SILK CULTURE.

The last regular meeting of the California Silk Culture Association, at the Academy of Sciences, was one of special interest. Mrs. E. B. Barker presided. Mrs. Keeney, one of the vice-presidents, gave a full account of the progress of that industry. At the rooms of the society at San Rafael about 10,000 silkworms are doing finely, most of them being now in the second state. Many visitors have been in to see the new work, and all expressed themselves as delighted with the progress made, and the pleasure of the work, and give the association a hearty "God-speed." The wife of the Japanese Consul manifested a good deal of interest, and said that the worms were the largest for their age she had ever seen. The Japanese Consul has written to the proper Japanese authorities, advising them to have a good supply of eggs and cocoons for the American market next year, as he feels certain that silk culture will speedily rank among the most important of our industries. Those in charge of the rooms in San Rafael (corner of 5th and F Sts.) are pleased to see all visitors, and will gladly show them their work.

Mrs. A. P. Stanton gave an interesting account of her observations during her trip in and around San Jose. She found the interest in this industry very wide spread, and many experimenting with the worms. So far, all experiments have succeeded admirably. Instruction will be given at the Normal School, next season, on silk culture, and the faculty of the University of the Pacific are so interested in it that it is very probable a class will be opened there also.

Mrs. T. H. Hittell, the author of the "California Silk Grower's Instructor," was voted an expression of cordial thanks by the society for her earnest work. The Cor. Sec'y, Mrs. Hittell, reported many letters received from all parts of the State, showing the great interest felt. All desire information and the society are mailing the "Instructors" as rapidly as possible.

Miss Marwedel, the well-known kindergarten teacher, reported 2 oz. of eggs received and ready for distribution. She also had a long talk with a young inventor who had made an appliance by which his sister and others of the family had reeled silk in England, and he expressed a hope that he might be able to attach this reeling apparatus to a common sewing machine. How much such an invention would aid the silk grower.

Mr. Herman, an expert in silk manufacture, says that no climate is so suited to the silk industry as that of California. He has traveled widely in the silk-producing countries, so his ideas are doubly important. He takes a great interest in the society and is endeavoring to further the industry in San Jose. He knows from personal experience that the exporter of the real silk dress goods is unable to compete with the home market because of the protective tariff. The temperature of 74° F. is considered proper for the hatching of eggs.

The finances of the society are in a flourishing condition and constantly improving. There is no doubt but that this new industry will bring wealth to California. So let all patriotic Californians interest themselves in this work, and, by so doing, aid their Golden State.

A RACE AT NAIL FEEDING.—The Wheeling *News Letter* of April 3d says: The nail-cutting contest between the Belmont and Top mill factories came off last week and resulted in a victory for the latter. At the Top mill the total amount of nails cut was 7,061 kegs. The men worked 11 hours each day and 110 nail machines were employed, several of which, however, were idle at times during the week. The largest previous output of the factory in one week was 6,876 kegs, working on the 12-hour system. The following will show that the boys put in their time to advantage: Bernard Burt, on 30d., cut 265 kegs; James Kenney, 20d., 222 kegs; Thomas Tagg, 8d., 85 kegs; Robert Ditty, 12d., 125 kegs; Joseph Siple, 10d., 113 kegs; Daniel

AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The next session of the society will be held this fall, and we hope that our State will be represented in the persons as well as in the writings of our horticulturists. Now that our State is enjoying such advancement in horticulture it is especially fitting that some well-informed fruit growers should be at the meeting, as there will no doubt be not a little request for the leading points of Oregon experience. The notice of the meeting is given early, and as many will make money enough this season to treat themselves to an Eastern trip, we expect that there will be many Oregonians present.

We have received the following circular in reference to the meeting:

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society having invited the American Pomological Society to hold its next meeting in Boston, the undersigned give notice that the 18th session of this national association will be held in that city, commencing Wednesday, September 14th, 1881, at 10 o'clock A. M., and continuing for three days. This session will take place at the time of the annual exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which is expected to be of unusual excellence, and will give additional interest to the occasion. All horticultural, pomological, agricultural, and other kindred associations in the United States and British Provinces, are invited to send delegations as large as they may deem expedient; and all persons interested in the cultivation of fruits are invited to be present and take seats in the convention. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a full attendance of delegates from all quarters of our country, thereby stimulating more extensive cultivation by the concentrated information and experience of cultivators, and aiding the Society in perfecting its catalogue of fruits. This session will be held at the home of its President, where, after an interval of years, occasioned by ill health and a serious accident, he hopes to have the pleasure of meeting, not only his old friends, but others from the various sections of our country, and again to unite heart and hand with friends for the promotion of the objects of the society.

When we consider the importance of fruit culture in North America, its progress during the last 30 years under the beneficent action of this society, its moral, social and sanitary influence, and the increasing demand for its products both in this country and Europe, rendering it a source of national wealth, we feel justified in urging the attendance of all who are interested in the welfare of our country, and the development of its wonderful resources, in this branch of industry.

