PROFESSORS AND TEACHERS

Topics That Brought Out Views on Various Lines of Educational Efforts.

Religious Sentiment and Scholarship as President Mills Considers Them—Other Papers from College Men and School Teachers.

THE COLLEGE PROFESSORS.

Papers Read and Discussed at the Meeting of Their Association.

The opening session of the Indiana College Association's annual meeting was held yesterday afternoon, in the parlors of the New Denison. The various colleges were represented as follows:

Rose Polytechnic Institute—Professors Waldo, Wickersham and Gray.
Purdue University—Professors Stanley, Coulter, Craig, Stevens and McRae.
Franklin College—President Stott and Prof. Moncrief.
Hanover College—Prof. Hunter.
Earlham College—President Mills, Professors Hodgin, Trueblood and Anna Brown.
Butler University—Professors Benton, Hay and Garvin.
Moore's Hill College—Prof. Spencer.
Wabash College—Professors J. M. Coulter, Milford, Campbell and Norris.
State University—President Jordan, Professors Atwater, Swain, Hoffman and Burns.
Vincennes University—Professors Bryan and Aley.
DePauw University—Dr. Martin, Professors Carhart and Mansfield.

President J. J. Mills, of Earlham College, president of the association, called the meeting to order, and the report of the treasurer, showing a balance of $136 in the treasury, was presented and approved. The matter of the publication of the proceedings of 1889-90 was referred to the executive committee, President Mills and Professors Coulter and Waldo. Professors Stevens, Wickersham and J. M. Coulter were appointed a committee on nominations for the ensuing year. The Central Normal College, of Danville, filed an application for admission to the association. The application was laid over until this morning for discussion.

President Mills then delivered his annual address, the subject being "The Religious Sentiment in Its Relation to Scholarship." He said that the intellectual activity of the race began in religious thought and practice. Faith was the dominant element in the mind of primitive man, and out of religious sentiment rather than out of reason were born those institutions which have continued through all history to be the fundamental factors in human society, viz., the family, the right of private property, civil law and patriotism. The earliest philosophers were worshipers, and the first great fountains of scholarship were, like Delphi and Delos, the shrines of the world's most fervent faith. In time, with the broadening of men's minds, philosophy disowned her elder sister. With the overflow of the ancient faiths Grecian and Roman philosophy overturned the ancient institutions of society as well, and the social conditions which made possible an advance in human learning disappeared from the world. With the revival of the religious sentiment through the preaching of Christianity learning revived. Thenceforward for four centuries the history of the world is the history of the conflict between the new faith and the old philosophies. By the close of the fourth century of this era the triumph of the new learning was complete and the schools of the civilized world had become Christian. The march of education had gone from the theology of the most ancient times, through pagan philosophy and Roman imperialism, back again to theology as held by the Christian church.

The intellectual stagnation which overwhelmed Europe during the middle ages was not the result of religious sentiment, but of gnosticism and other philosophic doctrines, and of ecclesiasticism. When the revival of learning came, it had its origin in the depths of the religious life of the people.

When Dr. Draper, continued the speaker, sets forth the successive stages in the progress of reason in its revolution against blind credulity, he points to the Albigenses, to Wyclif and to Luther, in whose lives the religious sentiment was the motive power. When, in time, an infidel philosophy began to color the social and political literature of Europe, a catastrophe resulted, similar in kind to that which followed the expulsion of the gods from the Pantheon by the philosophy of antiquity. History again records the lesson that when philosophy turns in rivalry upon her elder sister and succeeds in crushing out the "cradle faiths" of a people, the conditions under which alone popular learning may be propagated have been undermined. Turning from the historical argument, the testimony of psychology was adduced by President Mills, to show the necessary relation of the religious sentiment to the highest ends of scholarship, viz., the explanation of the world and the discovery of a true theory of human life.

The address was discussed by Drs. Martin, Stott and Hobbs, and, following their speeches, Prof. A. S. Hunter, of Hanover College, read a paper on "The Relation of Mathematics to Metaphysics." He traced the close relations existing between the two sciences, and said that the kind of training and discipline to which the successful mathematician must subject himself is that which is apt to develop the metaphysician. All metaphysicians have not been mathematicians, but he was willing to hazard the opinion that all eminent metaphysicians have been capable of becoming mathematicians, notwithstanding one or two seeming exceptions that might be cited. He then cited numerous instances to substantiate his theory. He said that a comparative view of the two sciences led him to conclude that mathematics, rather than any other single science, deserves to be ranked next to metaphysics. He hoped to see the highest development of the first of the sciences and the highest appreciation of the second. The paper was discussed by Professors Stevens, Craig, Waldo, Norris and Martin.

