optimally laughed at.

The report of the Fire Marchal of New York for 1362 states that there were 913 fires in that city during the year, causing a total loss of \$3.416.402.

The great excess of losses in Philadelphia was owing to the terrible casualty at the stores of the Penn Ware-

house Company.

The number of convictions for arson in New York, for the year ending October 31, 1859, was 3-two men and

one woman. In Philadelphia, for the year ending December 31, 1869, there were 5 convictions for arson—two men and

three youths.

The Fire Marshal of New York, in his last annual report, says: "There is great difficulty in obtaining a conviction for arson, the obstacles in the way being almost insurmonutable."

seventy years.

In no city in America or Europe, as far as I have been able to obtain information, has there been a larger number of persons found guilty of incendiarism in the same period of time. For half a century immediately preceding the creation of the fire detective branch of the reclimate year detringuished predecessor. Hon. Richard

ceding the creation of the fire detective branch of the police by your distinguished predecessor, Hon. Richard Vaux, convictions for arson in Philadelphia were very musual. The arraignment of an incendiary was so unfrequent an occurrence that it convulsed the entire community. The records of the criminal courts show that sometimes there was not a solitary conviction for that offence in a continuous period of five years. Prior to 140, a trial for arson was rare. Between 1840 and 1850, there was an occasional instance. After the formation of the, Marshal's police, in 1850, the instances became more frequent. But as in all other things, so in the detective operations of the police, what was everybody's business was nebody's business, and it was not until 1857, when fire detection was made a specialty by Mayor Vaux, that this alarming crime was grappled with in carnest.

Mayor Yaux, that this alarming crime was grappled with in carnest.

I have regularly read the reports of the Chief of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of London, and also those of all the fire investigators of the cities of this country, where such offices and agencies have been established, and conceding to these officials the highest reputation for activity, energy, zeal and ability, I find that none of them can show a more favorable record than mine. I do not say this egotistically, but only in justice to myself.

The examination into the cause of the fire at the Patterson stores, which has already been the subject of a special report, is alluded

been the subject of a special report, is alluded to, and then the long and tedious investigation of the fire at the Burd Block, and the various

theories advanced in regard to the origin of the

conflagration, are referred to at much length.
The theory of the Fire Marshal in reference to the last named fire is thus stated:

to the last named fire is thus stated:

Beyond all peradventure, the testimony obtained by me establishes the fact that the fire was first seen in the Sansom street end of the basement. Smoke issued from and flame was observable in this part of the building before the least sign of fire was discovered anywhere else.

On the night of the conflagration the weather was

ing before the least sign of fire was discovered anywhere else.

On the night of, the conflagration the weather was calm and the atmosphere miety. Gas-jets were burning in the cellar. The porter in banking the fires of the heating apparatue, put on a freets supply of anthracite. The fuel was full of coal dust. An examination of the pile from which it was taken in the vault proved this. The quantity of coal placed in the fire-lox was liberal. The furnace doors were arranged as was liberal. The furnace doors were arranged as saud, to check the flow of air to the grate and insure a very slow combustion. From the porter's own statement, I am induced to think that the flue-damper of the Sansons street furnace, by an unintentional and unconscious omission on his part, was improperly regulated, and thereby the delivery of the products of combustion to the chimney was returded. The result was the production of carbonic oxide gas, and its diffusion through the apartment. This gas is combustible, and under certain conditions explosive. My inference is, that the carbonic oxide produced and diffused in the manner explained, ignited and exploded when it met with the circumstances favorable thereto, and thus communicated the first othe premises. The flames rapidly increased by the ignition of the packing material that litered the cellar floor and filled the bins, soon involved the boarded ceiling and stairway, and licking through the crevices of the hatchways of the first and second floors, leaped to the top of the building with the celerity of electricity. They were augmented in volume and power in their electric career by the combustion of the dry and highly varnished partitions and richly office furniture of the offices and counting rooms on the second floors, and the sleeping and dressing-rooms on the first story, and the sleeping and dressing-rooms on the first story, and the sleeping and dressing-rooms on the second floor, and the sleeping and dressing-rooms on the second floor, and the sleeping and free single the bus

the conflagration at the Chamber of Com-merce building is given, and the theory of the Fire Marshal is that the fire originated from

the heat of the flue.

