

Depend on it, if he should so much as trip on a bit of matting a finely coloured enlargement of the incident with notes will be forwarded to his constituents, and may cost him his seat. In the lobbies he will literally have to hold his breath in case the aroma of his slight liquid refreshment at lunch should offend the keen nostril of his prohibition friend and give rise to reports.

FRANCE IN EXTREMIS.

NOTHING shows more plainly the extent to which France is conscious of her waning power and influence in Europe than some of the proposals which have recently been ventilated in the French press. The most extraordinary of these is that she should ally herself with Germany. With Germany of all Powers! Those who have sojourned in France at any time since 1871, and know the intensity of the hatred which has been carefully nursed in the tenderest bosoms against the Power that laid the French glory in the dust; those who know with what distrust, suspicion and envy the great neighbouring Empire is regarded and how the wound that was made in France's side when the two provinces were torn from her has never been allowed to heal, but has been kept raw and tender, will find it hard to believe that that proposal was made even in jest. And even that such a bitter jest could be perpetrated seems well nigh incredible. But apparently there was no jest about it; the suggestion was made in all earnestness and accepted in the same spirit. To what a pass must not matters have come when such a thing is possible. It is as if I invited Bill Sykes, who had robbed me of all my plate and cash and knocked my wife and children insensible—it is as if I politely asked him to come in and share my bed and board just because I was afraid that some other crookman had designs on my establishment. Of all the unnatural alliances this would surely be the most unnatural. We are not likely to see to what degree France would stoop to consummate it, because it is pretty clear that Germany has thoughts in another direction. That Anglo-American-German-Japanese coalition offers a great deal more to the ambitious Kaiser than any trumpety alliance with France. The latter has had another suggestion placed before her by one of her sons. He, Paul Cassagnac, urges that France should revive privateering rights with the view of circumventing Great Britain. Now, by the Treaty of Paris privateering was abolished over forty years ago, and we have lately seen in the Spanish American war that the Powers are not likely to agree to sanction the old arrangement again, which is of course to the advantage of a weak naval Power when her adversary happens to have such an enormous and wealthy marine commerce as England has. The proposal is scarcely likely to be countenanced by France simply because she must be well aware that in these days when other nations besides England are largely interested in sea-borne commerce her scheme would not be likely to meet with general approval. She must think of some other plan to revive her drooping prestige.

HOW TO CURE POVERTY.

MANY are the curious advertisements which the diligent reader of newspapers is sure to come across, but none I think is more calculated to excite genuine curiosity than the following, which I stumbled on the other day in the columns of a great American daily. It ran thus:—"Having successfully cured poverty in my own case, I will teach others how to do the same. Address, with two cent. stamps." One's first impulse on reading this is to exclaim with Hamlet, 'tis a knavish piece of work. Certainly it has all the appearance of one of those baited hooks which our modern fishers of men—quite another class from the Galilean ones—leave dangling so temptingly in every newspaper for the fools to come along and swallow. You may think that the device is a very clumsy one; but I am not so sure of that. You have to consider, to begin with, that fools, not wise men, are the game, and the class is not a whit less numerous among the poor than among the rich. Indeed, just as the sick are the very persons

to be most easily persuaded to try some quack cure-all, so the indigent are probably the most credulous in the matter of recipes for acquiring a fortune. Hence there is every reason why the man who advertises to cure such a wide-spread and ever-present epidemic as poverty, should find as many eager clients as the man who professes to cure indigestion or that tired feeling." We are supposing that this poverty cure is a fraud from first to last, just as I am afraid so many other cures are. But I am sure my readers will be interested to know that the supposition is perhaps rather gratuitous. There lies before me now an article on the mental curists of the United States, a strange philosophic sect that has recently come into existence. One of the tenets of these people applies to this same matter of poverty, which they believe can be cured by a mere effort of thought. Their motto would seem to be 'nothing is but thinking makes it so,' and they tell you to 'Think yourself rich and you will be, you are rich.' 'Spend every nickel as though



"Having successfully cured poverty in my own case, I will teach others how to do the same."

