#### **THE FRAGRANT PINCH.**

#### BY WILLIAM FRANCIS.

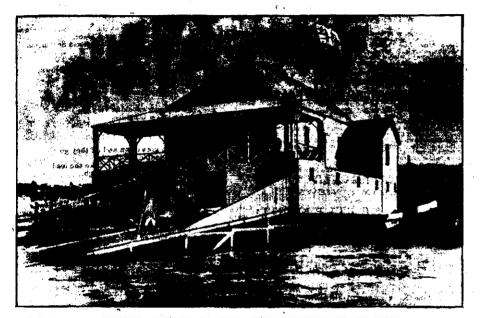
Til. man had all he could enjoy, He had not joys enough, Nor fully could each sense employ, Till fortune gave him snuff.

ORIGINALLY shuff was used as a medicine, and not as a locury. Physicians were accustomed to recommend it for the elimination of 'gross and petuitary humours from the brsio,' to relieve headache, toothache, ophthalmia, and acme paralytic and sporific complaint. Upwards of 400 years BC, Hippocrates used powder of herbs as shuff in disease. years dir

disease. Antonina Musa, physician to Augustus Cresar, names many disorders of the body in which he deemed shuff bene-

the Speciator, where the question is with reason demanded, 'Would it not employ a beau prettily enough if, instead of playing etarnally with a souff box, he spent some part of bis time in making one?' In those early days andf was made by rubbing a roll of tobacco on a brass grater, then fixed in all souff boxes; the thus powdered weed was then eccoped up in a small epoon or shell, placed upon the back of the hand, and was souffed up the nose. In an old comedy by Thoma's Baker, entitled 'An Act at Oxford,' and produced in 1704, a beau remarks to a young lady named Arabells that be carries sweet snuff for the ladies, and produces the box. 'A spoon, too,' eries the fair Ara-bells; 'that's very gallant; for to see some people run their fat fingers into a box is as nanseous as eating without a tork.'

The use of the fragrant pinch has not been restricted to those members of society who 'take a world of pains to prove that bodies can exist same braine;' but eminent



W. Ecgsilant, phate. DUNEDIN AMATEUR BOATING CLUB BUILDING-BEACH VIEW.

# ficial. Aulos Cornelius Celsus, who lived and wrote in the same age with our Saviour, advises snuff in pains in the head, in spasme, lethargy, and hysteris.

One pinch of snuff relieved the vapoured head, Removed the spicen, removed the quaimish fit, And gave a brisker turn to female wit.

And gave a brisker turn to female wit. Fifty years later Areizeus, a celebrated physician, of R.mo, prescribed for the same complaints remedies in power to incite sneezing. It was in this way that our modern snoff (powdered tobacco) was introduced into France. Catherina de Medici, in common with Francis II. and other members of that royal family, suffered from obstinate cepha-lagia. In the year 1560, the French Ambassador at Liebon, Jean Nicot, having relieved headache in his own person with the powder, presented some, grated with his own hand, to her Majesty, who as the time was longing for a new remedy for her headache. At once her Majesty obtained relief, and the cephalic virtue of the remedy was so solidly established that the French people of high degree indulged in the fragram plach.

#### SNUFF-TAKING IN ENGLAND.

From France the habit of snuff-taking soon found its way into England, and though introduced as a medicine speedily became known as a luxury. Butler bears testimony to the fact that the Cromwellian saints were not averse to its use, when he wrote :

## He had administered a dore Of snuff mun dungue to his nose. And powdered the inside of his skull, Instead of the outward jobbermole.

Instead of the outward jobbermole. But though snuff-taking was practised in Eugland early in the seventeenth century, the babit did not become general until after the Restoration. As the eighteenth century advanced andf-taking became universal. The snuff-box was everywhere in requisition. There was no escape from the universal ancers. In the streets, in the theatre, in churches, in every piece where people met together, the little box was always in evidence, and the odoar of snuff filled the air. At that period the snuff-box was an absolutely necessary part of the equipment of every fine gentleman. In the Tailer, Steele riduciles the affecta-tion of a fine gentleman and apostrophises him thus :--'Thou dear outside, will you be combing your wig, playing with your box, or picking your teeth 'I to Oldham's poems (1682) a hanger on of a stopid nobleman is satirised thus :--

### There's naught so mean can scape the flattering sot; Not his lord a snuff-box nor his powder pot,

Baker in his comedy of Hampstead Heath is severe on the beau, and describes him thus :-----

### A wig that is full, An empty skull, A box of bergamot,

A very commendable suggestion is advanced in No. 43 of

statesmen, warriors, artista, poets, and even divines, bave pleaded guilty to a liking for anuff. Was it not said of Sir Joshna Kaynolds by Oliver Goldsmith :

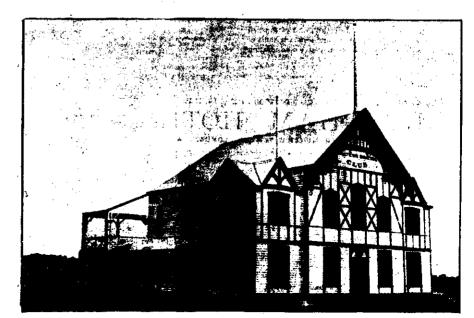
When they talked of their Raphaela, Correggios, and stuff, He shifted his trumpet and only took shuff.

He shifted his trumpet and only took shuff. Perhaps life might have been a gloomier thing to Dr. Johnson if he had not enlivened his views of it with an oc-casional stimulus of a pinch. So fond was the 'great Cham 'of the grated powder that he used to take is out of his waistcoat pocket instead of a box. He had a box, however, for in the Lichfield Museum you can see a box that once belonged to the lexicographer in the miscellaneous collection of Johnsonian curios. Gibbon, the historian of the 'Decline and fall of the Roman Empire', was an exces-sive snuff-taker, and in one of his letters thus describes his

<page-header><page-header><text><text>

Parsons staunch and great physicians. Here have dipped the immortal thumb. Painters, scuiptors, sweet musicians, Round it still like phantoms come.

Gentle poets, legal railors, Playwrights, actors, merchants, squires, Lords and ladies, soldiers, sailors, Here had all the nose desires,



W. Esquilant, photo

DUNEDIN AMATEUR BOATING CLUB BUILDING-FRONT VIEW.