

quired to sing some ditty in concert and must not cough under any circumstances. This performance is repeated three times a week. The results are said to be surprising. By the exertion of will the tendency of the throat to cough is overcome, and the exercise of the throat-powers as well as the restraint is beneficial and effective.

The hurricane of coughs which follow and sometimes precede a prayer or a speech or some performance in public, and which is suppressed while the mind is occupied or the restraint of the will is exercised, indicates that the habit may be controlled and overcome. An anti-cough school would be a good institution for Salt Lake as well as other parts of this country. But the tendency to indulge in unnecessary coughing, particularly in public, could certainly be overcome by individual effort. Try it and see.

A NEW BRITISH CRUISER.

The building of the United States cruiser, the *Vesuvius*, and the speed and sea-going qualities of that vessel, have stirred up the European ship-building powers to emulation and a desire to excel.

England is still a great naval power and has not given up her empire of the seas. The tradition remains in the minds of her sailors that "Britannia rules the waves." And any advance in maritime facilities on the part of Uncle Sam will be sure to stimulate John Bull in the same direction.

The launch of the British gun-boat, the *Spanker*, from the Davenport dockyard is evidence of this spirit. The *Spanker* is intended to rival if not outstrip the *Vesuvius*. She is 230 feet long, 27 feet beam, of 4500 horse power, is built entirely of steel and her load draft of water forward is but 8 feet, and aft 8 feet six inches. She has water-tight compartments with doors at long intervals, longitudinally and otherwise. The engine rooms are divided off by a bulkhead partition and rendered secure in case of accident. The coal bunkers are on the sides of the engines, affording additional protection.

Her battery will consist of two 38-pounder rapid-fire guns, one bow torpedo tube, and a pair of torpedo tubes on each broadside. The two 38-pounders are mounted, one forward and one aft, and can be fired at considerable angles abaft and before the beam, so that, if necessary, they could converge on to the same

object. She will have also a steam steering engine, distilling apparatus, electric light engine and torpedo air service.

The enormous amount of machinery intended for the *Spanker* will take up fully two-thirds of her fore and aft length. Her coal-carrying capacity is 150 tons, necessarily small because of lack of bunker space.

The *Spanker* is intended for active cruising work and expected to be a powerful destroyer of commerce in time of war, and also to do good service as a torpedo vessel, but is not designed to act against armored ships. Her trial trip will be watched with eager interest, and if she beats the record of the *Vesuvius*, American shipwrights will be put on their metal at once to get ahead of her. However to do this she will have to excel all other European gun-boats of the same tonnage and class.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

SALT LAKE CITY,

March 29, 1889.

To the Presidents of Stakes:

Dear Brethren:—As the Semi-Annual Appointments for holding the several Quarterly Conferences will be published at or immediately after the General Conference and, as in the case of Panguitch Stake, a desire has been expressed to have the dates of the quarterly conferences in that Stake changed to suit the convenience of the Saints, the idea is suggested that perhaps others might desire similar changes that might consistently be made to better suit their convenience. If so, we should receive notice of such desire, as soon as possible, and so far as consistent, the changes will be made.

F. D. RICHARDS,

JOS. F. SMITH.

EUROPEAN TOPICS.

One of the principal features in the historical department of the coming Exposition in Paris will be a reproduction in miniature of that terrible prison fortress, the "Bastille," which is said to have been built so long ago as 1309, in the reign of the great monarch King Charles V. During the reign of Charles VI. the greater part of France passed into the hands of the English, and this fortress was entrusted to the keeping of Sir John Falstaff. This was the same man whose memory was traduced by one William Shakespeare, a writer of plays who flourished in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. After the fall of the English power in France, the Bastille became the mint and treas-

ure-house of the French monarchy for a time, but soon reverted to the original purpose for which it had been built. For more than three hundred years the history of the Bastille was intimately connected with the history of France, for there in its terrible dungeon many of the distinguished statesmen of France were compelled to take up an involuntary residence. The capture of the Bastille by the French revolutionists, July 14, 1789, has been immortalized by Carlyle, and those who will be in Paris on the 14th of next July may have the opportunity of seeing in mimic warfare the scenes of a hundred years ago.

Preparations for the great Exposition are going on rapidly. The United States seems to have the foremost place among the nations, excepting France. American artists have been given 300 feet more room than those of any nation except France, and when we consider the great expense which must attend all American exhibits, our youthful nation may well feel proud of the distinction conferred upon her. The great Exposition will open in May, but previous to that time will be given a "Grand Beauty Show," to which ladies of all countries, colors or previous condition of servitude will be eligible.

These "beauty shows" are of somewhat ancient origin, and in fact lead us back to the days of mythology, when gods and demi-gods walked the earth. The first one of these displays on record is said to have taken place on Ida, in Greece, about three thousand years ago. Three personages, one and all "divinely fair," were in rivalry, and each considered she had excellent reasons for considering herself the champion belle of that age. *Juno* was so very beautiful that *Jupiter* had picked her out from among all the lovely inhabitants of the Elysian Fields to share his throne. *Minerva*, his favorite daughter, was of opinion that *Juno* could bear no comparison with herself, while *Venus*, the goddess of beauty, would tolerate no claimant to supremacy in what she regarded as her own exclusive specialty. It so happened that these three persons met together at a wedding festival to which all the gods and goddesses were invited except *Discordia*, the sister of *Death*, who expressed her annoyance at the slight put upon her by throwing into the midst of the party a golden apple on which was inscribed these words: "To be given to the fairest." As might have been expected, this caused contention, and it was finally agreed that a great beauty show should be held on Mount Ida, and that the Shepherd-Prince Paris should be the arbitrator. How he awarded the apple, and with what disastrous consequences to Troy and Greece alike, is graphically described in the immortal verse of Homer. The disastrous consequences of this "Great Beauty Show" should have taught mankind a lesson, but in spite of this, exhibitions of a similar character have been held in various ages. Only last year a "Beauty Show" was held in Bel-