

give color to the hopeful predictions. Others, particularly the French, maintain a strictly conservative attitude toward the matter, and seem determined not to acknowledge the efficacy of the cure till its value is established beyond the shadow of a doubt. Meanwhile Dr. Koch is busily at work in his laboratory, experimenting and testing, and the thing for the public to do is patiently to await developments.

H. M. K.

ONCE when Sir Newton was riding on the plain, a boy shepherd addressed him, saying, "You better make haste or you'll get wet." Newton paid but little attention to the lad. He had not gone far when a storm arose; thinking the circumstance strange, he went back to learn how the ignorant boy could know more than a wise philosopher. "My lad," said Newton, "I'll give thee a guinea if thou will tell me how thou canst foretell the weather." After accepting the money, the boy pointed to his sheep, saying, "When you see that black ram turn his tail towards the wind, 'tis a sure sign of rain within an hour." Newton rode away satisfied with his discovery.

J. D. D.

WHAT has become of our interest in Agendia? Four weeks ago the society held a first enthusiastic meeting, but that is the only time that many of its members have been present. The two debates called for each month by our constitution, have both been indefinitely postponed. The first few meetings determine in a great measure what the character of the society is to be, and if we do not intend to make it one that will be a credit to the school, let us confess that the Senior class is incapable of sustaining a literary society, and drop entirely the whole idea.

A few cannot take the place of many. Each member must be in his place ready to take his part in the programme, or Agendia will soon share the same fate as did the Nortonian and the Senior Girls' Debating Club. Let us take for our motto *I will*, rather than *If it be possible*; and our programmes will soon become so interesting that we will have no wish to absent ourselves from the meetings.

G. S.

A good life keeps off wrinkles.

Cheap, pirated editions of American novels are said to be among the most popular books sold at the railway stations in India.

SCIENTIFIC.

ALUMINUM.

English speaking people have taken comparatively little interest in the subject of aluminum, and hence we find no systematic work on this subject in our language, except the one by Richards. H. St. Claire Deville, the originator of the aluminum industry, wrote a treatise in French, in 1850. Since that time, other books have been written about this wonderful metal, but Deville's is still the standard. The aim of the present work, by Richards, is to discuss the entire subject for the benefit of the English reader. The author Joseph W. Richards, a very prominent chemist and practical metallurgist, has quoted much from Deville and other eminent scientists.

This wonderful metal, aluminum, is found in clay, granite and other earthly and rocky substances. It was discovered by Wohler in 1828, but could be obtained only in very small quantities. Twenty-seven years afterwards, the French chemist, Deville, showed that it could be produced very much cheaper, and in less time than formerly. Not content with the success already achieved, some of the best minds of Europe have been for several years, trying to discover some cheaper method of producing this metal. This problem, which French and German scientists have been laboring over, seems to have been partially solved at last, by Colonel William Frishmouth of Philadelphia, who is the only known producer of pure aluminum in America. The statement made by him at first, that he could reduce the market value to less than two dollars per pound, has not been verified. He receives fifteen dollars per pound for the pure metal.

The most remarkable qualities of aluminum are its color and weight. It is a white metal, somewhat resembling silver, but with a bluish tint that reminds one of zinc. Absolutely pure aluminum is whiter than the commercial article. On a freshly cut surface, it is very nearly pure tin-white, with very little of the bluish tinge. The peculiar lustre of aluminum is not permanent. In time, the surface takes an olive green appearance. Sulphuretted hydrogen, the gas that so readily tarnishes silver, has little or no effect on aluminum under all ordinary circumstances, it seems to preserve its appearance nearly as perfectly as gold does.

When melted and cast into molds, it is as soft