

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

A VERY DELICATE OIL. much used in Russian cookery, is expressed from the seeds of the sunflower, and is prepared by enclosing them in bags, and steeping them in warm water, after which the oil is expressed. It is said to be as sweet as butter.

INDELIBLE BLACK INK FOR WRITING ON ZINC.—The following ingredients are said to form an indelible black ink for writing on zinc:—Take 30 parts of verdigris, 30 of sal-ammoniac, 8 of lamp-black, 8 of gum arabic, and 300 of water; dissolve the gum in the water, and pour it over the other ingredients, well mixed and reduced to powder. A quill pen should be used for writing.

The Russian papers announce that a contract has been entered into between the Russian Government and that of the United States, for the construction of a telegraphic line from the most advanced eastern part of the present telegraphic system in Russia, and San Francisco in California.

MICROSCOPICAL CLUB.—A Microscopical Club is about to be established in London. Dr. Lancaster will be its first President, and Messrs. P. Le Neve Foster and M. C. Cooke its first Vice Presidents. A committee of amateur microscopists has been chosen, Mr. Hardwick elected treasurer, and Mr. Bywater secretary. The club has been established for the purpose of affording to microscopists in and around the metropolis, opportunities for meeting and exchanging ideas without that dillicdence and constraint which an amateur naturally feels when discussing scientific subjects in the presence of professional men.

WASHINGTON MADE EASY.—Dissolve half a pound of sal-soda, and the same quantity of hard soap, in half a gallon of boiling water, each separately. Pour a little boiling water over a quarter of a pound of quick lime. If quick, it will bubble when the water is applied. Boil the dissolved lime and soda together for twenty minutes, and then put all into a jar to settle.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT SEA.—Some interesting experiments have just been made at L'Orient, on board the Coligny, the object of which is to utilize the electric light at sea. By means of a submarine reflector, the water was illuminated to a great depth, so that it was possible to look down from the deck and see the fish, attracted by the light, swimming round the lamp as if in an aquarium. A kind of diving-bell, with a large glass eye in one side, and arranged to supply air to a diver, was also let down to a depth of thirty-eight fathoms. By means of this apparatus, it will be easy to inspect submarine constructions, to fish, coral, &c., and recover wrecked property. Signals were likewise exchanged, by means of the electric light, between the Coligny and the semaphore of Belle-Isle. These sufficient applications of the electric light were made, in presence of a military commission, by the inventor, M. Bazin, civil engineer, of Angers, and were found to give satisfactory results.

AN OPTICAL EXHIBITION, known as 'Proteus,' has been shown for some months past at the Polytechnic Institution. The apparatus consists of a square cabinet, which, when brought upon the stage, is opened, and shown to be apparently empty. A person enters the cabinet, the door is closed, and, after a short time, is reopened, when a different person leaves the cabinet. The appearance of emptiness is produced by placing two mirrors of the same height as the box and meeting in the centre. An observer situated in front will, of course, see in these mirrors the reflection of the ornamental paper with which the sides are covered. The reflecting surfaces are so arranged that no object in the room is seen in them. By this means, an appearance of flatness will be given to the back. The mirrors turn on hinges, thus allowing a person to conceal himself in the triangular space behind them. When the exhibition is concluded, the mirrors are folded back against the sides. The box is then really what it appears to be, and a great show is made of striking the back, which was, of course, omitted at first.

A NEW LADDER.—An interesting trial was made lately, in the spacious courtyard of the Archinto Palace, at Milan, with what the inventor, Paolo Porta calls an "air ladder." It consists of several pieces, each, with a sort of carriage as a basis, can be fixed one on the top of another. A height of 90 ft. was thus reached in a very few minutes. The apparatus may be bent down to an angle of 45, and is capable of carrying heavy weights. The principle, it is stated, can be adapted to portable bridges, which can be put together in an equally short time.

IMPROVED LUBRICATOR.—Mr. Richard Townsend, of Sheffield, engineer, has obtained letters patent for an improved tallow cup or lubricator for the cylinders and valves of steam engines, steam hammers, and other purposes, which consists principally of a closed vessel of a cylindrical or other shape, provided with a tap at the top, and also a second tap at the bottom; so far it is like an ordinary double tap cup. The upper tap is furnished with an open cup, in which is a perforated plate or sieve for preventing any impurities in the tallow or oil from passing into the vessel. This tap and cup are for charging the vessel with tallow or oil without removing any screw plug, there is also a second small opening drilled diagonally or otherwise through the plug of this tap, which, when the tap is opened, allows the air in the vessel to escape at the side as the tallow or oil descends from the open cup.

SIMPLE BUTTER-COOLER.—A simple mode of keeping butter in warm weather, where ice is not handy, is to invert a common flower-pot over the butter, with some water in the dish in which the butter is laid. The orifice at the bottom may be corked or not. The porosity of the earthenware will keep the butter cool. It will be better still if the pot be covered with a wet cloth, the rapid abstraction of heat by external evaporation causing the butter to become hard.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

SOME wives are so jealous that they don't like their spouses to embrace a fair opportunity.