Some of the members desired to change the programme so as to hold no evening session, as they wanted to attend Dr. Hinsdale's lecture at Plymouth Church. A motion to that effect caused quite a breezy discussion, and was finally voted down.

Reassembling at 7:30, the committee on nominations reported the following officers for the ensuing year: President, C. A. Waldo, of Rose Polytechnic Institute; vice-president, Amzi Atwater, of the State University; secretary, Stanley Coulter, of Purdue University; treasurer, A. B. Milford, of Wabash College. The application of the Normal School at Danville for admission to the association was referred to a committee of three.

Prof. Thomas Gray, of Rose Polytechnic Institute, read a paper on "The Function of the Laboratory in Technical Schools." Three distinct reasons for the existence of laboratories in technical colleges were given as follows: First, their use as teaching machines. Second, their use as a means of investigation, thus allowing these colleges to perform one of their most important functions, namely, the advancement of the subjects taught beyond limits already reached. Third, their use as a means of instructing engineers how properly to test materials and machines. These three functions were fully explained, and, in concluding his paper, Professor Gray remarked: "It is the spread of knowledge of this sort and the application of it which is going to determine the most solid advances in the future of engineering, and it is the development of the instinct for this kind of knowledge which, to a large extent, is the function of a laboratory in a technical college."

"The Study of Man through Language and Literature" was the subject of Prof. Horace Hoffman's paper. He classified his subject under two heads, viz.: man and nature, and discussed them ably and intelligently.

The closing paper of the evening was by Prof. E. B. Y. Spencer, of Moore's Hill College, his subject being "Word Color." He held that words, letters and figures all suggest to the mind an appearance of shade or color, some being very light, and others dark, and others medium. "These shades and colors are permanent," said the Professor, "and a word or symbol seems to have a peculiar and individual character which never changes." He divided all visible objects into classes upon a basis of the lightness or darkness of their shades of color. Three themes were offered as explanations of word color. First—That word color is dependent upon the thought conveyed by the word; second, that it is dependent upon the sound of the pronounced word; third, that it is dependent upon the visible form of the written word or character. These theories were admirably worked out, and the paper was a novel and exceedingly interesting one.

This morning's session will close the regular meeting. Two papers will be read—one by Prof. H. C. Garvin, of Butler University, on "What Language Should be Studied First," and the other by Prof. Robert J. Aley, of Vincennes University, on "Mathematics in Preparatory Schools." In the afternoon the mathematical section of the association will hold a meeting, together with any other sections that may be organized.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Subjects with Which the State's Pedagogues Were Entertained.

The State Teachers' Association continued its session at Plymouth Church yesterday morning with a large attendance of members. Most of the time was used in hearing papers and discussing the propositions and suggestions in regard to school work thus set forth. The first paper was that of Dr. David S. Jordan, president of the State University. His subject was "Science in the High-school." Taking zoology as an example, he said that in very few high-schools has instruction in that science any real value. For this there are several causes, and some of them are beyond the control of the teachers. The high-school is not equipped as a general school of science. It can do some things well, but it will fail if it tries to do too much. It is to be regretted that the present tendency in our high-schools is to do many things poorly, rather than a few things well. The high-school ought not to attempt to give a general view of science. It is better to select two or three of the number, a physical and a biological science, perhaps, and to spend the available time on them. The choice should depend mainly on the skill or the interest of the teacher. A great deal will depend, not on the kind of books that are used, but on the kind avoided. Nearly all the text-books in zoology are simply pernicious.

