

PAYMENTS THROUGH TELEGRAM BY P.O. SAVINGS BANKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The increasing facilities given to depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks for drawing sums by telegraph seem to require readier means of identification than now exist. It must frequently happen that a man wants his money when he is away from home and acquaintances, and has imperfect means, if any, of satisfying the postmaster to whom he applies that he is the veritable owner of the deposit-book he presents. The wider the operations of post offices extend and the more international they become the more will the need of ready means of identification be felt. These would be easily and amply afforded if depositors were required to imprint the first three fingers of the right hand below their signatures on the first page of their deposit-books, or, if they cannot write, before the mark they make in its place. A sufficiently clear print is made by inking the fingers on a smooth office-pad and then pressing them on the page. The pads in regular use at the post offices are usually too rough from much service as well as from their original make to ink the finger aright and to insure that the result shall not be a blot. It would be well to have pads at the more important offices for this special use. The art of comparing finger prints for such rough purposes as these is easily learnt.

FRANCIS GALTON.
