

work are as fine as anything we have ever seen published in the U.S., and reflects the highest credit on every person concerned in its publication. A good feature of this catalogue is that every case is distinguished by number and listed at the price the retailer can afford to sell to his customer. For this reason it will be found very convenient for securing special orders for goods not usually kept in stock, as well as a help to the jeweler in making up his stock orders for staple goods. Every live jeweler should secure a copy, and order from it after he has it.

**THAT WONDERFUL CASE AGAIN.**—Our friend John Sheppard of the Boss Case Co., was in Toronto last week trying to hunt up the Editor in order to club him with that wonderful watch case. He says that since the last issue of THE TRADER his office has literally been besieged by people to see his patent life saving Boss Case. We heard by accident as it were, that while in Boston the other day John had occasion to use a hack, which got upset during the journey. John was precipitated out but landed on his watch case, which again acted the good Samaritan. John says as this case has saved his life twice he won't sell it under any consideration. We notice that the Boss Co. have reduced the price of their 6 and 8 size cases which are now lower than they ever were before. Although the price has gone down, the quality still remains away up at par. The Boss Co. still stick to the old fashioned way of giving people full value for their money.

**ENTERPRISE.**—As our readers will have noticed before they read this, the American Watch Case Company of Toronto, are occupying much more than their usual space this issue and have filled it in a very artistic manner. This Company is now producing gold watch cases which for quality, style and finish are unexcelled by any other makers. Some of these new designs as illustrated in this issue are exceedingly artistic and cannot fail to attract attention. Their guaranteed goods can now be bought by the trade from members of the Canadian Jobbers' Association as cheap as American retailers can buy the same class of goods in Maiden Lane, New York. The effect of this will be to do away with the unfair competition that the honest retail jeweler has so long experienced from competitors who were less scrupulous and willing to smuggle. So far as gold cases in Canada are concerned, the smugglers' occupation is gone and he will have to turn his attention to some other, and more profitable line of goods. The best way to stop smuggling is to make the price in Canada as low as in the U.S., this truth was recognized by the A. W. C. Co., hence their action. In doing this they have ignored the question of dividends, but we trust that any reduction in profit may be counterbalanced by their more extensive sales.

**GIVING THE CANUCKS A LESSON.**—We heard a good thing the other day of an American safe manufacturer, who, finding trade rather slack at home, concluded that he would ship one of his unrivalled safes over to Canada, and put in his time and make a good thing financially, by instructing the aborigines of this wooden country how to make safes under his improved patents. Arriving at Toronto he very soon found himself in Messrs. J. & J. Taylor's factory where he discussed to a very patient audience on the merits and values of the unrivalled patents he had for sale. After he got through, the proprietor quietly took him through their works, where he found that not only were the firm using a very superior invention to his in their ordinary goods, but a contrivance exactly the same as the American patent he was trying to sell had been tested by this firm some six years ago but discarded as being worthless. If Brother Jonathan was surprised at this, he was completely paralyzed when his Canadian competitor suggested that they should try his safe by a practical fire test. No, siree, not by a jugful, his safe wasn't got up for any such purpose, and he didn't think any safe would stand the test proposed. When the Messrs. Taylor showed him a safe almost uninjured inside that had come through this very test and offered to put one of their own along side of his during the operation, he collapsed entirely. He said that without doubt there was no safe made to day in the United States that would stand such a test, and so far as fire-proof safes were concerned, why the United States would have to take a back seat for some time to come. His sample patent safe went home by the next freight train, while its owner after swallowing half a dozen cocktails, took the fastest express he could find to get him out of a country where safe makers were fools enough to test a safe by fire before they guaranteed it to their customers. Canada is poor—but honest.

## WORKSHOP NOTES.

To clean filigree silver work that has become tarnished by exposure, you can dip it for a moment in a solution of cyanide of potassium. If not very badly tarnished, probably a solution of hyposulphite of soda will clean it. If there is no base metal about the ornament, you might clean it by boiling it in sulphuric acid.

ALL jobbers should know that gold and silver plate may always be kept clean and bright by a simple process: Mix one part of sal-amoniac with sixteen parts of vinegar. Rub stains and spots with this mixture. They will soon disappear. The plate should then be well washed in soap and water and rubbed till thoroughly dry.

ONE of the most ingenious processes which has lately come into vogue in the treatment of iron—an Austrian invention—is that of giving to the metal a silver surface, this being effected by first covering the iron with mercury and then silver by the galvanic process. By heating to 300°, C., the mercury evaporates and the silver layer is fixed.

THE *Moniteur Industrielle* gives the composition of an artificial gutta-percha as follows: Fifty parts by weight of copal and 75 to 150 of sulphur, with 15 to 30 of turpentine, or 55 to 60 of petroleum, mix well. Heat to 100° C., until completely dissolved, let it cool to 35°, add a solution of 3 parts of caseine in weak ammonia and a little methylene, re-heat to 120° until of a weak consistency; then boil with a 15 to 20 per cent. solution of tannin and about 15 parts of ammonia. After several hours boiling wash and cool.

To etch on metals cover the surface of the metal on which you desire to etch, with white melted wax; when cold, trace the design or character upon it with a sharp point, which penetrates through the wax layer. Into these lines pour either very strong vinegar, or pure acetic acid, and spread upon it a powder made of 100 grains rock alum, and the same weight of sulphate of copper, previously calcined in a crucible in the fire. To have the engraving deeper, soon as the effect of the first mordant is spent, wash the wax in cold water, without rubbing, however; let it lay, and repeat the operation. By renewing it as often as necessary, the workman has it in his power to regulate the depth of the engraving to his liking.

It is found that a superior brown tone may be produced upon brass by the following simple process. The article having been thoroughly cleaned and freed from all traces of grease, then polished, is dipped for about half a minute in a cold solution of .18 grms. of hypomanganate of potash, 50 grms. green vitriol, 5 grms. muriatic acid, and one litre of water, thorough rinsing and drying in fine soft sawdust follow. If a reddish cast is desired, the article is to be dipped into a second bath, heated to 60° C., of 10 grms. each of chromic acid, and chloric acid, and hypomanganate of potash, with 50 grms. blue vitriol or sulphate of copper, dissolved in 1 litre of water—this latter mixture alone producing a light bronze. The subsequent operation of heating in an oven produces, it is said, a very rich one.

## OTHER NOTES.

THE mouth of the Mississippi River is again filling up with sand and debris despite the Eads system of clearance.

COLOMBO, the capital of Ceylon, is the chief centre of the jewel trade of the East. Almost any jewel can be bought there by an experienced purchaser for from one-fifth to one-tenth the amount for which it would sell in America.

ISAAC RAYXN, of Flint, Mich., has a bust of Lincoln, the material of which was originally worth \$3,500. The bust is of redeemed greenbacks which were macerated by the Government, after which the pulp was pressed and moulded to form the likeness.

AMONG the French Crown jewels which it is proposed to sell are the "Regent" diamond, valued in the official inventory at 12,000,000f, the seven "Mazarin" diamonds, a small reliquary, made as a brooch, set with 93 brilliants, and dating from 1496, and the watch of the Dey of Algiers.

A COPY of Dickens' "Strange Gentleman," one of the rarest of his productions, was recently bought by a small bookseller for threepence.