Apropos to the subject of the investigation of fires, about which there has been, for some time past, a disposition to find fault with the Fire Marshal, the valuable

report of that celebrated chemist, Professor Graham, of London, of his scientific inquiries

in connection with the official investigation instituted by the Euglish trade authorities into the cause of the fire in the British ship

Amazon, is appended to the report of Mr

At the conclusion of the report the Insurance

Blackburn.

CITY BULLETIN.

WHOLESALE POISONING CASE THE SYMPTOMS AND RESULTS

Excitement in the Second Ward

Every once in a while we hear of cases of poisoning by means of cheese. The casein in this article seems to unite malignantly with this article seems to unite manginantly with foreign matter, and, instead of conveying nutrition, be the means of producing death. It seems to possess the property of absorbing noxious gases, and through the pores of its tough epidermis, to drink in matter that renders it denorous if not fatal to all that year. ders it dangerous, if not fatal, to all that use it. Like Jonah's gourd, there is death in the pot in which its constituent curds receive their

shape.

A case in point has just presented itself. To a huckster named Patton was sold, to be used as manure, a quantity of damaged cheese. It had been among an assorted cargo of an English ship. The action of bilge water and rarious exhalations from chemicals in contiguity with it in the hold of theship are sup-posed to have rendered it inedible. The buckster's beat seems to have been through the small streets in the vicinity of Sixth and Seventh streets, from Washington to Dickerson. He vended various articles from his cart beside this cheese. The alarm was given about two o'clock yesterday afternoon, from a dozen places at a single time. To the loctors in the vicinity this coincident was

sufficiently suggestive.

Each sufferer had partaken of the same appetizer at the prandial meal. The first symptoms were identical with those of acute cholera morbus, but with more powerful purg-ing and more prostrating chils. Those who-had most freely partaken of the cheese were nad most treety partners of the cheese were the least to suffer. The patient of the many attended by Doctor Creadick, who suffered least, was a boy, whose weakness on the cheese question induced him to make his dinner of thing else. In his case the entire contents of the stomach were spasmodically thrown off. The worst sufferer was a lady, whose only indulgence in the article was in the shape of the morsel with which some people flank a trian-

gular section of pie.

The cases requiring medical treatment numbered nearly fifty. In house No. 1328 Wood-bing street were four sufferers. In a house n Hay street, a family of six were retching and suffering in doleful chorus. At No. 720 Bayard street, it was reported this morning that a woman was in a dying condition. That the report proved to be unfounded is not to be written down to the credit of the cheese, but to the promptness of attendance on the part of the doctors. Itso happened that all the sufferers lay within stone throw of the office of a doctor. Doctors Creadick and Wright had the bulk of the business. The remedies used were Hofiman's anodyne, lac morphia, camphor-water and lime-water. The intensity of the symptoms consisted in the extreme violence of the vomiting. No stomach-pump was necessary. The object was to allay and not to increase the distress of the symptoms. Two little patients of Doctor Greadick were saved only with exceeding difficulty. The younger of them was for some time on the verge of fatal

collapse.

A Mrs. Morgan, living in the vicinity of Sixth and Wharton, is the only one of the victims to be thus far considered in danger. Our reporter interviewed several of the sufferers. None of them felt like smiling. On the contrary, they looked as if they had been running a foot-race and been badly worsted. Two children of Mrs. Brady, Sixth and Wharton streets, had been dining with the children of a neighbor. They sickened soon after the meal. They had eaten the cheese. The youngest, about three years old, first sank into sleep at the close of the repast, and then yomited itself into a condition of exhaustion.

we asked one ady, who had similarly sick-ened, if she were dead. She said, "No." She looked as if she hadn't come far short of it. For the purchase of the cheese she blamed herself. "Bedad," said she, "the chaze looked so nice that I made Barney run afther the ould blackguard of a huckster afther his dirty

ould mackguard of a nicester atther his dirty ould wagon was out o' sight."

The doctors have no idea that any mineral poison had entered into the cheese. It was at first conjectured to have been the subject of an experiment with a view to remove its rancidity. Examination of the cheese doesn't carry out this idea. It is fair looking. If carry out this idea. It is fair looking, in purchased at a first-class grocery store it might have passed current as old Stilton, and have sold for thirty cents a pound. In the vicinity of this occurrence the busi-ness of the brotherhood of hucksters is likely

to be badly bothered for some time to come by the blunder of this particular individual of its membership. The purchase of tainted oysters, stale fish and withered vegetables constituted the livelihood of many of these people. They scour the produce wharves for whatever refuse they can purchase for little or nothing. The unsold stock at the wholesale fish market after Saturday noon invites their special attention, while day noon invites their special attention, white upon a stock of damaged oysters, of decaying apples and kindred commodities they ever keep watchful eye. Their field of operations is through the smaller streets and alleys of the city. Some of the bigger operators, like boss draymen, run a number of wagons, and pay the vendors pro rata, for the amount of their receivits.

receipts.

