A REVIEW OF SPORTS.

Comment on the Proposed Battle Between J. L. Sullivan and James J. Corbett.

THE CHAMPION'S TALL TALK.

Pleasing Success of the Local Dog Show and the Amateur Athletic Contests.

ABOUT A 25-CENT BASEBALL RATE.

Features of the General Outlook of the National Game for This Season.

There is considerable safety in saying that this is destined to be a remarkable year in the history of pugilism in this country. Without all signs fail, we are going to have the great John L. Sullivan in the ring again and with a native born. Articles of agreement have been signed and each party has put up a forfeit of $2,500. People who are interested in such matters will know all about the conditions. The latter, to say the least, are remarkable because of the enormous amount of money there is at stake. If the conditions are fully carried out there will be $45,000 at issue. The Olympic Club gives $25,000 and each fighter puts up $10,000 as stake money. Just fancy that, ye old timers, who were accustomed to stand on the turf and see champions fight for $100 or $150 a side. Just think of two men going to contest with big gloves for the fortune of nearly $50,000.

Surely we are leaving the past a long way behind. Our modern pugilist of a front rank kind can spend more money in one night than some of the old-time champions fought for in a year. There must be a tremendous amount of money in the boxing business in this country, because the $45,000 at issue must come out of the public's pocket eventually. The Olympic Club directors must expect that they will receive more than $25,000. In fact, by giving such an amount they cannot do other than expect at least $35,000 in return. And all that money to see a glove fight!

Some Features of the Match.

It is not surprising that almost everybody interested in boxing and pugilism in this country should think that Corbett won't be "in it" when he meets John L. S. Nor is it very surprising to me to hear a considerable number of people stating that Corbett will never meet the big fellow. I am, indeed, not surprised at this. There never was a pugilist in any country who had such a great hold of the public sentiment as John L. has of the public sentiment of the United States. Thousands who have never seen Sullivan and who have little or no idea of pugilism believe him to be the greatest man that has ever lived, as far as fighting is concerned. He has been the theme of sermons, the subject of pages and pages of newspaper matter and the burden of talk and conversation in every nook and corner of the country. In short, the name of John L. Sullivan is as much a fireside name as any name that I know of.

No wonder then that there should be such a popular notion of the man's prowess, and such an implicit faith in his ability to defeat anything that is human. This patriotic feeling is to a very great extent to be admired, personally, I am very glad of it. But there is such a thing as being too extravagant in our belief. Our faith can be so strong, and we may hold it so blindly that we may be led astray. There ought certainly to be reason in this as in other things, and if we just reason the matter a little we'll find that there is no occasion to think that Corbett will decline to fight Sullivan, and that the latter will kill Corbett in ten minutes if they do meet. I remember very distinctly what the popular opinion was when Mitchell was matched to fight Sullivan. Why, some of the most prominent public writers declared that Mitchell would never go into the ring. Others stated that if he did go into the ring that in two or three rounds Sullivan would literally kill him. Sullivan himself talked very extravagantly regarding what he was going to do with Mitchell. Well, I recall things to point out that none of them happened. Mitchell went into the ring and nobody was killed. And it is safe to say that matters will be similar this time.

Chances of the Men.

Of course Corbett will be in the ring if all goes well, and I am inclined to believe that he will stand much longer before Sullivan than many people think. To be sure Sullivan's chances of victory are much better than those of Corbett, but it is much too soon to figure out results yet. There are, however, two or three things that we might say a few words about. There are sure to be many people who will bet that Sullivan will not defeat Corbett; that is, a draw will win the money for them. Were I to bet on the result and took the Corbett end this is the only way I would bet. I cannot get it into my head that Corbett is a fighter, and certainly a fighter will be needed to knock Sullivan out. Corbett's style of fighting or boxing is just that kind that will enable him dodging round for two or three hours. If he can avoid Sullivan's rushes, which he is sure to do, then it is hard to say what the result will be.

During the last few days we have all, doubtless, read of the very tall talk of John L. In one instance he is quoted as saying that it is just like going out on the street and picking up $35,000 his fighting Corbett. There is nothing like confidence, but talk of this kind is nothing more or less than "blowing" of the tallest kind, and had any body else indulged in it he would have been roundly called down for it. It is talk of this kind that leads to such unpopular results. These frothy vauntings lead the public to expect extraordinary things, and when these extraordinary things do not come the public mind is disappointed into disgust, and the man who has failed is soon buried beneath public censure. As a result, therefore, if Corbett makes a draw he will be a winner, and a good one, while Sullivan's stock will fall very low, and if he cannot defeat Corbett he must not lay claim to being the "best man who has ever lived."

It may also happen that Corbett will be charged with foot racing, just as everybody has whom Sullivan couldn't hit. If Corbett can either by jumping or running keep out of the big man's way, more power to him. It will be his business, I suppose, to keep out of the way just as much as it may be Sullivan's to try and hit him. This notion of calling a man down because he is not stupid enough to stand up and allow either Sullivan or anybody else to knock him out is the veriest nonsense under the sun.

