

from hypnotism. The criminal courts of all countries will (the *Chronicle* truly remarks) shortly be brought face to face with hypnotism as a defence for crime, and it is of vital importance that they approach the question dispassionately and understandingly. They must be satisfied of two things before they can allow the defence of hypnotism to be interposed—first, that there is such a thing as hypnotism, and second, that the defendant is a genuine hypnotic subject. Unless the courts can satisfy themselves in every case on these points, the defence of hypnotism must be rejected as fraudulent and a sham, and, as has been said, the latest scientific writers are inclined to doubt the possibility of hypnotic suggestion and to class the widely heralded experiments of alleged hypnotists as fraud and humbug.

ANY New Zealand hostess who wants to be extremely fashionable according to the latest home standard should, when the oyster season comes in again, make a point of providing dinner or supper guests with *white oysters*. To be sure, they are not so wholesome as the everyday common or garden bivalve, but they are undoubtedly 'the thing,' and that, if you desire to be fashionable, outweighs all consideration as to health. Nobody knows exactly where the craze started unless it took root in the feminine idea that everything that is white is pure, but it is a fact that your smart society hostess nowadays would never dream of providing oysters for a supper or dinner that were not white. For the benefit of those amiable but assuredly not very wise colonials who imitate anything and everything in vogue in England or America, however foolish, one may remark that the white oyster is probably a diseased oyster. But they certainly do look far more delicate and appetising than the regulation oyster. Salt water gives the natural colour. To produce the white colour all the dealers, or for that matter the consumer, has to do is to put the oyster into fresh water. They get very fat, become rapidly white and then very quickly die, the turning white being, one supposes, a sign of approaching dissolution.

PLEASURE craft dependent on neither oars, wind, or steam is somewhat of a novelty, and an invitation to inspect one recently imported from America was eagerly accepted by one of the Auckland staff of this paper. The engine, which is of four horse power, drives the boat at a great speed, and yet there is no boiler, no furnace, nothing, indeed, to suggest whence comes the motive power. In two minutes after the party was aboard the little craft was rushing through the water at something like nine knots, all that the owners had to do being to turn on a tap and press a lever. It sounds almost incredible, and even when seen one finds it hard to believe that the boat may be thus got away at any time without the slightest previous preparation. The cause of

COLLECTORS of stamps will be distressed to hear that the question of an inter-national stamp is likely to be re-opened at an early date, and that there seems considerable prospect that the difficulties which have hitherto stood in the way will be overcome. Germany has quite recently placed a proposition before other Postal Union countries for the adoption of an international series of postage stamps. There is every likelihood that European countries will adopt such a stamp, and hopes are entertained that the United States will also enter into such agreement.

ONE of the principal reasons urged for the innovation is the convenience resulting in communication between merchants in different colonies and countries. Firms in one country have frequent occasion to write to those in other colonies and countries for certain information. They are now obliged to depend on the generosity of co-operative strangers not only for the information desired, but also for payment of postage on the reply, unless, indeed, the questioners have provided themselves with current postage stamps of the country to which the letter is addressed—a matter of considerable difficulty at best, and most frequently an impossibility.

To Consume, too, the international stamp would be a great advantage. They are constantly in receipt of letters of enquiry from the country they represent, and these never contain payment for reply, owing to the improbability, or at any rate the inconvenience of procuring the necessary stamps.

It is also announced that the Minister of Post in Germany has designed suitable stamps and formulated a plan for adoption. It is expected the proposed stamp will mention on its face all countries in which it will be current, also its value in the currency of each. The details are, however, as yet a secret, but it will, of course, be considerably larger than those now generally in use. This will, indeed, be unavoidable if any additional inscriptions are to be made and to appear in legible form. An international stamp will also prove of great convenience to those desiring to remit small amounts to foreign countries. Correspondents will be furnished with an easily available and inexpensive means of exchange. Should this department go into operation it may be the stepping-stone to a system of international coinage.

STAMP-COLLECTORS, however, view the idea askance. They fear it will result in taking away the charm of collecting by confining the varieties of stamps to a very limited number. The fascination of stamp-collecting would then be gone, for it would seem to consist not so much in actual possession as in the pursuit of the object sought for. But as the American contemporary who has furnished us with this subject remarks, the philatelists have an immense field already in existence in the millions of different stamps

that she knew if ever she was left a widow that he would allow her to occupy the room she had used in her girlhood, and that that should be her dower residence. It must be a strange and, one imagines, very disagreeable experience, and one not easily endured by one who for so many years has been so great a personage as the Empress of Russia, to find herself suddenly dependent on either her son or her father for honour and support.

NEW ZEALAND still advances in musical art. Tennyson's beautiful lines, 'Why Should We Weep for Those Who Die,' have been set to music by the late John H. Carroll, the arrangement being by his sister. Mr Carroll was a composer of some eminence, and had held important positions as organist in the Old Country, notably Downpatrick Cathedral. The publication comes from the GRAPHIC and Star litho works in Auckland, and is admirable in regard to printing and general get up. The cover design in crimson and gold is very beautiful, and the whole production shows that New Zealand can produce as good work as anything we import in this line.