The essential of method, the Doctor continued, is that nothing be allowed to come between the student and the object which he studies. He shall examine for himself and draw his own conclusions from what he himself has seen. "You do not wish," he said, "to have your students tell you from memory the characters of the ichthyopsida as distinguished from the sauropsida, but you would know what they have learned from their own questionings of the frog or the turtle. It is not necessary to teach them that vertebrates are divided into mammals, birds, reptiles, batrachians and fishes. It is not true, in the first place, and if it were, it does not concern them. Stick to your frog if you are studying frogs and he will teach you more of the science of animals than all the memorized classifications that you can bracket out on a hundred rods of blackboard. The prime defect in our schools is not, after all, that the teachers do not know the subjects they teach, but that too many of them lack any clear conception of what they are trying to do. The book is placed in their hands by the school board and they teach by the book. If the book came to them wrong side up, their teaching would be forever inverted. Yet nothing is easier than to do fairly good teaching without special appliances, or special knowledge even. Bring out your specimens and set them before the boys and girls. They will do the work, and do it eagerly. There is no lack of materials. Our new world was, and is, the Eldorado of the European naturalists. LeSueur, and Owen, and Say found work for a lifetime in the woods and streams about New Harmony."

In the absence of Dr. Charles R. Dryer, of Fort Wayne, Mr. J. Spelman, of Vincennes University, opened the discussion of the paper. He agreed in the main with the Doctor, and thought that as science is now taught it has the effect of disgusting pupils with the subject. As it is now taught it appeals to the imagination, a power not very highly developed in pupils of to-day. They do not like to exercise this power. As an illustration, he had noticed on his way to this city some beech trees which were new to him, as they do not grow in Missouri, where he had spent the greater part of his life. He noticed a characteristic about these trees, by which he would be able to distinguish them when he would again see them. This was the peculiar manner in which the branches are subdivided. He noticed this, although it was growing dark at the time. It would be difficult to describe this to pupils so that they would recognize these trees, but take them to the tree, and let them observe by the power of perception, and they will see more than can be described in a month. One of the troubles teachers have to contend with is the fact that school boards have not the proper appreciation of the necessary facilities for teaching science. "The point is," he remarked, "to cultivate public sentiment on this question. We must convince our school boards that with better facilities we could do enough better work to pay us for getting these better facilities."

Wm. A. Bell said he always liked to give a little aid to the "under dog in the fight." It seemed to him the statement was very strong when it was said that books were worthless, and it would be a help to burn them up. Any fact that has been discovered is worth writing down and preserving. To say that a person who is not to become a zoologist is not to learn anything from others is putting it pretty strong.

Professor Carhart said that the subject was exceedingly interesting to those who had been intrusted with the responsibility of arranging a reading course for the teachers. It had been a very troublesome part of the work to arrange and advise something in the study of natural science. Dr. Jordan had failed to make a distinction which exists between the president of the State University and the average country school-teacher.

L. H. Jones said he agreed with every suggestion made by Dr. Jordan, provided he would limit his suggestions to the acquirement of the fundamental steps by which nature and books must be interpreted. The discussion was further continued by Mr. Butler, Mr. C. A. Hargrave and Mr. T. G. Alford.

A paper by H. M. LaFollette, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was to have been read, but it had to be deferred, owing to that gentleman's indisposition. Dr. J. N. Study, superintendent of the Richmond schools, then read a paper upon "The True Function of School Supervision." It is the duty of the supervisor, he said, to determine the sequence of studies, the time to be given each and the text to be used. It is the function of the superintendent to unify the schools. He will be hindered by inefficient teachers until the schools are filled by those who expect to make a life-work of teaching, and who have been trained for this purpose. Mr. Study thought the number of women employed in the public schools is a hindrance to the highest efficiency, and that the next two decades will probably see a marked increase in the number of men employed in teaching. But the woman who chooses teaching as a vocation should receive compensation equal to that of a man. The reader then continued his references to the work of supervisors, who, he said, must give attention to the sanitary conditions of his schools. They should decide the amount of light and manner of admission, and the ventilation, and heating, and furnishing of the building. They should also notice if pupils occupy seats or positions conducive to deformity of body.

L. H. Jones briefly indorsed the sentiments of the paper. He thought that superintendents should not forget to study the teachers, as many times they would be able to give them valuable suggestions that would lead to the accomplishment of things which would never have occurred without the suggestion of the superintendent. Dr. Hobbs said that the qualifications of county superintendents should be more closely looked after. It had been a matter of surprise to him that there had not been more care taken to know whether county superintendents are qualified for their positions.

Miss Martha J. Ridpath, principal of the High-school at Greencastle, read a paper on "Should German Be Taught in the High-school?" One of the obstacles against it was, she asserted, in the inaptitude of many children to acquire a knowledge of language. The greatest difficulty lay in the fact that many were trying to do what could not be accomplished, teaching grammar to children when they are too young to fully understand it. The incapacity of mind to grasp an idea of language a teacher cannot supply. Grammar, to a large extent, must be learned from language, and not language from grammar. Therefore it should be taught in high-schools. It should be taught with a similarity of purpose, for it is expected that the high-schools will second the work of the grades and supply whatever might be wanting in the practical education of the pupil.