There is also another matter worthy of remark. I hold that the contest is not for the championship of the world. Sullivan has not won the title nor has he defeated a man who has. Corbett certainly has no claim to it. The contest is if for any title at all, for the championship of the United States.

A Few Probabilities.

But the winner of the Sullivan and Corbett contest will have to fight somebody else just as sure as we live. If he does not, I fail to see how he can retain the title of champion at all. For instance, if Sullivan defeats Corbett the winner of the Slavin and Jackson contest is sure to want to fight Sullivan. And there may be a difficulty on this point if Jackson is the winner. Sullivan rigidly declines to meet a colored man, although he is willing to fight a man who has contested against a colored man. I still fail to see how Sullivan has any sound reason for refusing to fight Jackson. But if the latter defeats Slavin, which he may do, there will be a large number of people who will think Jackson superior to Sullivan. If they never fight, then we'll never know whether or not Sullivan is the best fighter of this generation.

And Mitchell must not be forgotten. After all that is done and said he is a factor in the matter, and to tell the truth I would sooner have seen him against Sullivan than Corbett, that is, I think Mitchell would make a better stand against Sullivan than would Corbett. I had a long talk with "Denver" Smith the other day. He was just back from Canada, where he met Mitchell and Slavin. Smith declares that Mitchell is certainly eager to fight Sullivan for a reasonable stake, and he (Smith) is also of opinion that Mitchell can defeat Slavin. The latter, Smith argues, is to a great extent a one-handed fighter, and is likely to be beaten by Jackson.

General Pugilistic Affairs.

Fitzsimmons is still without a match, although there is a strong probability of his meeting Ted Pritchard. The latter wants to face the Australian and the Australian wants to tackle the Englishman. This being so they ought certainly to get together. A contest between them would certainly be an interesting one, as it would test Fitzsimmons beyond a doubt. Pritchard is a fighter, and to defeat him Fitzsimmons would have to stand a deal of punishment. So far in this country Fitz has escaped that, and until he proves that he can stand a good thumping we will be at a loss to know what he really is.

Maher is to have another try, and this time with a man something like his class, viz., Joe Lannon. Maher ought to make a good showing against a man like Lannon, and it would have been better for everybody concerned if Maher had started out in the Lannon class, or even a bit below it.

There is little or nothing going on among the lightweights and bantams. The Olympic Club still declines to offer a purse for Gibbons and Meyer, and I am not surprised at that. My readers will know what I had to say about Gibbons when he defeated Bowen, and the resolution of the club fully bears out what I then said. Gibbon is not in the Meyer class.

Once more I have a word or two to say regarding "Denver" Smith. It is strange that no good club will offer a purse for him to fight any of the middle-weights or light heavy-weights. He is in earnest when he says he wants to meet Jim Hall or Fitzsimmons, and has good backing.

The Recent Dog Show.

Pittsburg has fully established its name as a dog show city. Last year the Duquesne Kennel Club had a really first-class exhibition, but this year all previous shows have been eclipsed. The show just held was certainly a good one in all respects. The dogs were more numerous than ever and the quality was better. The judging too was highly satisfactory and though there were some surprises everybody admitted the fairness of the awards. The immense crowds enjoyed the show thoroughly.

And let me say that the gentlemen who have had the management of the show deserve lots of credit. The public little knows of the trouble and anxiety of getting a successful dog show established and I'm sure such Trojans as President Boggs, Secretary Littell, Treasurer Lysle, the Denny Bros. and John Moorhead deserve the thanks of all interested in dogs. Mr. Raper, the English judge who was here, told me that he was delightfully surprised at the excellent appearance of things here. He spoke very highly of the arrangements and also of the quality of the dogs exhibited. But I am glad to say that the affair was a financial success and that is the great feature.

The East End Contests.

It is some time since I had a more interesting time at athletic contests than that of Thursday evening at the East End Gymnasium. Those East End chaps are always busy with something, and they certainly had the liveliest and best indoor sports the other night that they ever had. One pleasing feature was the crowded house, and that despite the very miserable weather. Taking the contests as a whole they were probably all that could be expected except the boxing.

Somehow or other we, in Pittsburg, cannot get hold of a good amateur boxer; we haven't very good ones of any kind, but our amateurs have always been bad. On Thursday evening we had a very poor sample, and really there wasn't much glory in giving a gold medal to the better of the two who contested. As far as boxing was concerned, both Fillenger and Welsh were deficient in almost everything, and this has always been the condition of things whenever I have seen local amateurs box. To me there seems to be one chief reason for this, viz., lack of good teaching. Every day it is becoming more apparent that the amateur athletes of the city should get together and secure a first-class instructor. Then they would know the difference between rough and uncultured slugging and really good boxing. Thursday evening the contest simply degenerated into a question of who could stand up and swing his arm hardest. It caused lots of fun, but it was not boxing by any means. But the next contests the Gyms hold the boxing contests will certainly pack the house for them.

