Poetry.

The Song of the Shirt.

BY THOMAS HOOD.

[This affecting representation of the sorrowful fate of the needle-woman in our great cities, may justly be reproduced; adding only the remark, that even the "work, work, work," sad and wasting as it is, would be at some times a great relief. It would procure something, where, without it, nothing is to be had. Sad, however, is it, that female labor should be so illy compensated.—ED.]

With fingers weary and worn,
With eyelids heavy and red,
A woman sat in unwomanly rags,
Plying her needle and thread—
Stitch! stitch! stitch!
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch
She sang the "Song of the Shirt!"

"Work! work! work!
While the cock is crowing aloof,
And work—work—work,
Till the stars shine through the roof!
It's O! to be a slave
Along with the barbarous Turk,
Where woman has never a soul to save,
If this is Christian work!

"Work! work! work!
Till the brain begins to swim!
Work—work—work,
Till the eyes are heavy and dim!
Seam, and gusset, and band,
Band, and gusset, and seam,
Till over the buttons I fall asleep,
And sew them on in a dream!

"O men, with sisters dear!
O men, with mothers and wives!
It is not linen you're wearing out,
But human creatures' lives!
Stitch—stitch—stitch,
In poverty, hunger and dirt,
Sewing at once with a double thread,
A shroud as well as a shirt!

"But why do I talk of death?
That phantom of grizzly bone—
I hardly fear his terrible shape,
It seems so like my own.
It seems so like my own
Because of the fasts I keep;
O God! that bread should be so dear,
And flesh and blood so cheap!

"Work—work—work!
My labor never flags;
And what are its wages? A bed of straw,
A crust of bread, and rags;
That shattered roof, and this naked floor;
A table, a broken chair,
And a wall so blank, my shadow I thank
For sometimes falling there!

"Work—work—work!
From weary chime to chime;
Work—work—work,
As prisoners work for crime!
Band, and gusset, and seam,
Seam, and gusset, and band,
Till the heart is sick, and the brain benumbed,
As well as the weary hand.

"Work—work—work,
In the dull December light,
And work—work—work,
When the weather is warm and bright—
While underneath the eaves
The brooding swallows cling,
As if to show me their sunny backs,
And twit me with the Spring.

"O! but to breathe the breath
Of the cowslip and primrose sweet—
With the sky above my head,
And the grass beneath my feet;
For only one short hour
To feel as I used to feel,
Before I knew the woes of want,
And the walk that costs a meal!

"O! but for one short hour!
A respite however brief!
No blessed leisure for love or hope,
But only time for grief!
A little weeping would ease my heart,
But, in their briny bed,
My tears must stop, for every drop
Hinders needle and thread!"

With fingers weary and worn,
With eyelids heavy and red,
A woman sat in unwomanly rags,
Plying her needle and thread—
Stitch! stitch! stitch!
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch—
Would that its tone could reach the rich!
She sang this "Song of the Shirt!"

Literary Notices.

BOOKS sent to us for Notice, will be duly attended to. Those from publishers in Philadelphia, New York, &c., may be left at our Philadelphia Office, 111 South 10th St., below Chestnut, in care of Joseph M. Wilson, Esq.

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH, its Divine Obligation or Mode of Observance, is the title of an excellent sermon, preached August 1st, 1858, by *Rev. James I. Brownson*, Washington, Pa., to his congregation. A Christian people would do well often to publish a sermon of their pastor, to read it oft and carefully, and to transmit it to their offspring.

AN ADDRESS, by *Rev. William Bishop*, at the Anniversary of the Greenville Presbyterial Academy, June 23d, 1858, treats, with much interest, the subject of Scholarly Culture and Character.

THE COLLEGE JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.—The September number is before us, with a table of contents embracing subjects of much importance to the physician.

THE OPENING OF THE SEVEN SEALS.—This is a pamphlet of pp. 28, by *A. A. Morrison*, published at Chester, Ill. The writer finds in the opening of the Seals, the whole history of the human family, from Adam to the Millennium. The evidence in behalf of the interpretation is, to us, not conclusive; but this may be owing to our own obtuseness of vision. Some excellent remarks are made.

CONTENTS OF HALL'S JOURNAL OF HEALTH, for September:

Action in Emergencies.	Swallowing Worms.
Getting Wet.	Tomatoes and Melons.
Early Rising.	Cheap Perfumes.
Coffee Healthful.	Stammering Remedies.
Summer Recreations.	Dangers of Return.
Healthful Hot Bread.	Night Air Precautions.
Ague Prevented.	Medical Uses of Atlantic Telegraph.
Economy of Food.	

One Dollar per year. Specimen numbers, ten cents. Address, Hall's Journal of Health, New York.

THE NORTH AMERICAN MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL REVIEW, for July, made its appearance in due time, but, unintentionally, has remained unnoticed until now. The present number contains six reviews, viz.: West on Diseases of Women; Ricord on Chancre; Bennett's Clinical Lectures; Sims on Silver; Lectures on Surgery; Watson's Practice; and Carnochan's Contributions to Operative Surgery and Surgical Pathology; also, four original Communications, of which that by the senior editor, Professor Gross, on Tuberculosis of the Hip-Joint, is very valuable. It also contains the usual variety of valuable extracts from Domestic and Foreign Journals, bearing upon the different departments of Medical Science. This Journal is a *bi-monthly*, of 192 pages. *Lippincott, Grambo & Co.*, Philadelphia, are the publishers.

For the Ladies.

