unlet. No doubt it might have been so amended as
to have made it workable, but the great idea and
purpose of the Society was to erect a wing as soon as
possible, and the members were not prepared to wait
till 1855 to see their purpose fulfilled, even though a
greater benefit might ultimately accrue.

For a long time various sums of money had been
owing for benefit tickets, and the question of dealing
with the defaulters had again and again occupied the
attention of the Committee, till at last, early in 1849,
ye instituted legal proceedings to recover the sums
owing. The cases were to come on for hearing at
Guildhall, in the spring of the year, but on the day
appointed only one attended—George Fowler—and he
had intimated his intention of pleading "The Statute
of Limitations," his debt of £1 7s. having been owing
since the "Venus" excursion in 1836. On hearing the
case, however, the Committee were surprised to learn
that they possessed no power, even as an enrolled
society, to sue for such debts, so that the other cases
fell through, and they were compelled to relinquish
the idea of proceeding against others. It was then
resolved to print the names of the defaulters and the
amounts owing, in the annual reports, and thus hold
the dishonest members up to the odium and repro-
ation of the trade.

[To be continued.]

KINGS AND PRINCES have from time immemorial
been interested in the art of bookbinding, and many
of them in days gone by have lavished much of their
wealth upon the coverings of books. We were not
aware, however, that any existing monarch took a
practical interest in the craft, consequently we were
surprised to learn that Prince Albert of Prussia is very
proud of his abilities as a bookbinder and has turned
out some very excellent work. Not content himself
following this useful pastime he is having each of his
sons taught to follow some useful occupation. May
be he is looking forward to a future when even kings
may be glad to earn their own living.

Mildew in Engravings.

Mildew may be caused by some chemical used
in the manufacture of the paper on which
the engraving is printed, by attracting and
absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, or from a
damp wall. Ironmould is probably produced by the
rusting of minute particles of metal which may have
become blended with the paper when in a state of pulp
by the wear of the machinery or the distintegration
of buttons, etc., in the process of tearing the rags to
shreds, but in all cases the formation of mildew and
ironmould is assisted by damp. It is, however, satisfy-
fatory to know that any engravings so injured are
capable of restoration. If on the first appearance of
white fungus-like mildew spots the engraving be taken
out of its frame, carefully aired, the spots removed
with a soft camel-hair brush, the glass cleaned on the
inside, and the engraving refiled, that is all that is
necessary, and all that we recommend to be done; but
should brown spots have appeared, then the engraving
must be put into a special bath, which should only be
done by a practised and skilful hand, for it must be
remembered that the paper upon which engravings are
printed is unsized, like blotting-paper, very absorbent,
and when damp very easily torn.

With regard to the restoration of water-colour
drawings, no general observation will apply. The
paper on which they are painted varies considerably;
as a rule it is very hard, and is heavily sized. Artists as
a rule prefer old paper, the size in which has from age
undergone an organic change, the nature or cause of
which has not yet been discovered. We have had in
our possession sheets of paper apparently in perfect
order, but which, on having a sheet of colour passed
over it, developed so many spots that it was absolutely
useless. We have seen other paper in which the spots
were developed only when one particular wash or
colour was applied. Hence we say that no general
observation applies to the treatment of water-colour
drawings.

A Curious Specimen of Bookbinding.

In a recent article in a contemporary by
M. E. Rogers on "Books and Book-
binding in Syria and Palestine," he says,
"The oldest and simplest example of book-
binding that I have ever met with was shown
me by a Samaritan. The volume was about
fifteen inches square, and nearly five inches
in thickness. It consisted of fifteen parts or
quires of fifteen sheets each, fastened together
very securely with strong cord or twist. The
leaves had evidently never been pressed, and
no glue or paste had ever been used. The
back was strengthened by two rather clumsy
blocks of polished walnut wood. Each block
was pierced with six holes through which the
cords were passed and neatly secured.