

moreover, with solid brick partition walls from ground to roof, dividing room from room.

Conscious that many of the older hotels in the States are mere fire-traps the author has suggestions as to safeguards against fire. He would add to the brick partition walls a thorough acquaintance with the building on the part of the local fire department, and advocates regular drill of the porters and hall men as a fire company. A very sensible proposal by way of aid in case of fire is the marking out of staircases by red lights. Simplicity of design, it is added, reduces the liability of theft and other breaches of the moral code. "Guests at a large hotel unintentionally form an effective police force. Their presence has an effect like that of passers-by in a street, when gas-light is the sole defence of premises stored with valuable goods." Plumbing, warming and ventilation are noticed somewhat fully. It will readily occur to any one who thinks over the matter that the walls and floors of a large hotel form a remarkable net work of water pipes, steam pipes, waste pipes, ventilators, bell-wires, and the use of water is simply enormous. The abundant use of water, the great distance of sinks or closets from the cuisine arrangements tend to protect hotels from zymotic diseases. For health is indispensable that the plumbers' work be carefully done. It is well to have each floor separately connected with the street main.

Not the least of difficulties which surround the manager of an American or Canadian hotel is the heating of the building in winter. Suppose it to have six floors—heated air will rise, and it is not an uncommon thing to have the top stories absolutely hot and yet the ground floor chilly. It is not improbable that the Siemens' water-gas system may yet be adopted as fuel for hotels. Experience has shown that direct radiation from steam-pipes is the best method of heating. Much of the heat from fire-places in rooms is dissipated through faulty construction and the metallic flue is suggested as preferable to non-conducting brick. To secure equable ventilation the proper plan is to have flues near both ceiling and floor for the exhaustion of fuel and the admission of fresh air.

A paragraph is devoted to the means of securing quiet, especially to busy, nervous or delicate guests. Padded carpets on stairs and corridors, rubber on chair legs and trucks, slippers on the porter, have done much, but more remains. A telephone in every room, connected with a special department of the office, and including a small bell at the head of the bedstead or some other convenient spot, are among the suggestions made for getting rid of much disturbance that appears now unavoidable.

The chapter on the working department of a modern caravanserai is full of practical interest. "It is always washing-day in a hotel," we are told, and therefore to avoid the offensive smell of soap-suds and the like, the laundry should either be in a separate building or in the attic. Mechanical appliances greatly reduce drudgery nowadays in modern hotel kitchens and laundries. "Vegetables and fruit are peeled and grated, peas and corn shelled, cher-

ries pitted, eggs whisked, meat chopped, roasts turned, and ice cream frozen by steam power." * * * "Powerful engines furnish electric light and are used to make ice for the tables and to chill brine for circulation through refrigerators."

The hotel staff consists of the head clerk, steward, head waiter, housekeeper, chef, head porter and head laundress. The working department is made up of the boiler-room, engine-room, butcher's shop, storeroom, kitchen, wine-room, laundry and work shops. The shop staff includes engineers, plumbers, gas and steam fitters, upholsterers, silver smiths and even an electrician.

It is agreeable to learn that the dietary is improving in America, and that the hotels are moving in the direction of simplicity of fare. The best hotels are curtailing their bills of fare and paying more attention to the cooking. The gridiron is pushing aside the frying-pan. "Pie, too, is going, and its exodus has had much to do with the genesis of fat. But hot bread and cakes still hold their own, and the baleful ice-pitcher remains, active for stomachic mischief." Fruits and vegetables are consumed more plentifully than formerly. Porridge is more procurable in a New York than in an Edinburgh hotel. With cracked wheat it has gone across the continent and reached the Pacific slope, doing good all the way. Compared with householders, hotel-keepers have little trouble with servants. Even when the Windsor is full, there are—a fact which will no doubt cause some surprise—more servants than guests, and yet that great staff of workers is controlled with ease.

LUMBER AND TIMBER.

