

ness of The Forum Publishing Company, and the magazine enters upon its ninth volume with a degree of prosperity that was not expected at so early a date."

— *Garden and Forest* for March 27 contains a figure of the prairie rose of the South-west, from one of Mr. Faxon's best drawings, with a description of it by Mr. Sereno Watson; and an illustration of an alley of orange-trees in the Garden of the Tuilleries, with some notes on the planting of the open spaces in the city of Paris. In the same paper Professor Bailey discusses the principles of grafting, and Dr. George Thurber writes in his entertaining way of the so-called poisonous properties of the primrose, which has been a source of irritation to many gardeners. "Garden Flowers in Midwinter," "Fern Notes," and "Botany for Young People," are the titles of a few more of the articles which help to make up an attractive and useful number.

— In the March number of the *Political Science Quarterly*, Professor Anson D. Morse of Amherst College examines the political theories of Alexander Hamilton; Professor Edwin Seligman of Columbia College traces the history of the general property tax in Europe and in the United States, and shows why all attempts to reach personal property have failed; J. P. Dunn, jun., Indiana State librarian, writes strongly on "The Mortgage Evil in the West;" Professor Simon N. Patten of the University of Pennsylvania criticises David A. Wells's "Recent Economic Changes;" Irving B. Richman discusses United States citizenship; and Professor Frank J. Goodnow of Columbia College completes his description of the new Prussian system of local government, in which the ideas of Stein have obtained complete expression. The number also contains reviews of more than twenty recent political, economic, and legal publications.

— We glean the following notes from the *Publishers' Weekly*: Prince Jerome Napoleon is busily engaged in preparing his memoirs of the Second Empire. Mrs. Humphry Ward's new novel, dealing with the experiences of a successful mechanic who tries many kinds of life and phases of thought, and who finally joins the Elsmere brotherhood, is ready for the publisher. At the time of his death, a few weeks ago, Peter Henderson, the well-known seedsman, had just completed a new edition of his "Handbook of Plants and General Horticulture." The preface which he wrote is dated in January last. This edition contains a great deal of new information, and will make still more useful a work which has already become a standard. *The Writer*, post-office box 1905, Boston, Mass., has in preparation a "Directory of American Writers, Editors, and Publishers." Chatto & Windus have in press the first two volumes of Justin Huntly McCarthy's "History of the French Revolution." It is to be in four volumes, and will be published uniform with his father's "History of the Four Georges." Bellamy's "Looking Backward" passed 301,000 copies last month, and the demand is reported to have been over 1000 a day. It is estimated that of the foreign pirated editions, about 50,000 copies have been sold in England. France comes next, followed by Germany and Denmark. The Catholic Publication Society Company will soon publish in pamphlet form "Who was Bruno? A Direct Answer to a Plain Question, from the Latest Published Documents," by Mr. John A. Mooney. It is the first book published in this country giving the Catholic side of the Bruno affair. E. P. Dutton & Co. will publish at once "To Europe on a Stretcher," an account of an invalid's travels, by Mrs. Clarkson Potter. T. Y. Crowell & Co. announce "Recollections of a Private," by Warren Lee Goss, the author of "Jed." Part of these recollections have already appeared in the *Century Magazine*. A. C. Armstrong & Son will publish a book by Professor T. W. Hunt of Princeton College, entitled "Studies in Literature and Style." Harper & Brothers have in press "Two Years in the French West Indies," containing the literary results of a voyage by Lafcadio Hearn, the author of "Chita." The introductory chapter, entitled "A Midsummer Trip to the Tropics," consists of notes taken on a voyage of nearly three thousand miles, and the remainder of the book is devoted to sketches of life on the island of Martinique, describing the manners, customs, and characteristic types of the island. An appendix to the volume gives some

Creole melodies. The book is illustrated. The Cassell Publishing Company have just ready "Australian Poets, 1788-1888," being a selection of poems upon all subjects written in Australia and New Zealand during the first century of the British colonization, with brief notes on their authors and an introduction by Patchett Martin, edited by Douglas B. W. Sladen of Melbourne, Australia; and "Star-Land," by Sir Robert S. Ball, based on notes and recollections of the lectures delivered to children at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in 1881 and 1887, which makes a readable book on astronomy for young people.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Supposed Aboriginal Fish-Weirs in Naaman's Creek, near Claymont, Del.

IN reply to the letters of Messrs. Haynes and Peet in your issue of Feb. 28, I have to say that it is evident that Professor Haynes was misled by the version of my letter published in the *American Antiquarian* of November, 1887 (vol. ix. No. 6) and did not receive my letter suggesting that the remains in question were fish-weirs until too late for use in his work executed for "The Narrative and Critical History of America." It seems to me, however, that I might have received an earlier notice of the contemplated work; but, as the reason why is given by Professor Haynes, we will let the matter rest there. A footnote in my letter to *Science*, published Feb. 14, 1890, p. 117, explains why the term "station" was used. It does not seem to me that the term "pile-structures" ought to suggest "pile-dwellings." The term "pile-structures" was adopted at Professor Putnam's suggestion, as we deemed it best to designate them in this way until investigations upon the spot were finished. "Stake-ends," "log-ends," or "post-ends" would have served equally well for the same purpose.

