

—The discussion on anonymity in journalism will be continued in the *March New Review* (New York, Longmans), with extracts from letters by Labouchere, Lang, Justin McCarthy, Grant Allen, and others; and Mr. Allen also contributes an article on the "Origin of Animals."

— "Motive Power for Street-Cars" is the title of a book published by the John Stephenson Company of this city. The volume is made up mainly of extracts from the proceedings of a recent meeting of the American Street Railway Association. It is handsomely illustrated.

—Harper & Brothers have just issued the second volume of "What I Remember," by the octogenarian novelist Thomas Adolphus Trollope, the elder brother of the late Anthony Trollope. The first volume, which was published about two years ago, closed with the death of Mr. Trollope's first wife in 1865; the new volume covers the period from that date to the year 1889. Among the well-known people with whom the reader becomes acquainted in these pages are Liszt, Von Bulow, Gen. Sheridan, King Humbert, Pope Leo, Salvini, Ristori, Cardinal McCloskey, Jenny Lind, Lanciani, and Holman Hunt.

—Messrs. Ginn & Co. announce "Open, Sesame!" edited by Mrs. B. W. Bellamy and Mrs. M. W. Goodwin. This book is a collection of prose and verse, comprising more than a thousand selections carefully edited, and arranged for committing to memory. It is in no sense an elocutionist's manual, the editors having made the first test of each selection "Is it worth learning?" and the second, "Is it adapted to recitation?" The book is representative of English literature, and also comprises many translations from foreign sources. Its various departments contain many of the familiar classics, and also many extracts from late literature never before included in such a collection. It is arranged in three volumes, each complete in itself, and specially adapted to the age for which it is intended. Volume I. is designed for children from four to ten years old; Volume II., for those from ten to fourteen; and Volume III., for the oldest students. The purpose of the book is to train the memory, to educate the literary taste, and to supply the student with the long-needed standard collection of poetry and prose for recitation.

—The Scientific Publishing Company, P.O. Box 1833, New York, announce the publication of "Gems and Precious Stones of North America," by George F. Kunz, gem expert with Tiffany & Co. This book is a popular description of their occurrence, value, history, and archæology, and of the collections in which they exist, with a chapter on pearls. The standing of the author will serve as a guaranty for the excellence of the work. The several species and varieties of precious stones are described systematically, and the work is far more detailed and thorough than has hitherto been attempted. This magnificent work is profusely illustrated with the finest colored plates ever engraved for a work of this kind, being the very best work of Messrs. Prang & Co.

—In *Garden and Forest* for March 19, Mr. Charles Eliot continues his series of articles on old American country-seats, with a delightful sketch of Montgomery Place; and this fine old home of the Livingstons is illustrated by a view of its entrance front, and another of an avenue on the grounds. The same number contains articles on street trees, the dwarf Japanese plants at the Paris Exposition, the winter colors of the bark of trees and shrubs, and the cultivation of strawberries, besides much seasonable information concerning the garden in early spring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

. Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

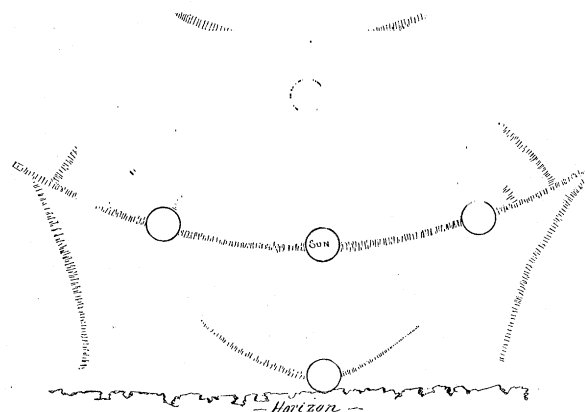
On request, twenty copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

Solar Halos.

THE forenoon of March 2 in central and southern Arkansas was cold and calm, and the sky was cloudless though somewhat hazy. About eight o'clock white and colored bows appeared in the haze

about the sun, and continued to be visible until about half-past ten, when it gradually disappeared. This phenomenon seems to have been most brilliant in the south-western part of the State. One of my assistants on the Geological Survey of Arkansas, Mr. James Perrin Smith, who witnessed it in Howard County, Ark., sends me the figure accompanying this (made on the ground), and a letter, a part of which I append.

Mr. Smith writes from Venetia Grove, Howard County, Ark.: "At 8.30 there was not a cloud in sight, but the eastern sky had a hazy appearance. The sun was shining with full brilliancy; and on the right and left of it, and above it at equal distances, three other suns appeared, shining almost as brightly as the sun



proper. The figure called for a fourth secondary sun, but it was too near the horizon for this to be seen. Radiating from these suns were brilliant rainbows forming regular spherical triangles. The brightness of the suns and bows lasted but a few minutes, and then began gradually to fade. Within fifteen minutes, however, the sun had risen high enough to bring the fourth secondary sun to view, but by this time the rainbow lines with it were very indistinct. By ten o'clock the whole spectacle had faded away."

