

by the people with literary pretensions, who fly into a passion when one of these ignorant fellows, flushed with success, dubs himself a *Sha-ir*. He is not a Pathan by race, though he has been *pathanized*: he is a low sort of creature, whom the Khans and Sardars treat as the mediæval barons might have treated the itinerant *Jongleur*,—despised, insulted, honored, liberally paid, intensely popular amongst the people.

The novice *Dum* goes to a celebrated *Dum*, who is a master, an *Ustad*: he becomes his disciple, his *shagird*. The master teaches him first his own songs, then the songs of the great *Dums* of the present and past generations. The *Ustad* takes his *shagirds* with him to the festivities to which he has been asked, private or public, profane or religious: he takes them to the *hujra*, the 'common house' or town-hall of the village, where idlers and travelling guests meet every night to hear the news that is going round, and listen to any man that has a tale to tell or a song to sing. The *Ustad* pockets half the sum given by the host, and the other half is divided between the *shagirds*. When a *shagird* feels he can compose for himself and is able to achieve a reputation, he leaves his master and becomes himself an *Ustad*. I am sorry to say that *Dums* generally are not over-sensitive about literary honesty: plagiarism is rife among them. A *Dum* will readily sing, as his own, songs of the dead or the living. It is the custom that poets should insert their names in the last line: you have only to substitute your own name for the name of the real author or of the former plagiarist. People will not applaud you the less, though of course the injured party may retort with a satire or a stab. A good *Dum* may die a rich man. Mira would hardly open his mouth anywhere under fifty rupees. He was an illiterate man: he could not read, but he knew by heart a wonderful number of songs, and could improvise. You would ask him for a song in a certain shade of feeling; then he would go out with his men, and an hour afterwards they would come back and sing a beautiful chorus on the rebab. His song of 'Zakhmé' is sung wherever there are Afghans, as far as Rampor in Rohilkhand, and Hayderabad of Dekhan, and sets them a-dancing as soon as the first notes are struck. It was sung at the Ravul Pindi interview as the national song of the Afghans, though it is nothing more—or, rather, nothing less—than a love-song. An Irish journalist—Mr. Grat-tan Geary, of the *Bombay Gazette*—was struck with its melody, and had it printed. It is probably the only Afghan song that has ever been published (two songs have been translated by Mr. Thorburn in his book on Bannu, and another by Colonel Raverty in the introduction to his Afghan grammar).

The people piously inclined object to song, among the Afghans as well as elsewhere; and the Mollahs inveigh against the *Dums*. There is only one occasion when even a Mollah will approve of the song of a *Dum*: it is when the Crusade, or, as the Anglo-Indians say, the Crescentade, has been proclaimed; then is the time for the *Dum* to rehabilitate himself, as he sings the glories of the sacred war, the bliss reserved to the *Ghazi*, the roses that grow for him in the groves above, and the black-eyed houris that come from heaven and give the dying man to drink of the sherbet of martyrdom. But, in spite of the Mollahs, the *Dum* is as popular in his profane as in his semi-sacred character. Song is a passion with the Afghans; in fact, one of the few noble passions with which he is endowed. Whenever three Afghans meet together, there is a song between them. In the *hujra*, during the evening conversation, a man rises up, seizes a rebab, and sings, sings on. Perhaps he is under prosecution for a capital crime; perhaps to-morrow he will be hunted to the mountain, sent to the gallows; what matters? Every event of public or private life enters song at once, and the *Dums* are the journalists of the Afghans. Possibly the *Dum* of to-day has preserved for us faithfully enough a picture of what the Bard was with the Gauls.

ENGLISH COIN-SALES OF 1886 AND 1887.

As the English season for coin-sales will soon begin again, *The Athenæum* gives its readers some information on the general results of those which have taken place during the last ten months. The coin-selling year may be said to commence in November, and to end in July: sometimes it is extended into August, but, if so, it

never oversteps the first week of that month. Even between November and August there are certain periods which have to be avoided, especially immediately before and after Christmas and Easter. The reason for these precautions arises from the circumstance that collectors of coins are comparatively few, and some of the largest buyers live out of London: consequently those who have collections to dispose of must be careful to offer their ware for sale when these rare birds are most likely to be in town. Sales of pictures and china will generally secure a good attendance, but not so it is with coins: so these precautions must be taken.

Coin-sales may be divided into two classes,—ancient and modern; the former dealing chiefly with the coinages of Greece and Rome, the latter with those of nations of modern times. It will be found, on looking through the sale-catalogues of the last season in England, that those of modern coins predominate. Of ancient coins there have been only three collections sold: viz., a portion of the stock of the late William Webster, the well-known dealer, Dec. 22; a collection of "a gentleman relinquishing the pursuit," June 14 and 15; and a cabinet of select Greek coins, June 27 to July 1. On the modern side there have been three sales of four to six days each, in December, May, and August: others of the war medals, etc., of Capt. E. Hyde Greg; the coins of the late Joseph Mayer of Liverpool; of the late Archdeacon Pownall, vice-president of the Numismatic Society; and of Major W. Stewart Thorburn. There has been one very important sale in Paris of Roman and Byzantine gold coins, belonging to the Vicomte Ponton d'Amecourt; but, as we are concerned chiefly with what has taken place in England, we shall not enter into any particulars of that sale, beyond remarking that the prices yielded on that occasion far surpassed those of any previous sale of this class of coins. We mention it as it attracted many English buyers.

