The student who is not thorough is never well at his ease; he cannot forget the skipped problems, and the consciousness of his deficiencies makes him nervous and anxious.

Never laugh at the slow, plodding student; the time will surely come when the laugh will be turned. It takes time to be thorough, but it more than pays. Resolve, when you take up a study, that you will go through with it like a successful conqueror, taking every strong point.

If the inaccurate scholar's difficulties closed with his school life it might not be so great a matter for his future career. But he has chained to himself a habit that will be like an iron ball at his heel all the rest of his life. Whatever he does will be lacking somewhere. He has learned to shirk what is hard, and the habit will grow with years.—*Anon.*

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

A lawyer in Central New York gives the following account of one of his first cases:

My client sued a neighbour for the alleged killing of a favourite dog. The proof consisted in the mysterious disappearance of the animal, and the possession of a dog's skin by the defendant, which, after considerable argument, was brought into court in evidence. It was marked in a singular manner, and was positively identified, with many tears, by the plantiff's wife and daughter, as the undoubted integument of the deceased Bose. In summing up to the jury, I was in the midst of a highly coloured picture of the virtues of the deceased, and of the love of the children for their four-footed friend, when I was interrupted by a slight disturbance in the crowd near the door of the little school house which served as court house. Looking around, I saw my client's youngest son, a tow-headed urchin of twelve, coming forward with a dog whose skin was the exact counterpart of the one put in evidence. The dog wagged his tail with good-natured composure, and the boy cried, in his childish treble, "Paw, Bose has come home." I gathered up my law-books and retreated, and I never had perfect confidence in circumstantial evidence since.—*Harper's Magazine.*

WHAT IS WATER FOR?

Water is so common we hardly think of it. To begin with, water was God's builder of the world, as we see it. The rocks were mud and sand made by water and laid down by it, one kind on top of another. Coal, made of plants, was covered up by water, so that the rotten plants were kept there and changed to coal. Veins of lead, copper, gold, silver, crystals, were cracks in the rocks, filled with water that had these precious things dissolved in it. And water, as ice (glaciers), ground up rocks into earth, in which plants can grow, the sea and streams helping to do the work. Water builds plants, and animals, too. Three-quarters of what they are made of is water. When you pay twenty cents for a peck of potatoes, you are really paying fifteen of the cents for the water that is in the potatoes. A boy who weighs eighty pounds, if perfectly dried up, would weigh only twenty pounds. And there could be no potatoes nor boy without water. It must dissolve things to make them into new things; and it carries them where they are wanted to build the new things. It softens food, and then as watery blood, carries the food to every part of the body to make new flesh and bones, that we may grow and have strength. It carries the plant's food up into the plant. Water carries man and goods in boats, and, as steam, drives his cars. It makes the wheels go in his factories. It is a great worker, and we could not get along without it. And it makes much of the beauty of the world. Ask your friend how it does that.—*Anon.*

REST AND REPAIR.

There is "food for thought" in the following extract from the London "Lancet:"

"It may be safely assumed that those have been mistaken who supposed that physiological rest consists in inaction, and that repair goes on during quiescence. Nutrition—and therefore repair—is the concomitant of exercise. Appetite is one thing, the power to digest food another. A man may feel ravenous, and consume large quantities of material containing the elements of nutrition, but be unable to appropriate the supply furnished, or, in other words, to nourish himself. It is so with rest. Mere inaction may be secured without *rest*, and idleness without the restoration of energy. The faculty of recovery and recuperation after exercise is in direct proportion to the vitality of the organ rested. This faculty is not to be called into action by inactivity It follows that relief and recovery from what is improperly called "overwork" cannot be obtained by simply "going away for change," or by indulgence in idleness. A new form of exercise is necessary, and the mode of action chosen must be one that supplies moderate exercise to the part of the system which it is required to "rest" and "restore." Health-seekers often err by trying to recover their powers by simple diversion of energy. It is a popular error to suppose that when the brain is overworked the muscular system should be exercised by way of counteraction. The part itself must be worked, so as to stimulate the faculty of nutrition; but it should be set to fresh work, which will incite the same powers to act in a new direction."

SILENCE ABOUT OURSELVES.

Think as little as possible about any good in yourself; turn your eyes resolutely from any view of your acquirements, your influence, your plan, your success, your following—above all, speak as little as possible about yourself. The inordinateness of our self-love makes speech about ourselves like the putting of a lighted torch to the dry wood which has been laid in order for burning. Nothing but duty should open our lips upon this dangerous theme, except it be in humble confession of our sinfulness before God.

Again, be specially upon the watch against those little tricks by which the vain man seeks to bring round the conversation to himself, and gain the praise or notice which his thirsty ears drink in so greedily. Even if praise comes unsought, it is well, while men are uttering it, to guard yourself by thinking of some secret cause for humbling yourself inwardly to God, thinking unto what these pleasant accents would be changed if all that is known to God, and even to yourself, stood revealed to man.

