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III. CHEMISTRY.—On the Progress of Chemistry and the Chemical Arts During the Queen's Reign.—By Prof. THORPE.—An important resume of the progress in chemistry and chemical technology from 1837 to date.
IV. CYCLING.—The Cyclo-drome.—A curious device for training purposes, in which miniature races are used as indicators.—1 illustration.
V. ELECTRICITY.—Danger to Submarine Cables in Case of War.
VI. LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERING.—The Evolution of the American Locomotive.—By HERBERT T. WALKER.—The second installment of a very important paper, illustrating historical locomotives by means of clear drawings of great fidelity.—8 illustrations.
VII. MATHEMATICS.—The Figure Genius Jacques Inaudi.—1 illustration.
VIII. MEDICINE.—Beer and the Kidneys.
IX. MILLING.—Recent Improvements in Flour Milling.—A description of an apparatus for mechanically eliminating impurities from grain.—1 illustration.
X. MINING ENGINEERING.—Mining and Miners.
XI. MISCELLANEOUS.—A New Life Saving Apparatus.—A new life buoy.—1 illustration.
XII. NATURAL HISTORY.—The Sloth.—1 illustration.
XIII. ORDONANCE.—A New Sectional Gun.—3 illustrations.
XIV. PHOTOGRAPHY.—Combined Toning and Fixing Bath.
XV. TECHNOLOGY.—An English Match Factory.—By JAMES CASSIDY.—A description of the manufacture of matches; the literature upon the subject is extremely limited.
Paste and Glue.—Thirteen valuable formulas.

OUR NEW ACQUISITION.

We take much pleasure in announcing that we have concluded negotiations with the proprietors of the Progress of the World, the publication of which has been discontinued with the March issue, as the result of which that well known and highly creditable journal will henceforth be absorbed by the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, and the subscribers to the Progress of the World will receive the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN for a period equivalent to the balance of the subscriptions still due them.

The Progress of the World was a monthly illustrated magazine, summarizing in entertaining description the leading current events in the progress of human achievements and general history, and it has made no promises which it has not amply fulfilled.

Inasmuch as the Progress of the World worked on somewhat similar lines to this journal, our newly adopted subscribers will find in the weekly pages of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN an enlarged treatment of a familiar class of subjects.

THE LABOR QUESTION IN JAPAN.

Like causes are producing like results in Japan, and the remarkable industrial development of the country is bringing in its train those very same industrial troubles which have harassed or are still perplexing the older civilizations of the West.

Various writers upon Japan have familiarized us with the condition of the Japanese lower classes, especially of those which are engaged in agricultural pursuits. These descriptions have shown that though the peasant is poor, he has few wants and less cares, and lives a free and happy life.

That human nature is a constant factor in all parts of the world is shown by the fact that employers of factory labor in Japan have already formed combinations, with a view to protecting their own interests by keeping wages at their present low figure.

According to the report made by Mr. Robert P. Porter, superintendent of the eleventh census of the United States, to the National Association of Manufacturers, the wages paid in the various Japanese industries are invariably low.

These wages were low enough, one would think; but when we come to study the agricultural industry, the case is more pitiful yet. Male farm hands get at most 9.5 cents per day; female farm hands, 6 cents; and day laborers, 11 cents.

With these wages prevailing in the labor market, it is easily understood how Japan can compete successfully with the older countries in the production of certain manufactured products, and that she can do so is shown by the fact that the value of its exports increased from \$15,553,472, in 1868, to \$136,112,177 in 1895.

crease in her industries have led the manufacturers of other countries to fear that they could not hold their own in competition, and to regard a Japanese control of certain markets as inevitable.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

BY WILLIAM H. HALE.

An important meeting of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held on April 21 at the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, pursuant to a call by the late president, Prof. E. D. Cope, dated March 31, only twelve days before his death.

Such an event is unprecedented in the history of the association; in fact, no other president has ever died during his term of office.

The permanent secretary, Prof. F. W. Putnam, called the council to order and stated the constitutional provision under which Prof. Gill was authorized to preside.

Owing to the importance of the approaching meeting, the council was very fully attended, some twenty members having been present, including the president elect, Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, who is also president of the National Academy of Sciences, then in session at Washington.

Secretary Putnam was authorized to thank the British Association for their courtesy in extending the privileges of the meeting to the American Association, and also was requested to call the attention of the British Association to our constitutional provision which entitles all members of foreign scientific societies to honorary membership at our meetings without payment of dues, and to invite them to attend.

It was stated that several members would reach this country in season to attend our meeting, while the great majority would barely arrive in time for their own meeting at Toronto, stopping over at Montreal on Tuesday, where they would be guests of the city.

Prof. Nichols, on behalf of the section of physics, requested permission of the council to enroll visiting physicists as honorary vice-presidents of that section, which suggestion Prof. Atkinson proposed to supersede by making them honorary members of the sectional committee; but as both arrangements were found to be unconstitutional, it was finally voted to invite foreign guests to register as honorary members of the several sections in which they were specially interested.

Death has made unusual havoc in the council since the meeting at Buffalo. Besides President Cope, B. A. Gould, one of the past presidents, and an auditor of the association, and G. Brown Goode, president-elect of the section of zoology, have passed away.

Secretary Putnam, who has recently visited Detroit, reported extremely satisfactory progress in arrangements for the meeting; the facilities for physical comfort and convenience surpassing those of any preceding meeting.