a more modest Thespian, and finally had been seen before a New York beer garden.

DURATION OF DEVELOPMENT.—The *Photographic News* gives the following instructions with reference to duration of development. Have the developer ready in a measure, and place the plate in a dish, and pour the developer over the plate, and note the exact time. Then carefully wash the plate, and as soon as the first sign of the highest light or image appears again note the time, then multiply this lapse of time by a certain factor given in the table below, and you will have the total time of development.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pyro soda, 1 gr. pyro to oz., ½ gr. bromide | 11 factor |
| Pyro-soda, 2 gr. pyro to oz., 1 gr. bromide | 6 " |
| Pyro-soda, 3 gr. pyro to oz., 1½ gr bromide | 5½ " |
| Pyro-soda, 4 gr pyro to oz., 2 gr. bromide | 4½ " |
| Pyro-soda, 8 gr. pyro to oz., 4 gr. bromide | 3½ " |
| Pyro soda, Ilford, for dense negatives | 5 " |
| Pyro-sodo, Ilford, for soft negative | 6½ " |
| Hydroquinone (caustic soda or carbonate) | 5½ " |
| Ekonogen | 9 " |
| Metol | 28 " |
| Glycin | 14 " |
| Amidol (2 grs.) | 18 " |
| Velox | 12 " |
| Imperial pyro metol | 10 " |
| Rodiral | 40 " |
| Meto'-hydrequinone | 13 " |

Suppose, for instance, we use the last-named developer, and 20 seconds elapse between the pouring on of developer and the appearance of the highest light, then the total time of development will be $20 \times 13 = 260 = 4$ mins. 20 secs.

DEVELOPER FOR UNDER EXPOSURE.—For an under exposed plate—especially if the plate be a rapid one for snap shot work—the following developer is often used, and gives a good printing negative without too much harshness

| | |
|---|---|
| Pyro | 2 grains. |
| Potassium bromide | ¾ grain. |
| Strong ammonia | 2 or 3 drops |
| Water | 1 ounce. |

First soak the plate in a solution of 1 drop of ammonia to 1 ounce of water for two or three minutes, and then place in the developer without rinsing.—*Wilson's Photographic Magazine.*