In the discussion which followed the reading of the paper F. L. Sanders, Connersville, thought that teachers generally were making a great mistake in the lower grades. They were teaching pupils to make sentences out of certain words, but did not give them connected sentences. Professor Tompkins, of New Castle, argued that the fact was clear that grammar could not be taught in the graded schools. One difficulty arose from teachers not giving a meaning to the word grammar. Professor Parson, of Terre Haute, said from the day a child enters a school until he leaves, at the end of a high-school course, every lesson should be a drill in correct expression. The study of grammar, he claimed, was one of very great importance, and every person who undertakes to master his language must rely upon the fundamental form of the sentences, their distinctions, classification and generalization.

Dr. Ridpath, of Greencastle, stated that the whole question resolved itself into the fact of whether it was worth while to teach formal or technical grammar.

Five-minute reports upon how to train high-school pupils to study intelligently were then submitted by G. D. Roberts, Greensburg; Miss Emily W. Peakes, Terre Haute; Miss Kittie E. Palmer, Brookville, and W. M. Wheeler, Evansville. A committee consisting of T. E. Kinsey, Hagerstown; J. E. Henry, Peru, and J. Z. McCaughan, of Amboy, was appointed to select officers for the ensuing year. The association then adjourned until 1:30 this afternoon.

Dr. Hinsdale's Lecture.

In the evening B. A. Hinsdale, Ph. D., of Ann Arbor, Mich., delivered a lecture to the association upon "Garfield as Student, Teacher, Soldier and Statesman." After briefly reviewing the salient points of the late President's career, the lecturer said that as a statesman Garfield always strove to keep in line with the young. But his success as a school-teacher was due to the respect he entertained for boys and girls, and his sympathy with young life. Referring to his political career, the lecturer said that previous to 1856 Garfield never took any interest in politics, but when he did he soon became a recognized power. He is the only man who was Representative, Senator-elect and party President at the same time. Garfield excelled in broad generalization, but he excelled even more in the accumulation of facts themselves. Once, when asked at what time his greatest labors were performed, he replied: "When I was chairman of the appropriations committee, for then my fellow-members seemed to regard me as a mere mill for the grinding out of facts."

As to his religious life and character, Garfield became a member of the Church of Disciples when a boy, and continued so until his death. He was never a clergyman, but was a minister for several years. His sermons were strong and elevating. He once said, addressing some bank directors who had lost $750,000 through the unfaithfulness of a cashier: "Gentlemen, I would not put any man in such a responsible position who did not believe in God." The cashier in question was an atheist. Garfield took a great interest in the business welfare of the country. He learned all that the books of economists could teach him on the great subject. He was happy when in conversation with a farmer, merchant or shop-keeper who could furnish him with facts, and he thus kept himself identified with the commercial life of the Nation. Garfield had written: "Labor is the only symbol of omnipotence."

AMUSEMENTS.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE—"ERMINIE."

"Erminie" was presented in handsome style to a very large audience at the Grand last night by Aronson's Comic Opera Company. It was beautifully staged, the company bringing all its own scenery, and the costumes were seemingly as new as if in use for the first time. The old favorite, Bob Graham, made a graceful and handsome Ravennes, and Louis De Lange was evidently satisfactory to the audience as Cadeaux, for his antics created enough laughter. He was too much inclined, however, to overdo the role. Cadeaux was not a clown in a pantomime. The duo, "We Are Lifters," was well rendered by Graham and De Lange, and, together with all the popular members of the opera, was encored enthusiastically. Miss Helen Lamont was the "Erminie," and a very pretty one. She has a splendid voice, and her rendition of the familiar lullaby was the feature of the evening. "Javotte" and "Cerise" were well sung and acted by Miss Emma Hanley and Miss Laura Millard, while Ross David's tenor was heard to good advantage as Eugene. The chorus was strong, and good looking. Some of its prettiest work was heard in the "Good Night" song in the last act. "Nadjy" will be given to-night and to-morrow night, and "Erminie" will be repeated at the matinee to-morrow.

NOTES.