WHY are people who stutter not to be relied on?—Because they are always breaking their word.

THE SCHOOLMASTER'S TOAST.—The fair daughters of Canada, may thy *add* virtue, to beauty, *subtract* envy from friendship, multiply amiable accomplishments by sweetness of temper, divide time by sociability and economy, and reduce scandal to its *lowest denomination* by a modest Christian deportment.

A LADY in Paris recently gave a concert at her house "Do you like Rossini?" said she to one of her guests. "Rossini! Indeed I do; he is my favourite composer." "Are you familiar with his 'Barber'?" (of Seville) "Oh, dear no," was the reply, "I always shave myself."

A GENIUS.—A fast youth was taken from college by his father to a solicitor remarked to be an artful clerk. The agreement was made, and the solicitor remarked "For the first six months from to-day you will not receive any salary, after that £80 a year."—"Very well, sir," said the youth—"I shall return at the end of six months."

IN an Indian presidency, a European judge complained to a native subordinate of the perjury practised in his court. "Yes," replied the native, "it is very bad. I have never known it anywhere so bad. Here you can hire any number of witnesses to swear that black is white for four annas (sixpence) a head; but in my native district you cannot hire them for less than eight annas (a shilling)."

MAMMA ERKED.—"How awkward you are!" said a lady to her little daughter. "I do not hold my head down; I do not turn in my toes as I walk; I do not lean my elbows on the table."—"I beg your pardon, mamma," said the child, who was really a well-behaved little creature, "but are you not rather fond of praising yourself?"

AN old farmer went to his landlord to pay his rent, putting on a long face, to correspond with the occasion. On entering the house, he said that the times were so hard that he couldn't raise the money, and dashing down a bundle of notes on the table, exclaimed "There, that's all I can pay." The money was taken up and counted by the landlord, who said, "Why, this is twice as much as you owe me."—"Hang it, give it me again," said the farmer. "I'm dashed if I didn't take the wrong bundle out of my pocket."

A THOUGHTFUL HUSBAND.—A married lady, who was in the habit of spending some of her time in the society of her neighbours, and was therefore nearly always out when her husband returned home, happened one day to be suddenly taken ill, and sent her husband in great haste for a physician. The husband ran a short distance, but suddenly returned, anxiously exclaiming, "My dear, where shall I find you when I come back?"

STERNE, who used his wife very ill, was one day talking to Garrick in a fine, sentimental manner, in praise of conjugal love and fidelity. "The husband," said Sterne, "who behaves unkindly to his wife, deserves to have his house burnt over his head."—"If you think so," said Garrick, "I hope your house is insured." We give the above for what it is worth, but should like to know the name of the Insurance Company Garrick expected his friend to insure in.

THE LATE Archbishop of York was a great wag as well as a great smoker. "Ah there you are" cried a lady who surprised him one day with a pipe in his mouth, "at your idol-gagan!" "Yes, madame, replied he coolly—"burning it."

STATS were quite unknown in Russia until Peter the great danced with some Hanoverian ladies on his journey to Pomerania. Quite astonished, the monarch exclaimed to his suite after the ball. "What confounded hard bones these German women have."

WORK IN HEAVEN.—Coffee was so convinced of the lowliness of his position—that labour was his natural lot—that he was indifferent as to a future state, believing that "they'd make niggers work, even if he go to heben." A clergyman tried to argue him out of his opinion, by representing that this could not be the case, inasmuch as there was absolutely no work for him to do in heaven. His answer was, "Oh, you go way, massa, I knows better. If there no work for coloured folks up dere, dey'll make 'em club the clouds away."

LOVE AND BEEF.—A bachelor uncle, to whom his niece applied for advice on the question of choosing between two suitors, one of whom was rich and the other poor—the latter, of course, being the most ardent, as well as the favourite lover—sententiously replied, "My dear, the question being stripped of all illusory elements, your choice simply lies between love and beef. Now, love is an idea, while beef is a reality. Love you can get along without; but beef you must have. Therefore, make sure of your beef."

"FANOT," said Sydney Smith to some ladies, when he was told that one of the giraffes at the Zoological Gardens had caught a cold, "a giraffe with two yards of sore throat."

AN INGENIOUS HINT.—A parishioner, who had got tired of his pastor's weak sermons, and wanted to give him a hint on the subject, complained to him one day that his pew was too far from the pulpit, and that he must purchase one nearer.—"Why," said the parson, "can't you hear distinctly?"—"Oh, yes, I can hear well enough."—"Can't you see plainly?"—"Yes, I can see perfectly well."—"Then, what can be the trouble?"—"Why, there are so many in front of me, who catch what you say first, that by the time your words reach my ears they are as flat as dish water."

THACKERAY used to relate with great glee the following humorous story:—An Irish gentleman, well known in town, and from whom the character of the Mulligan was partly drawn, walking in the park with a young friend, received a bow from Denn Stanhope, who was passing by, and said to his friend, in a rich brogue, "That's a dano!" "Oh, no," replied the other, "you're mistaken; it's Mr. Stanhope, an Englishman." "Upon which the offended Mulligan thundered forth, "It's not a Dano of Sweden that I mane, surr, but a dano of the Church."

