

founded on them. Thus it has been agreed that a cubic foot of pure water, at its maximum density, shall be regarded as weighing one thousand ounces. This fixes the standard ounce, and all other weights are determined by being referred to this as a standard.

As stated above, the American unit of length is the same as the English unit. The comparison is made by means of a scale eighty-two inches in length now in the possession of the Treasury Department, and manufactured by Troughton, in London.

The standard unit of weight is the Troy pound, copied, in 1827, by Captain Kater, from the imperial pound Troy in England. The standard is at present kept at the mint of the United States at Philadelphia.

— *The Right Hand.* — The *Journal of Psychological Medicine* for July contains an interesting article on the preference of the human race to use the right hand. The different theories to account for this well-admitted fact are examined, and it is shown that all fail to explain the superior strength of the right side of the human body. One theory is based upon the anatomical arrangement of the arteries from the arch of the aorta, and experiments and examinations, it is alleged, show conclusively the connection, between the arteries and the arms and hands. But it is objected that this explanation does not account for the more frequent use of the right leg, the right eye, and, perhaps, the right ear. Another theory is, that the greater efficiency of the right side depends on the larger development of the left half of the brain, but the facts do not support all the phenomena. Again, it is advanced that the use of the right hand is entirely a matter of education; but it is asserted that it is not uncommon to see a child belonging to a right-handed family become most perversely left-handed, notwithstanding its earliest motions have been carefully watched and directed. Another curious fact has been discovered, that while the sense of touch is most developed on the right side, the sense of temperature and the sense of weight, very nearly allied to the muscular sense, are more acute on the left. On surveying the whole ground, the writer arrives at the conclusion that we shall probably never know the nature and origin of the impulse to use the right side of the body in preference to the left, and why such impulse is occasionally inverted.

— *New Medical Chirurgical Society, Montreal.* — For some years past, the want of a society among the medical practitioners of Montreal for the advancement of medical sciences, and the holding of periodical meetings at which subjects of general interest to the profession might be discussed, has long been felt. In all large cities new phases of the theory and practice of medicine are frequently occurring, and the intelligent discussion of these and other matters of special interest to the profession, cannot fail to be of advantage. At a large meeting of members of the Medical Faculty, held recently, the "Montreal Chirurgical Society" was organized on the basis of the report of a committee which had been appointed at a preliminary meeting held at the Natural History Society Rooms. The new society will be composed of recognized medical practitioners and will hold fortnightly meetings at the above Rooms, at which papers will be read and matters referring to the medical branch of science discussed. At the late meeting the following office-bearers were elected viz:—President—Dr. G. W. Campbell, Dean of Medical Faculty; 1st Vice President—Dr. R. Godfrey; 2nd Vice-President—Dr. T. H. Pelletier; Secretary Treasurer—Dr. T. G. Roddick; Council—Messrs. Drs. Fraser, Reddy and David.

ART.

The *South Kensington Museum* has become the possessor of a collection of jewels purchased from the Treasury of the Virgen del Pilar of Saragossa. The jewels have been arranged in the Prince Consort Gallery. Independent of their value as works of art, they deserve special attention from the historical interest attached to them. Among the most interesting lots purchased for the department of Art the following jewels of the Cinque Cento period may be especially noted; and these are the more important to the student of goldsmiths' work of that time, from the fact that they have been preserved in the Treasury of the Virgen since the date of the presentation and are undoubtedly genuine examples, therefore exceedingly valuable for the opportunity they afford of comparison with less authentic pieces, and leading to the detection of modern imitations which are at present so numerous: No. 321 is a gold pendant ornament, with a beautiful enamel group of the Adoration of the Magi, set with diamonds; No