The cheese item in their business is now likely to be dropped. That this article in a certain stage of decomposition is a dangerous poison, will now be learned by many who didn't think of it before

The huckster who in this case has made so much hubbub has wisely absented himself for the present. His discovery by the victims of his indiscretion would involve him in serious AN OLD DRUNKARD.-Last evening, about

six o'clock, a woman, about 80 years of age who resides about three miles above Frank ford, was apparently taken suddenly ill as the car was entering Frankford. She was assisted to a drug store, and was then removed to the Police Station. A crowd collected, and much sympathy was expressed for the old woman. A physician who had been summoned arrived. and, upon making an examination, pro-nounced the woman to be very drunk. She was then locked up. This morning she came forth from the cell in good condition and started to walk to her home.

LUMBER THIEVES.—Joseph Foust, Sr., Jos. Foust, Jr., and Peter Leamon, were arrested yesterday, while in the act of stealing lumber from a raft at Allegheny avenue wharf. They were held in \$600 bail by Ald. McDonald. Thomas McConnell was committed by Ald. Neill on the charge of stealing lumber from William street wharf.

About nine o'clock last evening, a raft be-longing to John Kelly & Son, at Mead street wharf, was cut loose, and the hawser stolen. The lumber floated out of the dock, but was captured before any had been lost.

CONTRACT AWARDED.—At a special meeting of the Board of Health, held yesterday, the contract for cleansing the streets, removing ashes, &c., of the Twentieth District (Bridesburg and Frankford), was awarded to Thomas D. Stites, for the sum of twenty-seven hundred and twenty-five dollars.

Assaulting A Child.—Isaac Urich has been held in five hundred dollars bail, by Alderman Burns, on the charge of assault and battery on a little girl. It is alleged that he struck her on the head with the tail-board of a cart, at Sixth and Oxford streets.

MAN MISSING .- James Gross left his home No. 914 South Sixteenth street, at nine o'clock on Tucsday morning, and has not been heard of since. He is five feet five inches in height.

of since. He is five feet five inches in height, slim built, pale face, gray eyes, and is bald on the top of his head.

Assaulting A Tavern-Keeper.—James Miller was before Ald. Waterhouse yesterday upon the charge of having beaten James Leo, proprietor of a tavern on Jefferson street, Germantown. He was held in \$600 bail.

PICKING POCKETS.-Edward Tilton was arrested last evening, at Walnut street wharf, on the charge of having picked the pocket of a man of two dollars. He will have a hearing at the Central Station this afternoon.

FOUND DROWNED.—The body of an unknown man was found in the Delaware at Washington street wharf this morning.

THE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT.

Fires in Philadelphia in 1869...Their Causes—The Losses and Insurances— Includiarism, and How It is to be Suppressed .-- The Origin of the Caldwell and Chamber of Commerce Fires, &c. The Thirteenth Annual Report of Alexan-

The Thirteenth Annual Report of Alexander W. Blackburn, Fire Marshal, which accompanied the Mayor's message to City Councils yesterday afternoon, is a highly interesting document. It says:

The past was the most extraordinary year ever known in the history of fires in Philadelphia. It marks a memorable opoch in the local chronicies of such disastrons events. The burning of property, both in frequency and destructiveness, was unprecedented. Conhagrations were ammerous and extensive, and some of them of a remarkable and startling character. Soveral of the finest and most substantial piles of architecture in the metropolis—monuments of individual or sesociated enterprise, and objects of pride to every appreciating citizen—were annihilated by the fire-demon, and millions of wealth vanished before his devastating heaven. The losses of the twolvementh were enormous. They aggregate a sum without a purallel in any provious year.

