

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT IN AN ART GALLERY.

At a reception held at the Union League Club House, in this city, a few evenings ago, the experiment of lighting a portion of the picture gallery with electric lights was tried with satisfactory results.

One part of the gallery was lighted with gas and the other portion with Maxim's incandescent burners, supplied by the United States Electric Lighting Company, who also illuminated the street and avenue fronting the building with one of their powerful arc lights.

It was considered doubtful if the commingling of the two lights—gas and electric—would be sufficiently harmonious to admit their use together without destroying the harmony of color or richness of tint in some of the ninety beautiful paintings—valued in the aggregate at \$265,000—which adorned the walls of the Club House on this occasion. But the result has proved that the electric light is feasible for illuminating galleries of art, and in many respects that it is far better than gas for the purpose.

The quality of the light approaches very closely to that of daylight, hence the artist's conception of color is not distorted as by the yellow tint which gas produces. The picture appears to the observer as it did to the artist when it left his easel.

The electric light takes up none of the oxygen of the room, the exhaustion of which in galleries where gas jets are used renders them uncomfortably warm, vitiating the atmosphere, and thus detracting from the pleasure of visiting such places at night.

The result attending the exhibition the other evening, of using the electric light and gas light together, and then either separately, establishes the feasibility of using the electric light alone for exhibiting pictures to the best advantage or of blending the two and heightening the brilliancy.

The Maxim incandescent burners were placed at intervals between the gas jets on the main pipe which extends around the room, so that the rays of light were projected from the same line, thus avoiding a cross-light, which artists and exhibitors so much abhor.

A Summer School of Natural Science.

The Boston Society of Natural History will open a seaside laboratory at Annisquam, Mass., June 15, the session to end September 15. There will be no stated course of instruction and no lectures, the purpose being to afford opportunities for the study and observation of the development, anatomy, and habits of common types of marine animals under suitable direction and advice.

MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

Mr. Joseph L. Camp, of Cannonsburg, Pa., has patented a device for facilitating the sealing of cans with wax, whereby the objections to the old method are avoided. It consists of an upright metallic lamp chimney having an inclined open spout or conductor attached at one side, near its base, both chimney and spout being heated by a lamp. There is a slide supported by suitable standards on the lamp holder or case, and inclined toward the chimney, in which slide is placed a stick of wax with its lower end resting against the chimney, above the spout, and as the wax is gradually melted by the heat of the chimney it drops into the spout, and may be poured thence upon a can to seal it.

Mr. Charles G. Trafton, of Slatersville, R. I., has patented an improved thread guide for spooling machines for guiding the thread as it runs from the bobbin to the larger spool. The object of this invention is to relieve the self-adjusting guide of all pressure tending to increase the friction of its movement, so that the action shall be most delicate. It consists in a guide plate pivoted to a supporting rod that is formed with the friction surface over which the yarn runs.

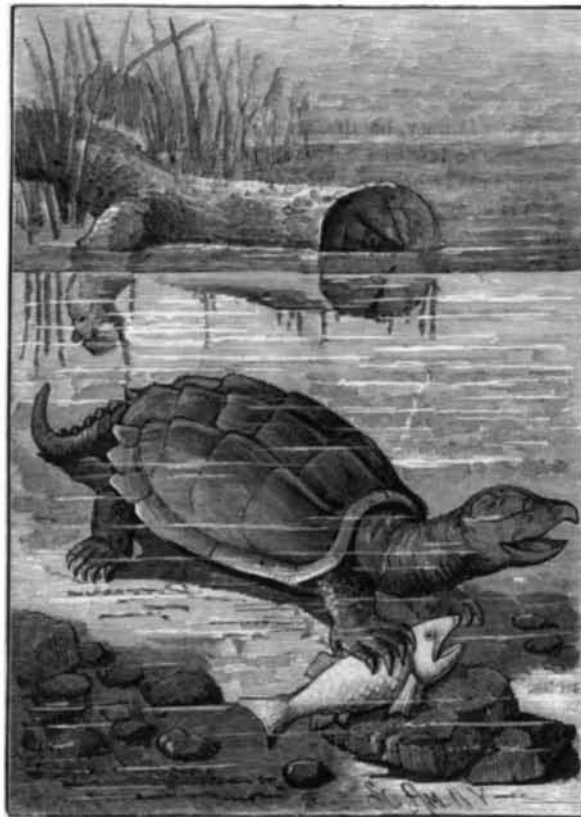
Mr. David Gaussen, of Broughton Hall, Lechlade, County of Gloucester, England, has patented an improvement in the manufacture of vulcanized India-rubber, etc., which consists in corrugating such sheets on both sides, so as to produce a series of hollow arches or hollow semi-cylindrical formations, such as those usually formed by the corrugation of sheets of galvanized iron, the grooves on the one side being alternate with those on the opposite side of the same sheet, that which is a convexity on one side being itself a concavity on the other side, and on one and the same side a convexity or ridge being followed by a concavity, and a concavity by a convexity.

KRUGG JUGS.

The jugs shown in the annexed engraving are made by the celebrated manufacturer whose name they bear. They are filience and gris, and exhibit the odd forms and curious decoration once so popular in Austria. The work is minute and the execution fine, and the quaintness of the designs would recommend them to any collector of objects of vertu.

THE ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE.

