

## Miscellaneous.

**PROJECTED WORKS.**—Tenders have been called by advertisement for the extension of Sewers in the Tower Hamlets; for building of sewers in Kensington; for building a new south wing to the St. Olave's Union Workhouse, Southwark; for the excavation of a patent slip and a wall foundation at Hamington, with iron-work and machinery for slip, mason and wallers' work, &c.; also for the construction of three-quarters of a mile of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Stour-Valley Railways, amended tenders.

**EXAMPLE TO MASTERS WHO WANT HEALTHY ACTIVE WORKMEN.**—"There are sceptical people," says the *Gateshead Observer*, "who throw cold water on all onward movements—even on public baths and washhouses. The working classes, they say, would not go to baths, if you were to build them." But the experience of London, Liverpool, Manchester, and other towns, proves the contrary; and we are not without similar evidence in Newcastle and Gateshead. The lessee of the public baths in Northumberland-street has wisely made reductions, from time to time, in his scale of charges, and is now issuing sixty tickets for 12, each of which will secure the holder a warm bath and a towel. At the Literary and Philosophical Society lately, Mr. McKelvin, of Abbot and Co.'s, stated that he had purchased a pound's worth of these tickets, and on his return to the Gateshead park works, soon found customers for them all, at fourpence a ticket. We trust that in every great public establishment in Newcastle and Gateshead there will be found a Mr. McKelvin." If masters, in districts or towns deficient in cheap baths, or even where such baths already exist, were to create an increased demand for them by the offer to purchase and distribute tickets, at low prices, amongst their workmen, doubtless both masters and workmen, as well as bath-keepers, would derive considerable profit from the speculation. The moral influence of the masters would thus be brought to bear exactly upon those least likely, yet most requiring, to seek the aid of the flesh-brush, the soap, and the bath; and thus additional activity and spirit, as well as health and cleanliness, would be infused into the workshop.

**DISREGARD OF LONDON ANTIQUITIES.**—In the ninth part of Mr. C. Roach Smith's valuable *Collectanea Antiqua* (etchings of ancient remains illustrative of the habits and history of past ages), the author finds reason again to refer to the "perfect disregard in which our city antiquities are continued to be held by the city authorities." He says that a piece of Roman sculpture found during excavations for a sewer in Hart-street, Crutched Friars, representing the *Dea Mater* or *Matrona*, which "throws a light upon one of the forms of worship prevailing in Roman London, and has been made the means of instituting successful inquiry into the superstition of our ancestors, at the present moment lies neglected in an outhouse in the city stone-yard."

**STATUES.**—A proposal from Mr. Milnes to erect a statue of Nelson, in Norwich, has been accepted. The statue is to be seven feet high, and to cost 700 guineas. The bishop is interesting himself in favour of the project: the same artist has been selected by the Board of Ordnance to execute the full length of the Duke of Wellington, to be placed in the Tower of London.—In Edinburgh, twenty-four Waverley figures are still required to complete the Scott monument. Another Waverley hall is to be got up to raise the sum required (2,000*l.*).—Gibbon's second statue of Huskisson, recently erected in Canning-place, Liverpool, is of bronze, and stands nine feet high.

**THE TRIFORIUM.**—Sir: Permit me, through the medium of your columns, to inquire the derivation and meaning of the word "Triforium."—*A Subscriber.*

•• The gallery (*fori*), or open space, between the vaulting and the roof of the aisles of a cathedral or church, opening into the nave, transept, or choir, by an arcade over the main arches, is called the "triforium." In modern times it has come to be applied to the range of arches or panels between the top of the pier arches and the bottom of the clerestory windows, even where there is no gallery, but merely the semblance of it.

**THE STATE OF BIRKENHEAD.**—The *Liverpool Courier* gives a melancholy picture of the present appearance of Birkenhead. After detailing the number of new buildings unlet, amounting in value to 70,000*l.*, the writer says, "the above-named are only a few instances amongst the vast bulk of apparently lost and desolate property in this unfortunate place. The great extent of closed premises in the secondary descriptions of streets, it is needless to particularize—suffice it to say, that they may be seen in every direction. Splendid private houses, ten, in immediate proximity to the business part of the town, and beautiful villas more remotely situated, seem also to have alike shared in the general flight which has taken place; while the dismal-looking batches of partially erected buildings, some just covered in, and others with the rough and rugged walls scarce half built up, left to fall into dilapidation and decay from the inability of their owners to complete them, give a melancholy finish to the picture which may well challenge a parallel in the annals of premature speculation, or of commercial reverses." Still as he says, "The gloom that hangs over Birkenhead is partly owing to the stagnation and want of confidence that everywhere prevail. When these pass away, her prospects will of course brighten, her buildings will again be tenanted, and her streets and public places once more resound with the hum of business. The advantages of her position, and her inherent capabilities, remain the same; and though it may be some time before her realised resources fill up the gigantic outline which the sanguine anticipations of her projectors have sketched, still while Liverpool continues prosperous, that prosperity cannot fail to be largely participated in by Birkenhead." Since the appearance of the article from which the foregoing is taken, a proposal of assistance from Government has been made and accepted. "The government is to resume possession of the piece of waste land on the north side of the entrance to the great float, and, on condition of that land being reconveyed to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, they engage to pay the expense of completing the sea wall, reserving to themselves the right of making any use they think fit of the land; and to make as many slips and sluices as they may require. It is supposed that this stipulation is made with the view of converting a portion of the land into an arsenal." The amount already expended on the sea wall is 21,000*l.*, and it is estimated that, to complete it 44,000*l.* more will be necessary. This amount government offers to give, on the conditions above-named, and, in addition, to advance 150,000*l.* for the purpose of finishing the great float and embankments, so as to bring the dock into condition for business. The government are to receive, in part, as collateral security, township bonds to the amount of 35,000*l.* Birkenhead will yet realize in great part the expectations of those who created it.

