

EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS.—The report to Prince Albert by Messrs. Cole and Fuller, who were deputed to confer with the manufacturers in various towns, and collect opinions and suggestions as to this great exhibition, has been printed, and is now before us. Amongst the points more particularly discussed were the general expediency of such exhibitions, the questions whether their scope should be universal, whether they ought to be supported by subscriptions or by Parliamentary aid, also as to willingness to exhibit, as to prizes, &c. Some doubts appear to have been expressed as to the propriety of awarding prizes in certain branches of manufacture; but very few suggestions of anything like importance seem to have been made. Mr. Redgrave, A.R., is of opinion that collections of the most rare and choice works, produced by the skill of past ages (such as our museums and societies of antiquaries and archaeologists could so well supply), should form centres to the various groups of manufactures to which they relate. And certainly such collections would give a stimulus to new efforts.

CITY OF LONDON LITERARY INSTITUTION.—A conversation was given at this institution on Wednesday evening, when the Rev. Dr. Croly read a paper on the value of knowledge, and, in the course of it, referred to the various nations of antiquity for proofs of the great fact, that in proportion as knowledge was cultivated amongst them so did they flourish in wealth and power; in conclusion expressing a fervent hope that the youth of England would continue to seek knowledge with the same ardour they had begun to display in these days, and thus contribute to maintain their country's greatness. A variety of works of art, sculpture, drawings, &c., were exhibited in the rooms, and large crowds filled every part of the building. Mr. Sheriff Lawrence, the Rev. Dr. Mortimer, Mr. George Cruikshank, and others were on the platform. Music and recitations by the scholars also filled up the evening. This institution has proved its claims to the support of the neighbourhood, and will, we hope, continue to receive it.

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The first election of this institution took place on the 29th ult., at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, for the purpose of electing five pensioners from a list of eleven candidates. Mr. George Bird, the treasurer, took the chair on the occasion, and, on opening the business of the day, said he was happy to find this their first election so numerously attended by the friends of the institution—an institution which had progressed more favourably than its most sanguine friends could have anticipated. It had been established but little more than four years, and the funded property already amounted to 1,400*l.*, of which 500*l.* had been subscribed towards the erection of almshouses. The annual subscription had now reached 350*l.*; there was a balance of more than 200*l.* at the bankers, and the society was wholly free from debt. The ballot was then proceeded with, and shortly after its close the successful candidates were announced.

The Iron Trade continues in a favourable state for purchasers; but the London, Manchester, and Liverpool dealers and merchants have of late been shy of giving orders unless at a concession of price. *Arist's Gazette* quotes bars delivered at 5*l.* 15*s.*, and hoops at 6*l.* 15*s.*, which, says the manufacturer's friend, with carriage and usual allowances, could scarcely have realized 5*l.* 15*s.* and 6*l.* 5*s.* at the works. In every branch, adds the same authority, underselling is complained of. Glasgow pigs, however, are reported, on same side, to be looking up, from 45*s.* to 48*s.*, cash; for mixed Garsberris, and for *g. m. b.*, three months open.

THE MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM.—This building was recently offered for sale, at the Auction Mart. A mortgage debt of 6,000*l.* had been secured upon the freehold property, paying 4 per cent. interest, the principal recoverable at a twelvemonth's notice, which has been given. The building is stated to have cost 18,000*l.* in erection, and is subject to a rent-charge of 310*l.*, more than covered by the rent paid by the Bankruptcy Courts. It was sold, we are told, for 5,550*l.*

BATTERSEA PARK.—The Commissioners of Woods and Forests, in their report just issued, state that their proceedings for the acquisition of the property to form Battersea-park have been impeded by the want of funds, the delay being manifestly injurious to the interests of the Crown, and productive of frequent complaints from the owners of the property and other persons having interests affected by the formation of the intended park; that great loss and inconvenience are occasioned to them by the uncertainty that exists as to the period of settlement of their respective claims. The commissioners have borrowed 50,000*l.*, and under a recent statute charges can be given for property purchased on the land revenues of the Crown, and up to the date of the report the commissioners had paid in money for property 23,197*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

LIGHTING CHURCHES.—The difficulty of lighting efficiently, extensive and lofty buildings of Gothic architecture, without the means employed becoming obtrusive to the eye, has long been acknowledged, and prompts to various expedients. A new mode of employing gas for the purpose is being tried at All Saints, Leamington; it consists of a continuous set of jet burners, each in the form of a trefal, running under the clerestory windows on each side of the nave and chancel, and the great rose window of the northern transept, whereby a diffused light, it is expected, will be thrown over the whole of the edifice, without the disfigurement of hanging chandeliers, gas-pipes, &c.

EXCAVATIONS AT NINEVEH.—Letters have been received from Dr. Layard (according to the *Athenæum*), dated Mosul, October 15. At this date he had about 60 workmen exploring the ruins; and many bas-reliefs—of which the store seems inexhaustible—were discovered. Amongst them is a representation of the removal of one of the gigantic bulls, showing that they were sometimes, if not always, moved to the palace after being carved. An immense number of men draw a sledge which runs upon rollers, impetus being given to it behind by an enormous lever worked by cords. A cast will be made of this very curious subject in the event of its being found impossible to remove it. It is probable that the fine pair of colossal lions still standing at Nimrud will be moved during the present expedition.

THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE AT EDINBURGH was to be formally opened on Wednesday. As our readers may recollect, we gave them a view of this edifice as designed by Mr. Cousin, the city architect, with particulars in vol. vi., p. 294 of *THE BUILDER*. The interior of the hall is fitted up with stalls for the grain merchants, ranged round the east, west, and south sides, and it is intended to have a row of offices on the west outside, as retiring apartments to the stalls on the western side, opening through the main wall. Rents of these, 17*l.* 10*s.* each, stalls included; of the others, 10*l.* each, or 5*s.*, as sample dues, for a single occasion. The lighting of the hall from the roof is through patent tile glass; area, 14,050 feet.

