

Useful, Entertaining and Instructive.

A NEW METAL INDUSTRY.—*Kuhlows* says that in Germany, gold, platina and silver strips are welded, after the mosaic style, upon a metal ground, prepared by the incandescent process, then compressed by means of powerful presses, and finally elongated by rolling into long sheets which are now of all colors—yellow, red, green, white, gray and black—are made into scarfs and neckties, which, being indestructible, are considered to be of some practical worth. This novelty, it appears, has found great acceptance abroad, numerous orders for export having been received by the manufacturers, who are chiefly in the Pforzheim and Baden districts.

WINDOW GARDENING HINTS.—A very common error in window gardening is that of attempting too much. Too many plants are crowded into the little space at command, so that it is impossible to give each the air and light it should have. Again, plants of two diverse characters are brought together. It is no uncommon thing to see tropical plants and plants from the temperate zone, if not even Alpine plants, all crowded into the same window and subject to the same temperature and treatment. Better far to have one healthy, well-grown plant, that will yield its flowers to perfection, than a dozen sickly, feeble, wretched plants, that have no beauty either of leaf or blossom.

ARTESIAN WELLS IN THE DESERT.—Respecting the plan of Colonel Landas, for fertilizing the African desert by means of wells, Sir R. Lambert Playfair, in the course of a consular tour in Tunis, has visited the ground where the first well was sunk, and reports most favorably as to the success of the project. A space of three hundred and seventy-five acres has been cleared and sown with cereals and lucerne, a vegetable garden made, and a nursery of young trees planted. Two other wells are being sunk, which, on completion, will irrigate eight thousand acres of land. The Bey of Tunis has conceded to the company twenty-five thousand acres of land, which they can select themselves from districts which are at present of no value.

A CURIOUS CLOCK.—A correspondent in the

New Church Messenger describes a clock recently patented in France, in imitation of a tambourine, on the parchment head of which is painted a circle of flowers, corresponding to the hour figures of ordinary dials. On examination, two bees, one large and the other small, are discovered crawling among the flowers. The small bee runs rapidly from one flower to another, completing the circle in an hour, while the large one takes twelve hours to finish the circuit. The parchment surface is unbroken, and the bees simply laid upon it, but two magnets, connected with the clock work inside the tambourine, move just under the membrane, and the insects, which are of iron, follow the magnets.

METHOD OF TRAWING EARTH.—It is often necessary to make excavations for pipes in very cold weather, under which conditions the operation is difficult. The trouble, due to frost, can only be remedied by thawing out the surface. The *Elettricità* says that quick-lime has been tried with success. The surface where the excavation is to begin is covered with alternate layers of lime and snow. The lime becomes slaked, and heats the soil so effectually that, after ten or fifteen hours, it can be dug up with the greatest ease, even where the cold is excessive. It goes without saying, that where there is no snow, water can be used. This makes the process a little more complicated, but is just as efficacious. As, in the generality of cases, urgency exists, the digging up of pipes being necessitated by some case of repairs, this method is restricted, in its application, to those cases in which the delay of a day or a night is not inadmissible.

DON'T WAIT FOR DEATH.—"Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled by them. The things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my