**CAUTION IN CLEANSING CESSPOOLS.**—The Long-acre tragedy has been recently rehearsed, if not acted over again, at Tittenhangers, an estate of the Dowager Countess Hardwicke, where, according to the *Hertford Mercury*, in order to destroy the unpleasant odour from a cesspool while cleansing it, the gardener, with that, in this instance, dangerous qualification, 'a little knowledge,' proceeded to 'disinfect' it by help of oil of vitriol; and while the diabolical fumes of sulphuretted and phosphuretted hydrogen, thus liberated of a sudden from their alkaline fixative, were still salient in the pool, his assistant descended into it and was of course immediately laid prostrate. Nevertheless, unwarned by the result, another labourer followed, in order to rescue him who had found his position too deadly for his own rescue, and he was as speedily reduced to insensibility. A third, nevertheless, followed his leader with the same result, and a fourth the third. At length experience taught even unthinking mortals such as these that other measures ought to be adopted; and the whole were withdrawn by aid of poles and ropes. Some hopes, strange to say, are still entertained of their recovery. How the idea of 'disinfecting' cesspools or sewers by help of oil of vitriol originated, it is hard perhaps to say, unless it might be in the expectation that a combination of sulphur and oxygen, such as

it is, would neutralize one of sulphur and hydrogen, leaving nothing but sulphur and water; but it ought never to be forgotten that cesspools and sewers will always abound with soda, potash, and probably lime, which will hold these 'Hydrasidre,' if we may so call them, in a fixed state, and that sulphuric oxyacid will itself be neutralized by the alkaline bases, and will liberate in place of destroying the poisonous hydrides.

**IMPROVEMENTS IN CASTING CYLINDRICAL PIPES.**—Mr. Stewart, of Montrose, has taken out a patent for a new mode of casting iron water or gas pipes, by which a superior material is produced, at a less cost than by the usual method. The mould consists of a perpendicular cylindrical iron box, of the required size, with a shaft in the centre, longer than the mould, and communicating with machinery above, by which it is kept revolving, and, as it revolves, it gradually rises. At the bottom of this shaft is an instrument, which may be termed a "presser," or "rammer," consisting of an iron block, having inclined tabular faces, of such smaller diameter than the box, so to leave the sand of the required thickness for the mould. On feeding the sand at the top of the box, it is distributed towards the sides, and the shaft and rammer, gradually revolving and rising, press it with great force against the sides of the box, leaving the mould finished and perfectly cylindrical on its arriving at the top, ready for the insertion of the core. The amount of pressure against the sand is regulated by means of a counterpoise weight. The following are the advantages claimed by the patentee:—"1. A perfectly straight cylindrical pipe, of uniform thickness.—2. No parting or joint of any kind.—3. Dressed at one-half the ordinary cost.—4. Less sand used than in any other way, and, of course, easier dried, if required.—5. The castings and sand easier removed from the boxes than in the ordinary way.—6. The flasks, or boxes, better calculated to resist the pressure of the metal than any now in use.—7. This method is the best for casting pipes perpendicularly that has hitherto been employed.—8. The greatest recommendation of all is, the simplicity of the apparatus, which requires the attendance of a boy only, who with my machine, as at present working, turns out easily six pipes, six inches bore, per hour."

**MIDDLESSEX LUNATIC ASYLUM COMPETITION.**—On Wednesday last the committee, as we are told, made their first selection of twelve from the designs submitted to them. It is said that the plans will not be exhibited, some of the competitors having expressed an unwillingness to allow their ideas to be seen by others than the magistrates. Should this really be the fact, which is scarcely credible, they will soon have reason to regret their short-sighted policy. Such a case as this would serve as a precedent to other parties for refusing to exhibit competing plans, and thus the only check on committees advertising for designs, small as it is, would be lost.

**A CHECK-STRING FOR ENGINE DRIVERS.** Sir,—It occurred to me about two months since, that an improvement for the safety of the public might be made in the construction of the locomotive engine, by having the foot-plate on which the engine driver stands, supported by springs and attached to a lever, so connected with a valve on the top of the steam pipe in the dome of the boiler, that, should the engine driver leave the plate either by accident or design, in imminent danger, the springs under the foot-plate should cause it to rise, and by closing the valve above named, effectually to shut off the steam from the cylinders. The engine driver, when in his place on the foot-plate, would have the same control that he now has.

Brighton.

ALLEN ANSCOMBE.

## TENDERS.

*Tower Hamlets Sewers.*—Mile End Road; Sewer, 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; length, 898 feet.

Shalders	£775
Stewart	700
Yeomans	646
Munday	627
Crook	597
Livermore	576
Hill	567