

—The directors of Sydenham Crystal Palace have determined to open a School for Practical Engineering, and late advices from London show that this project is about to be put in operation under very favorable auspices. The lectures will comprise all that comes within the province of engineering, such as locomotives, station gear, roofs, and the manipulation of metal and timber; and the Principal promises, by a series of examinations, to test the attainments of his pupils.

—A new association has been formed in England, under the title of the "National Health Society," which has for its object the helping of every person, rich and poor, to know for himself, and to carry out practically around him the best conditions of healthy living. The steps at present proposed are the holding of monthly meetings for the reading of papers; the establishing of classes for instruction in various branches of sanitary science; the delivery of free popular lectures; and the formation of a reference library and an information office.

—Singular news comes from Denmark. The National Parliament has been brought to the verge of a dissolution by a tremendous quarrel over a public school bill introduced by the Minister of Worship and Public Instruction. This bill proposed to retain the system of compulsory popular instruction which has existed in Denmark for more than two generations, by extending the age of obligatory attendance at school from the fourteenth to the fifteenth year; it arranged the courses of study for summer and winter in such a way that the smaller children would have the summer time principally devoted to them; while in the country the principal part of the winter teaching, when no agricultural work lays claim upon them, was left to the elder ones. For young people above fifteen years the bill opened the prospect of voluntary secondary schools in the winter, endeavoring in this way to form a connecting link between the primary schools and the popular high schools.

—The plan for establishing a Technical College in Glasgow is now assuming a somewhat tangible shape. A subscription list has just been issued, in which we find that thirty subscribers have contributed no less than \$56,000. Subscriptions of \$5,000 each have been given by the firm of Robert Napier & Sons, the eminent shipbuilders and

engineers; Mr. W. Mongomerie Neilson, of the Hyde Park locomotive works, and son of the inventor of the hot blast; and Mr. Tennant, the head of one of the oldest and largest chemical firms in the world. Of the thirty subscribers, twenty-two are members of the general committee. It is proposed, when \$100,000 are subscribed, to begin the actual organization of the Technical College, establishing, in the first instance, chairs for naval architecture and marine mechanical engineering, the theory and practice of weaving, and the theory and practice of dyeing and printing on textile fabrics.

—We quote the following particulars regarding the organization of primary schools in Prussia from the full text of Minister Falk's school regulations, as published in the *Reichs und Staats Anzeiger* :—

"In the one-class schools all children of or above the prescribed age shall be instructed during the same hours and in the same school room by one common teacher. The whole number of children must not exceed eighty.

"In the one-class primary schools the children in the lowest division will receive 20 hours' instruction weekly, and those in the middle and upper divisions 30 hours' instruction, including gymnastics for the boys and needlework for the girls.

"When the number of children is more than eighty, and circumstances do not allow the appointment of a second teacher, or when for other reasons it is considered expedient, a half-day school may be established, with the approval of the authorities, in which 32 hours' instruction in all will be given.

"When there are two teachers in a school, the instruction is to be given in two separate classes. If the number of the children in the school exceeds one hundred and twenty, a three-class school is to be established, with 12 hours' instruction weekly for the third class, 24 for the second class, and 28 for the first class.

"The subjects of instruction in the primary schools are : religion, the German language (reading, writing and speaking), arithmetic, with the elements of geometry, drawing, history, geography and natural philosophy; besides gymnastics for the boys and needlework for the girls."