

and is easily reared in any part of the country.—The Kola-nut of Western Central Africa, largely used as both food and medicine by the natives, is found to contain about 2 per cent of that valuable active principle of tea and coffee, *theine*.—The National Life-boat Institution has prepared an efficient cork life-belt for the use of seamen and others, at a cost of 4s. sterling.—A $\frac{3}{4}$ inch Objective Microscope manufactured by Messrs Powell & Lealand, has a magnifying power that may be brought up to 15,000 diameters; and the lenses are so small that the workman is obliged to use a microscope in preparing them.—The wages of every employè in the Cossipore Sugar Refinery, Bengal, are calculated according to the profits realized each month, the result being that every one works with a sense of self-interested alacrity.—In the early days of steamboats on the North River, huge shafts of boiler iron were used, 6 feet in diameter, properly stayed and strengthened; no forges or lathes being in use to make or turn wrought or cast-iron shafts.—A writer in the "*Essex Journal*" says that the islands at the head of Lake Erie are admirably adapted for the cultivation of the Grape Vine, both as to soil, and the equalizing of the temperature by the pure air from the Lake; the adjacent American Islands produce immense crops of this delicious fruit, of the finest kinds.—Magnesium wire has just fallen in price, at one drop, from 25s. to 12s. per ounce; and in quantities of 5 ounces, to 10s. per ounce. Coffee swims on water, while chickory sinks, thus affording a ready means of detection.—Some one recommends galvanized iron telegraph wire for clothes lines, and says it never rusts, need never be taken in, never breaks down and lets the wet clothes fall in the dirt.—A Mr. Ferguson pays \$9,000 for six months, for the privilege of removing the coal ashes from the Parish of St. Pancras, in London; a short time ago the parish had to pay for their removal. We are at present ignorant of the uses to which coal ashes are put.—A Pneumatic under ground Railway is proposed to run under the Thames, connecting Whitehall and Waterloo Station, near Vine Street. It is to admit a full sized omnibus

Diagrams.

A method of exhibiting diagrams of apparatus, &c., by which lecturers may be saved the expense of the large drawings generally used, has been suggested by M. Thibierge, of Versailles. His plan is to make a small sketch of the apparatus on a plate of glass, and with a large lantern to throw a magnified image on the screen. The lantern he illuminates by an ordinary gas burner with twenty-four holes, and with two silvered reflectors finds the light sufficient even to give a well-defined image of the electrolysis of water.

Choice of Color in Dress.

M. Chevruel, the Government Superintendent of the dyeing department of the great Parisian manufactory of the celebrated Gobelins tapestries, has recently delivered a series of lectures at Paris on complexions and colors, full of valuable hints to ladies. We quote:—"The pink of the complexion is brought out by a green setting in dress or bonnet; and any lady who has a fair complexion

that admits of having its rose tint a little heightened, may make effective use of the green color, but it should be a delicate green, since it is of importance to preserve harmony of tone. When there is in the face a tint of orange mixed with brown, a brick red hue will result from the use of green; if any green at all be used in such a case, it should be dark. But for the orange complexion of a brunette, there is no color superior to yellow. This imparts violet to a fair skin, and injures its effect. A skin more yellow than orange has its yellow neutralized by the suggestion of the complement, and a dull white effect imparted. The orange skin, however, has its yellow neutralized, and the red left; so that the freshness of complexion is increased in dark-haired beauties. Blue imparts orange, which enriches white complexions and light flesh tints; it also, of course, improves the yellow hair of blondes. Blue, therefore, is the standard color for a brunette. But the brunette who has already too much orange in her face, must avoid setting in blue. Orange suits nobody; it whitens a brunette, but that is scarcely a desirable effect, and it is ugly. Red, unless when it is so dark as to increase the effect of whiteness by contrast of tone, is rarely suitable in any close neighborhood to a lady's skin. Rose red destroys the freshness of a good complexion; it suggests green."

Improvement in Organs and Harmoniums.

An important invention has just been patented by Mr. Dawes, of Leeds, Engineer. The principle is this: that the highest note of any chord played on the key-board, is made to predominate with greater power than the harmony. Thus the melody always stands out prominently as if produced by another instrument. The effect, it is said, is sometimes marvellous, converting a comparatively dull and tuneless instrument into a brilliant and enjoyable one. It is said to be the one essential improvement which will make harmoniums fit for places of worship as well as for the home circle. The invention is already patented in England, France and Belgium. The patentee has given the name of "*Melodie Celeste*" to his invention, which is exceedingly simple, and can be applied it is said, to any instrument for about 5s.

Metallic Ceiling.

Mr Little has invented a system for the construction of ceilings, which consists in the application to the joisting of very thin stamped ductile metal, in ornamental embossed panels, of such sizes and shapes as may be required. These stamped panels are fitted for every kind of decoration in colour, and, if inserted as plain surfaces may be used as the ground for every description of cartoon painting, combining with lightness and durability, artistic and ornamental effect, at a comparatively small cost. Besides its applicability to the ceilings of rooms, and all public buildings, churches, &c., the system may be made use of with the same effect in staircases, halls, porticoes, and even on the walls of rooms. It affords the means when coupled with an iron framing, of making theatres fire-proof, thus avoiding those sad contingencies to which these crowded buildings are so exposed.