

mountaineers have much to learn from the superior Occidental method of the Omaha kidnapers in collecting a ransom.

The original Book of Mormon has been found again. It is pleasant to see the third member of the immortal trio turning up. The last member of the Light Brigade and the aged slave who held George Washington's horse have been overworked lately.

Maurus Jokai, who, when in his seventeenth year married a young actress, said the other day: "I began a new life with my marriage. We have made for ourselves a small world which quite compensates for the absence of the great one outside." Not all aged bridegrooms find matrimony of this sort an elixir of life.

John Benjamin Parsons, head of the Philadelphia Union Traction company, has risen from a "\$5-a-week job" to a post that pays him \$30,000 a year. Surface car lines have furnished a peculiarly profitable field for executive ability, and the "traction millionaire" is one of the most interesting of his kind, as he is the newest.

A prisoner in an Ohio jail has been punished because he insisted on having his striped trousers creased. It was ridiculous for the authorities to object. A man who could give thought to his personal appearance under such circumstances must have something good in him. And seeing that one of the difficulties with convicts is to make them keep neat, this fellow, instead of being punished, ought to have been made a "trusty."

Cows were the first street commissioners in Boston, but that city is now less pastoral than New York City. The all-revealing census shows that New York City had 4633 cows, or one cow to every 741 inhabitants, whereas Boston has but 495 cows, or one cow to every 1135 inhabitants. Chicago has a brighter station in the milky way. She has nearly 20,000 cows, one cow to every 86 inhabitants. But the real Boopolis or Cowtown is Peoria, which has nearly 14,000 cows, a bossy to every four inhabitants. Peoria is proud to be called the Cow city.

The Washington monument is slowly but surely disappearing. Vandals are carrying it away in their pockets. The interior is constantly being defaced. In many places the inscriptions on stones contributed by the various states of the Union, as well as those sent by organizations, have been greatly injured. From the appearance of some of the marble it has been attacked with iron instruments. Letters have been broken off tablets. While the great bulk of the damage is doubtless done by relic hunters, some of the highly polished stones have been injured simply for the sake of defacing them.

Revelations made recently regarding Bombay municipal elections show that Hindu election agents can excel the wildest achievements in Europe or America. It appears to be a common practice to dress up lads to impersonate female ratepayers who are either dead or are reluctant to vote. In many other cases women are hired to represent such voters. Personation by men of male voters who are dead or traveling is too common to excite remark. The most amazing discovery is that there is now a class of men who call themselves "professional vote brokers," and openly undertake to secure votes at a fixed price a head.

Inferior magistrates in Great Britain are subjected to much criticism for the undue severity and also for the undue leniency of the sentences which they impose upon offenders against the criminal laws. Indeed, Mr. Labouchere in Truth publishes every week a "legal pillory," as he calls it, in which he contrasts in parallel columns such extraordinary magisterial judgments as fall under his notice. None of these is really more remarkable, however, than a sentence recently imposed by Mr. Justice Bigham, one of the judges of the high court of justice at the Pembroke-shire assizes. The offender was a sailor who had quarrelled with a fellow-passenger in a railway carriage. He first tried to stab the complainant in the breast with a clasp knife and, failing in this, the prisoner got his victim's head under his arm and cut open an eyeball, entirely destroying the sight of one eye and probably that of the other. Upon a verdict finding the defendant guilty of causing grievous bodily harm, the judge sentenced him to be imprisoned for a term of only nine months.

Manufacturing Phonograph Records.

THE phonograph has become such a familiar object in our modern home life, and its mechanism, in spite of its marvelous ingenuity, is so straightforward and easily understood, that it is difficult, in giving a description of this prince of toys, to tell the multitudinous possessors of them anything that they did not know before. If one were asked to name the particular part of the phonograph which possesses the greatest interest and which is the most essential to its success, he would have

The cylinders are cast with an interior spiral thread, which adds somewhat to the strength of the cylinder, and forms the bearing surface when the wax cylinder is placed on the mandrel of the phonograph. After they have cooled, the cylinders are first reamed out to gage, then edged and rough-turned, and finally given a finishing cut, the finish turning being done with a fine sapphire knife.