TIDAL SURVEY.—A Tide-table and Section, on a half scale, of Standard Marks on the Banks of the Thames, showing their Values above Mean Water at Sheerness and Liverpool, has just been prepared by Mr. Joseph Smith, Assistant Surveyor to the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers, and printed for the use of the commission. It comprises, among other details, observations and calculations mainly agreeing with those already presented to our readers in an article (page 458 ante) on a series of tidal observations made in the Thames in connection with the Metropolitan Survey. It appears to be an important and creditable production.

"THE ART OF LANDSCAPE PAINTING IN OIL COLOURS."—Under this head the amateur is offered, for the small contribution of a twelve-penny, sufficient elementary instruction to enable him to commence experimenting in oil vehicle with success. The information gathered in this little book of fifty pages has been gleaned from the ready communications of many artists, with whom the Publishers, in the course of their professional pursuits, are intimately connected.

• Wilson and Newton, London.

METROPOLITAN SEWERS COMMISSION.—On the 30th ult., a special court was held at Greek-street, to determine on the course to be adopted with reference to the plans for drainage of London, which had been received by the commission. Lord Ebrington was in the chair, and Sir H. de La Beche, moved that it be referred to a committee of the whole body of the commissioners, with the Lord Mayor, and four other members of the City Commission, who should consider the course to be adopted. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Deputy Peacock, and unanimously adopted. It was also agreed that the fifteen additional plans presented since the 3rd of October should be received.

JOHN O'GAUNT'S PALACE, LINCOLN.—The oriel window, lately advertised for sale, has been purchased by the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, Earl Brownlow, and presented by his lordship to the county magistrates for preservation in the castle, as an appropriate site, from having been one of Prince John's official residences.

MR. CADEW'S BAR-RELIEF on the south side of the pedestal of the Nelson monument in Trafalgar-square is completed. It represents "The Death of Nelson," and is 14 feet high, and 13 feet 7 inches wide. More anon.

ABANDONMENT OF THE LONDON-BRIDGE RAILWAY EXTENSION.—At a meeting of the South-Western Railway Company, held at Nine Elms last week, it was all but unanimously resolved to abandon the proposed extension line from Waterloo-road to London-bridge.

NEW HALL.—Our contemporary, the *Morning Post*, announces that a bequest of 10,000*l.* for the erection of a workman's free hall in the metropolis has been made by a Mr. Jenkins. Another friend of the people is to furnish a library of 1,000 volumes to begin with, and Mr. Hall, the geologist, is to present his museum to it when the building is completed.

THE LETTER-BOXES.—As the management of the post-office is at present an engrossing topic, allow me to point out, that most of the openings of the letter-boxes of the district offices in London, are so small, that they will not conveniently take in a newspaper, and I have frequently observed them sticking in the mouths of the letter-boxes, so that they could be easily extracted. This should be remedied. A. H.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Held during the coming week.

TUESDAY, Dec. 11.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 12.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.; Graphic Society, 8 p.m.
THURSDAY, Dec. 13.—Royal Society, 8 p.m.; Society of Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
FRIDAY, Dec. 14.—Architectural Association, 8 p.m.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"C. B. G."—We are flattered by being elected honorary member of the "Societate Archaeologica Societate," and will write personally.

"Marden's Trap" next week.

"Greenwich Railway Archæ."—With reference to our remarks on the fall of arches in Camden-town, "A Bricklayer" points out that in the Greenwich viaduct there are in no one more than twelve arches without the occurrence of a pier much larger than the ordinary piers.

"Crickler."—A correspondent wishes to know if there be any special means of examining these insects. Ants and beetles have had diverse doctrines prescribed for them in our columns, but we do not recollect a recipe for crickets. These complained of wing their way in books to table, shelf, and cupboard, devouring eatables, and chirping to chorus, so that they are not like Dickens's solitary harmless cheerers of the hearth.

"J. W. G." "T. J." "S. H." "G. D. D." "Dr. C." "P." (is quite safe; some volumes of *THE BUILDER* cannot be obtained but by accident). "B. C. S." "A. W. H." "An Architect" (look). "B. Barons." "H. E. A." (we shall be glad to be referred to a correct report of the argument). "A. W. H." "V. Y." "K. C. M." (covers for *THE BUILDER*, such as our correspondent names, may be obtained at the office, 2, York-street; the notice was to another using the same initials). "E. A. P." (the book alluded to has been received; we gave an extract from it a few weeks ago, and shall hereafter review it). "S. H." "D. C. M." "J. O." "S. H." "R. Sec." "P. C. C." (we have not been able to call). "A. K. H." "Lover of Good Architecture." "One of the Trade" (as to builders' establishments). "Subscriber from the Commencement" (would not be able to recover; we will allude to the hardship when an occasion offers). "F. W. B." (we shall certainly go). "D. G. P." "O. N." (the case was reported for us; we do not know that it appeared elsewhere). "G. F." "C. H." "T. P. W." (thanks). "E. C." "A Bricklayer." "Lincolntonian." "J. L." (Hampstead). "Secretary of Good Architecture." "Communication addressed to the Commissioners of Sewers." by J. Bailey Deaton (London, Mitchin, Parliament-street, 1849).

NOTICE.—All communications respecting advertisements should be addressed to the Publishers, and not to the Editor; all other communications should be addressed to the Editor, and not to the Publisher.

"Books and Addresses."—We have not time to point out books of bad addresses.