332 is a reliquary of rock crystal mounted in gold, enriched with enamel and pearls, containing two exquisite enamel groups of the Crucifixion and the Blessed Virgin and Holy Child. It was presented by Louis XIII. of France to the Treasury. No. 333 is a similar reliquary, with miniatures on gold of our Lord and His Virgin Mother, in gold enamelled mounts. No. 335 is an exquisite specimen of Cinque Cento work; an enamelled gold pendant in form of a pelican and pearls. Nos. 334 and 336 are two enamelled pendant ornaments of dogs, supported on scrolls, with pearls and finely enamelled chains, enriched with precious stones. Nos. 341 2-3 are three representations in richly enamelled gold of the Virgen del Pilar, as the statue has appeared at different periods. They are set with rubies and emeralds, and have been worn suspended from the neck. No. 319 is a beautiful specimen of goldsmiths' work of the nineteenth century, representing a large bouquet of enamelled gold flowers, set with diamonds, tied with a blue enamelled knot of brilliants, 8½ in. long by 4 in. wide. This jewel was presented by Dona Juana Rabasa wife of the Minister of Finance to Charles IV. No. 320 is a breast ornament of Spanish work of the eighteenth century formed of gold, open work scroll pattern, with bosses and small pendants, set with diamonds, presented by the Marquesa de la Puebla. No. 322 is a striking example in enamelled gold of a lace edged tie, set with table diamonds, presented by the Marquis de Navarens in 1679. No. 325 is a costly pectoral ornament of gold open work scrolls, set all over with fine emeralds. We have here enumerated only a few of the specimens contained in the collection, but there are many others of fine workmanship which require close examination. Among the minor objects may be observed a child's bauble of silver, in form of a Nereid holding a mirror and comb attached to a whistle and bells, doubtless an offering to Our Lady of the Pilar from a child to obtain intercession for the cure of some malady; also various toys of silver filigree. To give some idea of the intrinsic value of many of the jewels offered for sale, the first day's sale realised upwards of £10,000. A jewelled decoration of the Order of St. Esprit, set with fine brilliants, offered to the Blessed Virgin by Maria Teresa, wife of Don Louis de Bourbon, was sold for £3,280; a diamond and lace given by Queen Marie Luise, £1,050; a brilliant diadem, offered to Our Lady in 1865 by the wife of Don Sebastian de Bourbon, £1,113; and a brilliant medallion, portrait of Ferdinand VII., given on his return from France, £250.

— *Paintings in the Louvre.* — The collection of the Louvre contains at present about two thousand paintings, five hundred of which are of the Italian school, six hundred and twenty of the Northern schools, seven hundred of the French, two hundred and fifty of the Spanish, and the rest of different other schools.

Among those of the Italian school, there are twelve paintings by Raphael, three by Correggio, eighteen by Titian, twenty-two by Albano, thirteen by Paul Veronese, nine by Leonardo da Vinci, eight by Perugini, and four by Giorgione.

Of the Northern school there are forty-two painting by Rubens, twenty-two by Vandyck, eleven by Gerard Dow, seventeen by Rembrandt, eleven by Philip Wouverman, fourteen by Teniers, seven by Adrian van Ostade, six by Ruysdael, two by Hobbema, eleven by Berghem, ten by Van Huysmans, and three by Lucas van Leyden.

Of the French school, there are forty paintings by Poussin, forty-eight by Lesueur, sixteen by Claude Lorraine, twenty by Philip de Champagne, seventeen by Sebastien Bourdon, twenty-six by Lebrun, twelve by Mignard, forty-one by Joseph Vernet, one by Largillière, one by Watteau, thirteen by David.

Of the Spanish school, there are eleven by Murillo and six by Velasquez.

— On the 3rd Nov. Prince Arthur unveiled a handsome stained glass window at Guildhall. It was constructed at the expense of the Corporation, in memory of the late Prince Consort. His Royal Highness, who was received by the Lord Mayor at a special Court of Common Council, expressed his deep sense of the hearty greeting he had received, and of the beauty of the memorial to his illustrious father.

— *Foreign Academies and English Artists.* — The Antwerp Royal Academy of the Fine Arts has nominated among its effective members Sir Edward Landseer, in place of the late M. Overbeck and M. Dyckmans in place of the late Baron Leys.

— The Society of Arts (London) are proceeding in their work of affixing commemorative tablets to the houses formerly inhabited by men of genius. Dryden's reputed house is among the projected number. It is scarcely necessary to remind the Society that the old house in Fetter-lane, long inscribed with Dryden's name, was never tenanted by "Glorious John."