Realism is one of the strong points of "The Stowaway," which is to be given its first presentation in this city at the Grand next week. In addition to the novelty of blowing open a safe by two expert cracksmen, there will be a thrilling scene on a yacht in mid-ocean and other features of that character. The drama is one of the best of its kind.

There will be a change of bill at the Park this afternoon, "Kentucky Bill" being substituted for "Diogenes, the Tramp."

BASE-BALL INTELLIGENCE.

Jerry Denny Arranging a Game for New Year's Day.

Encouraged by the California Christmas weather, Jerry Denny is arranging a game of base-ball for New Year's day. He expects to get two nines together made up from the following players: Thompson, Myers, Boyle, Rusie, Denny, Grimm, Murphy, Sowders, Gray, Seery and others. These players will be divided as equally as possible regarding playing strength, and some excellent sport is expected. Denny is not at all dismayed by the report of a cold wave headed this way, but says if Christmas can put up such base-ball weather he will chance it on New Year's. The game is to be played at the ball park.

Association Contracts Promulgated.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 26.—The first bulletin issued by President Phelps, of the American Association, was sent out yesterday. It was as follows:

The following contracts for 1890, having been examined and found in due form and properly executed, are approved: With Columbus, S. A. Nichols; with St. Louis, William Kane, Thos. Ramsey, Otto Vonderbroeck, J. J. Roseman, Harry Fuller, W. B. Fuller and John Darrah.

You are further notified that the Rochester and Toledo clubs have been admitted to membership in the American Association.

President Phelps also announced the unconditional release, by Louisville, of Jack Gilligan, left-fielder, and Dan Shannon, second base, and the signing, by St. Louis, of Julius Farrell.

Bound to Enjoy Himself.

Philadelphia Record.

A philosophic Western man, just arrived at Broad-street station, exclaimed to two associates: "We're only a little time living, and we're a long time dead. Come on, boys, and have some oysters."

Pleasure and Payin'.

'Tis nice along the snow to whirl
Within a sleigh, snug wrapped in furs,
One arm entwined about your girl,
Your frozen knuckles squeezed in hers.

'Tis nice to feel her snuggle tight—
Who for the world then cares a fig!
But ain't it tough when late at night
You turn in at the stable and hand over a week's salary for the rig!

—Binghamton Herald.

Here's an Opinion.

Washington Press.

Alfred Tennyson's latest poem, "Demeter and Persephone," cabled to the New York Independent is as good as the best of his earlier productions. It is better than any other man now living has ever written.

"LAWS grind the poor, and rich men rule the law." But let us be thankful that any poor sufferer can buy with only 25 cents a bottle of Salvation Oil.

THE enormous sale of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup has developed many new remedies; but the people cling to the old reliable, Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.

BUSINESS METHODS IN USE

Secretary Proctor Applies Practical Ideas in a War Department Bureau.

How a Great Accumulation of Pension Cases Was Cleared Away—Advantages of the System Introduced Six Months Ago.

Washington Letter in New York Tribune.

It is one of the curious anomalies of departmental organization that while the Pension Bureau is a part of the Department of the Interior, all the original record evidence in possession of the government bearing on pension claims is under the control of the War Department. There are in that department over 22,000 volumes of hospital record-books, and over half a million rolls and books showing the service records of the veterans of the late war. There are 647 clerks engaged in the work of answering calls from the Pension Office for information obtainable from these sources alone. When Secretary Proctor became the head of the department last spring, this work was badly in arrears. In the Adjutant-general's office there were over 40,000 cases on hand undisposed of. There were but few cases which had not been in the office for more than thirty days and the bulk of them from sixty to ninety, while there were some which were known as officer re-muster cases which had been in the office from one to four years. The whole system was calculated to make rather than save work. The Pension Office made one call on the Surgeon-general's office of the War Department for the claimant's hospital record, and it made another separate one on the Adjutant-general's office for the service record, and received separate answers thereto. In the Adjutant-general's office the work was divided among thirteen divisions and subdivisions, necessarily making work for each other. The department had unconsciously fallen into hopelessness as to the possibility of bringing the work up to date; and there were not wanting those who even maintained that it was impossible to work to advantage unless there was an accumulation of cases on hand.

