

WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT.

Frederick Smith, an Englishman, has written a book on this subject in which he makes the following among other points, as described in a review by *Iron*: Not every one who owns or has charge of a workshop knows, or cares to know, upon what principles it should be conducted in order that success may accrue. Indeed, we do not hesitate to say that the incompetents are largely in the majority. Too often proprietors, so that they get an income which means a handsome interest on capital invested, an easy life, and some dignity, do not trouble themselves to inquire closely how the details of their business are being carried out; and as a result petty tyranny often flourishes, and frequently dissimulation and dishonest practices grow apace. The teaching that employers owe to their work-people the duty of watching their condition is not sufficiently recognized, and the consequences are found in diffidence and contentions. Now, to ignore this duty is unwise as well as improper, for where the employer evinces little or no interest in his people—is rarely seen by them, and more rarely heard as counselor—the belief forces itself that there exists indifference and selfishness, and corresponding qualities spring up on the other side. Demoralization is then rapid. "Give the least you can for the most you can get" becomes a guiding principle. What follows is depreciation of profits, and where drastic remedies are not applied crippling embarrassment often rears its head. If employers, then, desire the maximum of benefit from their business, among other things their knowledge of their workshops should be intimate and their interest in the laborers in them active. To the advocacy of this, much of Mr. Smith's book is devoted. But the author also finds ample opportunity for scathing condemnation of unworthy foremen, who connive at dishonest practices, and, by showing they have no self-respect, set the example of impropriety to those whom they are entrusted with the care and guidance of. The capable foreman and his qualities are, of course, likewise considered. He should be honest, honorable, respecting and respected, with his conscience ever for his guide, and intelligent enough to exercise his brains when difficulties present. Of course there are very few such; but only such are fitted for the position; and an employer who lacks the foresight enabling him to detect such qualities is minus a power he can ill spare.

ONE fretter can destroy the peace of a family, can disturb the harmony of a neighborhood, can unsettle the councils of cities, and hinder the legislation of nations. He who frets is never the one who mends, who heals, who repairs evil; more, he discourages, enfeebles, and too often disables those around him, who, but for the gloom and depression of his company, would do good work and keep up brave cheer. The effect upon a sensitive person in the mere neighborhood of a fretter is indescribable. It is to the soul, what a bold icy mist is to the body, more chilling than the bitterest storm. And when the fretter is one who is beloved, then the misery of it becomes indeed insupportable.

CLEAN hands in matters of money among the young, certainly ought to be the indispensable condition of gentlemanliness. No man who borrows and does not pay, and does not care whether he pays or not, is a gentleman, no matter how witty, or gay, or fine he may be. To speak in good plain English, the man who dresses himself at another's expense, not knowing how to pay, nor caring whether he pays, is a genteel scoundrel! And yet such things are done by good-natured folks, by kind-hearted people, by persons who never probe them morally to ascertain what their tendency is, and what they lead to.

POISONED, NOT DROWNED.—The London *Whitehall Review* considers that the fearful mortality, succeeding the sinking of the excursion steamer *Princess Alice* by the *Bywell Castle*, was due to the befouled and poisonous condition of the water of the Thames. Near the scene of the disaster a colossal stream of fermenting London sewerage, "black as Erebus, effervescent with the vilest gases and potent as prussic acid," poured into the river. It was into water saturated with such compound that the unfortunate passengers were suddenly plunged. Many who could swim did not succeed in saving themselves. Colored dresses were discolored in half an hour. Healthy

CALIFORNIA FAN PALM.

The California fan palm (*Prichardia flajara*; *Bahea filamentosa*) is a native of California, and is found along the Colorado river and in some places in the desert in San Diego county.

The California fan palm is most distinct of all palms, having fine thread hanging down from its leaves. Not until the last three years has its native place been known, but upon the completion of the S. P. R. R., they were found along its line, and even whole carloads of large plants were sent to San Francisco and sold. Gov. Latham, of San Francisco, bought two,

THE CALIFORNIA FAN PALM.—(*Prichardia Filifera*.)

bodies decomposed almost immediately. Does not this indicate something more than drowning?

LIBERALITY TO SCIENCE.—*Nature* says that M. Bischofsheim, the well-known Parisian banker, has sent a sum of 1,000fr. to the French Bureau Central Meteorologique to help in the construction of the intended Mount Ventoux observatory. We may remind our readers that he, at the suggestion of his friend, M. Leverrier, helped in the same manner the construction of the Puy-de-Dome and Pic-du-Midi establishment. M. Bischofsheim has also agreed to pay M. Eichens £1,000 to complete within a year the construction of the great refractor begun in Leverrier's time, in 1870.

which stood, at the time of purchase, about 25 feet in height, for the handsome sum of \$1,000.

PROPOSED TEST FOR COTTON.—A recent German scientific journal states that linen threads, when dipped in an alcoholic solution of the substance known in commerce as *aurine* or yellow coral, and subsequently washed in a concentrated aqueous solution of carbonate of soda, acquire a rose-red hue, the cotton threads remaining colorless. Accordingly, to detect cotton in linen fabrics, if a small piece of the suspected fabric is frayed at the edges and thus treated, the presence of colorless threads will at once reveal the presence of cotton.