After a number of enquiries among lumbermen, we find, that although there is no quotable rise in prices, the feeling is everywhere one of firmness with an impression that any change must be upward. The *Ottawa Free Press* of last week reports a good demand from the United States for better quality pine, of which the supply is light. "Only one-fourth of the cut," says that journal, "can now be reckoned as of good quality, being a smaller percentage of the whole than in former years. The inferior qualities yield just about enough to pay expenses of cutting, leaving a bare margin of profit. Trade, on the average, is fairly prosperous at the capital, and we expect that the demand will rather increase before winter than otherwise." As to the recent strike at Bay City, Michigan, it is practically over with the mills above that place. Forty-two mills are running, twenty-nine of them eleven hours time, thirteen at ten hours; only three are stopped, and the workmen, says the *Lumberman's Gazette*, have gained nothing by the strike. In Bay City, nine mills have been running all last week on ten hours' time, three at eleven hours. More will presently resume on eleven hours' time, the proprietors being determined not to yield. It is estimated that the strike will occasion a shortage of 200,000 feet in the cut. It is worthy of remark that a number of American operators are exploring the Georgian Bay district in Ontario with a view to purchase, at prices of stumpage advanced from 50 to 100 per cent. The Ontario Government has, it appears, determined on a sale of limits in October next, deeming it a favorable time to sell pine lands.

At the recent meeting of prominent lumbermen in the Mississippi Valley, held in St. Paul, the opinion was freely expressed that the condition of lumber stocks and the demand, present and prospective, was favorable to an advance of from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per thousand feet. Pine lands in Michigan, it appears, maintain their price. Indeed, it is freely predicted that the supply of trees in the three great pine States of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, which are now competitors of Canada, cannot hold out long at the present rate of consumption, and when their supply is exhausted, that of Canada must be drawn upon. As to square timber, one Ottawa dealer recently obtained 30 cents per cubic foot, a big price. But the average of 65 feet was far above the common run. There is but little of those dimensions to go down this year, in the opinion of the *Ottawa Free Press*. The outlook for our woods is by no means discouraging, and there is no apparent reason why our timber operators should not "keep a stiff upper lip."

PRICES OF HIDES AND LEATHER.

Not since the year 1878 have prices of leather in the United States reached so low a point as this month. A comparative statement compiled by the *Shoe and Leather Reporter* gives comparative prices of hides and leather at the middle of August, for eight years. It shows the rates prevailing—since and including 1878—at the opening of fall trade. Prices of leather are at a lower point than they have been in seven years.

HIDES—COMPARATIVE PRICES PER LB.

	B. A. & Montevideos.	City Sl'r.	R. G. Kips.
1885	22½ @ 22½	9½	22
1884	23 @ —	9	23
1883	23½ @ 24	9½	22
1882	24½ @ 25	11	23
1881	24 @ 25	10½	23½
1880	23½ @ 24	10½	23
1879	21½ @ 22	9 @ 9½	20½
1878	21 @ 21½	8 @ 8½	17½

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF LEATHER.

	Heal'k Sole.	B. A. & M. V.	Union B'ks.	Oak B'ks.
1885	22 @ 23	29 @ 32	35 @ 38	38 @ 42
1884	24 @ 25	32 @ 34	39 @ 43	40 @ 44
1883	24 @ 25½	35 @ 37½	37 @ 42	40 @ 42
1882	23 @ 25½	36 @ 37½	34 @ 36	38 @ 40
1881	25 @ 27	37 @ 39	27 @ 31	36 @ 40
1880	23 @ 25	34 @ 36		
1879	23 @ 24	33 @ 34		
1878	20 @ 21½	27 @ 31		

An additional column in the table, for which we have not room, gives the prices of R. G. wax and kips per foot, beginning with 13 to 15½ cents in August, 1878; 16 to 17c. the next year, 18 to 21c. in 1880, gradually declining to 18 to 19c., 17 to 18c., 17 to 19c. in three succeeding years, with 16½ to 18c. and 16 to 18c. as the prices for 1884 and 1885.

RAILWAY EARNINGS IN EUROPE.

It is tolerably evident that railway earnings the world over have suffered a check in the last year or two. We know what has happened in this respect in Canada and the United States, and we learn from recent advices that British and European lines find a similar reduction in earnings. In France, for instance, the aggregate revenue of the old and new networks of the Orleans railway to July 15 this year amounted to £3,578,368 as compared with £3,659,002 in the corresponding period of 1884, showing a decrease of £80,114 this year. The Northern of France has announced an issue of 50,000 £ per cent. obligations of £20 each redeemable in 72 years, from July 1, 1885. The issue price is £12 12s. to