The whole number of fires during the year was 623, of

ciating citizen—were annihilated by the fire demonating initions of wealth vanished bow the fire demonating hesom. The losses of the two emonth were enormous. They aggregate a sum without a parallel in any previous York the work of the two emonths were enormous. They aggregate a sum without a parallel in any previous York in the large majority were slight, and occasioned only trilling damage. There were 51 in January. 40 in February, 33 in March, 46 in April, 39 in May, 54 in June, 113 in July, 53 in August, 47 in September, 49 in October, 46 in November, and 43 in December. Nearly one-half of those in July happened at or about the time of the Anniversary of American Independence, and resulted from the pyrotechie saturated which a frage the daminersary of American Independence, and resulted from the pyrotechie saturated which a frage the daminersary of American Independence, and resulted from the pyrotechie saturated which a frage the daminimation of the Patterson. Warehouses, at the corner of Front and Lombard streets, on the night of the 4th of August, the loss by which far exceeded that of either of the two historically great fires of October 4, 1839, and July 9, 1820, and was therefore the heaviest ver-occasioned by any fire that has occurred in our city. The saddest fire was the destruction of the Battley for the the farmer of Front and Lombard streets, on the night of the 4th of January wire store of Janues E. Caldwag, 2500.

The configuration which extended over the largest area of territory, and swept away the greatest number of buildings, by those of the loss it inflicted—three-quarters of a million—it is the third in rank among all the fires of which there is any record.

The configuration which extended over the largest area of territory, and swept away the greatest number of buildings, by the out in a collection of frame and brick tanneries, glue and curled hair manufactories, and brick tanneries, glue and curled hair manufactories, and the careful of the 25th of June, causing a total loss of a quar

the lith of November.

My duties were so incessant and onerous all the while, that it was impossible for me to find the time to keep as particular and minute a records a I desired; still. I carefully noted all the most important statistics, and from my own data, and the figures courteously furnished me by the underwriters from their books, I estimate the losses by the fires of the year, and the insurances on the same, as follows:

Clear Loss, \$184,480 17,167 17,346 81,524 30,633 152,649 25,830 220,228 38,935 15,724 40,259 67,646

Third—Overcrowding the floors of large buildings with valuable stocks of goods, especially articles of an infinimable nature.

Fourth—Defective construction of buildings, and the absence of almost everything to make them fire-proof.

Fifth—Gross deceptions by builders in covering up imperfections in the erection of houses, and concealing sources of danger—too many of our modern dwellings being mere shells and tinder-boxes, and even our public cellifices and first-class stores containing germs of disaster, hidden by attractive adornment.

Sixth—The conversion of houses into powder magazines by slighted workmanship, and the introduction of heating apparatus, with an utter disregard of safety.

Strenth—Stoves left at night, either through forget-fulners or intention, chock full of fuel, all draught turned on, and the door tightly closed. The heat from the red-hot cylinder of a stove will sometimes set fire to wood-work at the distance of several feet, and if there should chance to be combustible material in close proximity, as is often the case, so much greater the recopardy to the building and its contents.

Eighth—Het ashes from stoves, ranges, furnaces and heaters, put in casks, barrels, kegs, boxes, buckets, buskets, and other wooden receptacles, and allowed to stand on plank floors. Whether in the counting room or office, the manufactory or shop, in the entry, under the stains, or on the landing, these deposits of the remains of combust:on are up to conceal fine particles of carbon in a dormant state of ignition, and only require time to be aroused into power, and thus prove insiduous enemies to any premises.

Ninth—Accumulations in basements, lofts, closets and cuddies, under counters and in recesses, of dirty and greusy rubbish, which constantly invite accident from

enemies to any premises.

Ninth—Accumulations in basements, lofts, closets and cuddies, under counters and in recesses, of dirty and greasy rubbien, which constantly invite accident from heedlessness, now and then tempt to crime, and not unfrequently become a source of peril from chemical action, culminating in spontaneous combustion.

Trath—Explosions of adulterated kerosene, and recklessness in the use of benzine, naptha and gasoline; and the fabrication from these hazardous products of petroleum, by mercenary and unscrupulous speculators, of numerous fancy burning fluids, some of which are as explosive as gunpowder, and palming them off upon unsuspecting tradesmen and bousekeepers as the cheapest and safest illuminators—thereby introducing into stores, shops and factories, of merchants and mechanics, and the bouseholds of innocent people, dreadful agents of business hazards and domestic calamities. Paulic safety and humanity alike demand the passage of rigit legal enactments, and the appointment of upright and reliable executive officers to enforce them, against the making and vending of all impure and perilous articles for illuminating purposes.

legal enactments, and the appointment of upright and reliable executive officers to enforce them, against the making and vending of all impure and perilous articles for illuminating purposes.

