

THE GREAT RAILWAY STATION AT BOMBAY, INDIA.

The city of Bombay has the grandest railway station in the world, and it is the finest modern architectural work in India. It is known as the Victoria Terminus. It is the terminus and executive offices of the great Indian Peninsula Railway. The architect was Mr. F. W. Stevens, M.I.C.E.

We present an engraving of the facade of this interesting building, which was brought prominently into notice during the exodus from the city caused by the bubonic plague. The principal or west front forms three sides of the square, the courtyard between the center building and the wings being 180 by 104 feet. The total length of the principal elevation is 1,500 feet. The building is Venetian Gothic, with Oriental modifications. The principal feature of the edifice is the large central octagonal dome of cut stone masonry, which gives a very fine effect and may be seen from any part of the city.

The figure crowning the apex of the dome is a stone statue of Progress. Each of the principal gables is surmounted by groups representing Engineering, Commerce, Agriculture, Science, Trade, while in front of

ble affair and reflects great credit upon those who are charged with the design and execution of this building. The execution of the work occupied ten years, and the estimated cost is about \$17,000,000. Our engraving is from a photograph by Bourne & Shepherd, of Bombay.

Three Curious Plants.

The Los Angeles Herald states that three of the most dangerous of vegetative plants in the world are the "cannibal tree" of Australia, the "death" or "grapple plant" of South Africa, and the "vegetable python" of New Zealand.

The "cannibal tree" grows up in the shape of a huge pineapple, and attains a height of eleven feet. It has a series of broad, boardlike leaves, growing in a fringe at the apex, which forcibly brings to mind a gigantic Central America agave; and these boardlike leaves, from ten to twelve feet in the smaller specimens and from fifteen to twenty feet in the larger, hang to the ground and are easily strong enough to bear the weight of a man of 140 pounds or more. In the ancient times this tree was worshiped by the native savages under the name of the "devil tree," a part of the in-

which, pushing themselves through the canopy above, get into the light, and enormously accelerate their growth. Now a metamorphosis takes place! For the hitherto soft aerial roots begin to harden and spread wider and wider, throwing out side branches, which flow into and amalgamate with each other until the whole tree trunk is bound in a series of irregular living hoops. From this time on it is a struggle of life and death between the forest giant and the entwining clusia. Like an athlete, the tree tries to expand and burst its fetters, causing the bark to bulge between every interlacing; but success and freedom are not for the captive tree, for the monster clusia has made its bands very numerous and wide. Not allowed expansion, the tree soon withers and dies, and the strangler is soon expanded into a great bush, almost as large as the mass of branches and foliage it has effaced. It is truly a tragedy in the world of vegetation.

Menthol Chloroform for Colds.

Wunsche (Therapeutische Monatshefte) says that menthol dissolved in chloroform is the most efficacious of all remedies. A solution of one or two parts of men-



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the central facade is a lifesize statue of the Queen-Empress. The building was named on jubilee day in honor of the Empress of India. A large clock, with two illuminated dials ten and one-half feet in diameter, is placed in the south gable of the station roof; one dial in each gable, so that it may be seen from any point. In the central gable is another clock, with a dial eight and one-half feet in diameter, facing the street. The ornamental flat roofing is decorated in accordance with the rest of the building. The garden in the quadrangle forms one of the prettiest features of the building, and it is separated from the road by a handsome wrought railing ten feet in height. The piers and gates are in the center, the former supporting a lion and tiger and colossal figures representing Great Britain and India. The interior of the building is lavishly decorated, being fitted up in marble, granite and fine woods. Ample facilities are afforded for passengers while they are waiting for the trains. Excellent restaurants are provided, as well as commodious offices for the officials and clerks of the railway. The ticket offices are in a hall eighty by seventy feet deep, the height of the hall being forty feet.

The sanitary arrangements have received the utmost attention and the restaurant is said to be the coolest in India. Altogether the station is a remarka-

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teresting ceremony being the sacrifice of one of their number to its all too-ready embrace. The victim to be sacrificed was driven up the leaves of the tree to the apex, and the instant the so-called "pistils" of the monster were touched the leaves would fly together like a trap, crushing the life out of the intruder. In this way the tree would hold its victim until every particle of flesh would disappear from his bones. The "grapple plant" is a prostrate herb, growing in South Africa. Its flowers are purple and shaped like the English foxglove. Its fruit has formidable hooks, which, by clinging to any passer-by, is conveyed to situations where its seed may find suitable conditions for growth. Sir John Lubbock says it has been known to kill lions.

The "vegetable python," which is known to the naturalist as the clusia or fig, is the strangler of trees. The seeds of the clusia, being provided with a pulp and very pleasant to the tropical birds which feed thereon, are carried from tree to tree and deposited on the branches. Here germination begins. The leafy stem slowly rises, while the roots flow, as it were, down the trunk until the soil is reached. Here and there they branch, changing their course according to the direction of any obstructions met with. Meanwhile from these rootlets leafy branches have been developed,

thol in twenty parts of chloroform will not only arrest the progress of a cold in its initial stage, but it is also an excellent influenza prophylactic.

From four to six drops of the solution should be placed in the hollow of the hand, quickly rubbed between the hands, the two hands, tightly pressed together, placed before the face, and the remedy energetically inhaled alternately through the nose and mouth. It will be immediately noticed that the volatile parts of the solution thoroughly impregnate the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and throat, and even penetrate deep down in the air passages. During the first two or three inhalations the sweetish chloroform vapor predominates. After, however, only menthol in attenuated condition is inhaled, odor and feeling remaining apparent for some time after the inhalation. As a rule, the first inhalation suffices to cure the severest tendency to sneezing, and often to arrest the progress of the cold altogether. Two further applications of the remedy in the course of the day suffice to suppress the attack completely. The first inhalation at first slightly increases the flow from the mucous membrane of the nose; afterward, however, this symptom diminishes quickly. Pains in the pharynx and larynx may be quickly eased and often entirely relieved by the remedy.—Med. Age.