Secretary Proctor is distinctively a business man and has the reputation of having the nerve to carry out a reform which his judgment and experience tell him to be necessary. In spite of the opposition and fears of lesser officials he issued an order on July 8 creating the record and pension division of the War Department, and transferred thereto all the records of the department relating to pension matters from the several bureaus in which they had previously been kept. Captain Ainsworth, U. S. A., was placed in charge of the whole. According to the reports of the chiefs of the subdivisions, there were on the morning of that day 40,550 cases undisposed of in those parts of the Adjutant-general's office so transferred. On July 22 there were by actual count 38,949 cases on hand. It is understood that the Secretary told Captain Ainsworth when he put him in charge of the work that he would give him three months to bring up the arrearage and be in shipshape to answer calls from day to day as they were made; and that if he failed, he (the Secretary) should try to find some one else who could.

"Where there is a will there is a way," and the introduction of business methods and business energy cleared away the great mass of accumulated cases, keeping up the current business meanwhile, so that on the last day of September there was not a case left in the office undisposed of. Now every inquiry from the Pension Office is answered promptly, usually within twenty-four hours after its receipt, and the work is now up, notwithstanding that the average number of calls is almost double what it was last year. Last year the average per day in the Adjutant-general's office was 554, and in the Surgeon-general's office 187. The latter cases were duplicates of the former, but are both combined in one now. The average number of cases at present is over 1,000 per day. The department has devised a new form of blank for inquiry by the Pension Office, so that now the request for the claimant's whole record, both hospital and service, is made and answered upon one sheet only, and in the most convenient shape for use in the case.

Secretary Proctor's order required "that the most direct methods be adopted in the transaction of the public business, avoiding all unnecessary routine." In his annual report to the President he said: "The change was somewhat radical, but the result has been satisfactory." It certainly is satisfactory, and will be appreciated by the country. It will be appreciated also by the old veterans, the settlement of whose claims will be hastened by this reform.

The searches and verifications of the records are made with as much painstaking as ever. Every effort is made to make them as accurate as possible, and the new devices have been introduced to make them more so. It has been accomplished, too, without any increase of clerical force, and is an illustration of what the Republican party can and will do in securing an effective, business-like administration.

There have been over 1,000,000 pension claims presented. When it is remembered that in every one of these cases a search had to be made through the records for the purpose of verifying the claimant's statements, it can easily be understood that the records became much worn, until now they are in a wretched condition, dropping to pieces from age and use. To preserve these records from entire destruction, to make the information they contain accessible and to insure in their search the greatest accuracy, the card index record system was introduced by Captain Ainsworth in the pension division of the Surgeon-general's office. He took charge of that division in December, 1886, and, after first bringing up the arrearage of cases there on hand, some 10,000 in all, put all clerks who could be spared to copying the records upon individual cards of uniform size and of indestructible paper. In the first place, each register or record was copied upon cards, each separate card representing an entry upon the original record. When a book had been copied it was given to a careful comparer, who examined every entry in connection with the card representing it, verifying the correctness of each card and the count of the copyist's number of entries in the book, thus showing that there was an accurately copied card for each entry. These cards were then passed to a numbering machine, registering the exact number of cards to each book, so that the number of cards reported by the copyist and the comparer were again verified mechanically. The cards were then assorted by regiments and all the cards of a regiment filed alphabetically. By this means, when the medical history of a soldier is called for by the Pension Office, all the treatment he received while in service, without regard to date or place, can be found instantly. If he was in general hospital at Savannah, New Orleans, Memphis or St. Louis, on a hospital boat on the Mississippi, in field hospital at Stone River and Vining's Station, the several cards showing the dates on which he entered and left the hospital, and the disabilities for which he was treated, will fall together among the cards of his regiment; and, being arranged in alphabetical order, they will be found in a minute or two without any data beyond the name and regiment of the soldier.

The system embodies the advantages of a public library card index in the facility of finding the desired references to the original records (the references are given on the cards,) but combines with it the utility of the encyclopedia in that the record itself will be found copied on the cards. It is easy to see, therefore, that of the two methods, the old and the new one, the latter is apt to be the more accurate one.

Under the old system of searching the hospital records, it was absolutely necessary that a claimant for pension should state in what hospital treatment was received by him. Without a definite statement of this character, it was a mere matter of hunting blindly through many volumes having no general index. It was an almost hopeless task to attempt to search more than 20,000 volumes of records, containing many millions of entries.

