MERCANTILE LIBRARY.

Glowing Report of the Executive Committee of This Most Worthy Institution.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Mercantile Library is now an assured success. It has now nearly completed its third year, it is out of debt, its membership is increasing and it has on its shelves over 2000 volumes of the best literature, fiction, travels, biography, history, belle letters and science, as well as the best and latest cyclopedias and other books of reference. The Library rooms, situated near the centre of the town, consist of a book room and reading room, the latter being comfortably furnished and provided with 12 of the leading magazines, and writing tables for the convenience of members. Both rooms are open every day from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M. and a competent Librarian is always in attendance. When we consider that the Library was organized in 1894 without a cent of capital, with nothing in fact except the earnest determination of the members and officers to create an institution that should be a success we think the association can properly congratulate itself on what has been accomplished.

During the year 1896 three thousand five hundred books were circulated among the members, a sure indication of the usefulness of the Library.

The annual expenses are about $400 not including the purchase of books. Yet we have been able to meet all charges and establish the Library with no assured income except the subscription of members which while varying somewhat, averages $250 a year.

Of course no board of directors no matter how careful and energetic could have accomplished this result without the cheerful co-operation of the members the public and the local press.

Undoubtedly this generous support has been given the Library because the people of Easton understand that it is really a public institution, of which every subscriber is a full member and which has neither the power nor the desire to give support to any clique, sect or faction, nor indeed any desire at all except the intellectual advancement of the community.

If the membership can be increased to 200 the Library can meet all its ordinary fixed charges and the contributions, which will still continue and we hope, be increased, can all be applied, as they should be, to the purchase of books. May we not believe that a progressive public arousing to a full appreciation of the value of this institution will soon double the membership list, thus extending an elevating influence and at the same time share in the pride and honor it would be to our delightful town to maintain a self-supporting library.—This is a fitting opportunity to thank those who have so cheerfully given their time and labor for the benefit of the library and have materially assisted it by giving entertainments and by gifts of books and money.—Contributions have been received during the year 1896 from the following:

Michael B. Nichols, Mrs. J. M. H. Bateman, Mrs. H. H. Balch, Mrs. C. H. Gibson, J. F. Bateman, Mrs. W. H. Smith, J. Harry Covington, Prof. A. Chaplain, Mrs. C. A. Chipley, Mrs. M. H. P. Cox, Miss Clara G. Earle, Owen Norris, Miss Sadie Chipley, Mrs. Wm. R. Martin, Henry Hollyday, jr., R. B. Dixon, Miss Lloyd, W. H. Adkins, Miss Lizzie Lloyd, P. B. Spring, Mrs. M. Goldsborough, Wilfred Bateman, A. L. Tharp, Mrs. Carroll Winchester, Mrs. John Martin.

CHARLES S. CARRINGTON, Pres.
Mrs. J. M. H. BATEMAN, Vice Pres.
WILSON M. TYLOR, Sec't'y.
Miss CLARA G. EARLE, Treas.
JAMES C. MULLIKIN,
Chairman Book Committee.

Dangers of the Grip.

The greatest danger from La Grippe is of its resulting in pneumonia. If reasonable care is used, however, and Chamberlain's Cough Remedy taken, all danger will be avoided. Among the tens of thousands who have used this remedy for la grippe, we have yet to learn of a single case having resulted in pneumonia, which shows conclusively that this remedy is a certain preventive of that dread disease. It will effect a permanent cure in less time than any other treatment. The 25 and 50 cent sizes for sale by H. Roberts, Easton; P. M. Pastorfield, Royal Oak; J. F. Sisk, Cordova.

Delicious cream puffs 3 for 5 cents at Garey's Bakery, Dover street.

It would tickle your palate to look at my assortment of fancy cakes today. Walter Garey, Baker and Confectioner.

