propos subjects when you find Janet making a tidy for Harold, and Harold in retaliation buying Janet a smoking-set, while they both send a book to their friend the author, and a thimble to the dressmaker, and a painted placque to the artist? Oh, it is not a bit over-drawn this sketch of senseless present-making. It *is* a lovely custom, this of gift-making, but only when rightly, not when wrongly, observed. There are heart-aches caused by pitiful strivings to outdo one's neighbors, to keep up appearances—that juggernaut—to do all manner of things that are contrary to the spirit of the day, year in and year out, enough—well enough at least to teach people common sense and a truly Christmas feeling. Is it not so? If we were true to ourselves and our circumstances, and to the Christmas spirit, should we not do quite different every Christmas from what we did last year, and from what we shall drift on with the tide and do this year? It really is worth while to take a stand for righteousness in this matter of giving presents, not only for our own sakes, but for the sake of those whom we influence. The first wrench away from "doing as everybody else does" is hardest. After that it is surprisingly simple to be true to one's self, and to act according to the best light upon the matter in hand or in heart or in both. There is a truly pleasurable excitement in the making ready of pleasant surprises for those near and dear to us, but we may be sure some point is being unduly strained when our efforts make us "glad when Christmas is over!" Now, how many times have you thought and said that very thing? And was it not because you were caring little for the spirit of Christmas Day, and much for the opinions of Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Brown, and Miss Robinson? Denying one's self to give is often truly pleasurable, but crucifying the truth and making of the spirit of giving a weak and meaningless bulletin of one's means and not of one's friendly meaning is a bitter mockery. The poet is right—"The gift without the giver is bare."

By all means keep your band of temperance workers in active service. But do not stop with distributing tracts. The most effective preventive and reformatory work is done by setting up blessings in the places of the curses. It is not convincing to the populace to dilate upon the evils in the whiskey bottle, and continue to let the bar room be the one place in the city, town or village where there is light and warmth and jolly company free to all comers. Coffee houses and reading rooms and decent amusement halls, free as are bar-rooms, are proving the best temperance lectures. Faith without works, you know, is futile

Put silk passementerie on your black silk dress, not jet, and make with leg o' mutton sleeves gathered at the shoulders and tapering to close fitting sleeve at wrist, draped waist, girdle, princess back, and full, straight skirt front.

Devotedly yours,

Boston. DINAH STURGIS.

STRANGE WORLDS.

Professor Flower, President of the British Association, has recently said that he agrees with Sir John Lubbock in the opinion that in what we call the lower animals there may be "fifty senses, as different from ours as hearing is from sight, and that even within the boundaries of our own senses there may be endless sounds which we can not hear, and colors as different as red from green, of which we have no conception. * * The familiar world which surrounds us may be a totally different place to other animals. To them it may be full of music which we cannot hear, of color which we cannot see, of sensations which we cannot conceive of." In other words, it may not be in the starry heavens alone that there are "other worlds than ours;" such worlds may exist upon our own planet, and the intelligence of insects may be in contact with the universe through channels of sense which are unknown to us through experience, and such creatures as have senses bearing likeness to the five that man possesses may live in a universe totally different from that with which man is acquainted. On the part of Sir John Lubbock this opinion is not mere speculation. He has been led to it through long and close study of insect life, and although the theory does not meet with universal acceptance among scientific men, and, indeed, was warmly opposed by the late M. Paul Bert, who maintained that the world of lower animals is essentially the same as ours, yet there are many reasons to believe that Sir John takes a true view of the subject. Experiments made by Notthaft some years ago go to show that a common house fly, for instance, can not see clearly at a distance greater than a millimeter, and that the utmost limit of its vision is two feet, while it is extremely doubtful that within that limit a fly can distinguish colors. A fact like this has a clear bearing upon Darwin's theory of the way in which plants are aided or retarded in the struggle for existence by insect perception of color. Lubbock seems also to have shown through spectrum experiments with ants that these insects cannot appreciate light-waves, or rather vibrations of the other, until those vibrations exceed the bounds of color as we know it, and that they hear no sounds appreciable by our ears. Under the ultra-violet —that is to say, under the most intense chemical rays of the spectrum—ants were thrown into the most violent perturbation, while they went quietly about their business under the color rays. A pistol shot over their heads caused not the least disturbance except that which was occasioned by the mechanical jarring of the earth and air, and sound, plainly, was not to them what it is to us. It is not their minuteness that gives ants another world than ours, but the construction of their sense-organs. To depart now from the insect world. It is a generally accepted theory that what are called the "rods and cones" in the human eye are the true organs with which we distinguish colors. These organs are wanting in many animals, as, for instance, they are wanting in the eyes of sharks and roaches among the fishes, and in hedgehogs, moles and bats among mammals, so that, if the analogy holds good, these animals can have no sense of color. Among birds, the owl is but scantily supplied with rods and cones, while birds of prey which fly by daylight, as gulls do, are most plentifully endowed with them. Through examination of the human eye and the way in which it perceives color, it has been concluded that to frogs the whole world they see is yellow, while to certain birds the entire visible creation must seem red—the sky, the sun, the flowers, all, in short, that comes within the range of their vision is red, because the construction of their eyes permits of the perception of no other color. To them the world must appear as it does to us when we look through a piece of red glass. This train of thought could be carried much further. Observations recently made in Italy in regard to the microbe of malaria show that at a certain period of its development this microscopic creature has enemies to fight in a globule of blood, and that, in order to escape from them, it makes use of its *flagella* or whips, with which it tries to beat off the inimical microbe that is bent on absorbing it, and generally ends by doing so. Here certainly is intelligent adaptation of means to ends, yet how different from ours must be the world that the malaria microbe finds within a drop of the blood that runs within us! The universe appears to be as vast downward as it is upward.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