A general glance at the above-mentioned catalogues will show that there is, and has been for some few years, a considerable falling-off in the prices of ancient coins, while a more than corresponding increase has taken place in the sums realized by modern coins and medals. Rare and fine Greek and Roman coins will always command a market, but these pieces are exceptional; and a general good average depends principally on the more ordinary pieces in silver and on the copper coins. The sale of a "cabinet of select Greek coins" in June and July, when the catalogue was issued, bid fair to witness some big prices; but unfortunately, when the coins came to be examined, by far the greater portion, at least of the rarities, were pronounced to be forgeries, and the consequence was that those collectors who went to London bent on making some good purchases for their cabinets returned home with their purses but little lightened. It was a bitter disappointment to many; but it has served as a warning, to those who have collections to dispose of, to be careful and see that what they offer for sale is 'above suspicion.' A coin, before it passes from the auctioneer's hands into those of the buyer, has to undergo a severe and critical examination. It is turned over and over, its merits or demerits are discussed on all sides, and, if any doubt is expressed as to its genuineness, rumor soon spreads the doubt, and it is generally doomed. In the sale referred to, among the false coins there were many genuine pieces, and some of considerable rarity; but their character was damaged by their false brethren, and they paid the penalty of being in such bad company. The other sales show a fair average of prices for the finer pieces, but a very low one for the more common ones, especially those in copper. As an illustration we may give a few examples. Syracusan decadrachms, or 'medallions' as they are more commonly called on account of their size, realized from £19 to £20 10s.; a tetradrachm of Naxos, with seated figure of Silenus on the reverse, £7 10s.; similar coins of Aenus, £10; of Akanthus, £7 7s.; of Ariarathes IX., king of Cappadocia, £18; an electrum stater of Cyzicus, £13; a tetradrachm of Antiochus VI. of Syria, £12, etc. These pieces are all somewhat rare; but, when we examine the lots containing the smaller silver coins and those of copper, we find as many as twenty or more going for only a few shillings. These results are very disappointing, especially to those who formed collections some years ago, and consider them in the light of invested capital.

Let us now turn to the modern side, and see what is taking place with English coins and medals. Other European coins, for the

most part, must be placed outside our consideration. They never had a market in England. The fact is, these coins are much too numerous for any private individual to make any thing like a representative series of each class, and their acquisition must be left to national collections, where one naturally expects to find every coin-age well represented. The result of our observations on the English side of numismatics will be found to be just the reverse of those on ancient coins, and in all cases prices have considerably advanced. Taking the sales of the last twelve months or so, we will note the prices of a few pieces, none of which can be said to be of very great rarity. Pennies of William the Conqueror, when fine, sold from £2 to £2 10s. each; a light groat of Henry VI., £7 10s.; another of Edward V., £7 5s.; a crown of Elizabeth with *m.m.* 2, £7 5s. and £7 10s.; another of James I., with reverse inscription QVÆ DEVS CONIVNXIT NEMO SEPARET, a common type, £7 17s. 6d.; an Oxford crown of Charles I., £11 11s.; Tanner's copy of the sixpence of Cromwell, over £50; a half-broad of Cromwell, £32 15s.; a half-crown *hammered* of Charles II., £8 8s.; a proof crown of George II., £11 5s.; a pattern crown of William IV., £21 10s., etc. Such prices as these a few years ago would have been deemed almost incredible. Even the ordinary pieces, if in any thing like fine condition, of the reigns of the Georges, William IV., and Victoria, many of which are only just out of currency, and some few still current, cannot be purchased excepting at high prices; and the copper coins and tokens of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries have risen several hundred per cent in value. A corresponding result is also shown with regard to English medals of all classes. For some years the value of English coins had been rising steadily, but it was the Shepherd sale in 1885 which gave the great impetus, and since that time it would appear as though collectors do not place any limits on their bids if they happen to come across desirable acquisitions.

