

THE CELLARS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

A writer, in describing a visit paid to the cellars of the Bank of England, Thread needle street, London, says: "In the printing department, sheets of postal orders are being worked off like so many colored posters. This is a new department in the bank. The old-fashioned money orders are printed elsewhere, along with the various kinds of stationery used by the post office. Hard by there is a larger printing room, where six or eight smallish presses, such as might be found in any ordinary jobbing office, are at work. I am invited to examine the work which is being turned out. These are bank notes which are being thrown out by the thousand. In this dirty printing room, reeking of oil and ink, they turn out per day 50,000 bank notes of various denominations, and this output goes on continually. As the notes are paid into the bank from the outside, they are seized and put away for destruction, and new ones put in their place, the turnover being about a million pounds daily. One of the sights to which the visitor is conducted is the stock of paid notes, which are kept for five years before being destroyed. At the present moment this old stock numbers nearly 75,000,000 notes, which had a value of nearly two billions. They are packed in rough wooden boxes, and weigh over 93 tons. They are now merely so much waste paper, though it would be risky to sell them as such. There is a regular holocaust made of them once a fortnight, when they are burnt by the million in a furnace specially constructed for the purpose. For convenience of handling, the gold is cast into blocks of 25lb., each worth 1,000 sovereigns. A block is handed you to feel by an official, who advises you to take it in both hands on account of its weight. It is piled on trucks, each of which carries a load of tens of thousands of pounds. Other trucks are loaded with little bags of sovereigns, representing in the aggregate millions. The bullion vaults have nothing of the jeweller's shop about them. I do not recollect whether they are white-washed, but they give one the impression of being so. Perhaps the most interesting department of all is that where bank notes are exhibited which have been paid after being for months at the bottom of the sea or grilled to a cinder in a conflagration. There are notes here recovered from the wreck of the Eurydice, which went down off the Isle of Wight, and from that other wreck known as the Thrsk railway disaster. The grilled notes mostly have been got out of safes in burnt-down establishments. One or two of them are perfect in shape, although completely carbonized, and on their blackened surface may still be read their number and denomination. Scraps of notes, too, are on view, all of which have been paid into the bank in the way of business. It is quite enough for practical purposes that the number of a note should be legible, and, indeed, in some cases very little more than this magical figure has been preserved. All the notes are produced by surface printing from the electrotpe. The great difficulty of the forger appears to be the imitation of the paper and its watermark.

Some of the forgeries are astonishingly clumsy. On one of the sham notes there is a promise to pay fifty pence instead of fifty pounds, the forger hoping probably that this device, while likely enough to deceive the eye, would not bring him within reach of the law. Very few forgeries escape detection by the cashiers at the paying in counter. Not long ago, there was a £50 note stolen of which payment was stopped. In order to baffle the lynx-eyed officials, the thief cut out a figure in the number and substituted for it another cut from a £5 note, the patching being successfully accomplished by the application of hydraulic pressure. The bank records, extending over 200 years, embrace many interesting autographs. Not all the eminent Englishmen of the past two years have held stock, I need not say, but a good many have done so. Here one reads the name of Nelson and Wellington. Among the signatures in the Golden Book is that of Fauntleroy, the famous forger, who cheated the bank out of some £350,000."

DISPLAYING GOODS.

One most important lesson which the small dealer has yet to learn, is how to display goods. No matter what the line may be, it is the case that in a great many stores goods of great natural attractiveness are brought out of shadowy corners for sale, offered in an unattractive manner, and in fact murdered. Quite one half the battle in selling goods is to have them displayed in a way that will make them appear at their best. What buyer wants to purchase a line of furniture for instance, which he has to examine in a twilight storeroom, and with perhaps half an inch of dust on it.

This last is perhaps unusual, but it happens occasionally, and it should never happen. A country dealer came in the other day to buy a line of spring cotton goods from a wholesaler. He was shown a lot of new things, and among them one pattern which he recognized as the same he had held over for a couple of seasons as out of date and unsalable. Here on the wholesaler's counters, this material looked very fresh and attractive. The rural dealer decided to work off that stuff on his shelves, and the firm of which he bought a new bill of goods gave him a valuable pointer as to how to go about. They advised him to put the goods to the front in a good light, talk them judiciously to his customers, and not pull them out of dark shelves as though they were relics of a departed age.

The art of properly displaying goods is one which needs a great deal of cultivation, and one also which dealers might well study with profit to themselves.

THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF GOLD

Several years ago, an American tourist predicted that South Africa would yet astonish the world with its gold production. From the following statement of the world's production, it is evident that the prophecy is nearing fulfillment. In round numbers, the production for the last five years was as follows: "1887, 5,007,600 ounces; 1888, 5,251,000 ounces; 1889, 5,611,

000 ounces; 1890, 5,556,000 ounces; and 1891, 6,033,000 ounces. For the first time in many years, there was a slight setback in 1890. A noticeable feature of recent years has been the development of the Witwatersrand gold fields. The production of these fields has been as follows: 1887, 31,597 ounces; 1888, 230,917 ounces; 1889, 370,733 ounces; 1890, 491,805 ounces; and 1891, 729,213 ounces. Adding in 1891 the output of other Transvaal gold fields, which amounted to about 107,000 ounces, the total production of the Transvaal for 1891 reaches £30,250 ounces. For the current year, it is expected that the production will quite reach 1,250,000 ounces. In 1888, the Transvaal only produced 44 per cent. of the world's yield, but in 1891 the production had risen to 13.8 per cent., and this year it is tolerably certain to reach 21 per cent. The following was the production in 1890 for the countries named: United States, about 1,583,500 ounces; Australia, 1,469,200; and Russia, 1,019,000. As the return for these countries has not altered to any large extent, the Transvaal will probably take the third place for the current year, and very likely the second place in 1893. Mining in the Transvaal has not yet reached its culminating point, as new mines are being constantly opened and old ones still further developed."

AN ECCENTRIC WINDOW DISPLAY.

Speaking of eccentric window displays, an English shoe paper says: "Eccentricities in the way of shop window attractions are on the increase. By saying this, we do not refer to the artificial snow storms, flower gardens, and various other imitations of arctic or tropical scenes to be seen in shop windows at this time of the year, but we have in mind the introduction behind the window glass of animate and inanimate subjects and objects. Such, for instance, as a negro wearing a false flowing white beard and wig, whose duty it is to sit quite motionless for a time, looking before him with a fixed stare, till a crowd of persons collect, curiously wondering if the object before them is alive or only inanimate wax. When the crowd is large enough, the negro will suddenly sneeze, yawn, jump or give other startling tokens of life alike alarming and diverting to the onlookers on the pavement. There are many similar and dissimilar window attractions now to be seen, the precise connection between which and the business being carried on is far from clear to the lay mind. Of inanimate objects, the most curious and shiver producing ever seen is on view in a London shop window just now. It is a hangman's rope suspended from the top of the window, with the loop lying on the goods on view. This rope is alleged to be the identical one with which one of the famous, or infamous, murderers (Manning) was hung, in 1859. An explanatory note draws attention to the knot which the executioner places under the right ear of the victim, and in the name of justice jerks him or her over the borderland of life. This ghastly object draws well."

The London Financial News says \$250,000,000 will be left in the United States as the harvest of the Fair.