The jumping and fencing were all tolerably fair and very close. There are some good athletes in the city, and the East End Gyms deserve all the credit they can get for keeping these young men before the public. If the Gyms did not exist, I doubt whether we would have half the young athletes here that we have.

Next Saturday's Contest.

It may be worth while to say a few words about the proposed football contest that is to take place at Recreation Park next Saturday between the local and New Castle teams. That the match is of great importance there is no doubt as it will beyond a dispute settle the question of the championship in this part of the State.

Those interested in it tell me that only bona fide members of each team will be allowed to play, and that is a condition which the articles of agreement demand and it is a condition that ought to be rigidly stuck to. The match is causing considerable interest, not only here but in other cities, as the Pittsburg team have become known throughout the United States. If they win this match they are almost sure to have another with the Canadian champions, and that would be more interesting than any match I know of. At any rate I trust that next Saturday's contest will come off all right and that the better team will win.

About the 25-Cent Seats.

During the week there have been quite a number of objections published in THE DISPATCH regarding the proposed 25-cent seats at Exposition Park. There is nothing like ventilating one's objections on public matters of the kind, because sometimes these objections are very instructive. But as far as I have been able to learn the objectors forget one or two important points.

I have always been an advocate of 25-cent ball, but it is useless to argue for an out and out 25-cent rate here if other clubs agree to do otherwise. That the local club is going to have 25-cent seats at all is a privilege to the public that has been voluntarily given, and even if the seats are not accepted by the public the latter are no worse off now than last year. It is quite true that the proposed seats are to be in a very bad location as far as seing the game is concerned, but those who want a 25-cent rate certainly cannot expect to get things as convenient and as comfortable for 25 cents as others do for 50 cents. There has been a suggestion made to the effect that part of the present "bleachers" be utilized for 25-cent seats. This suggestion seems plausible enough but, if one-half of the bleachers were 25-cent seats, depend upon it, there would never be anybody in the other half, cover or no cover. And the directors do not want a result of this kind simply because the salaries of their players and all other expenses have been estimated on a 50-cent admission.

Doubtless every season the question of a 25-cent rate is coming more to the front, but I hold the opinion that an admission fee of 25-cent will not yield to the players as large salaries as they are getting now. It then in fairness to the stockholders becomes a question of regulating salaries to meet the reduced admission price, and until that is done it is hardly fair to demand a thorough going 25-cent rate.

All Are Getting in Line.

Next week all our players are expected to be in the city, and then things will begin to look just as if there had been no break in the sport between last fall and now. As usual, every player who writes to the local club officials states with the utmost seriousness that he never felt better in his life. To a very great extent, repetition has weakened the force of this declaration, because there have been so many instances where ball players have been so broken up as to be almost unable to write, and still they state "I never felt better."

But I have hopes that our players, those whom we expect to be our principal players, are all right. I know that they are all trying to get into the best possible condition, and I hope they will succeed.

There is still considerable speculation as to the players who will be retained here. The other day President Temple assured me that Denny will be here if suitable terms can be made with him. The President reasons very wisely on this point, as he said:

"It is just this if Denny comes here and does not fill the bill we'll lose nothing, and if he comes here and plays in anything like his own form we will be very big gainers."

That is a sensible way to look at the matter. Most assuredly if Jerry Denny could come here and play as he used to play Pittsburg will have the best third baseman in the country. That is worth trying for, particularly when there is no penalty to follow if the trying is not successful.

Well, if Denny comes we'll have Farrell in the outfield most of the time. I hold that Farrell is no better fielder than Corkhill, while he is undoubtedly superior in other respects. But Corkhill is such a reliable fielder that I don't expect he will be released for a time at least, if at all. And still the fact remains that quite a number will be released and I will not be surprised if a certain player whom many people think all right turns out not to be class enough. Oh, no! he is not a regular outfielder.

About the General Outlook.

When President Byrne, of the Brooklyn club, was here the other day, he spoke very encouragingly of the general baseball outlook. I never met our very genial friend, Mr. Byrne, without hearing the most cheering effusions about the immediate future of the National game. Charles always tells of a bright side, no matter how black he may inwardly think the future.

But along with his glowing story of the prospects of this year, he remarked that in future magnates are going to keep all their troubles to themselves. He said: "We are not going to inform the public of all our little misunderstandings." This is, indeed, a wonderful resolve on the part of baseball magnates, and reminds me of a party of card-players who would retire to privacy and play. They resolved to make no noise and simply talk all differences of opinion over in a quiet and secret way. In a short time one or two of them were thrown out of the windows regardless of resolves to be quiet. Just fancy men like Von der Ahe being "mum" when he thinks he is getting the worst of it. Why, even gagging would not silence him.

But there is, I believe, a general desire among the magnates to have things go pleasantly along. They all want to clear a profit this year beyond all others, and the probability is there will be no trouble if the financial conditions keep all right. If reverses come we may look out for squalls.