There have been some practical tests, however, of the accuracy of the card index system. From Jan. 1, 1879, to Feb. 29, 1888, a period of nearly ten years prior to the beginning of the use of the card index, the percentage of cases in which evidence was found was 58.9. During the first year in which cards were used, namely, from March 1, 1888, to Feb. 28, 1889, the percentage of cases in which evidence was found was 71.1.

Again, to compare the accuracy of the two systems, 1,000 briefs of pension calls, received before the card index began to be used, and in which the searchers were unable to find any record whatever, were taken at random, 100 cases being taken from each of the ten years. A clerk simply turned to the present cards to see whether they would disclose any information or not. In 295 out of the 1,000, or nearly 30 per cent., evidence was found immediately, all showing from one to a dozen different entries in different books, with reference to the claimant's treatment in hospitals. A select committee of the Senate on business methods fully discusses the question of the way to preserve these rolls and records by photography, platino type process, etc., and concludes by saying: "In the opinion of your committee, this card index system is the only practical, feasible and economical solution of the vexed question in regard to the preservation of these rolls without further wear and destruction, and the placing of the data contained in them in an easily accessible and convenient condition for use without the handling of the rolls. Your committee, therefore, unhesitatingly recommend the adoption of this system to the Secretary of War."

The copying of the hospital records has been nearly completed. The copying of the service records has been begun, but little has yet been done. At present, therefore, the surgical record is furnished entirely by the card index. When a case is received the clerks turn to the card cases, and if these substantiate the claimant's statements, report is made immediately to the Pension Bureau. If they fail to disclose anything, then a search is made through the original records as formerly, to see if perchance any entry can be found which has not been transcribed to the cards. The claimant, therefore, has the advantage, if needs be, of a search both ways. In the case of the service record, however, which is the larger part of the work, the old system, as yet, is only in use. It was in this division of the records that the vast amount of work had accumulated, which Secretary Proctor has succeeded in clearing up. He has directed, however, that as fast as possible, without interfering with the regular work, the muster and other rolls shall be copied in the same manner. His orders are that the current work must be kept up promptly in the first place, and that then this permanent work shall be pressed as rapidly as possible. This is now being done, without any addition whatever to the clerical force. When the work is completed, it is expected that one-fourth of the present number of clerks will be able to do all the work, and do it with greater accuracy and expedition.

It is not to be expected that a change so radical as Secretary Proctor's action in this case would escape criticism. A few clerks, who heretofore had substantially their own way, and were in the habit of doing as little or as much as they chose, have not, naturally, enjoyed being compelled to work as clerks ordinarily have to work in private business establishments. Still, a majority have now become imbued with the spirit of the work, and have taken hold of it in good earnest, as the results show. As "nothing succeeds like success," it may be ungracious, perhaps, to criticise the work as a whole. Attacks have been made upon the accuracy of part of the work, but they were made in ignorance of what the figures actually showed upon that point. Even the Tribune was unwittingly led into giving mention to these criticisms. The matter was of sufficient importance to warrant a careful examination, and its results are now given in justice to the department and one of its most energetic employes.

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Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used when children are cutting teeth. It relieves the little sufferer at once; it produces natural, quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes as "bright as a button." It is very pleasant to taste. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels and is the best-known remedy for diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

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THE VANDALIA LINE
Will sell excursion tickets between all stations where the distance is 200 miles or less on Dec. 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1, 1890, good to return until Jan. 3, 1890, at one fare and a third for the round trip.

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Canton Flannels 4, 5, 6, 7, 8c.
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Dress Plaids 12½c, worth 20c.
California Blankets $10, worth $12.
Fine Wool Blankets $5, worth $6.
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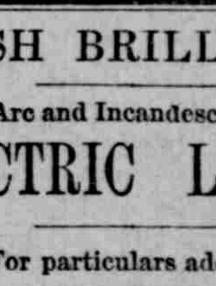

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PRICES—Orchestra and Boxes, $1; Dress Circle, 75c; Balcony, first three rows (reserved,) 75c. Matinee—Reserved Seats in Orchestra and Boxes, 75c; Dress Circle, 50c; Balcony, 25c. Sale now open.

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Box-office open Wednesday, 25; Thursday, 26, and Friday, 27, where reserved seats can be secured. Tickets—$1, 75c and 50c, reserved; unreserved, 35c and 25c. For sale at Baldwin's Music Store, Foster's Restaurants, John McGaw's Cigar Store and Bryce's Bakery.