Ecterith—Leakages of illuminating gas from defective pipes in lathed and plastered partitions, and between floors and ceilings, or escapes from imperfect meters. These leaks and issues of treacherous hydro-carbon gases, are the "hidden dangers" in buildings from which numbers of strange accidents and unusual configurations originate, and in guarding against them, there cannot be too much caution.

Twelfth—The injudicious and reckless manner of extinguishing fires, and the unnecessary use and wanton waste of water, whereby thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise are annually ruined by undisciplined effort and misdirected zeal. The romedy is a radical change in and thorough reorganization of the Fire Department—the question of the continuance of the volunteer or substitution of the paid system, to be decided by the wishes of the citizens through their chosen representatives in Connels or the Legislature. In my opinion, the day of a compensated fire department in this city is not far distant, and when it does come—be that time sooner or later—the transition will take place with the approbation of the firemen themselves.

Thirteenth—Disgraceful thefts of goods by the miserables camps who, in the guise of firemen—"wolves in sheep's clothing "—enter burning and threatened buildings, under false pretences, and depredate in the midst of blinding smoke and deluges of water. Every fire now is a carnival of robbery.

The losses by fire in the Unite! States for the year 1869 have been estimated by compelont and well-posted statisticians, most familiar with such matters, at the immensely large sum of \$40,000,000. If this estimate is correct, it will be seen that Philadelphia has suffered to the amount of one-eighth of the entire bulk of this vast damage to the prosperity of the country.

I am happy to report that a very large major

At the conclusion of the report the Insurance. Patrol is thus alluded to:

"Within the past year, an institution long needed in our city, and of which I was one of the earliest advocates, has become a reality and I am gratified to say that, from its inception, it met with your Honor's condial approbation. I need hardly add that I refer to the Insurance Patrol. This organization, during the few months of its existence, has demonstrated its great value to the business and general community by the protection it has afforded to preperty in times of fire. Working in harmony with both the police and fire departments, it has saved, by its vigilance, promptness, activity and energy, thousands of dollars' worth of goods. It should be generously fostered by the Fire Underwriters and the public." MORE ARRESTS .- George Breiner and Wm Montgomery were arrested yesterday by Spe-cial Officer McGrane, on the charge of having been concerned in the robbery of the house of Edward T. Betts, No. 2017 Ogden street, on Sunday night last. They are locked up at the Central Station awaiting a hearing. CRUELTY.-William Ferguson was arrested at Second and Oxford streets, yesterday, for cruelly beating a horse. He was taken before

Alderman Burns, and was held in five hundred

dign punishment, hereafter, I would earnestly recommend:

First—The adoption of a more perfect and efficient system of police prevention. This would demand not only the continued maintenance of the morale of the force, by careful selection and rigid discipline, but an immediate augmentation of its numerical strongth which is, at present, entirely insufficient.

Second—The prompt expulsion from the fire department of all disorderly and haviess characters—particularly those affected with that dangerous mental malady pyromania—and the exposure and imprisonment of all disorderly and haviess characters—particularly those affected with that dangerous mental malady pyromania—and the exposure and imprisonment of all departed and thiering adhierents.

Third—The thorous he examination by compotent inspectors of all risks before writing on them, constant supervision of the same during the continuance of the policy, and a re-examination at the time of ronoval, and on every application for increased insurance. These examinations and visits of inspection, which could offoud no sensible person, would secure order and cleanliass, exposs hidden perfils, provent deceptions and feauls and beset and cenert mutual confidence between the underwriter and the honest policy holder.

Fourth—The exaction of the condition, in all contracts for indemification for loss by thre, that a cartain proportion of the risk should be berne by the insured. This would induce carefulness, and offer no temptation to violate the statutes of the Commonwealth.

FURA—The refusal of every risk, the moral character of which was at all doubtful.

Sixth—The offer of liberal standing rewards by both the municipal authorities and Boards of Fire Underwriters, for such information as would lead to the detection, arrest and conviction of incendaries. A faithful official needs no such incentive, but people who loss time in aiding detective operations, have a right to expect pecuniary remuneration. And further: aithough it may not be very complimentary to human nature digu punishment, hereafter, I would earnestly recom-LOCAL CHOWDER. To-day is bound in blue and gold.

The shad fisheries at Gloucester, are beginning to draw the usual gatherings of the piscatorially curious.

