

A CONSPIRACY TO KEEP US IGNORANT.

Why not weather-vanes? To know which way the wind blows is one of the oldest and most innocent desires of the human race, and there are only two or three others shared more nearly by everybody, and not over a dozen that are more nearly continuous. Yet the brotherhood of New York architects seems to have conspired for the purpose of depriving the people of the city of this sort of knowledge!

Of course, atop of most of New York's buildings the weathercock of ancient custom or the arrow of later use would tell little or nothing, so confused are the aerial currents by our structures of varying height. Skyscrapers, however, are numerous, and towers of one kind or another are not a few. One or another of them is visible from almost every metropolitan street or window, and on any one of them a vane would tell its so often interesting and significant story.

Of tall, lofty flagpoles soaring from lofty roofs we have a multitude, but next to none of them have been equipped with the cheap and simple device that once was next to never missing in such places. Perhaps if a chance were given us, in our greater than ancestral wisdom, we should be respectful of weathercocks and would not charge against them as a fault the changeableness that is for them fidelity and full reason for being.—*New York Times*, July 16, 1920.

PERSONAL NOTES.

J. BRADY, member of the Irrigation Commission of New South Wales, spent most of August in California inspecting the irrigation of fruit lands. He also devoted much time to an examination of the manner of sun-curing fruit, an activity which reaches its climax during August in California. Mr. Brady expects to make an extended tour of the United States before returning home.

A. HELMS, of the New South Wales Forest Service, is at present in the United States on a mission which is of peculiar interest. He is seeking information concerning trees and shrubs which can be introduced into New South Wales and Australia from the United States. As a preparation for this work he spent a part of August in the San Francisco offices of the Weather Bureau and Forest Service examining data in the hope of finding forested regions in the United States where climatic and soil conditions are similar to those in the regions which the government which he represents proposes to reforest. He expects to devote the remainder of the year 1920 touring the United States in search of the necessary field data, and he hopes to forward a large quantity of seeds and seedlings before the completion of his mission.

Dr. FLOYD A. NAGLER, formerly 2d lieutenant in Meteorological Service, U. S. Signal Corps, and for a few years assistant to Mr. Robert E. Horton, consulting hydraulic engineer, Voorheesville, N. Y., has assumed his duties as Assistant Professor of Hydraulics at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia.