

from $\frac{1}{2}$ pound white chalk, 2 ounces pipe clay, 2 ounces white lead, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce magnesia carbonate, and colored with the same quantity of jewelers' rouge. It is said to be unrivaled for cleansing silver.

TO REFINE SWERPINGS.—To 8 ounces of the dirt which has been washed and burnt, add salt 4 ounces, pearl ash, 4 ounces, red tartar, 1 ounce; saltpeter, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce; mix thoroughly in a mortar, melt in a crucible, and dissolve out the precious metals in a button.

BENZINE.—Dirty benzine may be again rendered fit for use by filtering through animal charcoal. One of our friends stops the end of an ordinary pint glass funnel with paper, and presses therein calcined bone dust till it is about three parts full. On the top of this is poured the benzine to be filtered.

TO BLUE SCREWS EVENLY.—Take an old watch barrel and drill as many holes into its head as you desire to blue screws at a time. Fill it about one-fourth full of brass or iron filings, put in the head, and then fit a wire long enough to bend over for a handle into the arbor holes—head of barrel upwards. Brighten the heads of your screws, set them point downwards into the holes already drilled, and expose the bottom of the barrel to your lamp, until the screws assume the color you wish.

BARREL ARBOR.—In the absence of a suitable tap or screw plate, when turning in a Swiss barrel arbor, if the collet is good it may be used as a plate. Soften the collet and file two slight passages across the threads with a fine three-cornered file; screw a piece of brass wire through the collet, so as to free the threads from burr; then re-harden the collet and cut the screw on the arbor with it. A pair of pliers with faces curved to suit the collet are used to hold it. In an emergency the old arbor may be prepared for use as a tap if the old collet is not available.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

PHONOGRAPH is feminine gender—because it talks back.

WHAT does a man see in the wild, wild waves? Sea foams.

A MAN may not possess a castle in Spain, and yet have a Cochin China.

MRS. PARTINGTON says that her minister preached about "the parody of the probable son."

WHAT riles a country postmistress is to have a postal card come to the office written in French.

THE butcher who sells ox tails for soup and calves' heads for dinners undoubtedly makes both ends meat.

"How much did you pay for that hat?" asked an old colored person of his fellow tramp. "Well, I don't know, for when I bought it there wasn't anybody in the shop."

GEOGRAPHY and grammar strive with each other to form the pith of the following clever puns: Which is the coldest river?—The ice is (Isis.) There is another colder—the icer (Iser.)

"We all knows," said a cockney school-committeeman to a new teacher he was examining for her position, "that A, B and C is wovels, but what we wants to know is vy they is so."

A PAISLEY publican was complaining of his servant maid that she could never be found when required. "She'll gang out o' the house," said he, "twenty times for ance she'll come in."

A POOR preacher was caught in a shower on his way to church. He said, "I shall certainly take cold if I go into the pulpit so wet." "O! no, you won't," was the reply. "You are always dry enough there."

THE growing custom of putting the choir at the pulpit end of the church has the very serious drawback that it prevents a man from turning around and looking up at the organ in a critical manner just before the contribution plate reaches his pew.

A MADDLESOME old woman was sneering at a young mother's awkwardness with her infant, and said, "I declare, a woman never ought to have a baby unless she knows how to hold it." "Nor a tongue, either," quietly responded the young mother.

AN Irish horse-stealer, who, when O'Connell had obtained his acquittal, exclaimed in the exuberance of his gratitude, "Och, counselor,

I've no way here to thank yer honor, but I wisht I saw you *knocked down in my own parish*,—would'nt I bring a faction to the rescue!"

AN English officer at Venice, walking one day from the Doge's palace, thought he observed one of the figures on the clock tower of St. Mark's stoop down and take up something. He looked again, and he positively saw the figure take a pinch of snuff. The officer confessed that he was apprehensive he was losing his senses or that his vision was deranged, when an old woman, observing his consternation, soon explained the seeming miracle by telling him that one of the figures that struck the hour being out of repair, her nephew, Jacopo, was engaged as a substitute till the machine was put in order.

OTHER NOTES.

DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING.—The laws of the German "paternal" government do not permit misrepresentations in advertisements, and the old fogies who "do not believe in advertising," chuckle over the "protection" afforded them by a code of laws very proper, perhaps, for the fifteenth, but entirely unfitted for the nineteenth century. An advertiser who stated in his handbills and circulars last Christmas that "he sold at cost price," etc., using the ordinary phraseology, had his handbills confiscated by the police, and beside this he received the warning that at a repetition of the offence, a "he terrors of the law" made and provided in such cases" would be invoked against him.

"THE BEST WATCHMAKER."—The story is told of a French watchmaker who, on opening his shop in one of the streets of Paris, "hung out his shingle," on which he modestly advertised himself as "the best watchmaker in Paris." Shortly afterward a competitor established himself in his neighborhood, who, not desiring to hide his light under a bushel, sought to excel the former, and announced himself in gold letters on his sign as "the best watchmaker in the world." "Competition is the life of trade," and so it proved in this instance, because a third watchmaker established soon after between the two, who eclipsed both of them by modestly stating himself to be "the best watchmaker on the street."

THE PRODUCTION OF SILVER.—In the thirty years extending up from 1857, the production of silver in the United States was about \$750,000,000, of which India has absorbed 50 per cent. In that period the production of silver in all quarters of the world was about \$2,185,000,000, so that India alone has absorbed \$59,000,000 more than all the remainder of the world. At the same time, or, at least, in the fifteen years covered by minute statistical records, the purchasing power of silver in India has increased, as it will buy from 15 to 20 per cent. more of the products of Indian labor, or of the labor itself, than in 1870. The demand for silver, therefore, still exceeds the supply in that country. Nor is this surprising. Silver is the great medium of exchange among that people, who in the aggregate are very rich, inhabiting a country of inexhaustible fertility, and yet if all the silver in the outside were added to their present stock, and if it were all used as money, they would have a per capita covering only a third to a half as large as the United States or France. But the principal consumption of silver in India is in works of art or in hoarding.

A REMARKABLE DIAMOND.—In August, 1884, the arrival in London of the celebrated 457 karat fine white diamond from South Africa, and its subsequent purchase by a syndicate of London and Paris diamond merchants, were announced. The gem was intrusted to the care of one of the most skillful cutters, who has been engaged on the stone for the past eight months, and expects to complete the work in April next. As anticipated, the stone will turn out the most wonderful "brilliant cut" diamond on record surpassing in weight, as also, it is believed, in color, purity and lustre, all the crown and historical brilliants of the world. The stone in its almost finished state, weighs still 230 karats, but in order to give it the best possible shape and lustre, it is intended to reduce its weight to something under 200 karats. The Koh-i-noor weighs only 106 karats, the Regent of France 136 $\frac{1}{2}$ karats, the Star of the South 125 karats, and the Piggott 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ karats. The Great Mogul weighs 279 karats, it is, however, a lumpy stone, only rose cut, and if cut to a proper shaped brilliant, it would probably not weigh more than 140 karats.