The alligator snapper (*Macrochelys lucertina*), the largest of fresh water turtles, has its headquarters in the shallow, tepid bayous of Louisiana, although it ranges up the Mississippi to the Missouri. It bears a strong resemblance to a common snapping turtle greatly magnified in size and ugliness, and in this latter quality might well contest the palm with the South American matamata, a turtle, by the way, of which no correct cut has fallen under our notice. It is usually represented with a thick head and neck, whereas they really look as if a log had fallen on and flattened them. In our present species the head and neck are out of all proportion to the body, giving it an overbalanced appearance,

**THE ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE.**

and rendering it impossible for the animal to more than slightly draw the neck beneath its shell. As far as protection is concerned this is of small consequence, for none of the coresidents of its haunts would think of attacking it, their chief concern being to avoid falling into his clutches. Lurking in the shadow of some rock or log, or partly buried in the mud, with neck retracted as far as possible, its rough-brown skin and moss-covered back give it so much the appearance of an old stump that it is unnoticed by the fish sporting in the vicinity, until, perhaps, one ventures too near. Then, with a sidelong spring, at the same time darting out its neck, the turtle seizes his prey, which he devours at leisure, holding the fish down and under him as a dog would a bone. It is so voracious as to cause sad havoc among the fish, while its wariness renders it difficult to capture. A gentleman who had introduced a pair into a small fish pond found them so destructive that he wished to get

**KRUGG JUGS.**

rid of them. They preyed upon the fish, and also came to be fed whenever the fish were. One was speared while feeding; but the larger kept out of the way until he was tempted to seize a hook baited with a large minnow. Finding himself caught he braced against the rock, and, with a sudden jerk, broke the hook. After this escape he was more careful than ever, and succeeded in keeping out of danger. This turtle occasionally attains a length of 6 feet and a weight of 150 pounds, but the most common size is from 10 to 50 pounds. It is brought into the markets to some extent as an article of food. The eggs, like those of all other turtles, are deposited in the sand and hatched by the heat of

the sun. If the eggs are broken the immature young will snap in a feeble way, showing that this part of their disposition is inborn and not the result of education.

FREDERIC A. LUCAS.

New Rust Preventive.

A new method of protecting the surface of iron from rust has been brought forward by Mr. Ward, of London. The new "inoxidizing" process, as it is termed, consists in combining a silicate with the metal by the aid of heat. Cast or wrought iron objects are first coated, by painting or dipping, with a silicate glaze, which quickly dries, and the articles are then passed through a furnace, or rather oven. In this way the silicate composition is said to be fused and absorbed into the metal, which upon cooling is found to have assumed a dull black appearance. The coating is said to be so far homogeneous with the metal as to protect it from any change from long exposure to the atmosphere; and at the same time the silicate is not liable to disintegrate or separate from the iron. The articles treated in this manner may be ornamented by combining the silicate wash with any vitrifiable colors. Thus smooth polished colored surfaces may be produced upon iron, which, while possessing features distinct from ordinary enameling, yet present superior and more durable results than those obtainable by ordinary painting and varnishing.

The Matanzas Exhibition.

Late advices from Havana state that the Matanzas Exhibition is likely to prove a financial failure. The attendance is very small, except on Sundays. In the department of industrial products the Exhibition is pronounced a success, but it fails in its display of machinery and agricultural products. The exhibit of the Havana Arsenal is particularly full and well arranged, so that visitors can readily study the successive stages and processes of manufacture of each object. The models of cannon of all sorts and periods, from the earliest to the most modern, are regarded as particularly creditable; but it is not an encouraging sign to see the post of honor accorded to such things in an industrial exhibition.

The Beef Juice Furor.

In the present furor for fluid beef juice, says Dr. Fothergill, the necessity for starchy matters is being quite overlooked, or, to be very safe, underestimated. These meat products furnish—the best of them—little glycogen or animal starch, and yet that is the fuel food of the body *par excellence*. We must be guided by rational knowledge, by physiology and not by fashion, in our dietetics. When there is very feeble digestion, then the digested milk and milk gruel advocated by Dr. Roberts is to be employed. — *The Practitioner*

Kentucky Horses.

It is claimed that the fastest horses in the world have been bred in the neighborhood of Lexington, Ky. Among the more notable are Maud Stone, better known as Maud S., record, 2:10¾; Wedgwood, 2:19; Woodford Mambrino, 2:24; Trinket, 2:19¼; Dick Moore, 2:22; John Morgan, 2:24; Indianapolis, 2:21; and Voltaire, 2:21.

The number of superior carriage, saddle, and trotting horses sent out from this part of Kentucky is very great. A prominent breeder was lately asked the secret of their superiority. He replied: "There is a combination of causes.

The great majority of the horses here have some good blood in them, and you will find it crossed somewhere back in their pedigrees. The best strains of running and trotting blood have been taken from here to other States, and they there fail to produce the desired results. There is something in the blue grass, the water, the atmosphere, and the general climatic influence, and much in judicious breeding and training. We force our horses to a gait when they are one year old, and at three years old they are pretty well developed. The Northern men, however, always improve them." "How long have Kentucky horses held their high place?" was asked. The breeder replied: "No one hereabout can tell. I know men who have lived here eighty-five years, and they state that from their earliest childhood they have heard of the superiority of our horses. Their fathers before them had the same story to tell. The fact is

that somewhere in the past there was brought into this State a pure strain of thorough blood, derived from the best stock of the mother world, and it has transmitted its qualities from sire to son to the present time. It is a lamentable fact that we have not the exact data upon which to base a history of the Kentucky horse."

The Manufacture of Bromide.

Fifteen years ago a few hundred pounds of bromide per year, imported from Europe, sufficed for the wants of the trade, and the price of the article was about \$5 per pound. Since that time the value of bromide of potassium as a