Girls at Home.

There are two kinds of girls; one is the kind that appears best abroad, the girls that are good for parties, rides, visits, balls, &c., and whose chief delight is in such things; the other is the kind that appears best at home, the girls that are useful and cheerful in the dining-room, the sick-room, and all the precincts of home. They differ widely in character. One is often a torment at home; the other is a blessing. One is a moth, consuming everything about her; the other is a sunbeam, inspiring life and gladness all along her pathway.

Now it does not necessarily follow that there shall be two such classes of girls. The right education will modify both a little, and unite their characters in one. Girls are not made altogether for home, any more than boys are. Society would be of but little worth without girls, without women. The first pleasure and duty of every woman should be at home; her next should relate to the refinement and well being of society. But in order that she may benefit and adorn society, she must first know how to benefit and adorn home. Hence all girls, rich and poor alike, should be early and well instructed in all the duties and cares of home. From the cellar to the garret, she should know all that is to be done. From the kitchen to the parlor, she should be complete mistress. All the interests of home should be as familiar to her as household words. Neither idleness, folly or indifference should prevent her from engaging heartily in all the concerns of home life. This will be to her a school more valuable than the seminary or the ladies' college.

It behooves mothers, therefore, to feel that they are teachers of the first dignity in position. Their daughters will be much what they make them. The home education will lay the true foundation of character. It will fix the true principles of life in the young girl's mind. It will give her an insight into domestic duties, and teach her that to be useful is one great end of life. Book education can easily follow a good home training; but good home training is not apt to follow the education of the schools. Girls well taught at home are the girls that appear well everywhere. Give us the well read girls and we shall have no need of any other. They will make the true women.—*Valley Farmer.*

For the Young.

Climate and Seasons of Palestine.

The seasons of the Holy Land are properly two—the rainy and the dry. The rainy season commences in the latter part of October, or early in November; and the first Autumn showers appear to be what is meant in the Bible by the "first" or "former" rain. "In Autumn," Dr. Robinson observes, "the whole land has become dry and parched, the cisterns are nearly empty, the few streams and fountains fail, and all nature, physical and animal, looks forward with longing to the return of the rainy season. Mists and clouds begin to make their appearance, and showers occasionally to fall; the husbandman sows his seed, and the thirsty earth is soon drenched with an abundance of rain."

These showers come up from the West or South-west. Thus our Lord says, "When ye see a cloud arise out of the West, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is." Thus also, after the three years' drought in the time of Kink Ahab, the messenger of Elijah, posted on Mount Carmel, and looking out over the Mediterranean, saw at length "a little cloud rise out of the sea like a man's hand;" this grew and spread toward the land, and soon "the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain."—1. Kings xviii: 42—45.

A few fine days follow these "early rains" of November, and afford the farmer an opportunity to sow his wheat and barley in the moistened earth. Then the rainy season sets in, with frequent showers, often heavy and accompanied with thunder and lightning. One of these thunder-storms David describes in Psalm xxix, where he shows us the storm gathering upon the sea, bursting on the coast, rocking Mount Lebanon, and sweeping across the land, while in the temple the awe struck people adore the mighty God of Israel.

During January and February the mean temperature at Jerusalem is 47°.4′. Snow sometimes falls, but does not rest long on the ground. The cold is not severe, and the frosts only touch the surface of still waters, without penetrating the earth. From November to March, there is an abundance of moisture to loosen and fertilize the soil, and bring forth the grain—which, as the Spring sun returns, grows rapidly. The rains, however, now become less frequent, and after March there are only a few highly-prized showers; the "latter rain" of Scripture, Deut. xi: 14, serving to swell and ripen the growing crops, which the hot sun soon after brings to maturity. Dr. Robinson records a thunder-storm in May, with heavy rains; but considers it a very unusual phenomenon in Jerusalem.

In April and May the barley and wheat ripen and are harvested; and afterwards in succession, apricots, almonds, figs, dates, grapes, olives, etc. Meanwhile, not a drop of rain falls from the sky. Day after day its clear blue remains unbroken by a passing cloud. Rain in harvest time would be a memorable phenomenon, or even a remarkable interposition of Providence, as in the days of Samuel.—1. Sam. xii: 16—18. Only "the dew of heaven from above," falling plentifully during the night, mitigates the parching heat. Toward the close of this season "the total absence of rain destroys the verdure of the fields, and gives to the whole landscape the aspect of drought and barrenness. The only green thing which remains, is the foliage of the scattered fruit trees, and occasional vineyards and fields of millet." Yet the heat is not excessive, on the high table lands at least; the average temperature in July being 77° 3′. The climate therefore is justly regarded as healthy and invigorating. An occasional hot wind, however, from the Southern or Eastern desert, parches every thing with its stifling heat. On the seacoast, also, and in the sunken valley of the Jordan, the heat is sometimes extreme, and the climate prejudicial to strangers.—*Amer. Messenger.*

Scientific.

Telegraphic Instruments.

As the electricians are supposed to be experimenting at Trinity Bay and Valentia, with the various recording instruments in use, it is of interest to know what are the chief differences between them.

The Morse Instrument, in common use from the first, in this country, transmits messages by the alternate breaking and reconnecting the electric current. The current allowed to flow a moment, produces a dot; if a little longer, a line. The operator taps on a single key and the messages are recorded by an alphabet composed of combinations of lines and dots, thus: — · — · — · · · — — — · — · — — — · · · — — — · · · — · · · — · · ·