Regarding the general outlook I notice that Al Johnson still maintains that the present 12-Club League will render itself into two organization, such as an Eastern and Western League. There may be considerable truth in this prediction, but whether it comes true or not I am still inclined to think that we'll see some important changes sooner or later.

The Western League is rapidly getting into shape, and no men in this country are more hopeful of success than the magnates of that organization. Considering the small salaries they are paying they ought to make a success this year as far as finances are concerned.

PRINGLE.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE NEWS.

ANOTHER rally is spoken of at the Cathedral.

THE Labor Bureau meets this afternoon at St. Mary's, Forty-sixth street.

THE Diocesan Union meets next Sunday at St. Kieran's, Fifty-fourth street, at 3 P. M.

MR. THOS. MCCLOSKEY will labor for the spread of Total Abstinence in Clarion county.

THE Total Abstinence circular sent out by Father Lambing, of Scottdale, will bring in many recruits.

THE pledge cards for Catholic school children are now ready. They can be had by addressing P. W. Joyce, Secretary, 17 Crystal Row, Pittsburg, S. S.

ALL societies should follow the example of St. Bridget's and secure some good orator, such as Dr. Leeming or Father Kittell, and have a lecture before Lent is over.

THE sentiment of the C. T. A. U. is strongly against increasing the number of saloons. Remonstrances would have been more numerous but for the decision of the Court that no general objection would be considered.

SAVE THIS AND WAIT

Until Wednesday, March 23, at 9 A. M.

In consequence of the late fire of the large wholesale clothing house that recently burned, over $500,000 worth of men's and boys' fine clothing, hats and other goods have been saved and removed to the large building known as 49 Sixth, between Liberty and Penn avenue, one door east from Hotel Anderson. This building has been closed for one week to arrange for this great fire insurance sale, and this great fire insurance sale will commence on Wednesday, March 23, at 9 A. M. Everything will be sold at retail 50 per cent less than the actual cost of manufacture. As the stock must be sold in ten days, everything will go rapidly. The appraiser for the insurance company, after carefully examining the stock of clothing, concluded it was not so badly damaged as claimed by the assured manufacturers, and, failing to agree as to the actual loss, they were forced to take the same and turn it into money. Consequently the goods must be sold at once in order to make a final settlement.

Below we quote a few of the extraordinary bargains that will be offered, and bear in mind that there are over 30,000 different articles we cannot mention here:

Men's ribbed diagonal suits, $2 75, positively worth $12 50. You may keep this suit home during the sale, and if it is not worth $12 50 return the same, no matter what the cause may be, and we hereby agree to return the $2 75. Men's fine suits in cheviot and Scotch plaids, $5 85, positively worth $18, or your money returned any time during the sale.

Men's "Royal" kerseys silk and satin lined overcoats in tan and dark blue, $7 99, positively worth $28. You may keep this coat home five days, and, if not worth $28, return the same and your money will be refunded, no matter what the cause may be.

Men's fine spring overcoats in several different shades, latest style, well made, $4 89, and well worth $18 50 or money returned.

Men's suits in fine, fancy and plain worsteds in several different shades, $7 89, worth $22. Men's English cutaway suits, $7 99, valued at $26. You have the same privilege on these suits as on the above mentioned garments.

Men's cassimere pants, worth $3, for 98c. Men's all wool cheviot pants, 25 styles, light and dark colors, $1 49, worth $5.

Boys' pants, 5,000 pairs in all, at 19c a pair.

Boys' suits, $1 08, worth $4 50; good socks, 5c per pair, worth 40c; fine embroidered suspenders, 9c, worth 60c; fine flannel underwear, 37c per suit, worth $2 50; men's hats, 99c, worth $3 75, all shapes; boys' hats, 15c, worth $1 50, and 30,000 different articles we cannot mention here.

It will pay you to come 100 miles to visit this great sale. If you value money don't miss it. Everything sold as advertised. Now is your chance to get clothing for almost nothing. We advise you to cut this out and bring it with you, so you get exactly the goods mentioned here. This sale will positively commence Wednesday, March 23, at 9 A. M., at 49 Sixth, between Liberty and Penn avenues, first door east of Hotel Anderson, Pittsburg, Pa.

THE MODERN MILLER.

His Process Very Different From That of Old Time Fellows.

THE HUNGARIAN ROLLER PROCESS.

American Improvements on Methods Imported From Europe.

HOW A GRAIN OF WHEAT IS TREATED

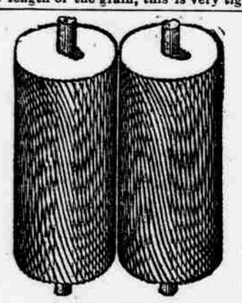
[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Hardly any manufacture of a generation ago was so simple as flour milling. The miller dropped his wheat into a hopper, millstones beneath swiftly ground it into a product from which, there and then, flour was separated by bolting cloth. Fragments of wheat that had been only partly ground, and so could not pass through the meshes of the cloth, were passed between the millstones a second time. The meal obtained by this latter operation was again sifted, yielding a flour which varied a good deal in quality. Sometimes it was fair in grade, but usually it carried so much bran as to be quite dark in color, and the bread baked from it was darker still.

