

the unsightly nail which is mostly used for suspending pictures, etc. They are made in the shape of a leaf, various kinds of wild flowers, such as roses, lily-of-the-valley, geraniums, pansies, etc., printed on them in the best style, having a strong wire hook at the lower end, on which the picture hangs. The backs have a coating of a special tenacious gum, so that it simply needs wetting and then pressing on the wall where the picture is to hang, and it is ready for use. Ladies, especially, will look with favour on them, as by their agency their finger tips are saved from receiving misdirected blows of the hammer, as is usually the case when they attempt to drive a nail. They also save the wall, and by their means a picture can be hung in any place, there being no necessity to hunt about for the spaces between the bricks, as when using nails. In several sizes to hold up to several pounds weight, in boxes of two dozen assorted, retailing at 1s. per box.

### NOVELTIES.

Glancing through some Patent-office documents the other day, I noticed that a genius has patented a paper necktie. The necktie is made in layers, each one of which has its own design, and as the outer layer is soiled it is torn off as one takes a sheet off a pad, and behold! there is a new tie. It is essentially a new wrinkle for the use of bachelors.

Sealing-wax still holds its place, and to add another novelty in the line of paraphernalia necessary for its use a house in this city has imported a lot of bronze seals, the work of Japanese artisans. No two of these seals are alike, and these are certainly novel and pretty.

Then there are some quaint paper knives. I saw a line the other day which was striking. The handles were of bronze, and were from Japan, being fashioned there by native workmen. Each handle has a separate design, and the figures are such as come only from the realm of the "Mikado." The blades were of brass and of domestic manufacture, the mounting being done in this city.

Chamois leather pen wipers are the most serviceable of all, because they wipe the pen thoroughly and leave no lint or fibre as do those of other material. The latest fancy is to adorn them with an artificial rose, from which a tiny face made of chamois and painted peeps out. Other are made of the chamois with the edges cut in fine points. The top leaves have an appropriate legend or "Merry Christmas," with the initials or monogram written in quaint characters in coloured ink. A chamois-covered button finishes the top, holding the leaves in place. It should be run with silk the colour of the ink.—*The American Stationer.*

### BOOK NOTES.

CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE, Rev. W. H. Withrow, D. D., editor, W. Briggs, Toronto. The first number, vol. 23, January, is very good. The

illustrated articles, The Chatauqua Assembly, Wondorland and Beyond (notes of a trip to the Pacific Coast), and the Congo and the Forming of its Free State, are all interesting and the engravings of a superior order. This, the only magazine printed and published in Canada, not all Methodist, for there are many miscellaneous topics treated by able writers, is most creditable in its literary contents, and the make up in style and printing shows that the Methodist Publishing House produces work that is highly commendable.

THE METHODIST BOOK AND PUBLISHING HOUSE has published a Canadian copyright edition of Josiah Allan's wife's new book, "Sweet Cicely." This book is published simultaneously and by arrangement with the owners of the English copyright.

CITY BALLADS, by WILL CARLTON, ROSE PUBLISHING Co., Toronto.

This latest collection of Carlton's Poems has the same quaint and homely strain of his former productions, notable among which was "Over the Hills to the Poor House" and similar ballads. He loses none of his pathos in these present verses of everyday topics. Whatever may be thought of them as poetry, they certainly touch the heart.

THE OPEN SECRET, OR THE BIBLE EXPLAINING ITSELF, by HANNAH WHITALL SMITH, authoress of "The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life."

A wonderfully clear exposition in the form of nineteen Bible readings. Terse and to the point, the outpourings of a full heart, helping others to comprehend more fully the depths of God's love.

YEAR BOOK OF SERMONS AND GOLDEN TEXTS. New York, CASSELLS & Co.

Highly recommended by leading ministers of the United States and leading religious journals.

We call the following from "London Notes" in *The Book Buyer*:—

"The Life of Henry Fawcett" has been well written by Mr. Leslie Stephen. It is especially interesting as far as the biography is concerned. The latter part of any biography is rarely so interesting as its commencement, and it is notably the case with this. The man himself is more interesting than his views. This is a fact that should be borne in mind when the work is published in a cheap, popular edition, as most assuredly it will be.

One of the most attractive volumes shortly to be published is "Old 'Miscellany' Days." It consists of stories by various authors, reprinted from *Bentley's Miscellany*. There are thirty-three illustrations on steel, by George Cruikshank, and as these were only worked once, fifty years ago, and are very carefully printed in the present instance, the impressions come out wonderfully sharp and brilliant. There must be over thirty stories of every variety, included in this most interesting collection.

It is pretty certain that the three-volume novel is doomed. The great popularity of the one-volume novel—in which we have followed the example of America—be it sold for one shilling or six—combined