Place yourself often beneath the cross of Calvary; see that sight of love and sorrow; hear those words of wonder; look at the Eternal Son humbling Himself there for you, as you gaze fixedly upon Him, whether he, whose only hope is in that cross of absolute self-sacrifice and self-abasement, can dare to cherish in himself one self-complacent action. Let the Master's words ring ever in your ears: "How can ye believe, who receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"—*Bishop Wilberforce.*

JOHN PLOUGHMAN'S WISE SAYINGS.

Don't be whining about not having a fair chance. Throw a sensible man out of a window, he'll fall on his feet and ask the nearest way to his work. The more you have to begin with, the less you will have in the end. Money you earn yourself is much brighter than any you can get out of a dead man's bags. A scanty breakfast in the morning of life whets the appetite for a feast later in the day. He who has tasted a sour apple will have the more relish for a sweet one. Your present want will make future prosperity all the sweeter. Eighteen pence has set up many a pedlar in business, and he has turned it over until he has kept his carriage. As for the place you are cast in, don't find fault with that; you need not be a horse because you were born in a stable. A hard-working young man with his wits about him will make money, while others will do nothing but lose it. "Who loves his work and knows how to spare, may live and flourish anywhere." As to a little trouble, who expects to find cherries without stones, or roses without thorns? Who would win must learn to bear. Idleness lies in bed sick of the mulligrubs, where industry finds health and wealth. The dog in the kennel barks at flies, the hunting dog does not know that they are there. Laziness waits till the river is dry, and never gets to market. "Try" swims it, and makes all the trade. "Can't-do-it" made meat out of mushrooms.

CURIOUS NUMERICAL FACTS.

The length of a solar year is 365.242 days. The length of a degree of longitude at the equator—taken from the printed Geodetical Tables of the British Ordnance Survey—is 365.234 feet; so that if the number of days in the year is divided by the number of feet in a degree, it will give 1,000 nearly; more exactly 999.977, which, if applied to the foot, would be within the thousandth part of an inch of its true length, a quantity that cannot be seen.

Again, the length of a degree of latitude at the central point of the British Island—according to the authority given above—is 365.242 feet, so that the length of a degree of latitude, measured on that parallel, divided by the number of days in the year, gives exactly 1,000 feet.

Now, there is no connection between the number of days in a year and the number of feet in a degree of latitude or of longitude; but after the lapse of a few thousand years, the scientific traveller from New Zealand or some other part of the globe may pay the inhabitants of Great Britain the same compliment that some scientific travellers are now paying the Egyptians, and attribute to scientific refinement that which is simply an accidental agreement in numbers.

We desire to commend to the author of "A Miracle in Stone," who imagines that, because a correspondence has been discovered between certain dimensions of the great pyramid in Egypt and the diameter of the earth, that therefore the pyramid was built by the direction of the Almighty, and was designed, at least in part, to furnish a standard of measurement for the world.

FEMALE SOCIETY.

What is it that makes all those men who associate habitually with women superior to others who do not? What makes that woman who is accustomed to, and at ease in the society of men, superior to her sex in general? Solely because they are in the habit of free, graceful, continued conversations with the other sex. Women in this way lose their frivolity, their faculties awaken, their delicacies and peculiarities unfold all their beauty and captivation in the spirit of intellectual rivalry. And the men lose their pedantic, rude, declamatory, or sullen manner. The coin of the understanding and the heart changes continually. Their asperities are rubbed off, their better materials polished and brightened, and their richness, like gold, is wrought into finer workmanship by the fingers of women than it ever could be by those of men. The iron and steel of their characters are hidden, like the character and armour of a giant, when they are not wanted in actual warfare.

THERE are four classes of men who print accounts of their travels. First, we have the makers of "tours" and "trips" and "views" and "vacations abroad," who write to be known as having travelled and as "authors." To this great primary division belong young lords fresh from the university, who, before going into "the House," hang up their votive tablets of transmarine adventure in the Temple of Fame in the form of Rambles in the Rocky Mountains, and ladies who never dream that there is anything worth knowing which is not in their guide-book. Then we have the regular professional traveller, who, like the "chanter" or talking man in a show, gets his living by exhibiting the great panorama of the world. He is invariably "a bit of a Barnum," has existed in all ages, and was provocative among the Greeks of several excellent proverbs which discredit all truth in all tourists. Above these we have the peregrinations of great poets, scholars, or diplomatists; and finally the scientific traveller, who, with an object in view, from which death itself must not daunt him, pushes on bravely to the end.

HINTS FOR LADY READERS.

MILK which has become sour may be sweetened or rendered fit for use again by stirring in a little soda.

THE yolk of an egg rubbed thoroughly into the hair, and then washed out with soft water, cleanses the scalp and hair remarkably.