The introduction of gilded embellishments

The introduction of glided embellishments to iron railings is beginning to be generally followed up. Like the mansard roof, we soon expect to see the railing of every handsoine house in Philadelphia relieved by correspondhouse in Philadelphia relieved by corresponding light. The gilding of the spear heads upon the railings of our public enclosures would be as pretty and as effective in Philadelphia as it is in Paris. Let those who would charm the eye of the by-passer as well as their own take pattern from some of the more modern inclosures in Broad street and vicinity, The character Colorar Prespectation Durch The chapel of Calvary Presbyterian Church, on Locust street, is assuming its proportion

It will be completed in September.

The man who didn't believe that Europeau The man who didn't believe that European sparrows could be acclimated in this city now finds his mistake. The little creatures are building their nests in every direction. Their tameness is remarkable. Where their visits are welcomed they invariably repeat them. At the Widows' Asylum they come confidingly down from the ivy, in which they are making their nests, to the crumbs and seed dropped for them on the piazzas.

LARGENY OF TRUE BY WW R. Hacker

LARCENY OF JEWELRY.-Wm. B. Hecker was arrested this morning, at the instance of Warne, Bros. & Co., No. 712 Chestnut street. It is alleged that he represented to S.S. White that he was a converted Jew and obtained from the converted Jew and obtained from the converted by R. S. Co., askthat gentleman a letter to W., B. & Co., asking them to allow Hecker to have jewelry at reasonable rates. While engaged in examining some, it is alleged he pocketed several articles. Yesterday, a salesman in the store of Warne, Bros. & Co., went into the store of Warle, Bos. & Co., Welt into the sector of B. F. Dubosq, at Second and Green streets, to effect a sale. He offered something for \$4.50. Mr. Dubosq said that he had brought a similar article for \$2.00, and produced it. The mark of W., B. & Co. was found on it, and as it was never sold to Hecker, from whom Mr. Dubosq purchased it, it is supposed to have been stolen. This morning, Hecker again went to the store of Warne, Bros. & Co., and while examining rings he was arrested. Upon searching him, about a half a dozen stolen rings were found. It is also alleged that he has been stealing from the store of George Renick, No. 708 Chestnut street. Hecker has a license as a pedlar. He will have a hearing at the Central Station, this afternoon.

SUDDEN DEATH.-Charles Harmstead, for the last sixteen years one of the keepers of Moyamensing Prison, died suddenly, this morning, just after completing his regular round of the prison. Mr. Harmstead appeared to be in his usual condition of health this morning, but upon returning to his room, took a scat, and died almost instantly, as is supposed, from a stroke of apoplexy. The deceased was sixty years of age, and of perfectly temperate and regular habits. He was regarded as one of the most reliable and efficient with the property of the most reliable and efficient with the property of t cient keepers of the prison, and his death will he much regretted.

The Fire Marshal of New York. In his jastannuar report, says: "There is great difficulty in obtaining a conviction for arson, the obstacles in the way being almost insurmountable."

What this able official asserts is most truthful. My experisnee perfectly accords with his. In the black catalogue of human transgressions, there is no penal of fence so arduous and perplexing to deal with as that of arson. Next in enormity to marder, it is a crime engendered by the mast diabolical promptings of the heart's Buse and cowardly in its conception, it is always concered in secret, and in its perpetration is ever covart and steatithy. Hence the detestable and wicked act is generally enveloped in mystery and darkness, and the incendiary hides his tracks so completely as often to bid defiance to disclosure. While in the wake of all other crimes in the calendar, there are starting points to direct the detective, incendiarism seldom leaves a trace. All the evidences of guilt usually perish with the fire itself. The appointed agent who undertakes the task of detecting the infernal ened, is generally obliged to commence his investigation without a solitary clus, and is compelled to grope in the dark at every step. Success occasionally crowns his exertions, but in many cases, after the exercise of all his sagacity and skill, 'as well as the most untiring perseverance, he fails to secure adequate proof of guilt. He frequently discovers enough to establish a clear moral case against the distrusted person, yet is unable to obtain evidence sufficient to warrant a ventict of guilty in a court of justice.

In taking a retrospective view of my own official career as fire investigator and detector, and remembering the obstacles I have encountered, and the discouragements that have confronted me at almost every pace, I am amazed that I ever accomplished a tithe of the little I have done.

Yet I am willing that my record should speak for itself. It have done.

Yet I am willing that my record should speak for itself. It have done.

