BUSINESS NOTICES.

It the Ladies but knew what them-selves of the wonderful results in us, we feel we believe one half of the testimonials in regard to the efficacy of the celebrated Lactated Food, produced by them would blush. Sold by druggists, 25 cts. per box. 150 West Fourteenth street, New York.

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Such evidence might be continued for a volume. The Proprietors feel it their duty to recommend the Bitters to invalids, especially those of childhood and youth, and expect relief through these Bitters.

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STEIN & CONS AND HAINES BROS. Pianos, Steck & Decker's Cabinet and Metropolitan Organs with Vox Humana. J. E. GOULD, 923 Chestnut street. fmp 23 Chestnut st

STEINWAY'S PIANOS RECEIVED THE highest award at the Paris Exposition. Warerooms, 1004 Chestnut street. MASON & HAMLIN'S ORGANS. No. 1026 Chestnut street.

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EVENING BULLETIN.

Tuesday, February 16, 1869.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

On the 14th of April, 1865, J. Wilkes Booth called on Andrew Johnson, then staying at the Kirkwood House, Washington, and left his card for him. There is no evidence that the visit was ever returned, but there are not wanting many thoughtful people who have never believed that Booth's visit to Johnson on the morning of that fatal day had anything hostile in it.

Now, as Johnson's term of office, won for him by Booth's pistol-shot, draws to a close, the question seems a demonstration of remarkable favor and consideration, not only toward the surviving conspirators, but even toward the remains of those who paid the penalty at second-hand, rather than take any trouble to learn the truth for themselves.

There is one branch of this subject, which is plausible in its superficial appearance, that many well-meaning persons who are naturally disgusted with the falsehood and indecency of the general press, have let slip by it. We refer to the proposition into which the enemies of our insane hospitals have modified one of the worst features of their so-called reform. Originally their plan was that no unfortunate patient should receive the care of an insane hospital, until he or she had been brought before a jury, and all the harrowing details of domestic grief, and all the often shocking manifestations of mental derangement had been paraded before a promiscuous assemblage of men, who should decide whether or not the person should be placed in the hospital. The baleful monstrosity of this proposition appears to have been too much even for its own inventors, and they have therefore come down to a specious plan for a Board of Inspectors, who are to be made responsible for the condition of the hospitals and of their inmates. This proposition looks very reasonable and harmless on the surface, but it will not bear any careful examination. Let us look at it.

To appoint a Board of Inspectors for the incorporated hospitals and asylums for the insane in Pennsylvania is open to at least two serious objections. Such legislation would be unnecessary; useless; injurious; and unjust. It would be unnecessary, because the experience of more than a hundred years demonstrates that these institutions are conducted upon the highest principles of humanity, that they have been eminently and increasingly successful in the treatment of insanity, and that, so far from any abuses existing in any one of this class of institutions, their whole record is that of patient, unvarying kindness and good treatment. The only testimony to the contrary is that of half-cured patients of one or two patients who have so abused the advantages of the hospitals as habitual drunkards. This class of evidence is, of course, worthless, and is contradicted by an overwhelming mass of testimony from intelligent and respectable men, who have taken interest enough in the subject to ascertain the truth by that personal investigation which is open to all citizens.

The proposed Board of Inspectors is useless, because no such Board can possibly form any correct judgment of the mental condition of patients. If the Board were to consist of none but experts, which it would not, they would be constantly baffled, deceived and misled by the Protean shapes which mental disease assumes, and would either perpetrate the most dangerous blunders in their judgments, or would rely upon the good judgment and experienced knowledge of the resident physicians, in which latter case, it is obvious that their own official judgment would be of no practical value whatever.

Such a Board would be directly injurious, on account of its effect upon the patients. The excitement, the restlessness, the anxiety that would pervade a hospital when it became known that these Inspectors were coming from time to time to decide upon the capacity of their retention or discharge, and that would follow upon their periodical departure, with the disappointments and irritations of those who had indulged those hopes of release which are almost inseparable from this peculiar disease, are evils too well known to those who are at all acquainted with the subject, to need further demonstration.

Such legislation would be greatly unjust, because it would be an implied endorsement of the wild and monstrous charges that have been brought against these noble institutions. Such an endorsement would be a flagrant outrage upon men of spotless reputation and of blameless public and professional lives, and a libel upon a class of the worthiest, most useful and best managed of all the charitable institutions of our country.

