WAIFS AND STRAYS.

TEMPERANCE and labour are the two best physicians of man.

The duration of a man's friendship is one of the best measures of his worth.

There is no dispute managed without passion, and yet there is scarce a dispute worth a passion.

We never know the true value of our friends. While they live we are too sensitive of their faults, when we have lost them we see only their virtues.

Words of praise are almost as necessary to warm a child into genial life as acts of kindness and affection. Judicious praise is to children what the sun is to flowers.

> An honest soul is like a ship at sea,
> That sleeps at anchor on the ocean's calm;
> But, when it rages, and the wind blows high,
> She cuts her way with skill and majesty.

Verily it is not deep words that make a man holy and upright; it is a good life which maketh a man dear to God. I had rather feel contrition than be skilful in the definition thereof.—Thomas à Kempis.

To be heroic in danger is little; to be heroic in change and sway of fortune is little; but to be heroic in happiness, to bear yourselves gravely and righteously in the dazzling of the sunshine of morning; not to forget the God in whom you trust when He gives you most; not to fail those who trust you when they seem to need you least—this is the difficult fortitude.

GOLD NUGGETS.—One of the largest and most remarkably shaped nuggets ever found was discovered in an Australian mine in 1887. It was flat, and almost the exact counterpart in contour of a colossal human hand held open, with the exception of the thumb and forefinger, which were closed together in a manner so as to make it appear that the thumb was holding the finger in place. Its greatest length was twelve and a half inches, and its greatest breadth eight inches. It was of the very purest gold, with but a little of foreign substances adhering (mostly between the 'fingers'), and weighed six hundred and seventeen ounces. The famous 'Lady Brassey,' also found in Australia, weighed fifty-one pounds of pure gold, worth two hundred and twenty-five dollars per pound. In 1891 a nugget of fifteen pounds' weight, shaped exactly like a cross, with the exception of the right arm, was discovered in the Burisa mine, near the same place.

BALD HEADS.—It is maintained by a physician who has studied the subject, that plenty of hair on the head means plenty of brains; that the hair is a sure index of one's mental staying power. 'I always look on a bald-headed man,' he says, 'as deficient, not only in hair, but in actual brain power. You know each hair is connected with the brain by a tiny nerve, and the loss of all these nerves means loss of powers. Indeed, though the effect may not be at first so apparent, a man may as well lose his hand or his foot as his hair. If you doubt this, the next time you hear of a man who has all his life been clear-headed and practical suddenly doing some foolish and inexplicable thing, or breaking down in a crisis which demands all his energies—just look at his head. In nine times out of ten he is bald. Half the men who drop dead suddenly are bald. In almost every case, however, there is a hope of cure for baldness if the head be regularly submitted to a gentle "scratching," and occasionally to a thorough dosing of a suitable stimulating soap.

FREAKS OF SOMNAMBULISM.—While at college, a young man apparently of a hale constitution was habitually subject to somnambulism. His fits came on regularly every night. He ran about violently, romped, wrestled and boxed with his room mates, who enjoyed the sport at his expense. While running he always held his hands before him, with his fingers stretched out. He was remarkably agile, and easily distanced pursuers. The general belief that somnambulists see by means of the points of their fingers, as well as by the observation that, while running, our somnambulist always carried his hands and outstretched fingers before him as if these were his organs of sight, suggested to his companions the idea of putting gloves upon his hands. One night this was done while he slept. At the usual time he rose and sprang out of bed; but although his comrades began to tease and provoke him, he did not move from the spot, and groped and tumbled about like a blind or drunken man. At length he perceived the cause of his distress, and took off the gloves. Scarcely were his hands uncovered when he started up in a lively manner, and threw the gloves with ironical indignation upon the floor, making a ludicrous observation upon the means taking to blind him; and then began to run about the room as usual.