Contrasted with this simple, direct way of making flour is the elaborate roller process, first brought to the point of practical success in Hungary. Imported thence, it was developed and improved by American ingenuity in the great mills of Minnesota, and from that State has spread to every other in the Union. Simplicity is so important a feature in machinery that had the old-time mill been as economical as it was simple, its quick and ready methods would never have been discarded.

A Machine May Be Too Simple.

The fault in these methods was that, considering the real complexity of the work to be done, they were too simple. Millstones, especially when they ran, as they usually did, very close together, wasted some of the wheat's best elements and left sticking to the bran no small percentage of good flour. What a miller's task is becomes plain when we closely examine a grain of wheat. The first thing to meet the eye is its branny envelope. At one end of this is a little bunch of delicate hair or fuzz; at the other appears an embryo or germ—for the grain, it must be remembered, is a seed. Next is to be noticed the deep crease which runs along the length of the grain; this is very tightly



The Hungarian Rollers.

and snugly folded together. In getting at the flour within the grain the miller has to remove hair, bran, and germ, and must thoroughly unfold the crease.

This last part of his work was the most troublesome of all until rollers took the place of millstones. They open out the grain's crease so completely that the separation of the flour is an easy matter, even when spring wheat, with its hard, brittle covering, furnishes the grist.

Separation Is the Great Point.

While mills of the Hungarian type employ series of rollers to reduce the wheat, their efficiency and economy are equally due to their separating machinery. This machinery takes the different products successively let fall by the rollers and assorts them with nicety. If flour from an old-fashioned mill, such as still may be found lingering in a frontier settlement, be scrutinized carefully it will be found to consist of flours of more than one kind. These flours, if freed from their admixture of bran and other impurities, and divided into fair, good, and best, would be much enhanced in value. To effect this separation would be impossible, and yet modern milling accomplishes what is practically the same task.

This it does by indirect attack. Instead of attempting to separate and purify flours in their ground and mixed state, it separates and purifies each distinct product of wheat before flour is made at all. When wheat is granulated, step by step, it can be easily rid of its impurities and divided kind from kind, as it cannot at a later stage when as flour it rises before the breath like so much dust. Both groups of inventions, rollers for reduction and purifiers and separators for treating wheat as reduced, owe their development to the study bestowed upon what, not very long ago, millers were wont to regard as a mere bye-product.

A Bye-Product the Miller's Mainstay.

Millstones run in the old, crude way used to turn out 3 to 5 per cent of their grist in the form of middlings—wheat finely broken, but still far short of the powderiness of flour. Formed from the part next the husk, hard in texture and refractory to the millstones, these middlings were at the same time the wheat's richest substance, the portion most sensitive to the action of leaven. Millers were quite well aware of their value, but mixed as the middlings were with bran, germ and fiber, they were either run into the refuse heap for cattle feed or made into a low quality of flour. When the middlings purifier was invented its cleansed and separated product yielded a flour so superior to any brand previously manufactured that millers began to study how the percentage of middlings might be increased. This led to the introduction of "new process milling," which was simply high grinding on millstones, the upper millstone being at an increased height from the lower.

The process was in turn discarded for the Hungarian roller system. A very striking transformation has resulted. Whereas the miller's aim had been to make as much flour at one operation as he could, and as little middlings, he endeavors to-day to make all the middlings possible, and, at his earlier operations, as little flour as he can. To produce this largest possible yield of middlings he uses a series of rollers to break up his wheat. That done, rollers in a second extended series reduce the middlings to flour.

The Result of Improved Processes.

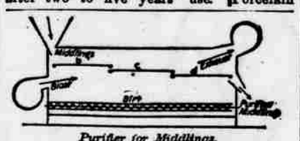
Uncounted experiments have shown that in both operations it is best to proceed deliberately. Gradual reduction permits gradual purification, and no purification can be thorough which is not gradual. In abandoning methods that seemed simple, and which were really too simple, millers have built up what looks like a roundabout process. Their justification is in its splendid results. To-day out of 100 pounds of flour they will have some seventy to seventy-five pounds of a whiteness and bread-making quality such as the old mills knew not, 20 pounds or so as good as the old mills' best, and only the remainder, five to ten pounds, of low grade.

Let us enter a roller-process mill. First of all we are shown the machines which, by means of sieves and air blasts, remove from the wheat its admixture of cockles, tares, chips and dirt. Next come the scouring machines, stoutly framed and covered with cases of perforated cast iron. These are fed from the cleaners we have just seen, and their duty is to cut off the beard of the grain, leaving it in a perfectly scoured and polished condition for reduction by the rollers. Some millers prefer cases made of very heavy rolled wire of square section, whose sharp, impinging edges exert a greater effect than is possible with wire of ordinary round form.

Unfolding the Wheat Grain.