In answer to Mr. Peet's remarks, I desire to say that I have no intention of withdrawing from my position hitherto taken, and call upon him to prove that I ever wrote any such letter as that which is the subject of this interchange of civilities. It is evident that the comparison which he makes in *Science* of Feb. 28, 1890, is but a reversion to the account already disapproved by me, and denounced as erroneous.

I desire here to make a correction in my last letter to *Science*, published Feb. 14, 1890; viz., on p. 116, second column, sixth line from the bottom, "(1877)" should read "(1887)".

HILBORNE T. CRESSON.

Philadelphia, March 1.

The June Drought in the Rocky Mountain Region.

IN your notice of the meteorological observations on Pike's Peak, in *Science* for Feb. 21, are the following statements:—

"A very decided secondary minimum [of precipitation] occurs in June. . . . The June minimum appears very remarkable, but its authenticity seems assured in view of the fact that at Colorado Springs, at the base of the mountain, and at Denver, nearly 80 miles to the northward, similar rainfall conditions obtain."

The occurrence of a minimum of precipitation during June can be affirmed not only of the country near Pike's Peak, but also of a large part of the Rocky Mountain region, also of the Great Plains and the Great Basin. It is one of the most constant meteorological epochs of the region in question. It marks a decided change in the character of the storms. During April and May most of the precipitation falls from stratus or cumulo-stratus clouds being driven up the slopes of the plains and mountains, and such storms often cover a large part of Colorado simultaneously. These storms end in late May or early June as cold rains or with hail and snow on the mountains. From the 6th to the 10th of June there is usually a frost among the foot-hills, and this sometimes descends on to the plains to 5,000 feet or even lower. Then for some weeks the general temperature is cool and delightful, gradually rising till early in July, when the summer storms begin. These are local thunder-storms of the ordinary type.

It is well known that over the plains in Colorado crops are now being raised without irrigation in places where this was formerly supposed impossible. This is in large part due to the adoption of improved methods of cultivation specially adapted to the climatic conditions. The farmer early observed the dry weather of June, and came to expect it as a rule. On these plains successful agriculture was possible only after a careful study of the June drought. At the present time the aim is to have the times of planting so fixed that at the time of this drought each crop shall be at that stage of its growth in which experience shows it can best endure the dry weather.

G. H. STONE.

Colorado Springs, March 5.

The Fiske Range-Finder.

WITH reference to the very interesting suggestion of Mr. J. F. Dennison concerning my range-finder, which appeared in your issue of Feb. 28, I can only say that the plan which he suggests has been the subject of much thought on my part, and has been sketched out in many modified forms. The only objection to it is the very commonplace, but very potent one, that the end attained is hardly worth the apparatus required. Some person must be at hand to read the distances indicated, and he can very easily move the contacts himself. As a general principle, I think it is agreed that mechanism should never be introduced where it can be avoided, for mechanism is liable to disarrangement; and simplicity should, it seems to me, be the aim of all invention.

BRADLEY A. FISKE, U.S.N.

New York, March 5.

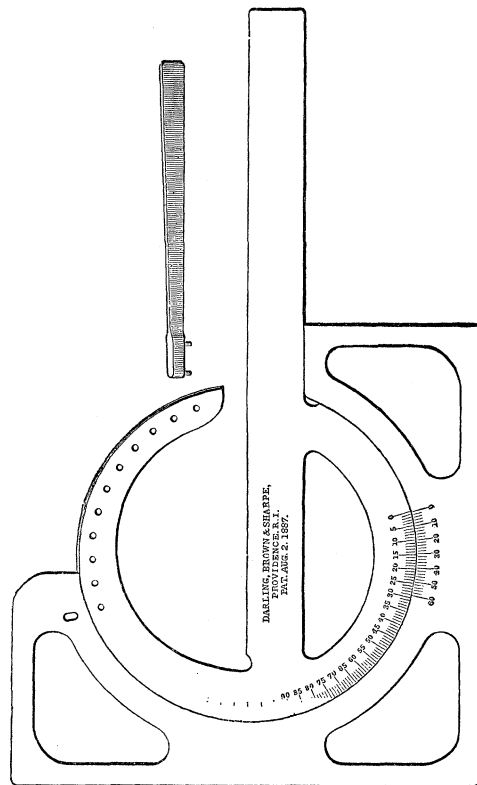
INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

A New Draughtsman's Protractor.

THE protractor shown in the accompanying cut is made from one-sixteenth inch sheet steel, and is light and durable. The length of the blade is eight inches and a half. The graduations read to degrees, and the vernier reads to two minutes. This protractor is chiefly used in connection with a T-square or straight-edge. It can be quickly and accurately set by hand to any angle. A lever is, however, provided as of possible advantage in obtaining very fine settings.

There are no projections on either face of the instrument, and consequently it can be used on either edge of the blade or

either side up. This makes it particularly convenient in dividing circles, transferring angles, drawing oblique lines at right angles to each other, or laying off given angles on each side of a vertical or horizontal line without changing the setting. For laying out tapers and dividing circles and laying out geometrical figures, tables are furnished with the instru-



ment, which give the settings that are necessary. In many instances the protractor takes the place of the ordinary 45-degree and 60-degree triangles, and it is also used as an extension to the T-square when the work is beyond the end of the blade of the square. It is made by Darling, Brown, and Sharpe, manufacturers of fine tools, of Providence, R.I.

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