

NEW YORK'S "TRADE" SCHOOL.

Thorough Instruction in Theory and Practice—Re-quirements and Results.
[Chicago News.]

The trade school in New York is the most successful one in the country. The action of trade unions in limiting the number of apprentices has made it difficult in some of the skilled employments to find artisans qualified for their work, and the demand is so great and the number of those wishing to learn the various trades so numerous that the New York school became a necessity alike to employer and to young men willing to learn some useful manual employment. The school was established to take the place of the old apprenticeship system, in which instruction, the use of tools, and practice should be combined.

The school was opened in 1881 with thirty-three students in plumbing and fresco-painting. The next season brick-laying and pattern-making was added and the number of students was increased to eighty-eight. In 1883-4 wood-carving, stone-cutting and plastering were added and the attendance was 200. The present season carpentering is included, with still largely increased classes. The instruction is confined to a course of three evenings a week for the five months between October and April. The school is neither a money-making nor a charitable institution, the students being charged tuition enough to just cover the expense—the charges for instruction being: For brick-laying, \$17; plastering, \$15; plumbing, \$12, and all other branches \$10 each, with use of tools and materials. The instruction is very thorough, both in theory and practice; and, while it may not in the latter equal a three or six years' apprenticeship, it far exceeds it in the former, fitting the pupil with a little experience at his trade to become a comparatively skilled laborer in any one of them.

In each class subjects are given for discussion; as, for instance, the class in plumbing discuss "Soil Pipes," "Trapping and Ventilation of Soil Pipes," "Cold Water Supply Pipes," "Boilers," "Tanks," and other kindred subjects bearing upon the occupation of a plumber. The students must be between the ages of 16 and 25, and each class is under several expert and educated men, who practically understand every detail of their department.

In cities there are greater difficulties in the way of a boy learning a trade than in the country, but these schools open a wide field for usefulness, and the eagerness with which this one has been sought by boys in New York, and the possibilities before it, ought to lead to the establishment of similar institutions in every large city in the union.

Test for Short-Sightedness.

[Reyleigh in Nature.]

The increasing prevalence of short sight is a very important matter, worthy of all attention. There is one fact in connection with it which I avail myself of this opportunity of mentioning, in the hope of inducing scientific oculists to give it further examination. I find that, though not at all short-sighted under ordinary circumstances, I become decidedly so in a nearly dark room, seeing much better with spectacles of thirty-six inches negative focus. In a moderately good light I see better without the glasses than with them. From the few observations that I have made, I have reason to believe that this peculiarity of vision is not uncommon. With the aid of a set of concave glasses it is easy to try the experiment in a room lighted with gas. The flame should be gradually turned lower and lower, so as to give full time for the pupil to dilate and for the eye to acquire its maximum of sensitiveness.

New Brunswick, N. J., is growing esthetic and learned. It has received from Dr. Lansing, a missionary in Egypt, an ancient Egyptian papyrus, forty-two feet long. It contains all the chapters of the "Book of the Dead," is 3,000 years old, and is fuller and more complete than the Turin papyrus copied by Lepsius.—N. Y. Tribune.

\$1.50 in advance! for the Reporter for 1887, means just what it says—IN ADVANCE. Not a month after the beginning.

THE ART OF JUGGLERY.

So Thoroughly Exposed the People Have Lost All Interest in It.
[New York Mail and Express.]

"The art of jugglery has not advanced much within the last twenty-five years," painfully admitted a superannuated wizard to a reporter. "Indeed, it has nearly all been thoroughly exposed, and the very minute methods by which wonderful results were attained appear now as easy as making a coin disappear from the closed fist. So much for science and civilization."

"What will be the result, do you think?"

"Some of the results are palpable now. The old sleight-of-hand man has almost passed away. The wonderful cabinet of spirits, which at one time astonished the world, it has been proven, was nothing more nor less than a trick in which confederates participated. Heller, Houdin and the Davenport brothers all were exposed. What is left for the professionals to do is the question. They cannot all turn sword-swallowers, or knife-throwers, because that requires a lifetime of practice. Some new departures will have to be taken in which the cabinet does not appear and the tricks of Houdin and Heller are omitted. This is essentially the age of realism, and therefore the tricks in jugglery will have to far succeed in cleverness any that we have ever seen produced. When a wizard has a stage of his own he can produce startling effects which defy superficial investigation.

"But the time has arrived when superficial investigation is never carried on, but instead such a searching and profound one is performed that the little apparatus designed to assist are taken into consideration and removed. The game is effectually blocked. Heller, with his wonderful memory, could do many strange tricks, and Houdin was considered wonderful by the learned, and supernatural by the ignorant. All they both did is perfectly plain now. Some new method, in my opinion, assisted by science and electricity, will in a few years be discovered to delude and create speculation as the cabinet and many other tricks did for many years. The horse-play jugglery of the present doesn't amount to much. The Japanese do astonishing tricks, but there is nothing mysterious about them, since their tricks depend altogether on their personal agility and years of constant practice.

"All of the tricks and jugglery of the present day must give way. It no longer entertains. The people want something they can see into, so they will not go any more to witness cabinet trick performances. Who will open up the new field remains to be seen. But that the times are ripe for it no one can doubt, and who the wizard will be to cheat the eyes and physical investigation of an intelligent and sceptical public is a matter of conjecture.

Cyclones and Tornadoes.

[Inter Ocean.]

A scientific writer who has studied cyclones says "they always originate in equatorial regions, but never occur within eight or ten degrees of that line." Another thing that is peculiar, he says "the whirl is from right to left in northern and from left to right in the southern hemisphere," and that "masters of sailing vessels caught in one these cyclones by knowing its laws of direction can easily sail out of its course. The same writer speaking of tornadoes remarks they follow much the same laws. "Those occurring in the central part of the United States originate in the Rocky mountains or the Pacific ocean and travel eastward. Those of the Atlantic coast usually start in the gulf of Mexico or Caribbean sea and follow the path of regular cyclones." "A storm which starts in the Rocky mountains sometimes can be traced half way around the earth." Those of the Pacific usually pass south-eastward along the Mexican coast. The study of cyclones and tornadoes is one little understood and yet of abounding interest.

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