JOHN C. BRANNER.

Little Rock, Ark., March 10.

Lake and River Temperatures.

A SERIES of temperatures of the water taken during last summer near the outlet of Lake Ontario and in the St. Lawrence and other rivers by the writer, and during the last and previous seasons in the Georgian Bay by Staff Commander Boulton, R.N., appears to establish some interesting results, which will be detailed in the forthcoming number of the *Canadian Record of Science*. While some of the results are not novel, they all exemplify some characteristics of fresh water in the great masses in which it occurs in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence and its tributaries, under the varying conditions of climate which the geographical position of these lakes and rivers presents. The points of interest are,—

That the Georgian Bay, as well as Lake Superior, forms a great area of cold water,—apparently considerably colder at the bottom than even the deeper parts of the central basin of Lake Huron, and varying in July and August between 37.75° and 39.5° F.

That the occurrence in midsummer of a temperature at the bottom of the Georgian Bay, below that of water at its maximum density, is remarkable, and may be due to strong bottom currents.

That the waters of the lakes and St. Lawrence flow onward in areas of different temperatures; the variation being generally from 1° to 3°, and being equally observable under as well as at the surface.

That the general rise in the temperature of the Lake Ontario waters, as the summer advances, is at first slow, compared with the general rise in the temperature of the air; but, as midsummer is reached, the rise is more rapid.

That motion in water, as in a long rapid, appears to at least sensibly raise its temperature. Continuous strong currents, on

the other hand, tend to equalize the temperature even to a depth of forty fathoms.

That the temperature of the water of the main channel of the St. Lawrence is always considerably lower than that of the waters nearer shore, or of the harbors or the affluent streams.

That no general rule can be laid down regarding the changes of temperature with the increase of depth, each case being influenced by its own special circumstances.

That in high summer temperatures the surface of comparatively still, shallow, sheltered water, unaffected by main channel cur-

rents, absorbs and retains heat to a much greater degree than the immediately overlying air; the difference depending on the surroundings, but being in one instance as high as 11°.

A. T. DRUMMOND.

Montreal, Can., March 12.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

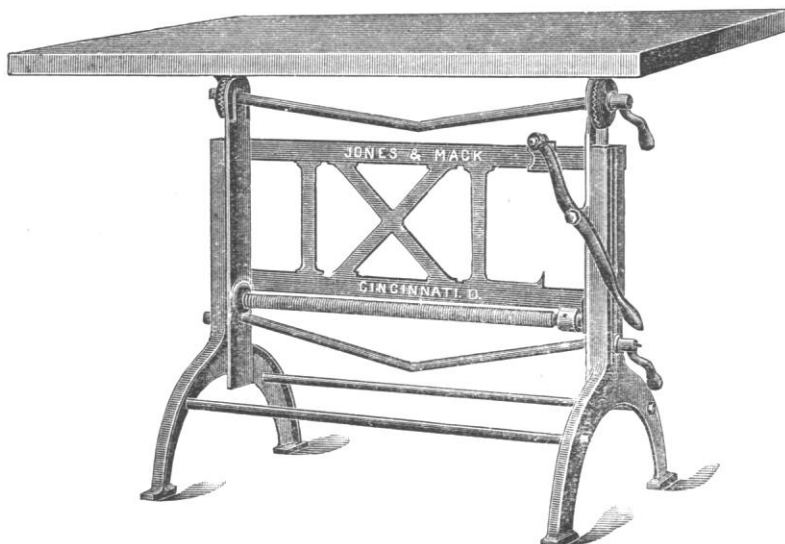
A New Drawing-Table.

THE principal features of the improved drawing-table shown in the illustration are that the drawing-board may be raised or lowered with one motion of the hand, and that the board can be tilted to any desirable angle. The vertical sliding pieces

attached to the under side of the board have racks engaging with wheels on the ends of the horizontal shaft, shown at the bottom of the sliding frame. A spiral spring is wound around this shaft for the purpose of balancing the weight of the parts to be raised, and insuring the board against falling if left at any elevation without clamping. The board is raised or lowered by means of the lever attached to the sliding frame which works on a fulcrum fastened to the stand. The clamping arrangement consists of a bent tube, its ends bearing against the inner sides of the sliding pieces. A bolt is passed through

this tube, and, in clamping, it tends to straighten the tube, thereby forcing the ends of the tube against the inner faces of the sliding pieces, and holding these pieces firmly at any height. The advantage of this clamping device is that it does not tend to draw the stands together. The arrangement for tilting is easily seen, and the device for clamping is the same as the one just described.

The stand is very light, and at the same time extremely rigid and firm, and, with the clamping-screws tightened, there is no liability to slip, even if the draughtsman rests his entire weight on the edge of the board. These drawing-tables are manufactured by Messrs. Jones & Mack of Cincinnati, O.



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