plumb-bob is combined with a parallel straight-edge the term plumb-rule is applied. It tests the truth of vertical surface more accurately than a spirit-level. (J. G. H.)

**TOOLE, JOHN LAWRENCE** (1832-1906), English actor, son of an old employé of the East India Company who for many years acted as toast-master in the City of London, was born in London on the 12th of March 1832. He was educated at the City of London School, and started life in a wine merchant’s office; but his natural propensity for comic acting was not to be denied, and after some practice as an amateur with the City Histrionic Club, he definitely took to the stage in 1852, appearing in Dublin as Simmons in *The* *Spitalfields* *Weaver*. He gained experience in the provinces, and in 1854 made his first professional appearance in London at the St James’s theatre, acting Samuel Pepys in *The King's Rival* and Weazel in *My Friend the Major.* In 1857, having just had a great success as Paul Pry, he met Henry Irving in Edinburgh, and recommended him to go to London; and their friendship remained thenceforth of the closest kind. In 1858 Toole joined Webster at the Adelphi, and established his popularity as a comedian, among other parts creating Joe Spriggins in *Ici on parle français.* In 1868 he was engaged at the Gaiety, appearing among other pieces in *Thespis,* the first Gilbert and Sullivan collaboration. His fame was at its height in 1874, when he went on tour to the United States, but he failed to reproduce there the success he had in England. In 1879 he took the “ Folly ” theatre in London, which he renamed “ Toole’s ’’ in 1882. He was constantly away in the provinces, but he pro- duced here a number of plays: H. J. Byron’s *Upper Crusl* and *Auntie*; Pinero’s *Hester's Mystery* and *Girls and Boys',* burlesques such as *Paw Claudian,* and, later, J. M. Barrie’s *Walker, London.* But his appearances gradually became fewer, and after 1893 he was seen no more on the London stage, while his theatre was pulled down shortly afterwards for an extension of Charing Cross Hospital. He published his reminiscences in 1888. Toole married in 1854; and the death of his only son in 1879, and later of his wife and daughter, had distressing effects on his health; attacks of gout, from 1886 onwards, crippled him, and ultimately he retired to Brighton, where after a long illness he died on the 30th of July 1006. In his prime he was immensely popular, and also immensely funny in a way which depended a good deal on his tricks and delivery of words. He excelled in what may be called Dickens parts—combining humour and pathos. He was a good man of business, and left a considerable fortune, out of which he made a number of bequests to charity and to his friends. His genial and sympathetic nature was no less conspicuous off the stage than on it.

**TOOMBS, ROBERT** (1810-1885), American political leader, was born near Washington, Wilkes county, Georgia, on the 2nd of July 1810. He was educated at Franklin College (univer­sity of Georgia), at Union College, Schenectady, New York, from which he graduated in 1828, and at the law school of the university of Virginia. He was admitted to the bar in 1830, and served in the Georgia House of Representatives (1838, 1840-1841 and 1843-1844), in the Federal House of Represen­tatives (1845-1853), and in the United States Senate (1853- 1861). He opposed the annexation of Texas, the Mexican War, President Polk’s Oregon policy, and the Walker Tariff of 1846. In common with Alexander H. Stephens and Howell Cobb, he supported the Compromise Measures of 1850, denounced the Nashville Convention, opposed the secessionists in Georgia, and helped to frame the famous Georgia platform (1850). His position and that of Southern Unionists during the decade 1850- 1860 has often been misunderstood. They disapproved of secession, not because they considered it wrong in principle, but because they considered it inexpedient. On the dissolution of the Whig party Toombs went over to the Democrats. He favoured the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution, and the English Bill (1858), and on the 24th of June 1856 introduced in the Senate the Toombs Bill, which proposed a constitutional convention in Kansas under conditions which were acknowledged by various anti-slavery leaders as fair, and which mark the greatest con­cessions made by the pro-slavery senators during the Kansas struggle. The bill did not provide for the submission of the constitution to popular vote, and the silence on this point of the territorial law under which the Lecompton Constitution of Kansas was framed in 1857 was the crux of the Lecompton struggle (see Kansas). In the presidential campaign of i860 he supported John C. Breckinridge, and on the 22nd of December, soon after the election of Lincoln, sent a telegram to Georgia which asserted that “ secession by the 4th of March next should be thundered forth from the ballot-box by the united voice of Georgia.’’ He delivered a farewell address in the Senate (Jan. 7, 1861), returned to Georgia, and with Governor Joseph E. Brown led the fight for secession against Stephens and Herschel V. Johnson (1812-1880). His influence was a most powerful factor in inducing the “ old-line Whigs ’’ to support immediate secession. After a short term as secretary of state in President Davis’s cabinet, he entered the army (July 21, 1861),and served first as a brigadier-general in the Army of Northern Virginia and after 1863 as adjutant and inspector-general of General G. W. Smith’s division of Georgia militia. He then spent two years in exile in Cuba, France and England, but returned to Georgia in 1867, and resumed the practice of law. Owing to his refusal to take the oath of allegiance, he was never restored to the full rights of citizenship. He died at his home in Washington, Georgia, on the 15th of December 1885.

