

# LITTLE FOLKS

## Brass Making.

It is very interesting to look around on our homes and see what a large part brass takes in making them not merely comfortable, but pretty. Drawing-room, kitchen, hall, and bedroom generally contain some articles wholly or partly made of brass. There are the picture nails, the stair-rods, the finger-plates, the candlesticks, the bed-

our pictures give us a little insight into this industry.

Brass is, as a rule, easily fusible and very malleable. Crucibles and reverberatory or cupola furnaces are generally used, and, the copper being melted, the zinc is added in a hot state. Our second illustration shows us the earliest stage, 'strip casting,' when the molten metal is poured into moulds, the

England there are no existing traces of them previous to the middle of the 13th century. For ornamental brasses and finger-plates the brass must have some substance, for the embosser has to raise a pattern upon it. This is done by fixing the plate on to a backing of pitch, into which the ductile metal is forced by a hammer. The worker thus makes a sunken pattern, and when the pitch is melted off the reverse side, the pattern stands out in relief.

Brass is harder than copper, and so will stand more wear, and as it also resists atmospheric changes better, and is cheaper, it takes rank among metals after iron and steel. —'Our Darlings.'

## Who Knows Them.

There were once two little sisters who lived in the same house. One little girl had pleasant things happening to her every day; but the other little girl was always in discomfort about something.

'Dearies,' said mother, 'it is too stormy to-day for you to go out.'

'Oh, then we can use our new tea-set!' cried the first little girl. 'You promised we could the first rainy day. How nice!'

'There, now!' exclaimed the second little girl, 'that's always the way. I particularly wanted to go out to-day. Now I can't. How provoking!'

It did seem queer, didn't it?

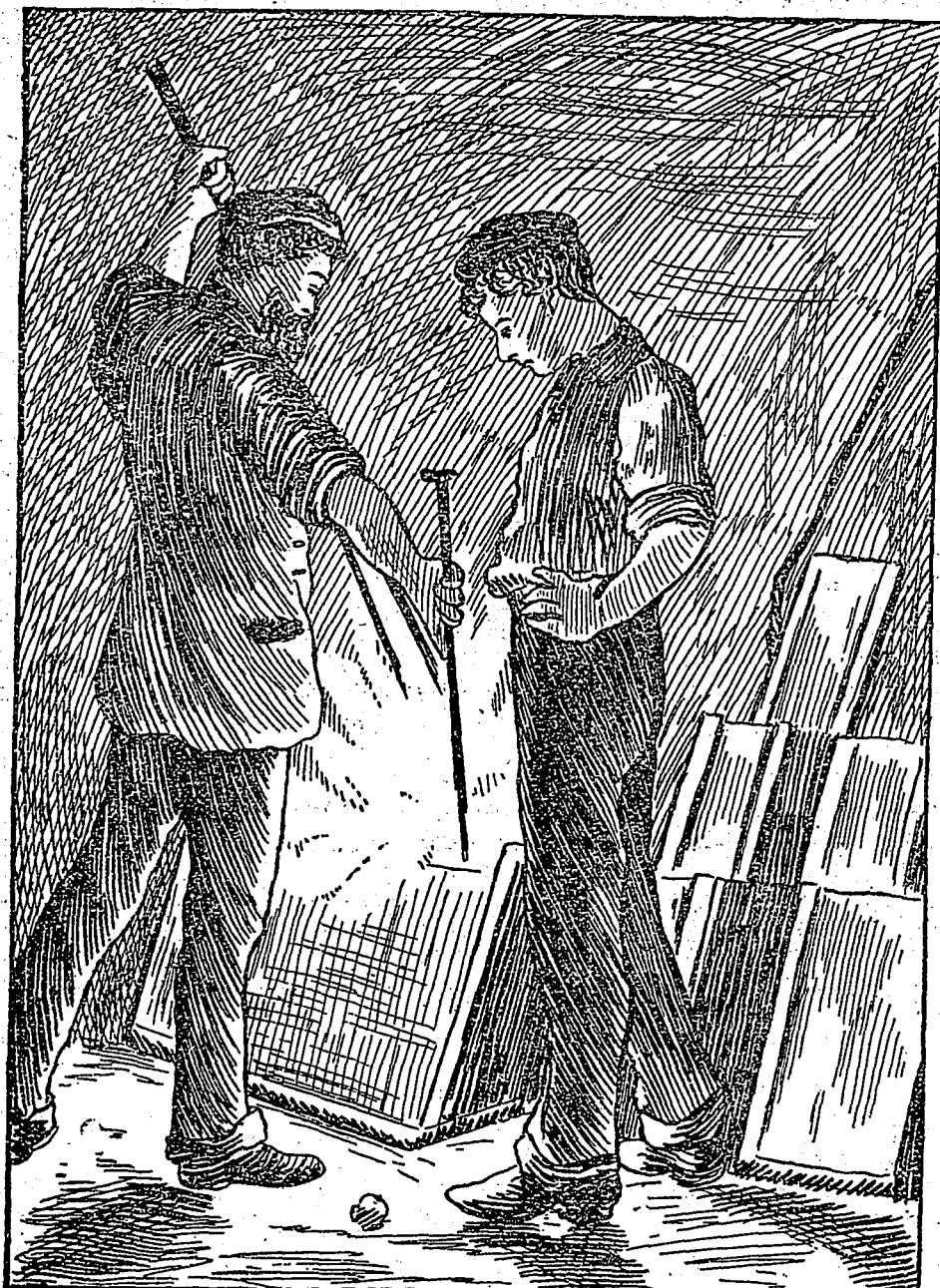
By-and-by, after a fit of sulks, the second little girl consented to play at having a tea-party. They ran to fetch their tea-table.

'But you broke the tea-table last week,' mother reminded them. 'I sent it to be mended. I'll put this board across two stools for you. That will make a good big table.'

'I don't think that's nice at all, mother,' complained the second little girl. 'It hasn't any leaves. Whenever I want to play at having a tea-party I can't find the right things. It seems as if it happened on purpose.'

'But, see, it's a prettier shape,' said the first little girl. 'It's a square one. There is plenty of room for all our new tea-things, and room for every doll. Isn't that fortunate?'

So they played at having a tea-



BRASS-MAKING: STRIP CASTING.

stead, the fire-irons and fender, the plate bearing the word 'Letters' on our doors, and fifty other things which we all see every day.

Brass is mentioned in the early Bible records, and appears to have been known generally to the ancients, though perhaps not in the form of a compound of copper and zinc which it takes now, as zinc does not appear to have been known in Europe as a separate metal till the 16th century.

Birmingham is the headquarters of the English brass trade; and

principal caster being muffled, to prevent his breathing the unwholesome fumes.

When made into 'strips,' or bars, as they may be called, the brass is ready for further processes; and to form the thin plates used for most decorative work, the strips are placed in a series of mills or rollers, and rolled until it attains the required thickness—for ordinary purposes little thicker than note paper.

Monumental brasses have been used from very early times, but in