

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

INGENUOUS PROCESS OF TOOTH-DRAWING.—A dentist of Geneva has invented a new and ingenious process of tooth-drawing. A small square of india-rubber, pierced with a central hole, is pushed over the tooth till the upper part of the root is reached. The india rubber gradually contracts, pulls on the root, and the offending tooth is finally enucleated, without causing the patient any pain whatever. Four or five days are generally required to complete the operation. Very slight bleeding and a slight swelling of the gum are the only inconveniences experienced. M. Paul Bort brought this ingenious method before the Academie des Sciences in Paris, when M. Galippo remarked that the process was already known, and quoted a case in support of its efficacy, in which a young girl had placed a ring of india rubber round her two front incisors, and forgot that she had done so, the result being that she lost the teeth.—*British Medical Journal*.

A USEFUL INSTRUMENT.—A useful instrument, which will doubtless become a necessity in certain lines of manufacturing, is being introduced in England. An electric system is established throughout a factory, which, through the agency of an indicator placed in the office, shows at a glance whether the different looms or machines in the building are in operation.

HOW BEES PREDICT THE WEATHER.—No. 17 of *Die Natur* contains an article by Herr Emmerig, of Lauingen, on German bees as storm warners. From numerous observations, the writer advances tentatively the theory that, on the approach of thunder storms, bees, otherwise gentle and harmless, become excited and exceedingly irritable, and will at once attack any one, even their usual attendant, approaching their hives. A succession of instances are given in which the barometer and hygrometer foretold a storm, the bees remaining quiet and no storm occurred; or the instruments gave no intimation of a storm, but the bees for hours before were irritable, and the storm came. He concludes therefore, that the conduct of bees is a trustworthy indication whether a storm is impending over a certain district or not, and that, whatever the appearances, if bees are still, one need not fear a storm.—*Scientific American*.

CLEANING WATCHES WITH BENZINE.—A correspondent of the Watchmaker and Metalworker tells how he cleans watches with benzine. The method may be useful for other fine work. He says: I immerse the parts in benzine, and dry in boxwood sawdust. This gives the gilding a fresh new look, which I have not been able to get by any other process. The movement must be entirely taken down. The dial screws may be screwed down tightly and left; but all parts united with screws must be separated, so that there will be no places where the benzine can remain and not be at once absorbed by the sawdust.

I have a large alcohol cup, which I fill about half full of benzine, taking down my movement and putting the larger pieces in the fluid. The scape wheel, balance, and delicate parts I treat separately, that they may not be injured by contact with the heavier pieces. I then take the pieces one at a time, and tumble them into the sawdust. In a few seconds they will be dry when I pick them out and lay in a tray, using brass tweezers, which do not scratch. I treat all the parts in this way except the mainspring, when a slight use of the brush and clean chamois will remove all dust. Of course, the holes must be cleaned with a pointed peg; and I wipe out the oil sinks with chamois over the end of a blunt peg, but it is not often necessary to clean the pinions with a peg—they will come out of the sawdust bright and clean.

The mainspring must not be put in benzine unless you want it to break soon after. The fluid seems to remove the fine oily surface which a spring gets after working for a time, and which is very desirable to retain; so I clean my springs by wiping with soft tissue paper. If they are gummy I put on a little fresh oil to soften, and wipe off, being careful not to straighten out the spring.

MICROSCOPIC ANIMALS IN BRICKS.—The weathering of brick into a friable state is usually attributed to the action of heat, wet, and frost, but from recent observations of M. Parizo, the real destroyer is a microscopic creature, and the action played by the weather is only secondary. He has examined the red dust of crumbling bricks under the microscope, and found it to consist largely of minute living organisms. A sample of brick dust taken from the heart of a solid brick also showed the same animalcules, but in smaller numbers. The magnifying power of the instrument was 300 diameters. Every decaying brick showed the same kind of population, but the harder the brick the fewer were noticed.

In Berlin electricity has been applied to the hatching of chickens. The eggs are placed in a circular box or incubator, over a coil of wire, and this heated by the electric current. A thermometer automatically regulates the temperature by cutting the wire coil out of circuit, when the heat becomes too great.

The Lake of Constance is only fifty miles in length, but any one who travels from pier to pier and wishes to know the right time of day, ought to carry five watches. Its waters wash the shores of five different States—Austria, Baden, Wurtemberg, Bavaria and the Swiss Federation. If you land at Rorschach, and want to catch the train for Ragatz or Chur, your watch ought to stand at Berne time. In Friedrighshafen you must know the Stuttgart time, in Constance the Baden time, in Lindau the Munich time. The Austrian time is not reckoned from Vienna but from Prague, which differs no less than twenty-eight minutes from the Berne time. Hence a traveller crossing over the Austrian frontier at St. Margareten much put back his watch half an hour in order to set himself right at the Swiss station.

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