See Pleasant A. Stovall, *Robert Toombs, Statesman, Speaker, Soldier, Sage* (New York, 1892).

**TOOTHWORT,** the popular name for a small British plant of curious form and growth, known botanically as *Lathraea squa- maria.* It grows parasitically on roots, chiefly of hazel, in shady places such as hedge sides. It consists of a branched whitish underground stem closely covered with thick fleshy colourless leaves, which are bent over so as to hide the under surface; irregular cavities communicating with the exterior are formed in the thickness of the leaf. On the inner wall of these chambers are stalked hairs, which when stimulated by the touch of an insect send out delicate filaments by means of which the insect is killed and digested. The only portions that appear above ground are the short flower-bearing shoots, which bear a spike of two-lipped dull purple flowers. The scales which represent the leaves also secrete water, which escapes and softens the ground around the plant. *Lathraea* is closely allied to another British parasitic plant, broomrape (*Orobanche).*

**TOOWOOMBA, a** town of Aubigny county, Queensland, Australia, 76 m. by rail W. by N. of Ipswich, and 101 m. from Brisbane. It is situated on the summit of the Great Dividing Range, and is the centre of the rich pastoral and agricultural district of Darling Downs. The chief buildings are the town-hall, a large theatre, a school of arts and a library; the Christian Brothers College and several handsome churches. The industries are brewing, tanning, soap-boiling, flour-milling, malting, iron- founding, saw-milling and jam-making. Vineyards are culti­vated by a German colony and large quantities of wine are made. The town received a municipal charter in i860, and during the governorship of Lord Lamington (1896-1897) became the summer residence of the governor and his staff. Pop. (1901), 9137; within the five-mile radius, 14,087.

**TOP** (cf. Dan. *top.* Ger. *Topf,* also meaning pot), a toy consisting of a body of conical, circular or oval shape with a point or peg on which it turns or is made to whirl. The twisting or whirl- iπg motion is applied by whipping or lashing when it is a “ whipping top ” or “ peg-top,” or by the rapid unwinding of a string tightly wound round a head or handle. When the body is hollow this results in a whirring noise, whence the name “ hum- ming top.” Other kinds of tops are made as supports for coloured disks which on revolving show a kaleidoscopic variation of patterns. The top is also used in certain games of chance, when it is generally known as a “ teetotum.” There are many references to it in ancient classical literature. The Greek terms for the toy are *βέμβιξ,* which was evidently the whipping or peg top (Arist. *Birds,* 1461), and *στρόβιλοs,* a humming top, spun by a string (Plato, *Rep.* iv. 436 E.). In Homer *(Il.* xiv. 413) the word