Through Parlor Car to New York.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces that, beginning with March 3, the Pullman parlor car to Philadelphia leaving Clayton at 4.02 p. m. will be changed to leave at 3.53 p. m. and run through to New York. Returning, a parlor car will leave Jersey City week days at 8 a. m. This arrangement will afford through parlor car service between the Delaware Peninsula and New York in both directions on week days. 3t-20

EXPANDED METAL.

Steel Lace Work Is Now Used In Concrete Walls and Partitions.

The old building materials—bricks, mortar and timber—were found in many ways unsuitable for tall erections (of the steel skeletoned skyscraper type), and new combinations of iron and concrete were adopted, giving the greatest amount of strength with least weight, and enabling the builders to occupy the smallest amount of wall space, give the greatest amount of window space, and economize space inside by lighter floors and inner walls, a two inch thick inner wall of concrete and steel, for instance, being as strong as the old nine inch wall of brick.

The latest improvement in this science of construction is that known as the expanded metal system. The words "expanded metal" do not fully explain themselves to the reader who has not seen the material. The word "expand" must be understood in the dictionary sense of to open out, to stretch, to spread. A sheet of steel of any thickness up to a quarter of an inch, and any length or width, say 6 or 8 feet in length and 1 or 2 feet in width, is put into the expanding machine, a remarkable device which constitutes the patent. It is then punched through with rows of slits covering the whole surface of the sheet, with a width of a quarter or half an inch, and each slit is separated lengthwise from the next slit on the line by perhaps an inch of steel.

The machine then stretches the slitted steel widthwise perhaps to six times its original width, and when it leaves the machine it represents, roughly speaking, a six foot square piece of steel lace work with diamond shaped meshes. In the process of stretching the steel lace work, corresponding with cotton threads in an ordinary lace curtain, is turned on edge to an angle of 45 degrees, thus greatly increasing its bearing strength and firmness. The process of using this expanded steel is to imbed it in concrete in a similar way to the old system of iron rods, but the steel network, being many times stronger than the iron rods or any other system, less concrete may be used to effect the required strength

As compared with concrete alone, the use of this expanded steel adds to its strength from eight to ten times over. The importance of this multiplied strength and less weight in the case of floorings, for instance, for tall erections, such as the many storied buildings in America or elsewhere, or those recent erections called Eiffel towers, and especially dock warehouses, whose floors and walls have to bear enormous weights, cannot be exaggerated. Another advantage of this expanded steel system is that the whole flooring, no matter what size, is practically one solid slab of concrete covering the whole floor and binding the outer and inner walls, and if the outer walls are also built on the new system the entire building would be knit together so as to form a complete block, impenetrable to wind, water or fire.—Manchester (England) News.

Archæological Discovery In Iowa.

Interest in the archæological discovery near Fairfield, Jefferson county, Ia., has intensified since the report of the professor on antiquities of the Ohio university has been received stating that the relic is undoubtedly of Aztec origin. A party of scientists from the Smithsonian institution is now on its way to Iowa to gather additional data to aid in determining its origin.

The find was made Sept. 9, 1896. The block of wood in which the records were inclosed is about the size of a common brick. The outside of this box was coated with wax or gum of some kind which not only fastened the pieces together, but made the receptacle within practically water and air tight. After being coated the blocks had been held over a fire that the gum might be melted and evenly distributed, and the block is not only covered with soot, but is also slightly charred. The wood, possibly a bit of birch, is excellently preserved. The outer wrapping of bark is purplish black, indicating that it had been discolored by smoke. That on which the characters are written is as thin as a bit of printing paper of this day, a pinkish yellow, as fresh apparently as the day it was put into the ground. The characters are written in red ink, possibly the juice of some fruit or plant. The color is bright and the work neat—that of an expert. The bark is not that of our common birch, but more like that which is used by the Indians farther north. The wax with which the bits of wood were sealed resembles very much dark sealing wax of these days, melts very readily and gives out a faint odor. The find was made under the stump of a tree two or three feet deep. Workmen think the tree must have been 50 years old.—Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Dr. Nansen and Thirteen.