Cleaned and prepared, the wheat is now ready for the first pair of rollers. These are usually 24 inches long, 9 inches in diameter and bear 12 corrugations to the inch. In contour these corrugations resemble the teeth of a saw, and vary with the kind of wheat to be treated. For the hardest varieties of grain they are not so sharp as for soft wheats. To prevent their interlocking with each other they wind around the rollers in a gentle spiral; to avoid splintering the bran they are no nearer than is absolutely necessary to accomplish the work of each reduction. They are compactly boxed in so as to be breast high, and through a little glass window the miller can see how their work is going on.

As a rule the rollers are of chilled iron, tough enough not to need recutting until after two to five years' use. [Porcelain



Purifier for Middlings.

rollers give satisfactory results, but their employment is limited; chilled iron is easier to manufacture and repair. As we watch the first pair of rollers at work we observe that one of them revolves faster than its mate, so that a grain of wheat caught on the projection of a slow roller is stretched out or unfolded by the projection of the quick one. This action it is which opens the grain so as to shell out the middlings, without at the same time making more than a trifling quantity of flour. A point just here to which the miller pays particular attention is keeping these rollers at the right distance apart.

The Size of the Grains.

If too far from each other they take no hold of the wheat; if too near, they mash it into flakes which resist the flour-preparing process following up the roller's work. Clearly, then, it is desirable that the grain submitted to the rollers should be as nearly of a size as possible. As a rule spring wheat is small, and winter wheat large, but whatever the variety of the grain it is usual to divide it into two sizes before reduction begins. For this purpose a rotating sieve, or revolving cylinder, is employed. Through its meshes the smaller grain falls into a trough leaving the larger without.

When wheat has passed through the first pair of rollers the product is conducted to a scalping reel. This reel is a revolving cylinder, covered with wire having about 324 openings to the square inch. As the meal is carried up its ascending side the flour and middlings fall through. The axis of the cylinder is inclined, and the portions of wheat stock which cannot get through its meshes gradually find their way to the cylinder's end or "tail," there to be taken to a second pair of rollers for a second reduction, in principle essentially the same as the first. To the second pair of rollers succeed others, until a fifth or even a sixth pair is reached. Each pair has more corrugations to the inch than its predecessors, and has its two rollers placed nearer together.

Fine Silks Used for Bolting.

In following the partly broken wheat to the second pair of rollers, we left behind us for a moment the flour and middlings due to the first pair's action. These two products, the miller reminds us, were delivered by the scalping reel as a mixture. He now submits them to a bolting reel, a frame clad with silk, having hundreds of thousands of apertures to the square inch. This reel is cylindrical, a form much preferable to the six-sided shape of old patterns. Through its apertures the flour readily passes, leaving the middlings in the reel. In this way scalping and bolting reels follow up each successive pair of rollers, their meshes gradually becoming finer and finer. How much finer depends upon the character of the wheat and the general conditions under which a mill is operated. As a rule the silks run one number or size finer at each reduction.

We are shown a variety of cloths, all of European make, ranging from 576 to 28,900 meshes to the square inch. The durability of these silks is astonishing. With soft wheat a reel will serve six or seven years and remain in good condition. Wheat attracts moisture so readily from the atmosphere that its dampness foretells a coming storm as certainly as a falling barometer. On muggy days bolting is so much retarted that, if possible, the miller slows down operations. Under his guidance we now retrace our steps to where we left the bolting reels delivering their middlings. We are now to see what becomes of them. Mixed as they are with particles of bran, fiber, and other impurities they go to a separator, contrived upon a principle as simple as it is effective.

The Process of Purification.

In windy weather if we inspect the dust borne to the window-sills at the various levels of a tall building we will find a decided difference in its quality. The dust which has risen to the top story is much finer than the dust deposited at the ground floor. The wind has carried light particles farther than heavy ones. This action is imitated in the aspirators and purifiers of our mill. A sharp blast of air is directed against the mixture of middlings, bran, and fiber; as the finer and lighter fragments can be blown farther than the heavier and coarser they are separated into their special boxes or chutes. Purifiers are made in a variety of designs; the illustration gives an idea of the main features in which they agree. Machines of this type are also set at the task of dividing middlings into coarse, fine and low grades, incidentally freeing them from any admixture of bran and germ they may contain. These repeated operations are necessary because no single one of them is perfect in its results. The processes of separation and purification thus go on hand in hand, but there remains an important class of them to which we are now brought.

As the rollers have gradually turned out a finer and finer product a point is reached where middlings, germ and bran are delivered in particles very similar in their minute size and weight. The differences which exist between them are too slight for any process of separation to seize upon. The silk of the bolting reel can divide small particles from large; the aspirator, or purifier of other type, can disunite light particles from heavy ones. Here the effective working limit of both is passed.

The Use of Smooth Rolls.