On an invitation from Mr. J. Estes Wilson, Superintendent of the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Lamp Co., our correspondent visited the factory at 16 Upper Water St., and was shown the process of manufacture of the lamp. In a large room on the second floor is the office of the superintendent and the knitting machine, where the webbing is prepared by an ingenious machine manufactured for the purpose; also a "dark room," where tests are made with a photometer to give the candle power of the lamp and to display the lamp in the day time. Here also the lamps are put together and boxed for shipment. The room adjoining presents a busy scene; 15 or 20 girls are hard at work in their different departments making the "mantle", which is the main source of the light. In a small room off the main room is what is called the "hot room," the temperature of which is 110 degrees—here it is only possible for the girls to work 4 hours a day. Then comes the burning process, which requires great skill on the part of the operator. After going through its several processes it ("the mantle") is then inspected and is ready for transportation or home use. Mr. Wilson informs us that he has 1,000 in use in Halifax, and they are all giving great satisfaction, not one complaint having been made as yet. The burners are being put in general use all through Canada, and the prospects for a large business are very good.

GROWING TOWNS AND INDUSTRIES.—It is but a few months ago that the ratepayers of Kentville were called upon to decide by ballot as to whether they should continue to remain part of a Municipality or take upon themselves their own government and become an incorporated town. Fortunately for the minority, the majority voted for incorporation, and in the short time that has elapsed since then what has been the result? To-day Kentville is a town that any dweller in may be justly proud of. It has the best water supply of any town or city in the Province, not only in quantity and force, but also in purity, its streets are daily becoming worthy of copy by other corporations; its moral tone is high; and look at it as you wish, its ratepayers have good reason for satisfaction with their town and with the officers that govern it. Besides being the head of affairs for the Windsor and Annapolis R. R. (which Company, besides the principal offices, have their construction and repair shops here) it is the terminus for the Cornwallis Valley R. R. Of private dwellings there is a great scarcity, there not being a furnished house in the town vacant, but several new ones are at present being built, and the way real estate is advancing in value is really astounding. The last addition to the town is a foundry. The writer had the pleasure of being present a few days ago when the first casting was made, and though done hurriedly and chiefly with the intention of testing the furnace, the results were first class in every particular.

The Foundry is known as The Lloyd Manufg. & Foundry Co, limited, the practical men of the firm, Messrs. Lloyd & McLeod, being men who have spent many years in the business, and proved themselves both at home and abroad to be first class in their particular calling. The buildings and grounds are already very extensive and costly, everything either in the shape of buildings or plant being the newest and most improved Upon making enquiries I found that the company are prepared to make three sizes of shingle machines either of hand or power feed. Cast steel cylinder stave machines, latest improved Ratray saw mills, heading rounders, in three styles and sizes, stave planers and jointers, surface planers, buzz planers, all kinds of mill work, including shafting hangers, and mining machinery of all kinds, and castings of all kinds either for new work or repairs. On the ground is a bed of the finest moulding sand that it is possible to obtain, in fact the sand of itself alone is reported to be a fortune to the company.

The enterprise of the town does not stop here. I understand that an Electric Light Co. is in formation and then the town will shortly be lighted by that modern light instead of as at present, and I doubt not that before many more months, there will be another addition in the shape of a boot and shoe factory. TRAVELLER.

A. Robb & Sons shipped within a few days a shingle machine and one of their new lath machines to Mahone Bay, N. S., also one of their Hercules engines with Monarch boiler to Liverpool, N. S.; one of their mill rigs complete with rotary mill, Monarch Economic boiler, and Hercules engine, portable trimmer, smoke stack, with saw, belts, etc., to Kent Co., N. B.; and yesterday they turned out of their boiler works another Monarch Economic boiler for the new electric light station. They are having a busy time shipping their new steel wood furnaces, and are filling orders for this popular furnace from all parts of the provinces.—*Exch.*