The safe return of the Fram is regarded as a knockdown blow to the 13 superstition. There were 13 men in her crew, of whom the thirteenth joined at the last moment. All returned safe and well, and none of them was ill at any time or a cause of anxiety. Then, too, it was on the 13th of August that Nansen reached home, and on the same day the Fram got quit of the ice, seven months to a day after (on Jan. 13) she had struck a southerly current. To these coincidences it is added that three litters of 13 pups were born in Nansen's pack of Eskimo dogs (though a greater number than 6 to a litter is unusual) and that just 13 publishers bid for his book after his return.—Harper's Round Table.

A Sprain.

A simple and efficacious remedy for a sprained wrist is to let cold water run upon it every morning for some minutes, holding the wrist as low beneath the mouth of the tap as possible, so that the water may have a good fall. After this has been done bandage it tightly, letting the bandage remain until the next ablution The sprain will be reduced in a few days.

EDISON'S NEW CRYSTAL.

Claims That It Will Make Organs In the Body Transparent.

Thomas A. Edison announces a discovery that goes far beyond the limitations of the wonderful fluoroscope.

He has at last found a crystal that will transform the strange rays discovered by Roentgen into a light that will make every organ of the human body transparent and every delicate tissue distinctly visible.

In the fluoroscope the wizard discovered a practical utility for the X rays. Long before he perfected this invention he realized that its possibilities would be confined to a revelation of the bony structure of the human body. Tungstate of calcium, which he used in this instrument, though more powerful than the original crystals of platinocyanide of barium, discovered by Roentgen, was yet not sensitive enough to show more than a mere outline of such solid organs as the heart and lungs.

Mr. Edison determined, if possible, to find a crystal so powerful as to penetrate the innermost recesses of the body. For months he has been experimenting on this line, and has at last discovered a substance with the requisite quality. He will not reveal its name until he has exhausted its possibilities.

It is probable that when he does perfect this newest discovery it will enable physicians to detect the slightest derangement of the system.

These crystals are so sensitive that when they are placed in front of a man whose eyes are tightly bandaged he is able to see. And this suggests a boon to the blind. Indeed it is possible there will be no more blindness.

Mr. Edison says of his work:

"For the last six months I have been experimenting for the production of chemical crystals which should have the peculiar property of giving out light when subjected to the action of that strange force called, provisionally, the Roentgen X ray. I purchased in this country and in Europe all the known chemicals which I did not already have in my own laboratory. These were all tried in the fluoroscope, but only one was found equal in sensitiveness to tungstate of calcium. Chemical combinations not procurable elsewhere were produced and subjected to the instrument.

"My chemists have been averaging 30 new chemical substances a day, and every one of these has been measured to determine its fluorescing power, if any.

"At last I found one chemical combination more sensitive to the X ray than any known substance. But I am not through as long as there is hope of finding something still better.

"The chances of such discovery will practically never be exhausted. The number of possible combinations with chemicals runs into hundreds of millions.

"There is no doubt that the fluoroscope will become an instrument of great value to the surgeon. It will enable him to make accurate diagnoses of the internal organs."

The recent discovery of a French chemist may have an important bearing upon Mr. Edison's experiments. Becquerel has found that certain crystals of the salts of the metal uranium, when subjected to the action of sunlight and then exposed in a dark room, will give off a new and hitherto unknown light, possessing the characteristic property of the X ray to penetrate opaque substances.

"I am very much interested in Becquerel's work," said the wizard. "The rays from these salts of uranium penetrate opaque objects and give photographic impressions. Other chemists have discovered that other crystals, among them white sugar, have the same property. The strange and curious results of these experiments may add materially to our knowledge of the unseen world about us.

"To know that by the action of the light which streams in upon our dining table some wonderful change is wrought by the sugar in the bowl, and that an unknown ray radiates therefrom through our bodies and out into space, producing who knows what changes, at least indicates that science is entering into a new and wonderful field, full of the possibilities of great and beneficent discovery."—New York Journal.

A Free and Easy Jail.