Members, delegates and societies are requested to contribute specimens of the fruits of their respective districts, and to communicate in regard to them whatever may aid in promoting the objects of the society and the science of American Pomology. The sense of the last meeting of the society was that the exhibition of large collections of fruit is not desirable, but that the show of its fruits should be confined mainly to new or rare varieties or remarkable specimens, or such as being peculiar to any locality, or for any other reason, possess special interest. Intending contributors—whether as States, societies or individuals—will oblige by giving notice as far as possible, and at an early date, what quantity they propose to exhibit. Three specimens of a variety will be sufficient, except in fruits of special interest. Each contributor is requested to prepare a complete list of his fruits, that a report of all the varieties entered may be submitted to the meeting as early as practicable. A limited number of Wilder medals will be awarded to objects of special merit.

Packages of fruits, with the names of the contributors, may be addressed as follows: "American Pomological Society, Boston, care of Massachusetts Horticultural Society." Freight and express charges should be prepaid.

All persons desirous of becoming members can remit the fee to E. W. Buswell, Treasurer, Boston, Mass. Life membership, $20, Biennial, $4. Life members will be supplied with back numbers of the Proceedings of the Society as far as possible.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, Pres., Boston, Mass.
ROBERT MANNING, Sec'y., Salem, Mass.

A CURIOUS musical instrument called a color organ has been invented. When the various notes are sounded by touching the keys, different combinations of colors are reflected upon a ground glass plate, and these change and blend in a charming manner as a quick air is played. Thus two senses are gratified at once, and the beholder feels more than he understands the harmony between melody and color.

THE LARGEST PYRAMID.—We believe it is not generally known that the largest known pyramid rests on American soil. The Pyramid of Puebla, in Mexico, is larger than the great Pyramid of Cheops, in Egypt. The latter covers only fourteen acres, while the Mexican one covers forty-four acres of ground, and was originally 600 feet high. It is made of sun-dried brick, and is supposed to have been built 7,000 years ago.

SALTING MEAT.—Salted meat is far less nourishing than fresh, and far less wholesome. We will endeavor to explain why. The preservation of meat by means of salt has been practiced from time immemorial, and is one of the simplest methods for this purpose. It depends for its efficiency upon the dessication or drying of the tissues, as the salt used for this purpose enters slowly into solution, deriving the moisture it requires for this purpose from the fluids of the flesh. Hence it is that when dry salt is strewed upon fresh lean meat, it gradually disappears in the form of a liquid brine. As the flesh loses its natural juice, the fibers contract and the meat lessens in bulk. The action of the salt, if a large quantity is applied, penetrates deeply, and as much as one-third of the natural juice of the meat is often forced out of it. The preservation of meat by means of salt, therefore, may be explained to depend upon the separation of water, upon the exclusion of air, and upon the saturation with salt of the juices remaining in the meat. But meat, though preserved in this manner against putrefaction, suffers a notable loss of its normal nutritive properties, inasmuch as the brine which gradually forms about it, contains probably one-third or one-half of the nutritive substances (albumen, kreatin, phosphoric acid, potash, etc.,) of the flesh, which are extracted along with the juices. These are the very substances which are more completely extracted by digestion with water, as in making beef tea or broth; and in proportion as these constituents are extracted, they diminish the nutritive properties of the meat. The change in the constitution of the meat by salting has been shown by Leibig to be greater than that produced by cooking, and the loss of nutritive value considerably greater; for in cooking, the nutritive albumen, etc., is simply coagulated in the fibers and retained, while in salting, the extracted substances enter the brine and are lost. Not only does salting greatly diminish the nutritive value of meat, but those who are compelled to subsist upon it almost exclusively for any length of time, are generally afflicted with scurvy, a fact which proves its unwholesomeness, and which doubtless stands in close relation with the loss of the nutritive elements, as vegetable substances which are capable of supplying what the meat has lost, are found to be the best preventative of, and the best remedy against, the disease.—*Manufacturer and Builder.*

SPENCE'S METAL.—This metal compound, having a variety of advantages in non-liability to oxidation, cheapness, etc., is of especial utility to builders, and is described in the *Building and Engineering Times:* It will very probably ere long entirely supersede lead for packing and cementing purposes. This metal fuses at a very low temperature, and can be melted in an iron pot or kettle over an ordinary fire in a few minutes. It is advisable that such a pot or kettle should be a closed one, as the metal, being a compound of sulphur, is liable to catch fire if due precautions are not taken. When heated to the proper temperature of first fluidity, the metal may be poured with ease, and used for the cementing hermetically of pipe joints, the setting of iron railings into stone, and for similar purposes. A great advantage this metal has is that it expands at the moment of solidification, and thus entirely and hermetically fills any recess into which it may be poured. This property of high expansibility at the moment of solidification renders it of great value for obtaining sharp impressions from intricate molds, and the most perfect casts of busts, statues, medals, bas reliefs, etc., are thereby obtained in it. It may be colored to resemble bronze, and consequently produces a most artistic effect. It is recommended also for repairing and even covering roofs instead of asphalt or lead flashing, as it is perfectly waterproof and water-tight and very light. It is not liable to oxidation or corrosion in the least degree, and may therefore be extensively adapted to the lining of tanks and the making of acid bottles, etc.