it had dollars behind it,' advises a Chicago poverty-curer, 'and every time you spend a penny assure yourself mentally that the wealth of all the world is yours for the asking.' As to that maxim, 'Think yourself rich and you will be rich, you are rich,' there is a very great deal in it, no doubt. Rochefoucault, I think it is, argues that a man's riches consists not in what he has but in what he is; and is that not the whole key note of Christianity? I am quite ready to concede that to a very large extent the mental state is everything and if we consisted of nothing but mind, the plan suggested would be entirely successful. But unfortunately we have a gross material body to take into account that requires a certain modicum of food and drink and raiment, and apart from which the brain cannot act. If a man cannot by taking thought add one cubit to his stature, it is equally certain that he cannot, by thinking ever so hard, bring a dinner to his table; and by no amount of skilful cogitation will a Barmecide feast satisfy the cravings of an empty stomach. Try the experiment if you doubt me. But, to go back again, notwithstanding all this, I verily believe that the poverty which is comparative and not absolute—and that is the commonest kind of poverty in this country; the poverty that consists not in being without sufficient food and clothing and shelter, but in having less of the lesser and the greater luxuries of life than one's neighbours—I verily believe that that poverty can be cured by a mental and moral effort. Whether there are many people who are capable of the necessary exertion however is another thing. For to be able to make it and to be ruled by it implies a spirit of high philosophy which few of us possess.

Clarke's B. & P. Pills are warranted to cure Gravel, Pain in the back and all kindred complaints. Free from Mercury. Established upwards of 30 years. In boxes is 6d each, of all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World. Proprietors, The Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln, England.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Notice to Contributors.—Any letters or MSS. received by the Editor of the "New Zealand Graphic" will be immediately acknowledged in this column.

'Arabella.'—Many thanks. The photos are especially well done, and might easily be mistaken for the work of a professional.

'Nimrod.'—No; there would certainly not be time.

'I.D.S.'—You had better ask particulars from a good chemist in the neighbouring city.

'Thin Locks.'—Try what may be done by having the ends of your hair singed regularly once a month.

'Robert Le Diable.'—A husband cannot by his will deprive his wife of the provisions in her favour in their marriage contract.

'An Inveterate Whig.'—It is certainly the Liberal Government in the Old Country to whom must be given the credit of passing the Budget of 1894, in which it was laid down for the first time that extra taxation ought to be borne by those best able to pay.

'Correspondent.'—Those cut glass dishes of yours should be first thoroughly washed and dried, then rubbed with prepared chalk, using a soft brush, and being careful not to neglect any of the crevices. That will give them a fine polish.

'Perplexed.'—One of the best ways of preserving eggs is to varnish them with vaseline, but the process has the drawback of taking rather too much time.

'Violet.'—In your case, as in the case of all unmarried daughters, whose mothers are dead and who live with their fathers, your name should be beneath your father's on the usual lady's visiting card.

'Anxious Mother.'—No, I do not think you have any cause for alarm, but seeing that your little girl is so backward in teething you would do well not to give her much solid food. About three times a week you might give her about a tablespoonful of meat pounded to a paste and mixed with bread crumbs or mashed potatoes, or some carefully shroded boiled white fish in a little thick milk sauce.

'Mary Duneau.'—Your suggestion is a capital one, and I shall do my best to ensure its receiving the attention it deserves in the proper quarter.

'Ralph the Rover.'—I don't know why you should make me the recipient of your confessions. The confidences you choose to make me are utterly unwelcome and not a little embarrassing to me, for though you may have done nothing that brings you within the clutches of the law, your conduct has been in my opinion most vile and reprehensible.

'H.L.'—You have certainly been overworking yourself. Try lying in bed for a couple of days, and if the symptoms don't disappear then consult a doctor.

'X.Y.Z.'—You will hear from me in a day or two by post.

'Heavy Sleeper.'—The best thing you can do is to purchase an alarm clock.

'Mildred, Pombony.'—You inquire what are the ingredients for Vienna rolls. Here they are: 1 qt. flour, 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder, 1 tablespoonful lard, and barely a pint of milk.