The Nantucket jail stories which have been current courtroom topics for the last century have been entirely eclipsed by recent stories concerning the convicts of the Barnstable jail. Mr. E. C. Knapp, who is supposed to be serving a five years' sentence for stealing national bank funds, was recently seen in the streets in prison garb, giving the wife of the jailer, Mrs. G. H. Cash, bicycle lessons. Mrs. Cash is 38 years old and has a daughter aged 18, and the convict is said to occupy a place of congenial companionship in the jailer's family. Another convict, named Lewis Rogers, was recently allowed to take a cow to Yarmouth and back while the sun was bright and the air invigorating for a pleasant walk.

There is another prisoner, a Portuguese named Joe, who is there on a complaint of a Portuguese girl named Rosa, and her story is that Joe promised to marry her while he was serving out a previous sentence in the jail, and that she often met Joe outside the jail. It is a pitiful story because when Joe got out of jail he married another girl, after borrowing $30 from Rosa. And all this in Barnstable town, where the jail is. The stories of Nantucket's easy going jail pale into insignificance in comparison with our continental neighbor.—Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror.

Jubilee.

Jubilee, according to the Jewish definition, denotes every fiftieth year, being that following the revolution of seven weeks of years, at which time all the slaves were made free, and all lands reverted to their ancient owners. The jubilees were not observed after the Babylonish captivity.

SECRETS OF POMPEII.

Buried City Now Nearly Cleared of the Debris of Seventeen Centuries.

At last, after perhaps a century of more or less intermittent work, Pompeii, the city of ancient Roman pleasure, has been practically cleared of the volcanic debris of seventeen centuries. Now, for the first time since that fatal day whose awful happenings Bulwer depicts so graphically—and doubtless so truly—in his famous romance, the forum, which was the central feature of the place, and the Strada dei Sepolcri, the principal suburb, can be realized in their mutual relations.

The early work of clearing the historic city, pursued with vigor under Murat when he found himself temporarily installed as king of Naples, was set back from time to time by new eruptions of Vesuvius. As late as 1823 Miss Berry records in her journal:

"We set out, a large party, for Pompeii. The drive of 14 miles is very disagreeable, notwithstanding the view of the bay and the mountains around The cinders and lava of the eruptions last October (1822) have scarcely yet been swept to each side of the streets, but are left on the road. Outside Pompeii it is half way up the horses' legs."

No such impediments now await the traveler, and a very prosaic and distinctly dilatory train deposits him at an unpretentious and not very cleanly railway station.

Except to the highly classical and ultra enthusiastic eye the first impressions of Pompeii are disappointing. The first place of interest which is passed is the so called basilica, supposed to have been used as a law court, but distinct from the tribunals, which were at the farther side of the forum, of which the construction was not completed when the city was covered up. The most striking feature of this open space is the ruins of the temple of Venus.

A main street of Pompeii leading from the station is that known as the Strada dell' Abondava, at the corner of which is to be seen the chalcidicum, or exchange, one of the most beautiful buildings as yet revealed, its central hall having been surrounded by columns of Parian marble.

In the street of tombs, however, we are upon more solid ground, for not a few of the monuments bear the names and the busts of those to whose memory they were erected. At the extreme end of the strada is the so called Villa of Diomede, which has attractions alike for the lover of fact and fiction, for here were found the bodies of 17 women and children who had sought refuge under the portico, but were apparently suffocated.

The amphitheater is even farther away from the center of the town than the Sepolcri, and it is on this point that recent excavations have been chiefly directed, with very important results.

It must be remembered that Bulwer Lytton was quite accurate in describing the games which were in progress at the time of the fatal eruption of Vesuvius which swallowed up both Pompeii and Herculaneum, and one of the results of the works carried out here is to show that the loss of life on that occasion was less than formerly supposed. The people assembled at the amphitheater had time to make their escape to the open country beyond.