Yet I h PRESENTATION-The Directors of the Union League have made arrangements to present a bandsome banner to the colored citizens, on the occasion of the celebration of the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment, on the 26th inst. years, residing at 1006 Sansom street, injured his knee-cap, by falling on the stairs, this morning. He was taken to Pennsylvania Hospital. Accident.-Joseph McGlone, aged 52

Fire.—A fire occurred at No. 606 Penn street, this morning. Maria Woods, a deranged woman, set fire to her clothing and a bed. The flames were speedily extinguished

MAD Dogs .- During yesterday a mad dog was killed on Tenth street, below Pine, and another was shot at Noble and Dilwyn

STEALING HARNESS.—George Keyser was arrested for attempting to steal a set of harness from a stable at Sixth and Diamond streets. Alderman Hood held him in \$600

Modern Progress .- Modistes and fashion ers of to-day compare with those of the past as the present locomotive compares to the gone-by stage-coach. The difference is as the present locomotive compares to the gone-by stage-coach. The difference is the same as that between the time required by a portrait-painter and a photographer to furnish you with a counterfeit presentment. Messrs. Agnew & English, Chestnut street, on the ground-floor of the Girard House, could qualify Eve for—a street promenade inside of twenty-four hours. They keep constantly—or rather sell constantly—ladies' cloaks, dresses and garments of every ladies' cloaks, dresses and garments of every kind. We examined the specimens upon the lay figures with an interest that appeals loudly to the bosom not only of ourself, but of the entire batch of Philadelphia bachelors. The feature that interested us was snowy white suits of lawn, linen and India muslin, furbelowed from border to waist, and se ethereal that the wearers might be supposed ready, after donning them, to flit away "like a beautiful dream from the prosaic realities of dirty ful dream from the prosaic realities of dirty streets." While the Messrs. Agnew & English get up ladies' wardrobes, they also sell material in the usual way. Their assort-ment of silks and other dress goods is perfect; in black silks they offer what every judge will

recognize as decided bargains. AMUSEMENTS.

-The Amateurs' Drawing-Room, on Seven-—The Amateurs' Drawing-Room, on Seventeenth street, above Chestnut, was filled last night for the first performance of the new tableaux illustrative of Faust. It was an entertainment by a party of ladies and gentlemen of the first respectability, given for the benefit of the Newsboys' Home. The arduous task undertaken by these charitable persons has been accomplished after a great deal of preparation, and we have seldom seen a first performance at any theatre so free from slight formance at any theatre so free from slight miscarriages. The story of Faust, as given in the first part of Goethe's drama, is interpreted the first part of Goethe's drama, is interpreted by these scenes from beginning to end. The stage is six times set with elaborate and artistic scenery (express by Russell Smith, in his best style), in the midst of which, in a series of changing tubleaux vivants, the plot is clucklated. The figures, in splendid dresses, and lighted with all the appliances of seams art or discovered in a groun which dresses, and lighted with all the appliances of scenic art, are discovered in a group, which at a given signal suddenly changes, until an act of the drama is interpreted, by the living compositions. Whether we call it statuary or picture, the ensemble is exquisite. The scene most to our particular taste last night, though not the most applauded, was that in the church. The curtain rising discovered a chonel in a large cathedral with tall alterchapel in a large cathedral, with tall altar-candles burning in the distance, and colored lights falling from a rose-window upon the tessellated floor and over a rich prie-Dieu; the worshippers devoutly entered the church; giving alms to the beggar at the entrance, and finally "Marguerite" came in alone, falling on her knees upon the chair. "Mephistopheles," stealing from behind a tall monument, suddenly stooped over her, while the music repeated the proper aria from Gounod's opera; then the figures changed positions, with the sud-denness of objects in a kaleidescope, and" Mar-guerite" fell at full length on the pavement, with the prismatic lights playing over her white face and blonde hair. This is but a specimen of the beautiful effects represented; the village festival, with the enchanted wine, the return of Valentine, with his duel and death, and finally the apotheosis of Marguerite, elicited much approbation. The tableaux were each represented twice, and the novel spectacle kept the spectators in constant de-light for over two hours. The performers were, for amateurs, most remarkably well drilled; the arduous part of "Marguerite,"—taken by a beautiful young girl as conspicuous for her talent in the fine arts as for the versatility with which she can change her vocation, tility with which she cau change her vocation, and become the picture she could paint so well—was acted with a grace and intelligence that charmed every one; the part of "Mephistopheles," requiring a singular grotesque power, was played with much daring and versatility. "Valentine" was a triumph of rich dressing and pictorial attitudes. "Faust" was pleasingly and sympathetically rendered,—"Martha" admirable, and the other assistants were admirably dressed and carefully drilled. We have been thus detailed in describing the We have been thus detailed in describing the

nature of the entertainment, because we would like to see the house packed at the repetition performance on next Thursday evening, when these charitable ladies and gentlemen will undergo their duties again for the

same good object. -On Friday night of next week Mr. Adam Everly will have a benefit at the Arch Street

Theatre in a fine bill. This will be Mr. Everly's first appearance this season, and a he is a great favorite, the house ought to be

CITY NOTICES.

