

The volume, therefore, will prove useful to insurance agents, solicitors, inspectors and surveyors; and not only to them, but also to many others. The mechanic, chemist and manufacturer are by it taught the insurance jeopardy of their work or processes; what risks to avoid, and also how to improve their establishments, so as to be more acceptable to underwriters, and become insured at premiums considerably less than establishments carelessly conducted. The world-wide reputation of Mr. Harris as an insurance expert, and his fire experience through many years connection with the Phoenix Fire Office—one of the best English fire insurance companies—is a good recommendation to his work, which will be properly appreciated the more it is examined.

N.

A CHART RELATIVE TO THE COMPOSITION, DIGESTIBILITY AND NUTRITIVE VALUE OF FOOD. Prepared by Prof. Henry A. Mott, Ph.D., LL.D., etc., etc.

This is a very compendious table, which would be more convenient for reference by the majority of those who use it were it not printed as a chart; though this method of presenting the facts has advantages for the organic chemist who is frequently engaged in the analysis of food stuffs, inasmuch as it enables him to suspend it on the wall of his laboratory. The first table exhibits Scammel's relative value of foods; the second, Lewes and Gilbert's composition of a hen's egg; the third, Fresenius' average composition of fruits; the fourth, Payen's composition of various kinds of cheese (and following it some analyses by Hornig and Voelcker of the same substance), warmth and strength derived from various articles of food and drink, percentage of nutrition in various articles of food, composition of various meats, composition of fish and shell-fish, composition of vegetables, composition of farinaceous foods, analysis of milk, ditto of products of the dairy, ditto of condensed milk, of American wines, composition of coffee, cocoa, and tea, standards for daily dietaries and for ordinary men doing moderate muscular work, etc., etc. It is a very convenient little chart for reference as well as a help to the scientific chemist.

F.

INVOLUNTARY IDLENESS. An exposition of the discrepancy existing between the supply of and the demand for labor and its products. By Hugo Bilgram. J. B. Lippincott Company. 1889.

In this neatly-printed little book Mr. Bilgram seeks to show that the element which destroys the equal balance that should subsist between demand and supply is to be sought in the conditions which regulate the distribution of wealth. He dismisses the consideration of rent (one of the three divisions of wealth), on the ground that it is not able to throw light on the apparent surfeit of all kinds of raw materials. He points out the ambiguous use of the term "capital" and discusses the causes for paying interest.

His conclusion is that the expansion of the volume of money by extending the issue of credit money will prevent business stagnation and involuntary idleness.

In all the numerous contributions of Mr. Bilgram to the science of economics there is a praiseworthy evidence of thought and the desire to do justice to all sides of the question. His expression of his thought is unusually clear, and his arguments have the ring both of a comprehension of this most difficult of subjects and of entire sincerity. F.

CALCARO'S SYSTEM OF PRESERVING GREEN FORAGE WITHOUT HEAT OR FERMENTATION BY THE USE OF THE SILO GOVERNOR. By Samuel W. Calcaro, Dover, Mass. Chicago, Howard & Wilson Publishing Company. 1889.

This book is devoted to a description and commendation of Mr. Calcaro's silo governor, which consists substantially of a system of perforated pipes disposed among the contents of the silo, by which—in combination with pressure by a series of jack-screws—it is claimed that the air is displaced by carbonic acid, that fermentation is prevented and that the material in the silo remains in its original condition, but softened and fully soaked in its own juices from the bottom to the top of the mass. The published recommendations speak very highly of the results attained and the nutritive character of the forage thus prepared. The theory and practice of Mr. Calcaro differ widely, it may be said radically, from theory and practice presented and recommended by authorities generally recognized as good in this matter. It is not for this JOURNAL to decide when the doctors in agriculture so disagree. L.

Franklin Institute.

[*Proceedings of the Stated Meeting, held Wednesday, December 18, 1889.*]

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
WEDNESDAY, December 18, 1889.

JOSEPH M. WILSON, President, in the Chair.

Present, 106 members and sixteen visitors.

Additions to membership since last report, forty.

Dr. THOMAS W. EVANS, of Paris, France, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers, was elected an honorary member of the INSTITUTE.

The Secretary, by direction of the Committee on Science and the Arts, reported the following action of the Committee upon the death of CYPRIEN CHABOT :

[Extract from the minutes of the Stated Meeting, held Wednesday, December 4, 1889.]

WHEREAS, the Committee on Science and the Arts has learned with great regret of the death of CYPRIEN CHABOT, one of its eldest and most