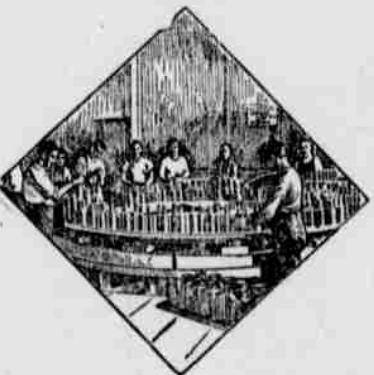
One of the upper floors of a large building in the record department is divided into a number of rooms, in which the specialists are kept steadily at work speaking, playing or singing into the recording machines. One of our illustrations shows the methods adopted in producing solo records, whether instrumental or vocal. In this case the violinist stands with his instrument immediately and closely in front of three converging horns, each of which connects with a recording phonograph. The only difference be-



MAKING BAND RECORDS.

to mention the cylinder of wax upon which the waves of sound are cut by the dainty little sapphire turning-tool known as the stylus.

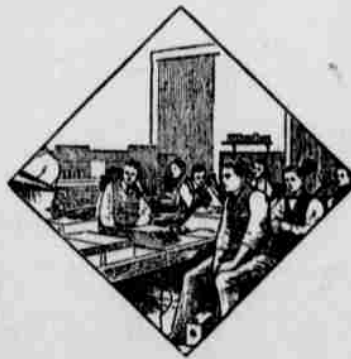
The great growth in popularity of the phonograph, and the necessity for keeping the owners supplied with fresh "literature," has caused the mere work of manufacturing the records to assume truly enormous proportions.



CASTING BLANK RECORDS.

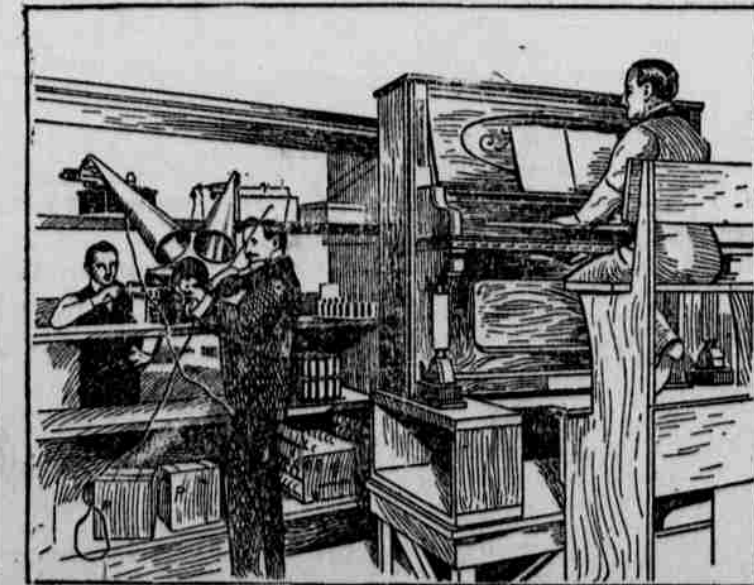
The first process in the manufacture of records takes place in the melting room, where the proper constituents to form the special grade of wax employed in making the records are brought together and melted in several large vats, each of which contains about 1000 pounds. There are three meltings in all, and between each the fluid is carefully strained to remove any hard or gritty impurities which it might contain; for it is evident that the presence of foreign substances, even a few particles of fine dust, might easily produce fatal irregularities in the grooves of the record. The first two meltings take place in the melting room. On entering this room the most conspicuous feature is several large, circular, rotating tables, set around the periphery of which is a number of round, iron pins which form the core of the mold. Concentrically around each of these pins is placed a brass sleeve. The wax is taken from the melting vats in a can and poured into the molds in the manner shown in our illustration. The tables are constantly rotated, thus

tween a recording and a producing phonograph is in the nature of the little sapphire tool by which the diaphragm rests upon the wax record. In making the record, the "recording stylus" is used, and in reproducing the record the "reproducing ball" is substituted. The difference between the stylus and the ball is that the point of the stylus is cup-shaped and ground to a fine cutting edge, which, as it travels over the surface of the wax cylinder, is driven more or less deeply into the material, and turns off a shaving which varies in thickness, according to the quality of the sound waves which fall upon the diaphragm. One of the first things that strikes a visitor to the record room is the rapidity with which the artists sing, the speed being much greater than that to which one is accustomed in a music hall or opera house. Moreover, the songs are sung with the full power which would be used before a public audience. As soon as the record is made, it is taken off the mandrel and placed in a phonograph and reproduced to test its quality. If there is the slightest defect, it is, of course, rejected. Among the most popular records are



TESTING THE RECORDS.

those of band music, and for making these the company maintains a full instrumental band, which is occupied steadily, under the baton of a conductor, in playing popular airs, marches, waltzes, etc. The testing of the phonograph records is done in a separate room by a corps of experts, who are careful to



MAKING VIOLIN SOLO RECORDS.

bringing the molds, which cool very rapidly, round to the workers on the opposite side of the table, where the wax cylinders are removed. The moving table brings the empty molds back to the starting point, where they are again filled from the pouring can.

throw out every record that gives the slightest suggestion of a defect. Long training in this work has made them sensitive to irregularities in tone and quality which would scarcely be noticed by the average listener.—Scientific American.