NOTICE TO SELECTORS ON DEFERRED PAYMENTS, PERPETUAL LEASE, LEASE IN PERPETUITY, AND OCCUPATION WITH RIGHT OF PURCHASE.

Lands and Survey Department.
Auckland, February 2, 1895.

By direction of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, I hereby give notice that the Half-yearly Instalments and Payments of Rent on the above, for the period ending June 30, 1895, are now overdue. Selectors are requested to forward the amounts due to the Receiver of Land Revenue, Auckland, by cash bank draft, post office order or cheque. Cheques must be made payable to 'The Receiver of Land Revenue or Order,' and NOT CROSSED. Exchange must be added to all cheques drawn on banks outside Auckland City.

T. M. TAYLOR,
Receiver of Land Revenue.

WANGANUI GIRLS' COLLEGE.

Parents wishing to enter their daughters as Boarders for next year should make early application, as the vacancies are being filled up.

Full Particulars may be obtained from

A. A. BROWNE,

Secretary.

Wanganui, 19th November, 1894.

S. T. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL FAIR,
MELBOURNE.

MONSTER ART-UNION.

The DRAWING in connection with the Building Fund of the above has been unavoidably POSTPONED until 2nd MARCH, 1895.

THE PRIZES ARE VALUED AT £2,000.
The First Prize is £500, or a Work of Art; the Second Prize is £100, the Third £75, and the Fourth £25.

TICKETS—ONE SHILLING EACH.

Blocks of tickets and remittances to be returned not later than 23rd February, 1895, to the Rev. R. P. Collins, St. Patrick's.

The drawing will positively take place on the date named in the Exhibitor Building.

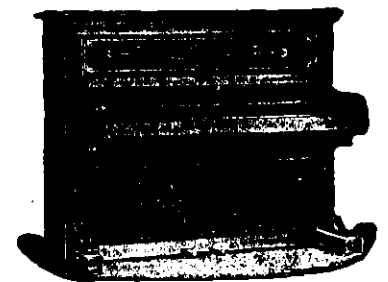
A very liberal commission will be allowed to agents for selling tickets.

W. G. THOMAS,

WHOLESALE and EXPORT PIANOFORTE MANUFACTURER

STEAM WORKS: GOSPEL OAK GROVE.

KENTISH TOWN, London, N.W., England



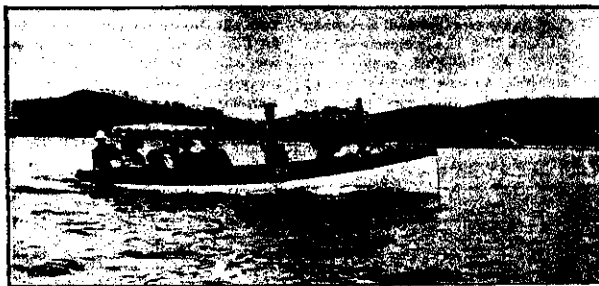
A PIANOFORTE SAME DESIGN AS OUT

FOR
25 GUINEAS, INSECT AND VERMIN PROOF

Packed in zinc-lined case and shipped to any New Zealand Port FREE.

SPECIALY CONSTRUCTED FOR THE COLONIES.

7 OCTAVES, trichord treble, check action, pinned hammers keys made and covered in one piece and screwed. Iron-frame volume sound board and celeste pedal. Hundreds of these perfect Pianos have now been sent to all parts of the World. TERMS—Half cash with order, balance on production of shipping documents.—ILLUSTRATED LISTS OF OTHER MODELS, free by post on application.



GASOLINE ENGINE.
Pleasure Craft in Auckland Harbour.

the mystery is gasoline. The gasoline engine is a comparatively new invention, and has been only very recently perfected, but it is now certainly the acme of simplicity and convenience combined to utility. The importers, Messrs Ryan and Co., of Auckland, were able to set up the first engine received and set it going after once receiving the printed instructions, and so excessively simple is the mechanism that any person could understand the working of the engine in an hour or so. The engines are made in a variety of sizes and horsepowers, and wherever they have been tried they have apparently given satisfaction. Handier boats for pleasure cruising cannot well be imagined. The launch which our picture represents is 22½ feet long, with 5 feet of beam, and carries a 4-horse power engine. She is owned by W. A. Ryan and Co., and was running at the rate of 10 miles an hour when the photo was taken.

issued since the one penny black of Great Britain became their precursor. And as the same writer points out, while there is scarcely a doubt that sooner or later we shall have an international stamp, there are certain to be countries who will not adopt it until forced by circumstances to do so.

VERILY the independent colonial woman is better off in many ways than even so exalted a personage as the Czarina of Russia. Since the marriage of the new Emperor it has transpired that in Russia there is no provision made for the widows of the Czars and the Grand Dukes, and in consequence all widows of members of the Imperial family are completely at the mercy of the reigning Emperor, who can do as little or as much for them as he pleases. The present widowed Czarina is entirely dependent on her son. On one occasion she told her father, the King of Denmark,