THERE is no doubt, but Saturday will be a gala day at the Great Brown Stone Hall of Rockhill & Wilson. Thousands will be rushing to fit themselves out in their all-wool \$10 Spring Suits, and \$5 and \$7 Spring Overcosts, together with every variety of Boys', Youths and Gentlemen's Clothing far superior and cheaper than is offered at any other house in the city.

ROCKHILL & WILSON's Brown Stone Hall, No. 603 and 605 Chestnut street.

THE LADIES' SOROSIS CLUB, of New York, recently changed their discussions from Woman's Suffrage to Hair Preparations and Pimple Bauishers. They declared that, where nature had not endowed them with beauty, it was their right-yea, their duty-to seel it where they could. 'So they 'all voted that Magnolia Balm overcame Sallowness, Rough Skin and Ring marks, and gave to the complexion a most distingue (So rosian) and marble-like appearance (dangerous to men-no doubt); and that Lyon's Kathairon made the Hair grow thick, soft and awful pretty, and moreover pre vented it from turning gray. If the proprietors of these articles did not send the sistors an invoice they are not

KENNEDY & BROS., No. 729 Chestnut street, importers of Fine, Millinery Goods. Wholesale and rotail. DIAMOND Finger Rings, Pins, Studs, &c Also, a variety of Fine Gold Jewelry. Great in-accements to buyers, at T. W. Bailer's, No. 622 Market KENNEDYS' TRIMMED HATS are perfect little gems; their Bonnets are unequaled. Solid Silver Table and Tea Spoons, Forks Ladles, Butter Knives; elso. Table Cutlery. All are offered at reduced rates. T. W. BALLEY, No. 622 Market

are queted as the highest authority in fashions. Price very moderate. KENNEDY & BROS., No. 729 Chestnut street ALL THE LATEST STYLKS

COATINGS. PANTALOON STUFFS, AND VESTINGS For Spring Wear. NOW ARRANGED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION,

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OAKFORISH Latest Styles of Ladies' and Misses' Spring Hats
Can be had at their Storage
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Ladies visiting the city should not leave without seeing the new Millinery Emporium of Thos. Kennedy & Bros., 729 Chestnut street. GENTS' HATS! GENTS' HATS!

The beautiful Spring Styles
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OAKFORDS', under the Continental CARPETS and Matting made up and laid. Hatrasses made over. Furniture re-upholstered and sarnished. None but the best workmen employed.
ALBERTSON & CO., Fifteenth and Chestaut streets. NO HUMBUG...ABOUT IT...Gentilemen in quest of elegantly fashioned boots, made by competent workmen, of the best Frouch calfskin, and furnished at about 25 per cent. less than the same goods can be bought elsewhere, are particularly directed to call on Charles Richez, the artistic cordwainer, No. 204 North Eighth street aboye Buttonwood. Mr. Eighel thoroughly understands all the details of his profession.

CORNS, Bunions, Inverted Nails, skillfully

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS and druggists Snowden & Brothes, 23 South Eighth street.

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DEAFNESS, BLINDNESS AND CATARRH treated with the utmost success, by J. Isaacs, M. D. and Professor of Diseases of the Eye and Kar (his specialty) in the Medical College of Pennsylvania, 12 years experience. No. 806 Arch street. Testimonials can be seen at his office. The medical faculty are invited to accompany their patients, as he has no secrets in his practice. Artificial eyes inserted without pain. No charge for examination. PIANOS.

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Ever thankful for the patronage extended him heretofore, and desirons of further favors, hegs to announce his Spring Styles of Boots and Shoes for

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of agricultural products, create a pressing demand for the construction of this road.

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feeting the security of these Bonds, we feel justified in giving them an unqualified inforsement as a first-class and thoroughly safe investment, as secure as a Govern ment Bond can possibly be, and paying nearly 50 per cent. more interest than Five-Twenties.

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