SKIRTS are less scant and clinging than heretofore, and trimmings are beginning to be put on plain, rather than gathered or fluted.

GODEY'S *Lady's Book* says that dresses for this season are likely to be made up a great deal more plainly than they have been for many seasons past.

PRESERVING "skeletons" of leaves, seed-vessels, etc., is a long and tedious process. It is done by macerating them in soft water, and carefully washing away the green matter as it decays.

SPIDERS and their webs form the designs embroidered on the flounces and waistcoats of some Paris gowns. Gold thread is the material usually employed for this work, but sometimes silk is used.

OUR fashion correspondent failed to make mention of it, but buckwheat cakes this season are cut round, of a light brown colour, old gold and amber being the prevailing tints used for trimming.

NOTHING is better for children's morning dress than a sacque princess dress of blue or pink gingham, edged with a gathered flounce, then a ribbon sash round waist; or else a yoke princess dress is pretty.

TRAVELLING costumes are made as plainly as possible, with either a gracefully draped polonaise, and quite short skirt, or else tunic and corsage machine stitched round edges, or trimmed a self-coloured cord.

THE importance of sunshine in rooms devoted to the sick is beyond all calculation. This has been proven in hospitals by experiments again and again. If the bed can be so placed that the patient can see a good reach of blue sky, it will do him or her more good than any drugs. Never enter a sick room in a state of perspiration, as the moment you become cool your pores absorb. Do not approach contagious diseases with an empty stomach, or sit between the sick and the fire, because the heat attracts the vapour. Preventives are better than any pills or powders.

A WRITER in the *Girl's Own Paper* advises "young housekeepers never to be careless in tea making. Warm the teapot and cups, wait till the steam puffs from the spout of the kettle, or lid of the urn, before you pour the boiling water on the tea. Half fill the cups, and then add more water to the teapot before filling them up, unless quite sure that it holds all that will be required without being replenished. Also, never forget the 'cosy' cap, which, should there be none as yet amongst the other appliances of the breakfast table, I advise you to manufacture forthwith for yourselves."

THE *Scientific American* gives an engraving of a very cheap yet strong and comfortable chair which may be made as elegant as the tastes of the maker may dictate. The chair consists merely of a barrel cut off above the second hoop so as to form a complete back with half arms at the side. The barrel thus cut is mounted on two strips of wood, having casters under their ends, and brackets above to form the legs and to add to the appearance of the chair. A head is fitted to the circular portion and the whole is neatly upholstered. Of course it is necessary to select a good barrel bound with iron hoops, and a little care should be taken in the upholstering to disguise the barrel form as much as possible.

THE finest-looking specimens of manhood in every class are to be found among men between the ages of 35 and 50, but how many comely women can be found even among those who have compassed only the smaller number of years mentioned above? The home-work of woman, whether she be wife or servant, needs revision; if only genius can enable a person to be at the same time master and servant, nurse and ruler, then genius in this direction, if there is any, should make itself known for the benefit of those who are fighting magnificently against overwhelming odds. With a slighter physique that is occasionally subject to peculiar duties to which that of man can offer no parallel, woman is expected to daily endure a strain that no man would tolerate for any length of time. Until what is modestly called housekeeping is recognized as the noble science that it really is, and is carefully studied, the slaughter of women by overwork will continue, for at present it requires that every woman shall be a prodigy of sense, industry and endurance.

WOOLLEN dresses are the special feature of autumn and winter seasons. Plain cloths will be used for a variety of serviceable dresses. They have been prepared with extra care, are shrunk, and are to be bought in a very long list of colourings, which are not affected by rain, and are cheaper than heretofore. A new style of making cloth dresses comes to us from France, A box-plaited flounce borders the short skirt; the overdress opens up the front and is quite straight, meeting at the back from the neck in triple plaits. this overdress is formed into long sleeves reaching to the flounce, the arm, covered with a tight fitting sleeve, coming through the upper portion; the bodice is full and belted, with ribbon fastened in a large bow at the side or the front. Plain *foules, serges, vicunas, cashmeres and merinos are all to be* worn, as well as a few rich brocaded woollen and silk cloths, mixed with plain material. Dark blues, military blue, plum, brown, and gray, together with terra cotta, will be the favourite colours. Scotch stuffs, both plaids and checks, are used, especially the large checks, which require skilful matching; but the particular novelty of the manufacturers are the shaded striped tweeds. These sombre stripes are from 1¼ inches to 2 inches wide, and are of two colours, such as blue and gold, gold and brown, black and brown, the colours shot together as well as blended in the stripes. These are being made up as polonaises, jackets and overdresses, with plain tweed; and many plain materials have striped borderings. Tinsel is introduced into several winter fabrics, especially into the accompanying trimming; for example, a plain tweed, with a bordering of coarse interplaited silk, shot with gold.