Scarcely more than 700 bodies have been discovered, and the perfect state in which many of them were found is at least negative evidence that time would not have reduced others to impalpable dust. The activity, however, of the present Italian government will not be relaxed until Pompeii has been forced to give up all its secrets, and in the meanwhile it is giving up its treasures of marble, bronze and gold and bringing to light, among other facts, that portrait painting, for mural decoration, was practiced probably by Greek artists for their Roman patrons.—New York Herald.

Only 11 days are required to send a letter from New York to Brindisi, in Italy.

WHY NOT BUY
THE ✣ BEST?



Sterling positively will not injure your hands or the finest fabric. This has been proven by actual tests. Clothes washed with it become white and odorless. Matchless for flannels. Superb for glassware. Will remove stains from marble and make your floors white as chalk.
Try it that it may speak for itself.

"Nothing else like it."
The most refreshing and pleasant Soap for the skin.



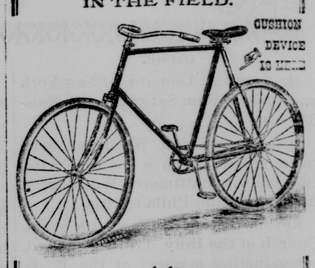
It lasts twice as long as others.
A trial will convince you of its great merit. Will please the most fastidious.
CHARLES F. MILLER,
Mfr. of FRENCH MILLED TOILET SOAPS AND PERFUMERY,
Lancaster, Penn.
ESTABLISHED, 1849.

NIAGARA
BICYCLES



CATALOGUE ON APPLICATION.
CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
Reliable Agents Wanted.
BUFFALO WHEEL CO.,
BUFFALO, N. Y.

There's a Richmond
IN THE FIELD.



The ✣ Richmond
CUSHION FRAME BICYCLE
prevents jolts, jar and strains. Why ride a Rigid Frame, with its injurious effects, when you can buy a wheel giving
EASE AND COMFORT?
Lines of Wheel Unchanged.
Durability Increased.
Send for catalogue of our Rigid and Cushion Frame Bicycles.
RICHMOND BICYCLE CO.,
RICHMOND, IND.
Eastern Branch, 97 Chambers St., New York.

THE HERMIT'S REMEDY
SPRUCE GUM.
KILL KAUF AND KOLD KURE
is an invaluable remedy for all affections of the THROAT and LUNGS. Contains no opium or other injurious Drugs. It Kills COUGHS and COLDS.
Keep a Bottle in the House,
IT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE.
PRICE, 25 Cents.
We can give employment permanent and lucrative to a good agent in this section. For particulars call on publisher of this paper.
JAMES W. FOSTER CO., Mf'g Druggists, BATH, N. H.
JAMES W. FOSTER CO., BATH, N. H.
POOR'S LADY AND IS LESS FRETFUL. OINTMENT BABY APPRECIATES IT
For the Complexion.

ECLIPSE
Poultry Brooder.
BEST MADE.



SEND FOR CIRCULAR, which explains why you should use a BROODER, and why you should purchase the
ECLIPSE BROODER.
Also gives testimonials from MANY WHO HAVE USED THEM.
CAPACITY, 100 CHICKS.
Size: 52 inches long, 32 inches wide, 26 inches high. Weight, 135 lbs.
Price: Single one, $9.00.
Two or more, $8.50 apiece.
If not as represented, money refunded.
JOHN D. WINGERT,
MANUFACTURER
FAYETTEVILLE, - PENN.

We are Prepared to Quote Specially Low Prices.
Good 6x20 Shingles
Saps, $5.00 Hearts, $6.00
Fair Yellow Pine Flooring, $15.00
Common Yellow Pine Flooring, $12.50
GEO. F. SLOAN & BRO.
Lumber Dealers,
414 LIGHT STREET WHARF,
BALTIMORE, MD.
INCH YELLOW PINE BOARDS, EDGE, $10.00 and $12.50.
The Above Goods are Excellent Value.
We have higher Grades at higher prices
Write Us For Prices.
Lumber, Shingles, Laths, Pickets, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Etc.