Now, by bringing his final mixture of middlings, germ and bran to rolls of smooth surface the miller sets up precisely such a difference of structure among them as a separating process demands. He breaks up the middlings into still finer fragments, flattens the germ and thoroughly detaches the bran from the middlings. This last and finest yield of middlings can now be separated by bolting reels of somewhat coarse mesh. When the wheat is of the hard, spring variety grown on the prairies of Minnesota, Dakota and the Northwest generally, the middlings in the last reduction are sometimes too fine and tough for rollers, either corrugated or smooth, to have any useful effect upon them. At this point there is nothing to do but have recourse to the millstone to effect the final manufacture into flour. Rollers do quite as well on mellower wheats, less tough in texture, and on winter wheats. A good many large Minnesota mills rely entirely on rollers; the employment of millstones for the last reduction is, taking the Union as a whole, steadily declining.

Although millers have succeeded in taking from their bran almost every particle of flour, bran still has value as horse and cattle feed. At first this was not understood, and many thousand tons of it were cast into the Mississippi from the mills at Minneapolis. As now sold throughout the country it is delivered in two brands, one very fine and light in color, the other darker and almost as coarse as pine sawdust. The prices for these products vary from $14 to $16 per ton. Because they are light and chaffy, they do not bear transportation to a distance with profit. That is, with bran compressors as costly in operation as those of to-day.

GEORGE ILES.

ART FOR THE FAIR.

Details of the Great Fountain Now Being Chiseled in Paris.

M'MONNIES IS MAKING FAME.

The Two Awards to Be Made by the Society of American Artists.

SALE OF THE CUTTING COLLECTION

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.]

NEW YORK, March 19.—The most interesting things I have seen for a long time are some photographs recently sent from Paris by Mr. McMonnies, who, as everyone knows, was once a pupil of St. Gaudens', and, after St. Gaudens had refused the task, was commissioned to make the great fountain for the Chicago Fair grounds. These photographs show the central feature of the fountain partially complete—7 of the 11 figures which will compose it being finished and in their places. The sub-structure is in the form of an ornate barge, with an eagle's head at the prow and a range of dolphins encircling its bulwarks, and on either side a horn of plenty emptying itself over the edge. On the prow, with one foot planted well in advance of the other, stands a winged figure, which we may call Victory, or Progress, or Success, or something of that sort, her chin uplifted, her right hand holding a trumpet near her mouth and her left extended with a laurel wreath. Father Time, with his wings and his beard and his scythe, stands on the high poop steering the craft. Near him, along one of its sides, stand four maidens, symbolizing the arts and sciences, and each wielding a great oar, which rests in a tall ornamental rowlock; and a similar series of four, not yet completed, will hold the same positions on the other side. Between these two groups rises a massive pedestal with the national shield on its forward face. From this rises a second, smaller pedestal, encircled by four children bearing garlands, and on this, high above the other figures, enthroned in a curule chair, sits America. Father Time and the children are nude; the Victory and the lateral figures are partially draped in thin, clinging garments, and the America is undraped above the waist.

The first thing that strikes us is the dignity, combined with great decorative effectiveness, of the composition as a whole. The next is its freshness and spirit, its fire and "go." Then we note the admirable treatment of the figures—their beauty of form and purpose and the vigor and grace of their draperies. And finally we realize that in these classic-seeming figures Mr. McMonnies has been surprisingly original. He has expressed American nationality more clearly than it has ever before been expressed in purely idealistic art. No one who has ever seen American women could mistake the birthplace of any of his women. Each of the six heads differs from all the others; but each is a clear and strong portrayal of a genuine American type.

The four rowers are spirited and charming, but the Victory is more remarkable. She is daring, energetic and inspiring. There is youthful power and the ardor of life and progress in every line of her slight, yet vigorous form and in her noble face, rightly conceived in a more serious mood than those of her less important companions. The blood runs so quickly in her veins that even the tips of her outspread wings curl defiantly upward. And yet the most interesting figure of all is the America. With her feet on the globe she sits erect and alert but very quiet, a torch proudly extended in her left hand and her right arm lifted to rest on the high back of her chair. There is no need for her to exert herself. Everything is being done for her—all she has to do is to sit aloft and exult, to show herself to the world and go where Victory and Time are conducting. The flame of her torch is blown by the wind of her swift advance, her draperies are swirled around her feet and a long scarf floats out behind her. But she is impassive—a haughty young queen on her throne who knows that her people adore her and fears nothing whatsoever from the outer world. It may look if it will, and may criticise if it chooses but it can't stop her or hurt her, and she is very sure that it will not even try.

The figure is just what one the crowning statues of a great national and international exhibition ought to be—an apotheosis of national pride. And yet its serenity and dignity are so great that it does not seem too self-assertive. And judged merely as a piece of sculpture it is beautiful enough to delight even those who care nothing for meanings in a work of art.

In the photograph only one fault can be pointed out. I cannot think that it was a good idea to make Father Time use his scythe as a rudder. This is not true symbolism but a mechanical effort at symbolism unworthy of the hand that could infuse so much meaning into the figures of Victory and America. Naturally, the scythe could not be dispensed with, and it was easier to make the figure's action simple and right if it held nothing except the rudder. But Mr. McMonnies is too intelligent and too imaginative to have allowed a difficulty like this to daunt him.

