

out 'Keep the Home Fires Burnin'' with two fingers on a pianna that ain't reliable, it's high time somebody interfered an' told you them fires had got to be dampened down a bit. And you are lucky that I was told to do it polite.'

SMILE RAISERS.

It was a trembling class that faced the inspector, as he bounced in and rapped out questions like a machine-gun. But the boys were not to be caught napping, and the replies came back very well until he asked one boy whether he would prefer one-sixth or one-seventh of an orange.

"I would prefer one-seventh, sir," answered the scholar.

"One-seventh—eh?" said the inspector, grinly, and thereupon proceeded to explain that although that fraction sounded larger, it was really the smaller of the two.

"I know that, sir," said the pupil. "That's why I chose it. I don't like oranges."

"Yes," proudly observed a complacent and somewhat boastful business man to his actor friend, "your profession may be a very lofty one in an artistic sense, but that of a successful merchant is much better. Look at me! At the early age of 45 retired on my fortune, and presented by my fellow-merchants with an illuminated address! Can you boast of anything like that? Have you ever had an illuminated address?"

"I have," replied the actor—"once."

"When?" asked the merchant.

"Why," replied the actor, "when my lodgings caught fire."

A well-known politician, after an impassioned address, cried: "If a lie has passed my lips this evening, may a thunderbolt from Heaven fall on my head."

As he spoke, the platform, a fragile affair, collapsed in a cloud of dust, and the orator passed from view. The audience sat spellbound.

After a few tense moments, the politician slowly emerged from the wreckage.

"Gosh!" exclaimed a voice from the back of the hall. "It's missed him!"

A party of Americans was being conducted over the ancient abbey in an old town in England. The learned attendant pointed out the ages of the various parts, and referring to one arch in particular said, "That arch may possibly go back to William the Conqueror."

"Don't you like it?" promptly asked one of the sightseers.

The attendant signified that he did not understand.

"Wal, why are you sending it back, anyway?" was the reply. "Don't it suit you?"

Mrs. Fortysummers: "I told Mr. Beach I was 28, and he said I didn't look it."

Her Loving Husband: "Well, you don't; you haven't looked it for fifteen years."

It's most provoking to find, after moving, that your furniture has been scratched or otherwise injured as the result of unskilled work. Get us to remove it, and ensure careful expert handling. We have letters from people in all parts of the Dominion telling us how well we have removed their furniture. THE NEW ZEALAND EXPRESS CO., LTD.

PILES

Can be instantly relieved and quickly cured by the use of BAXTER'S JILE OINTMENT. This excellent remedy has been a boon to hundreds of sufferers all over New Zealand. Sent post free on receipt of 2/6 in stamps, or postal notes, by—

SCIENCE SIFTINGS

Organising Electrical Resources.

There is much discussion in Great Britain of super-stations—that is to say, of electric generating plants larger than anything yet installed, and supplying current in unlimited quantities to electric supply undertakings, railways, steel works, textile mills, and other big users over a very wide area. Electric supply is, in fact, being treated on a national basis, and enterprise on that scale implies manufacturing firms capable of turning out steam turbines of 50,000 kilowatts each, and constructing transformers, cables, and switch-gear for transmission of electric power at very high voltage. During the war the electrical manufacturers have been fortunate in their freedom to develop towards this position. So enormous has been the demand for electric power and electrical plant of every description that the war has been a powerful stimulus to their productive work. Incidentally, they have been reorganising themselves into larger groups, each working along certain definite lines and capable of undertaking the manufacture of all types of power station plant, cables, telephones, meters, lamps, and innumerable other accessories, the most ambitious schemes of railway electrification, complete contracts for hydro-electric and other power schemes, and for the electrical operation of collieries, textile mills, and so on. The electric cable makers of Great Britain, who set the standard of excellence in electrical transmission of power, have greatly developed their output during the war. In addition to these large combinations there are many strong firms specialising in various types of electrical plant and apparatus and continuously perfecting such machinery as steam, gas, and oil engines, electric motors, transformers and instruments, switch-gear, heating and cooking apparatus. The electrical manufacturing industry is, in fact, still better equipped than it was before the war to meet foreign competition at home and abroad, and also to carry out every form of electrical enterprise, from the financing thereof to the operation when completed. Ever-increasing attention is also being given to research, both by individual electric firms and by the industry generally, in association with the Institution of Electrical Engineers and other scientific bodies.

Medicine from Trees.

Ask any physician what is the most useful and most used stimulant to the heart and nervous system, and he will reply strychnia. Strychnia is an alkaloid found originally in the seed of the strychnos nux-vomica, an exceedingly poisonous nut-tree that grows in tropical climates. It is the most bitter substance known, and to its presence is due the disagreeable taste left in one's mouth after taking a tonic pick-me-up. A tree which has various species—several hundreds in fact—and is of some medical interest, is the acacia. The acacia senegal furnishes us with gum arabic, a substance that, while not possessed of any marked curative properties of itself, is of considerable importance in the making up of pharmaceutical prescriptions.

A SHORTHAND REVOLUTION.

Mr. Wm. Wheatcroft, one of the foremost authorities on PITMAN'S Shorthand, Editor and Author of the new editions of the "Teacher," the "Primers," etc., after a close study of

GREGG SHORTHAND

and writing 80 words a minute after less than 6 WEEKS' study, writes:—"GREGG is as SUPERIOR to PITMAN as the modern Aeroplane is to the Gas Balloon."

WRITE for his article, "A Shorthand Revolution," and particulars of our

MAIL COURSE IN 18 LESSONS.

J. WYN IRWIN, M.A.,

Box 199, Christchurch. N.Z. Representative.

CHAS. PIKE & CO., 193 MAIN STREET WEST—Tel. 504 (day or night)—PALMERSTON NORTH
CABINET-MAKING AND UPHOLSTERING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Pictures Framed and Mounted. First-class Work and Material at Reasonable Rates.
FUNERAL FURNISHERS. Wreaths stocked. Polished Caskets supplied.