Unique Charity Gown.

The daughter of a vicar of a rural parish not very far from London has collected all the buttons placed in the offertory bags for the past twelve months when special collections were made for the charities connected with the church. The young lady intends to figure at a local fancy dress ball, which is to be given soon, in the character of charity, and she means in an ironical spirit to have those souvenirs of meanness—the buttons—sewn in patterns on her dress.

Feeding the Baby.

An infant should not be more than 20 minutes taking his bottle; when he refuses food do not force it. Never save what is left in the bottle for another feeding, or give it a little later; throw it away and give the child nothing until its regular feeding-hour comes round again. Where digestion is weak a few teaspoonfuls of hot water given just before feeding stimulates the stomach to action. Feed the child at regular intervals.—Harper's Bazar.

One of the Late Fads in Fashions.

Among barbarous nations the practice of staining the skin for decorative purposes has always been found, and even civilization has continued the custom in its use of rouge and India ink. A decided novelty, however, the "very latest" in fashion's caprices, is to paint trails of flowers on the front of evening bodices, and continue the tendrils or sprays on the skin of the chest. The strap of velvet or ribbon that serves as a sleeve is similarly treated, and the arm is used to complete the design. Probably a new occupation will appear soon, that of corsage artist.

Novel Diversions.

Something of a novelty is the advertisement tea, now popular in London. The reference to the ware advertised must be as remote as possible, and must be attached in the form of a poster to the back of the inventor. Blank cards with pencils fastened to them, are given to each guest, who writes on them what she considers to be the articles advertised by the different posters. When every one has been inspected and each has inspected the others, the hostess reads the names of the posters, and the person who has made the greatest number of correct guesses receives a prize. Sometimes there are second and third prizes, and a booby prize in addition. It is said that the advertisement tea was invented in Australia.

Low Dressing of the Hair.

The prevalence of the low dressing of the hair is very noticeable in the day time, but most especially with evening toilets, and it is most often decked with a fragile, airy rose of gold or silver gauze near the ear. The coil may be low on the nape of the neck or it may be arranged on the back of the head, according to the shape of the head and profile of the crown. The middle parting usually accompanies it, when it is arranged on the back of the head, the sides in light, bunchy ringlets that suggest the Louis Philippe. These gold and silver gauze roses are quite the prettiest of trifles. It is possible to spoil the effect by using too many of them—indeed, but one, or at most, two, should be used on a toilet—but if well done the result is charming.

The Unprepared Wife.

The normal girl naturally looks forward to the time when she will have the care of home, husband and children, yet, sad to say, she is often wholly unprepared to assume the responsibilities when they come to her. To assume to make a home and care for a family without preparation is parallel to a physician attempting the practice of medicine without study and with the expectation of gaining knowledge from experiments on his patients. We would be horrified at the temerity of such a physician, and yet we complacently leave our girls without instruction in reference to the highest, holiest duty of womanhood. Under these circumstances can we wonder that many homes are absolute failures?

One of the first things a girl should be taught is that wealth and social position count for nothing unless united with purity of thought and life and honesty of purpose. "Until such standards are required by young women in choosing their husbands the marriage relation cannot be what God intended it to be—the highest type of earthly happiness.—Woman's Home Companion.

The Woman Without a Trade.

For the girl whose parents have recognized the changed conditions, and allowed her to fit herself for a profession or trade, the question of sustenance has no terrors; but it is the woman with no particular qualification, with a meager education, who, when suddenly brought to the brink of necessity, cries, in bitterness and alarm, "What can I do?" When her hour of need comes she finds herself a competitor with a few millions of women, each one of whom is by schooling made mistress of some one art or craft, and is thus safely launched on a career.