THE CASINO AT MONTE CARLO.—In the first place, on entering the Casino, you apply at the office to the left for a ticket. There is a counter against which you lean, and behind it are a number of polite officials. One asks your name and where you live and a few other particulars, which you answer truthfully or not just as you please. He writes your name on the ticket and also numbers it. Then he requests you to inscribe your autograph on the back of the card. The ticket I have before me at the moment of writing is about four by three inches, and is coloured green, a delicate compliment, I take it, to those who expect to make a fortune at the tables. There is no undue haste in the making out of the ticket, and I presume some diligent official looks up the name given in a book to see if there is any record against it. On the right-hand side of the entrance are cloak-rooms, where you leave hat, umbrella, stick, or other impediments, and from there you enter a large and lofty hall, where well-dressed men and women are strolling about, most of the gentlemen smoking, no indulgence in that vice being permitted in the pure precincts of the tables. Opposite the entrance are the doors leading into the concert room, where a band, composed of eighty players or more, give afternoon and evening performances of music, classical and popular. The band is said to be one of the finest in Europe. The concert-hall is large, and very floridly decorated. The seats, most of them, are luxurious armchairs, covered with crimson velvet. Upstairs is a comfortable reading-room, containing many papers from all lands. There are writing and smoking-rooms, and a refreshment-room. Except for refreshments, there is absolutely no charge for anything, and no tips are allowed. Concert, writing-paper, journals, everything is free.

ART AND ARTISTS

IT is strange that the current numbers of the *Art Journal* just now being distributed to the multitudinous colonial subscribers should contain a photogravure of perhaps the finest picture painted by Mr Vicat Cole, R.A., whose untimely death leaves a terrible gap in the ranks of

MR VICAT COLE.

British artists. He was born at Portsmouth in 1833, his father, Mr George Cole, being a well-known member of the Society of British Artists. He was still living at Portsmouth when, at the age of nineteen, he sent his first exhibited pictures to the Society of British Artists. One was 'Scene on the Wye, Tintern,' and the other 'From Symonds' Yacht on the Wye.' In 1853 he exhibited at the Royal Academy a view on the Moselle and 'Ranmoor Common, Surrey.' For the last thirty years he has been a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy, and sunshine and storm, field and fallow, have been limned by his master hand. He was not a mere studio artist, it was in the fields and the woodlands that he painted his pictures, which were finished in his library. Throughout his career he had a great liking for the county of Surrey, which, with its varied scenery, within a short distance of London, afforded him that variety of colour and type that was indispensable. A scene near Leith Hill, Dorking, which he called 'A Surrey Cornfield,' and exhibited in 1860, was universally admired, and exhibited in the international Exhibition of 1862. In 1870, he became an associate of the Royal Academy, and ten years later a Royal Academician.

THE general dissatisfaction expressed by artists during the past few years at the wholesale reproduction of their pictures in illustrated papers and handbooks to the Royal Academy, has resulted in a scheme whereby Royal Academicians receive an honorarium of £5 each for the right of reproduction of their works. It is understood that this arrangement only includes members of the Royal Academy, but it will doubtless also be extended to the chief 'outsiders.'

THE Continental method of showing in the metropolis a statue intended for the colonies has been followed in London. A statue of the Queen, seated, has been temporarily erected opposite the Horse Guards, prior to its despatch as a jubilee memorial for Hong Kong. This statue is by M. Raggi. Although art knows no nationality, yet it would be good news for English artists if Her Majesty could be persuaded to give native talent more recognition. At present the Court is quite out of touch with the Royal Academy, or any other group of British painters.

ARTISTS of all kinds are determined that Japan shall not grow slack for want of artistic visitors, and, whereas we have had to chronicle Mr Phil May's immediate journey to Japan, the name of Mr Louis Fagan is now to be added to the list of Japanese artistic visitors. He left England about a month ago, having for his object the study of Japanese art and the preparation of a series of drawings which he himself will subsequently etch. He will spend six months in Japan.

THE Archbishop of Westminster, but recently created Cardinal, has, it is whispered on the highest authority, determined to open a very elaborate exhibition under the name of 'Christian Art.' The title is vague enough, in all conscience, and what may or may not be included in the exhibition it passes, from the mere name, the wit of man to conceive. We understand, however, that it will include the different forms of Christain life in the past as exhibited through the art that apparently was inspired by Christianity. Thus there would be models of churches and basilicas, paintings by masters old and new concerned with Christian and religious subjects. Replicas of shrines, of cathedrals, of scenes in the past will be included, and the whole is to be temporarily housed in the great open space opposite the prison-looking building in Carlisle Place where the Archbishops of Westminister resids.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

A NEW cigar tray for use on pianos has recently been placed before the public. Its object is to save the keys from being burned and the veneer blistered by lighted cigars being placed upon them. It is a laudable purpose, but as it is by no means one of the useful customs of the country to rest burning cigars on pianos, the utility of the invention is not so good as its object.