'Rural Subscriber.'—The editor of the 'New Zealand Farmer' would be far better able to inform you on the subject than I. You had better write to him.

'A Bruised Reed.'—Pluck up courage. Life certainly has its troubles, but it has also its compensations. Since you have had, apparently, more than your fair share of troubles in the past, you have every right to hope that in the future the compensations may be dealt out to you just as liberally.

'P.D.'—Your M.S. will be returned if you send stamps to defray the postage.

'Daisy.'—Your mother is undoubtedly right, and her words are so clearly dictated by good sense and reason that I am astonished at your feeling vexed.

VI-COCOA LEADS THE WAY.

It is found in the Homes of Hundreds of Thousands of the People who cannot be induced to go without it.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Owing to the kindly recommendations of Auckland people who have used Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa it can now be obtained from all respectable Grocers, Chemists, and Stores in Auckland and district, and the following have given permission for the insertion of their names and addresses as Local Agents. The list will be added to from time to time as occasion demands, for the information of those who write asking for the name of the nearest Agent.

LOCAL AGENTS.

- G. AITKEN, 86, Queen-street
BROWN, BARRETT, & CO., Customs-st.
A. J. ENTRICAN & CO., Customs-street
E. HEATHER, ROBERTSON, & CO., Customs-street
W. HOOKER, Symonds-street
KEMP THORNE, PROSSER, & CO., Wyndham-street
H. B. MORTON & CO., Customs-street
E. L. NATHAN & CO., Storeland-street
A. NATHAN & CO., Customs-street
NEW ZEALAND DRUG COMPANY, LIMITED, Wyndham-street
C. RAFFJENS, 94, Queen-street
J. SCHLESCHKA, Market-street
SHARLAND & CO., Lorne-street
H. M. SWEETON, 7, Queen-street

Medical men and the public are offering conclusive testimony upon the value of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and to show their confidence in the new preparation the proprietors make the unparalleled offer of a free test of merit, a dainty sample tin being sent gratis and post free to any address on mentioning the 'N.Z. Graphic.' This offer is made because it sells Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, the new preparation referred to; in fact, the sales are increasing to such an extent that additional manufacturing facilities have had to be made.

Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, in 8/6d packets, and 1/1 and 2/2 tins, can be obtained from all Grocers, Chemists, and stores, or from Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, 269, George-street, Sydney.

KEATING'S POWDER KILLS KEATING'S POWDER KILLS KEATING'S POWDER KILLS KEATING'S POWDER KILLS

- BUGS, BEES, MOTHS, BEETLES, MOSQUITOES. HARMLESS TO ANIMALS, HARMLESS TO ANIMALS, HARMLESS TO ANIMALS.

but is unrivalled in destroying FLEAS, BUGS, COCKROACHS, BEETLES, MOTHS IN FURS, and every other species of insect. Sportsmen will find this invaluable for destroying fleas in their dogs, as also ladies for their pet dogs.

The PUBLIC are CAUTIONED that packages of the genuine powder bear the autograph of THOMAS KEATING, Sold in Tins only.

KEATING'S WORM TABLETS. KEATING'S WORM TABLETS. KEATING'S WORM TABLETS. KEATING'S WORM TABLETS.

A PURELY VEGETABLE SWEETMEAT, both in appearance and taste, furnishing a most agreeable method of administering the only certain remedy for INTESTINAL or THREAD WORMS. It is a perfectly safe and mild preparation, and is especially adapted for Children. Sold in Tins, by all Druggists. Proprietor, THOMAS KEATING, London.

A Phenomenal Novelty! THE CALENDAR WATCH

Tells the CORRECT TIME of the Day, the Day of the Week, the Day of the Month, the Month of the Year, and the Phases of the Moon. Full marked Sterling Silver Case and Dione, extra jewelled movements; Keyless. Price 65s. Securely packed; sent Registered Post Free in any colony. To purchasers of this watch we will present free of charge a solid silver 11.51.11's Patent Single or Double Chain. Money returned if not satisfied. Address: THE MANAGER, The Globe Watch Company, Ltd., 100, FIFT STREET, SYDNEY.