For such a one, provided she has

sufficient money probably the true solution of the difficulty is to qualify herself to enter the lists—go at once to one of the training schools, such as Cooper Institute, in New York, Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn, Drexel Institute, in Philadelphia, Armour Institute, in Chicago, where, thanks to the perfected methods of instruction and a thorough understanding of the needs of the applicants, a working knowledge of the useful or the fine arts may be had in an amazingly brief space.—Carolyn C. Mumford, in the Woman's Home Companion.

The Cleverest of Schemes.

We must christen "the cleverest yet" a certain costume which a fair one who ransacks the four corners of the earth for sartorial schemes has appeared in. This costume started out simply enough with a black velvet skirt, exquisitely cut, with a flared flounce but quite plain. And the dainty blouse was a cream-white satin, veiled with Renaissance lace of a yellowish cast. There was a slight ornamentation of black velvet ribbon lattice, with black spangles, which partly outlined a yoke, not meeting across the vest portion. Otherwise the only notable features were the sleeves of black velvet. They were snug, with cream-like appliques at the small cuffs.

While all this is not particularly surprising, you'll admit that the finish is. It consists of a trig bolero of the black velvetina, and this bolero is sleeveless. It has none of the unfinished look of the usual sleeveless bolero, however, being ample and very finished in appearance.

Though very dressy, this get-up is extremely useful. With the bolero on it is not too dressy for the fashionable promenade, and is, indeed, as attractive a rig as could be found for visiting or matinee. And the one in question, with the bolero off, would do credit to an informal dinner party.

It could be worked out as handsomely in blue, brown, cast or gray. Indeed, most of us think velvetina looks better in colors.

For a matron black velvet would be the choice.—Philadelphia Record.



New muff chains have leaves of tinted gold or enamel instead of jewels.

Fur gowns, with a deep flounce of a different fur, have appeared lately, and with some success.

There are new slender, oval-band Empire bracelets, with a medallion top framed in a hoop of diamonds.

Dainty waists of India mull in pale tints are worn with the tailor-made skirts and coats. They are finely tucked and finished with a lace yoke, belt and cuffs.

New hats for bridesmaids wear are formed of white chiffon and ermine fur, with a bunch of shaded roses and a soft white aigrette set at one side towards the front of the hat.

One of the prettiest novelties in purses is of plain suede leather simply stitched around the edges and fastened with a button hole, and jeweled buttons which vary in elegance and price.

So many Russian blouses of baby lamb have been made to wear with skirts of cloth, the furriers declare that the tailors and dressmakers have already nearly exhausted their winter supply of the uncut pelts.

Combinations of cloth and corduroy are seen upon a number of the latest Parisian models, designed for walking, traveling, and skating costumes. Gowns made entirely of panne velvet are also among the winter fancies of the French.

The raglan overcoat, so fashionable for men, appears among the tailor garments for women, but only the fair ones with sporting proclivities venture to don one of these most unbecoming of all outside garments possible to women.

Lace as a garniture is still greatly favored, but more in the form of beautiful half-yokes at the edge of the low-necked bodice, or as oddly arranged appliques and insertions jacket-fronts, flat appliques, and revers rather than in full jabots, cascades, or gathered ruffles.

Character in Handwriting.

It is as easy for us to recognize our friends by their handwriting as by their faces. Everybody imparts to his handwriting a certain individuality, a certain mannerism, which serves to identify the writer. His style of penmanship is as much a part of his personality as is his tone of voice or his manner of walking. It is very clearly evident that there is a direct relationship between the writing and the writer; and a study of this interesting subject reveals the fact that every peculiarity of a handwriting has a particular significance and indicates a corresponding trait or peculiarity in the writer. In other words, a person's character is revealed in his handwriting.—Woman's Home Companion.

Small Pianos for Children.

Half-size pianos are being made in Germany for the use of children who are learning to play. Doctors declare that much permanent injury is done to the muscles of the fingers by endeavoring to stretch an octave or more; so the new pianos are made with keys half the usual width in order to prevent such injury.—Philadelphia Record.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

PENSIONS GRANTED.

Singular Spook at East Berlin Terrorizes Citizens—Mercer County Reinstates Stone Pile for Prisoners.

Pensions have been granted to the following persons: Robert Donoghue, Gallitzin, \$8; Smith M. Henry, Indiana, \$10; Noah A. Dishong, Dearmin, \$30; John V. Russell, Scottsdale, \$8; John Dewalt, Scottsdale, \$10; George W. Young, Mingoville, \$10; James Hunter, Endeavor, \$12; Samuel R. Jenkins, Clarks Mills, \$17; Jesse Atkins, Blairsville, \$8; William R. Bartley, Bellefonte, \$10; George W. Bell, Mercer, \$16; Mary Yeater, Lewistown, \$8.