Of course this part of the fountain is to stand in the middle of a large basin, and many accessory figures will complete the design. I believe it is to be executed, like the Paris decorations, in some more cheaply worked and less permanent material than marble. But it is impossible that, when the Fair is over, it will be allowed to perish. If not Chicago, then some other city will surely see that it is put in lasting shape, for it promises to be one of the most remarkable of all the many remarkable things that Chicago will have to show next year.

Awards of the American Society.

The Society of American Artists announces that at its exhibition in May the Webb prize of $300 will be awarded as usual for the best landscape, and also that the new Shaw fund prize of $1,000 will "be devoted for the first time to the purchase of one figure composition painted in oil by an American artist." As this picture will be selected by the society's jury the award will in so far be in the nature of a prize, but, more accurately speaking, it will be purchase money, for the picture is to become Mr. Shaw's property; and if a figure-piece is of large size $1,000 is not a very prize-like price. However, the artist will enjoy the distinction of being approved by his mates, and will sell a picture which otherwise might remain unsold.

Mr. Shaw has hit upon an excellent plan for forming a good collection, and what American art needs most just now is an increase in the number of intelligent patrons. The supply of excellent American pictures is largely in excess of the demand for them, and I am sure if there were the slightest chance that good work of a more ambitious sort than is now common would meet with practical encouragement we should quickly see it produced in surprising quantities. No artist likes best to paint small "salable" pictures only, or to make his living by illustrating while his palette lies on the shelf. But this is what almost all our clever painters are driven to for the lack of more patrons as intelligent as Mr. Shaw.

Another Intelligent Art Patron.

General George W. Cullum loved his country well and wisely, and has left a will that shows it. With neither wife nor children to inherit a fortune of about $1,000,000, he bestowed part of it upon friends and relatives, and part upon hospitals and other charitable associations. But the main bequests were $20,000 to the Metropolitan Museum for the purchase of casts of works of sculpture and architecture, $100,000 to the American Geographical Society for the erection of a fireproof building for its use, and $250,000 to the United States Government for the erection at West Point of a memorial hall in which "souvenirs of the military history of the United States" may be preserved, with $20,000 more as a fund for the purchase of objects to be placed in this hall and another $20,000 for the purchase of a site if the Government refuses the bequest.

These bequests show not only public spirit but much intelligence. The will was drawn only a few months ago, and General Cullum evidently took pains to inform himself where his money could be placed to do the most good. There is only one paragraph in this will that gives rise to regret. A few works of art bequeathed as a nucleus of the future collections at West Point hardly deserve the name, and, we must sincerely hope, will not set the standard for future acquisitions. They include a portrait of General Halleck, painted by Lazarus, who was not a good painter; a bust of the same soldier by Ball, whose busts are not admirable, and a portrait of General Cullum himself, painted by Eliot Gregory, who has done some of the worst things ever seen in New York.

A Sponge Spoils a Fine Picture.

Eighty-nine pictures, which belonged to the late Robert L. Cutting, are to be sold by auction at Chickering Hall on the evenings of the 22d and 23d. They are now on exhibition at the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries, where each looks at its very best, as the wall is not crowded and they have been arranged with a proper regard for contrasts and harmonies. Few of them are large and an unusual number are very small, but there is scarcely any rubbish among them, and a number of works by members of the Spanish-Roman school give the collection a certain individuality.

Fortuny, the leader of this school, is not fully represented. But none of his productions are unimportant, and a water-color of a melancholy Arab and two sympathetic dogs reveals his vigor of hand though not coloristic power, while the interest of a small painting is increased by its history. It was bought by Mr. Cutting at a sale got up by the artists of Paris to help the sufferers by the great Chicago fire, but before it reached his home someone had seen fit to pass a sponge over it, and as it was painted partly in oil, and partly in aquarelle, Mr. Cutting got only the ghost of his gay Spanish interior. When he afterward took it back to Paris Fortuny retouched it, erasing two of the figures and putting in a new one, but he did not think it wise to attempt a complete restoration. Nevertheless the picture is not incomplete in any unfortunate sense. Though the background is vague the figures are not, and though the color is not brilliant the tone is delightful.

A Bit of Sober Coloring.

A much finer thing, however, is an early Madrazo, which shows a group of beggars and devotees gathered around the door of a Spanish church on a particularly rainy day. In recent years Madrazo has painted with a very broad and rapid brush and in a very pronounced scheme of color, sometimes doing admirable work, but sometimes very empty and superficial work. When he painted this picture he was much more sober in his mood, more careful in his workmanship and more reticent in his use of color. And he painted something a great deal better than most of the pictures which we are accustomed to think characteristic examples. A rainy atmosphere and a gray yet not dingy light have rarely been better rendered than they are on this canvas; it is extremely well composed; it is detailed and yet broad and vigorous in handling; and the quiet scheme of color is enlivened by the very skilful introduction of a few bright