The Naval Committee of the House of Representatives entered into an elaborate examination, sometime ago, of the charges of fraudulent purchase of tools for the Philadelphia Navy Yard by Chief-Engineer Zeller. Mr. Kelley presented to the House a report of a sub-committee of three, in which the charges were vindicated. The report of the committee itself has not been produced, although we understand that it has been ready for some time past. As this report is said to exonerate Mr. Zeller entirely, and, indeed, to commend his discretion in purchasing the tools for the Navy Yard, we think it should be presented at once, in simple fairness to an officer who has been branded, before the whole country, as a thief and a perjurer. There was much anxiety displayed to have Mr. Kelley's denunciatory report published in the papers, but this jester and more important document is held back for some very poor reason or other. If Iris not presented before the 4th of March, it never will be, of course, and Mr. Zeller and the whole engineer corps will be without vindication. A judicial outrage of this character, and evidently in the interest of the baffled accusers, we shall be entitled to attribute the most unworthy motives to those who have had the power to produce the report, but have withheld it. It will be well for the reputation of the members of the committee if it is published. The charges against the engineers are a little too serious to be quietly passed over without being either sustained or refuted.

Among the various persons named as having expectations in reference to the throne of Spain, in the ex-King of Portugal, Dom Ferdinand, has lately become prominent, and the cable telegrams announce that he has consented to go before the Cortes as a candidate. As he is a man of superior character, fine intelligence and liberal views, his chances may be considered fair. Some account of him, therefore, may be interesting:

Dom Ferdinand belongs to the house of Braganza. He was the husband of Dona Maria da Gloria, one of the most popular sovereigns Portugal ever had. After her death, in 1855, he was Regent during the minority of their son, Dom Pedro V., who died childless, in 1861. His brother, the present King, Dom Luis, succeeded to the crown. Since the regency ceased, Dom Ferdinand has lived in retirement on a beautiful estate at Cintra, devoting himself to agricultural and domestic pursuits, and highly respected by all the people of Portugal. Some years ago he married a Bavarian princess, a Mlle. Hensiller (a Hungarian, we believe), an opera singer who will be remembered as having sung in this country with the Italian opera company five or fifteen years ago. She is a very charming and accomplished lady, and the ex-King's domestic life is described as very happy. Dom Ferdinand was born in October 29th, 1816, so that he is in his fifty-third year. Besides the present King and the late one, there were three other children by his wife, Dona Maria. Two of these are daughters, married to German princes. The third is a son, Dom Augusto, now in his twenty-second year, who, in case of Ferdinand's elevation to the Spanish throne, may be heir to the crown, if the Cortes should so order. There is some talk, also, of placing the two crowns, and creating out of Spain and Portugal a single Iberian Kingdom. In that case, perhaps the present King of Portugal would be declared the sovereign, as the oldest son of Dom Ferdinand. The Cortes will probably decide in a few days who shall be King of Spain. As far as can be judged at this distance, Dom Ferdinand would be more likely to satisfy the people and to make a good liberal monarch, than any of the other candidates for the throne that have been named.

Mr. James Ross Snowden, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court, complains that this paper has alluded to the John Devoie blank naturalization papers as having been signed by him. They certainly had his name on them, and at the time of their first production, he was not able to say that the signatures were not his own. Afterwards it was decided by the Court and admitted by Attorney-General Brewster that the signatures were forged, and under this decision, we were wrong in declaring that they were signed by Mr. Snowden.

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THE POWER OF ABUSE.

There has probably never been, in Philadelphia, a more striking illustration of the extremes to which unbridled abuse may be carried without completely betraying itself to the common sense of the people, and so meeting its own prompt and proper reward, than in the wicked crusade now being carried on against a class of institutions which constitute some of the noblest charities of Philadelphia. That such an institution as the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane can be made the object of open abuse, without that abuse meeting with the overwhelming reprobation of the whole community, is a wonderful instance of the indifference of large classes to truth and justice, and great carelessness in protecting the honorable reputations of men and of institutions of which Philadelphia has only cause to be very proud. But when this abuse descends to lower and lower depths; when all regard for truth is abandoned; when the common dictates of ordinary decency are ignored; when a crusade which has absolutely no weapons but the grossest misstatements of facts, the most reckless assertions of falsehood, the most wilful perversions of truth, the most transparent tricks, deceptions and subterfuges is prosecuted, then it becomes hard indeed to understand how any decent, quiet, respectable and honorable man can hesitate for a moment as to where the truth and where the falsehood is to be found.

There are probably many such men to-day in Philadelphia who have had these ridiculous tales of monstrous abuse rung in their ears, until they think that where there is so much clamor there must be some sort of foundation for it. And yet these statements, for the most part, have no foundation except in the diseased imaginations of those who invent and utter them, while not one of them possesses any of the essential elements of plain truth. The facts are easily ascertainable by every respectable citizen of Philadelphia, and yet how many there are who will swallow the most grotesque absurdities at second-hand, rather than take any trouble to learn the truth for themselves.

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Plain Dress Silks,	$2 00
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Rich Corded Silks,	$3 50
Very Wide Heavy Silks,	$3 50
Good Black Silks,	$2 00
Heavy Black Gro Grains	$3 50

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