LET NO SHOEMAKER GET BEYOND HIS LAST.—A shoemaker in the provinces, who says he married a second wife under the mistaken supposition that the first was dead, wants to know what he is to do about it, now that No. 1 has turned up.—Answer: "Let the cobler stick to his last."

COURT FAVOUR.—A gentleman who had been long attached to Cardinal Mazarin, and was much esteemed by that great minister, but little assisted in his finances by court favour, one day told Mazarin of his many promises and his dilatory performances. The cardinal, who had a great regard for the man, and was unwilling to lose his friendship, took his hand, and, leading him into his library, explained to him the many demands made upon a person in his station as minister and which it would be politic to satisfy previous to other requests, as they were founded on services done to the State. Mazarin's companion, not very confident in the minister's veracity, replied, "My lord, all the favour I expect at your hands is this, that whenever we meet in public you will do me the honour to tap me on the shoulder in the most unreserved manner." This request was at once acceded to, and in two or three years the friend of the cardinal became a wealthy man, on the credit of the minister's attention to him. Mazarin used to laugh, together with his confidant, at the folly of the world in granting their favour to persons on such slight service.

A PRINCE IN A FIX.—Madame de Stael's daughter, the Baroness de Broglie, was an extraordinary beauty. Her charms made such an impression on Prince Talleyrand that in contemplating them he was often deficient in his attentions to her highly gifted mother. One day, being on a party of pleasure on the water, she endeavoured to confound him, and put the question:—"If our vessel were to be wrecked by a storm, which of us would you strive to save first, me or my daughter?"—"Madame," instantly replied Talleyrand, "with the many talents and acquisitions you possess, it would be an affront to you to suppose that you cannot swim. I should therefore deem it my duty to save the baroness first."

POACHING INCIDENT.—Robbie, a well known character in the Highlands of Scotland, was inveterately fond of venison and often indulged in a little private deer-stalking on his own account. One day catching sight of what he conceived to be a tame deer, and thinking that "a tame deer might carry as much white on his brislet as a wild ant, and maybe a little mair," could not, though dangerously near the house, resist having a shot at it. The shade of some clumps afforded an easy approach to it, and soon off went his old gun like a twelve-pounder, knocking over the "deer," with which Robbie at once grappled. The "deer" lashed out in an awkward style for Robbie, who however stuck to him till startled by the loud laughter of Robert and Sandy, his two brothers, who had been witnesses of the scene, when the "deer" started off with a lumbering, ungainly gallop, and set up a loud and triumphant bray. Robbie arose as if petrified, and dashing his fist at his own ear, exclaimed, "Oh, Gosh bless me, a cuddy!"

AN AFFECTIONATE WIFE.—In several of the villages of the Pyrenees the mountaineers are in the habit of training animals for the purpose of exhibition. The prefect of Perpignan passed through one of them in company with an officer of gendarmes. The latter pointed out to the magistrate a woman whose husband—a bear trainer—had been devoured by his pupil at a moment when instinct got the better of education. "I have nothing left," said the woman; "I am absolutely without a roof to shelter me and the poor animal."—"Animal!" exclaimed the astonished prefect; "you don't mean to say that you keep the bear that devoured your husband?"—"Alas!" she replied, "it is all that is left to me of the poor dear man."

CANNON AND BUCHANAN.—Our youthful joker tells us that a Miss Buchanan, once rallying her cousin, an officer, on his courage, said, "Now, Mr. Harry, do you really mean to tell me you can walk up to a cannon's mouth without fear?"—"Yes," was the prompt reply, "or a Buchanan's either." And he did it.

"PAY AS YOU GO."—This little maxim has bin modestly at the service of the world for ages, supported by no pertickler pretensions tow rhetoric, cadence, or pompous period, but brimfull and running over with practical philosophy and plebeian sense, adapted tow the latitude and longitude of every human knitter. It kontains within its fore blesid munosifilables an analysis of welfth; it is fortin's steppin stone, and a letter or credit nun can distrust wherever it goes. It iz the right bower of eknomoe and maid or honour tew plezzure—filz the day hours with kwict and drives the ballif from the nito dreem. "Pay as you go," and you will know how fast yure going, how fur you hare gone, and when it is time tew stop. Tradesmen will bow when they meet you, and det with its hungry wolf tred will starvo on yure trail. "Pay as you go" temperz luxury and chastens want, adds dignity tew the poor man, and grasz tew the rich man, wrongs nun and iz justiss tew all. Hero iz an antidote for rauch that iz the p.L.Zeospher's stone; hero iz a motto for manhood; hero iz a leven for enny sized lump. Yang man, pay as you go, and whin yu gits old yu will not depart from it; other vartues will sartilly cluster about yu; and whin natur hands in her last bill yu will be awl the better prepared to "pay as you go."—JOHN BILLINGS.