∴ ∴ ∴

For the greater number of photographic uses the graduated measures, which are now being made of transparent celluloid instead of glass, should answer well, but they are obviously not suitable for strong alcohol or ether. To the tourist the new measures should be very acceptable, on account of their lightness as well as on the ground of freedom from risk of breakage.

∴ ∴ ∴

Filter manufacturers are said to be anticipating a profitable year. It is predicted that cholera will visit us again, and there are other diseases, as fatal and more infectious, that proceed, like it, from the same conditions, *i.e.*, foul drinking water. Hardly any water supply is so pure that it cannot be immeasurably improved by filtration, and there is none that is entirely free from traces of organic contamination.

∴ ∴ ∴

An automatic railway carriage door lock is said to have been invented which catches automatically when the door is shut, and the handle inside the door will not then accidentally open by pressure, and any pressure so given would only tend to keep the lock more secure. It is said to be a colonial invention, and has been brought under the notice of the Railway Commissioners by Messrs C. Atkins and Co., of Melbourne, as agents for W. S. Busby's patent. Its construction is said to be simple and it is effective in action.

∴ ∴ ∴

INGENIOUS BUT NOT EFFECTUAL.

A new and powerful lamp, which, by means of a great reflector, is said to distinctly illuminate objects over half a mile distant, is to be adopted in the French army. It will be carried on a light waggon, behind the soldiers, and shining above them, will leave them still in obscurity, and throw its light forward on an enemy or whatever happens to be in front of them. The drawback seems to be, however, that the enemy will know they are under the light, although invisible, and thus be able to take measures accordingly.

∴ ∴ ∴

A MODEL HOUSE.

Professor Morse has built a model house at Salem, which is so constructed that all its apartments face due south, the corridors alone looking north. The frontage of the building is of glass, with reflectors to 'repeat' the power of the sun. This, the professor believes, is the most wholesome form of house heating extant, and, indeed, we do not feel inclined to contradict him on this head, but in countries of, say, uncertain sunshine, remarks the *Hospital*, this heating would surely be a question more of theory than of fact, and in depending on an exterior source for heat the inmates would be likely to perish in the attempt.

∴ ∴ ∴

TWO BRAINS.

Dr. B. W. Richardson holds that every man has two brains—separate and distinct, which are sometimes so very different that they seem almost to belong to two different men. Dr. Richardson sums up as follows:—(1) That all mankind is dual in mind by natural construction, so that a congregation of human beings, large or small, a family circle, a private meeting, a parliament, a nation, must always be reckoned as twice its individual number before its mental constitution and strength can be properly appraised; (2) That the efforts of all should be directed to the proper construction of the casket of the mind, and the physical powers working it; (3) The mental work should be for progress in ways of unity of purpose, towards greatness of life and character.

∴ ∴ ∴

WHY OIL CALMS THE SEA.

It has long been known that oil poured upon the surface of stormy water has a wonderful effect in calming it. Many vessels have probably been saved from destruction by this simple method, and every month the United States Hydrographic Bureau publishes along with its 'Pilot Chart,' dozens of letters from ship captains describing the results they have obtained by the use of oil in smoothing the waves of an angry sea. The reason of this curious effect of oil upon water is, in a general sense, perfectly apparent. It depends upon the viscosity, or adhesiveness, of the oil, which causes it to act somewhat like a skin drawn over the more unstable surface of the water, so that the tendency of the latter to break into spray as it is driven by the wind is restrained. The danger to ships from a high running sea arises from this breaking of the waves. As long as the surface of the waves is smooth and unbroken the ship rides easily upon them. But while the principle upon which the oil acts is thus evident enough, the real method of its action is not so apparent. This has recently been subjected to a mathematical investigation by Mr A. B. Basset in England. He shows that the viscosity of oil is so much greater than that of water, being in the case of olive oil more than 230 times as great, that the water may be regarded as a frictionless liquid in comparison with the oil. The surface tension between the oil and the air is also shown to be considerably greater than that between the oil and the water. With these data he finds that the motion will be stable, or there will be no breaking of the waves unless the latter vary in length between two certain fractions of a centimetre, namely, nine-elevenths and six-fifths. The result would, of course, vary a little with different kinds of oil, and as a matter of fact the reports of mariners show that there is a considerable difference in the effect produced upon the waves, depending upon the sort of oil that is used. Petroleum and various kinds of fish oils have been employed. The effect is always found to be beneficial, though in varying degrees.