

which appeared some time ago in the *Graphic*; but alas, "process" work has gone far to kill wood-engraving, and the result is that instead of a uniform texture of lines woven, as it were, over the entire page, the eye is arrested by harsh patches of black or grey. It is, however, just to admit that these greys and blacks may be very beautifully managed, as is shown by a work now before us, published by Goupil, of Paris, and many such may be seen open in the shop windows.

It is difficult to think that in such work, we are not confronted with delicately shaded Indian-ink sketches. But what can be said for the wood engravings these process blocks are replacing? Mr. Ruskin has told us, and we always take him for our guide.

First, then, in metal engraving, you cut ditches or grooves, and fill them with ink, and press the paper into them; while in wood engraving, ridges are left, the tops of which are rubbed with ink, and impressions from these inked prominences are stamped on paper. Obviously, it is easy to plough a *thin* line on metal, but comparatively difficult to leave a thin line by cutting away the wood around it. Now, speaking generally, that wood engraving will be best, in which the effect is produced by the fewest lines. As Ruskin says of Holbein's engraved work, "Holbein deliberately resolves for every line as it goes along, that it shall be so thick, so far from the next, that it shall begin here and stop there. And he is deliberately assigning the utmost quantity of meaning to it, that a line will carry." The question, therefore, you should ask yourself in studying a wood engraving is, how far is every line of it expressive? There must be no more cross-hatching than is absolutely necessary. "You may look through the entire series of Holbein's Dance of Death, without finding any cross-hatching whatever except in a few unimportant bits of back-ground. . . . Albert Dürer crosses more definitely; but yet, in any fold of his drapery every white spot differs in size from every other, and the arrangement of the whole is delightful, by the kind of variety which the spots on a leopard have."

If you take a volume of *Punch*, especially an old one with work of the late Charles Keen in it, you will now be able to look at the engravings with quite a new interest. Try to satisfy yourself how far the artist has been able to express his meaning in the fewest lines. There is a beautiful little work in last week's number—a young man seated and reading at the feet of a girl, which is very masterful in its way, but many examples for study will not be wanting, and let it be remembered that what we all have to do, if we are to foster the artistic sense, is to *think* about the work we are looking at, and not merely to glance with languid interest at the picture.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

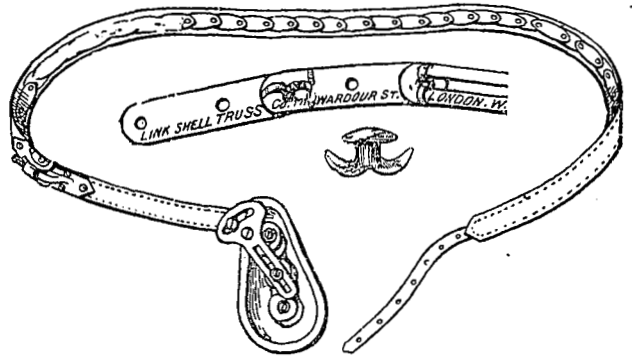
ANTI-DIPHThERITE.

This is a new invention which theoretically, at any rate, ought to prove of great value and importance. It consists of a mouthpiece and nose-piece so designed, as to close both apertures, the wearer breathing through the attached tubes, which extend

round his neck to the back, there ending in a pouch in which a sponge saturated with Sanitas is placed, so that the air inhaled comes from the back, and passes through this powerful antiseptic. It is claimed—and we imagine with justice—that the wearer of this instrument is thus protected from the inhalation of poisonous or infectious air, when attending to patients. When the extreme liability of Doctors and Nurses to be exposed to the contagia of diphtheria, scarlet fever and other diseases, is remembered, the value of such a preservative invention as this becomes very apparent. It can be obtained—price one guinea, complete—from the Sanitas Company, Letchfords Buildings, Bethnal Green, E.

A LINK SHELL TRUSS.

A specimen of this truss has been submitted to us and we have carefully examined it. It evidently possesses very special advantages over ordinary forms in its carefully adjusted pressure, so that it is more comfortable and at the same time more efficacious. It is made in links and of first-class



materials, and has a reversible drop pad which can be moved to any angle and increased to any pressure. When to these advantages is added the further one of exceptional cheapness, it is not difficult to predict that the Link Shell Truss will achieve the great success it deserves. Our readers can obtain catalogues and price lists from the company at 171, Wardour Street, London, W.

THE CLIMAX THERMOMETER.

Two of the greatest objections to the present system of graduating the divisions and figures upon clinical thermometers consist in the facts that being cut upon the surface of the glass, they retain, probably, germs of infection, and it is well-known that the constant cleansing that is necessary removes the black from the figures, making it then difficult, or even impossible, to read them. To obviate both these objections, Mr. Hicks, of 8, Hatton Garden, E.C., has produced a very ingenious form, the divisions and figures instead of

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