How, then, can this great change be accounted for? The answer to this question is a very simple one. The old class of coin-collectors is fast diminishing, and a new one has sprung up in its place. Twenty years ago there were in England a considerable body of collectors of ancient coins, but now they can almost be counted on one's fingers; while, on the other hand, for one collector of English coins there are now ten. This falling-off in the old stock is much to be regretted; for many a man in advanced life has been induced, by the sight of Greek and Roman coins, to open those books which had remained closed since he left school or college. On these small pieces of metal we find illustrated the myths of the gods and heroes of the Greek world; we are brought face to face with the portraits of the great generals of ancient times, Alexander the Great, Lysimachus, Julius Cæsar, and Pompey, of the long line of the Ptolemies of Egypt, of the kings of Syria, Cappadocia, and Bactria, and of the still longer series of Roman and Byzantine emperors and empresses. The student of palæography, too, will glean much information from the examples of various ancient alphabets, such as the Lycian, Cyprian, Phœnician, Greek, and Latin; and to the metrologist are laid open the various systems of weights employed by the great nations of the ancient world, and through these the principal lines of trade of the Greeks and Romans. The artist, too, will find on coins the various phases of ancient art clearly defined. They show art in its origin, in its growth towards perfection and in its perfection, in its decline, and in its degradation. These are but a few of the charms offered by the study of ancient numismatics, and it is these which will be lost when coin-collecting is abandoned.

Fortunately, while the general taste for these objects in England appears to have been on the wane, those who remained constant to the study of ancient numismatics have worked with all the more ardor, and in few departments of learning has more progress been made in the last few years. But the results of these labors, till recently, have never been embodied in a compact form, and were only to be found scattered over many volumes of periodicals and journals. The Clarendon Press has, however, taken the matter in hand, and, under the guidance of Mr. B. V. Head, has issued a 'Manual of Greek Coins' ('*Historia Numorum*'), which gives in a concise form the history and description of ancient Greek numismatics (*Athen.*, No. 3098, p. 357). It also deals with their art, metrology, types, etc. The work commences with the coinages of

Europe, beginning with that of Spain, and, journeying eastwards to Greece proper, crosses over into Asia, and ends with the series of Africa. This is the order adopted by Eckhel over a century ago, and, being generally accepted by numismatists, has been followed by Mr. Head. The work does not claim to be complete, for it was impossible to aim at completeness when the author was so limited in space; but nevertheless the student of Greek numismatics will find in it all that he needs at first, and when he has mastered it, if inclined, he can easily turn to the more lengthy dissertations, a list of which is given by Mr. Head in his introduction. The work is of so recent a date that the extent of its influence on the numismatic world cannot at present be gauged; but that it will bear good fruit we do not for a moment doubt, and it may even increase the list of those collectors whose falling-off we are now regretting.

We may add that what has been done by Mr. Head for Greek numismatics had recently been done by several other well-known numismatists for English coins and medals; and this may, perhaps, in some degree account for their popularity at the present time. Two new editions of Hawkins's work on the silver coinage have been issued, Mr. Kenyon has written on the gold coins, Mr. Montagu has described the copper coinage, and Hawkins's long-promised work on English coins has at last appeared.

HEALTH MATTERS.

Grinder's Consumption.

DR. CANEDY of Shelburne Falls, Mass., recently read a paper before the Franklin District Medical Society on grinder's consumption, being the results of his observations on the grinders employed by a cutlery company at that place, numbering, on an average, forty men and boys for the past twenty-five years. During the ten years just ended, twenty-three grinders have died with chronic disease of the air-passages, and three are now confined to the house with similar affections; and five in whom the disease has made considerable progress are still at work in the cutlery. Of all the occupations in which the workers are compelled to inhale an atmosphere loaded with irritating dust, as coal-mining and iron and metal polishing, none seems more certain or fatal in its effects than grinding. Investigations made at Sheffield, Eng., fix the average period which grinders can work at thirteen years. The first symptom which manifests itself is cough, soon followed by shortness of breath upon exertion, as walking up hill. During all this time an inflammatory process is going on in the lung, which results in a gangrenous or purulent condition; the patient having fever, and often a terrible cough. During this attack the patient is confined to bed from ten to twenty weeks. After six weeks an abscess forms in the lung, and, when the pus is expectorated, improvement begins. The progress of some cases is exceedingly slow; some of the patients living ten years or more, after being compelled to leave the shop by their cough, most of the time in chronic invalidism, and dying at last from the exhaustion dependent upon pulmonary disease.

In spite of all treatment, the inevitable tendency of the disease seems to be toward a fatal termination, and Dr. Canedy states that he has never seen any recoveries. The picture which is given us in this paper is a most distressing one; and it would seem that some attention should be paid to the subject by those in power. The improvements which have been made in unhealthy trades by the substitution of sanitary for unsanitary conditions have been so marked that some of them can certainly be applied to the reduction of the great suffering and mortality among the cutlery grinders. The State Board of Health can here doubtless find an opportunity to do more good work in a field in which it has so long and so well labored.

THE CHILDREN OF NEW YORK.—At a meeting of the New York County Medical Association, Dr. Charles A. Leale presented a paper on the prevention of chronic disease among the children of New York City. The facts which formed the basis of this paper were obtained by Dr. Leale and his associate physicians, from their gratuitous visits to the tenement-houses of this city during the summer of 1886. Their work extended over a period of six weeks, during which time they visited 3,659 families, representing 7,146 adults and 10,086 children. Of these, 217 adults and 3,376 children