The residents of East Berlin are terrorized by a spook. Women refuse to venture on the street at night fearing to meet the ghost or hobgoblin. It appears on the street late at night dressed in a white gown, wears a white fascinator, barred shawl, and gum boots. The person passes along at a steady gait, molests nobody, and tries to get away from people meeting it along the streets.

The Mercer county commissioners have decided to reinstate the stone pile for prisoners in Mercer jail for petty offense. If they do their work well they will be fed on good food, but if they rebel a bread and water diet will be their portion.

Gus A. Dick, who disappeared recently from Jeannette, has not been heard from. Since his departure ten notes for from \$1,500 down to \$75, and aggregating \$3,000, with the signatures of his mother and Michael Sellar, of Jeannette, have turned up.

Birch Longnecker, mail carrier between Point Marion and Wyley, Greene county, was being arrested on a charge of robbing the mail. In July a number of letters were taken and were later found in a coal bank near Longnecker's home.

The people of Fairfield township, Westmoreland county, are excited over what appears to be a rich find of oil. A spring which issues from a swamp on the Jacob West farm near Bolivar is thoroughly impregnated with the fluid.

In attempting to prevent his removal from the Blair county almshouse to the Martinsburg Industrial home a 2-year-old Victor Dry fell down a hay chute in the almshouse barn, breaking both wrists and injuring himself internally.

The Sharon works of the American Clay Manufacturing Company have closed down for an indefinite period. About 75 hands are affected. Extensive repairs will be made during the shut down.

Thomas Carrollton, of Summit Mines, Fayette county, was arrested on a charge of selling liquor without a license. It is claimed that Carrollton had a large trade among foreigners, selling a peculiar drink called "rikki."

Taylor & Johnson, of Jefferson county, have bought from J. M. Murdock and Harry Swank, of Johnstown, the timber on a tract of land in Shade township, Somerset county, for \$25,000, and will begin lumbering operations at once.

Edward L. Smith, aged 33 years, a Pennsylvania railroad brakeman, committed suicide at Altoona, by shooting himself through the head. Despondency over his brother's illness with consumption is believed to be the cause.

John Lauffer, who is believed to be the oldest man in Westmoreland county, celebrated his 98th birthday Saturday, having as one of the guests his eldest son, Squire H. P. Lauffer, who is 73 years old.

An effort is being made to secure a pardon for John Coslett, Seneca county's ex-chief of police, who was sent up for eight years in 1897 for shooting and killing his brother-in-law, William Pugh.

State Treasurer Barnett's January reports show that he has advanced \$18,775 in cash to members and employees of the Legislature on their salaries. The balance in the general fund at the close of the month was \$3,985,493.43.

A small keg of dynamite exploded in the Fernwood mines at Pittston. Joseph Santino had an arm blown off and an eye destroyed. The skull of Anthony Hres Santino was fractured. Both men will probably die.

The Uniontown owners of the Acme radiator works have sold their entire holdings of stock to the Kellogg-Mackay, Cameron Company, of Chicago, who will operate the plant under its former name and management.

The First Presbyterian Church at New Castle has decided to purchase, for \$15,000, an organ on which an eccentric German is said to have built for his \$1,000,000 mansion in Fifth avenue, New York.

George H. Brown and F. W. Otto have purchased 250 acres of land at Nivcch, Westmoreland county, and will erect a brick plant. There is an extensive bed of fire clay on the property.

The Erie county authorities have offered a reward of \$1,500 for the capture and conviction of the murderers of Dalton Peckham, who was shot at his home in Cranestown.

The Royal Oak colliery at Shamokin was completely tied up by the 250 employees going on strike for enforcement of the semi-monthly pay, and against an order to work in a burning mine.

Grove City College will send two companies of uniformed cadets, of 50 men each, with a band, to Washington to take part in the presidential inauguration.

Frank Fisher, the man who recently sold his girl wife for 50 cents, was drowned in the Delaware river at Easton, while trying to escape from an officer.

An epidemic of rabies has broken out among domestic animals in West Finley township, Washington county, which has caused great excitement among the farmers and stock raisers of the district.

The Butler board of trade announced that it has about completed and to terms by which three great manufacturing plants employing 1,000 men will be established there.

Henry Davis attempted to act maker during a barroom fight on -One of the scrappers razor and cut his throat. -Fought from Niles, O.