

A NEW HOUSE-GUARD.

HOUSES which are protected by an apparatus which warns the inmates that an entry is being attempted, have hitherto been guarded mainly by means of bells and electric appliances. Messrs. Spong & Co., of 226, High Holborn, London, W.C., have, however, brought out a new patent general house-guard, which is quite novel, and shows considerable ingenuity. We herewith illustrate the article in question, which, as can be seen, is remarkably simple.

It contains an air-chamber, and is intended to be placed under a mat or below the carpet, and it can be let in level with the floor. To it is attached a tube, and at the end of this tube there is a whistle. As soon as any one steps upon the apparatus, the air-chamber is compressed, and the air is forced along the tube and sounds the whistle. The tube can be taken any distance away, either above or under ground, and the person who signals himself is quite unaware of the fact. When not required the tubing can be slipped off at the connection with the air-chamber, or, what is still easier, the whistle can be taken out. It is claimed for the invention that it is more certain in its action than any electrical apparatus, and very inexpensive, and that it is even more reliable than any sentinel, as it is positively always ready for action, and ever on the alert. The chamber refills itself with air after being trodden upon.

As a signal affording protection against burglars, this self-acting appliance appears to be very convenient; and, "when the enterprising burglar isn't burgling," it can be used in shops, warehouses, or offices, to give notice of the entry of a customer. They are made in all sizes, of a special tough wood, and all in one piece.

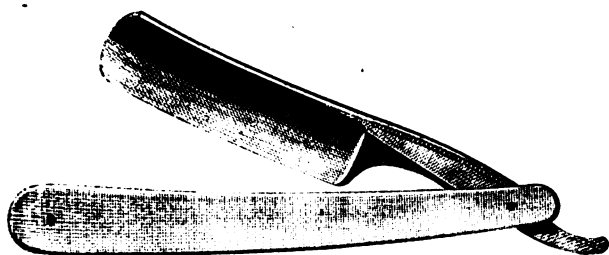


SPONG'S HOUSE-GUARD.

Our Sample Room.

A NEW RAZOR AND STROP.

MESSRS. GEORGE BUTLER & CO., the well-known Sheffield firm of cutlers, Trinity Works, Eyre-street, have supplied the long-felt want of a thoroughly reliable razor, which they entitle the "Keen." The firm has been in existence for more than a century, during which time they have been scrupulously careful



BUTLER'S "KEEN" RAZOR.

in the quality of steel used in their manufactures. In the case of the "Keen" razor, their long experience induced them to try a special brand of "silver-steel" for this delicate piece of cutlery, which, together with the exceptional care taken in each of the stages of its manufacture, has resulted in a really fine specimen of what a razor should be. The grinding alone is a marvel of skilled workmanship, the razor always keeping its edge.

A special kind of strop made of the best materials is a fitting

companion to the razor. It is registered under the name of the "Keen" strop, and with these appliances shaving is indeed a luxury, instead of, as is so often the case where bad instruments are used, a misery. Our remarks, we may say, are based on examination of and experimentation with sample razor and strop which have been forwarded to us for trial and inspection, and we are only saying what is strictly within the truth when we remark that they are both, perhaps, the very finest of their kind we have met with; and we have seen a few. A first-class award was given to Messrs. Butler for their cutlery at the Calcutta Exhibition.

SOME SPECIAL PAINTS.

PEOPLE who employ paint upon work which is much exposed frequently find themselves at considerable trouble and expense in renewing the coatings, which become destroyed either by the action of the weather or the atmosphere, or from other causes. Some special paints which are intended to be more particularly of service by resisting exposure are manufactured by the Indestructible Paint Company, Limited, of 27, Cannon-street, E.C., under the direction of Mr. Henry Browning. These specialties are their Patent Enamel Paint, Patent Enamel Solution, and Indestructible Paint.

The patent enamel paint can be prepared to dry either with an enamel surface, glossy and firm as porcelain, or "flat" if desired, while it is claimed that it is free from the gritty and sand-paper-like feel of ordinary "flat" paint. We are informed that it has stood severe tests in kitchens, pantries, and basement offices, where the ordinary oil paint is little better than

distemper, and that it has been most successfully employed in stables, cattle-sheds, &c., and especially on the brickwork of stalls, where a hard and washable surface is essential. Among the places where this paint has been used are the Albert and Fulham Bridges, the Houses of Parliament, Llandudno Pier, Holborn-viaduct, and St. Paul's Cathedral. It is stated that, while the price of this paint is about the same as that of the best oil paint, yet, as two coats of it are sufficient in most cases, that the saving in materials and labour reduces the actual expense very considerably. The paint, which can be made of any colour or tint, is sent out ready for use, and requires no oil, turpentine, grinding, or dryers.

The patent enamel solution is made for the preservation of stone, brick, cement, wood, &c., from the effects of weather and damp. It is colourless and leaves no deposit on the surface, while it will not in any way alter the appearance of even the coarsest stone or the whitest marble. Anything in the nature of a paint which would conceal the grain of stone is absent from the solution. It is claimed that no vegetable or green appearance can be generated after its application, and that the softest stone, even chalk, is rendered by it completely waterproof, not only against ordinary rain, but in the most exposed sea-side situations.

This composition has been used for the protection of Cleopatra's Needle on the Thames Embankment, and on the exterior of the Houses of Parliament for decaying stones. As it is applied cold with an ordinary paint-brush, it has an advantage over such compositions as require to be put on hot, or to be forced in by heat.

The patent indestructible paint is specially adapted for iron structures, roofing, gas-tanks, &c., as it resists the action of alkalis and acids. It is made in three colours only, viz., bronze green, chocolate, and black.

A gold medal (highest awarded) was given last year to the preservative solution and paint at the International Health Exhibition, and the testimonials, speaking in praise of the articles, which lie before us are veritably legion.