

Scientific.

IRON STOVES A CAUSE OF DISEASE.

When the attention of the Academy of Sciences of Paris was drawn some time ago by M. Carret, one of the physicians of the Hotel Dieu of Chambéry, in several instances, to the possible evil consequences of the use of cast-iron stoves, but little interest was excited in the matter. Recently, General Morin has again brought the subject forward, with better success. M. Carret is not hesitant to assert most positively that cast-iron stoves are sources of danger to those who habitually employ them. During an epidemic which recently prevailed in Savoie, but upon which M. Carret does not give us any detailed information, he observed that all the inhabitants who were affected with it made use of cast-iron stoves which had lately been imported into the country, whereas all those who employed modes of firing, or other sorts of stoves, were left untouched by the disease. An epidemic of typhoid fever, which broke out some time after at the Lyceum of Chambéry, is regarded by the same author as being induced by a large cast-iron stove in the children's dormitory. General Morin speaks in the highest terms of M. Carret's experiments, which the recent experiments of MM. Port and Deville give additional importance. These able investigations have established that iron and cast-iron when heated to a certain degree become pervious to the passage of gas. They have been enabled to ascertain the quantity of oxide of carbon which, as they suppose, transude from a given surface of metal, and have shown that the space which surrounds a stove of cast-iron is saturated with hydrogen and oxide of water. They conclude that cast-iron stoves, when sufficiently heated, send out oxygen, and then issue to carbonic acid. General Morin has also made some comparative experiments which had been performed by M. Carret, and which, he said, corroborate his theory. After having remained during one full year in a room heated to 40° (centigrade) by means of a sheet-iron stove, M. Carret inspired abundantly, got a good appetite, felt no sickness whatever; he had obtained the same result with an earthenware stove; but the experiment when performed during only one half hour with a cast-iron stove had brought an intense headache and sickness. M. Deville, at the same sitting of the Academy, supported these views with considerable warmth. The danger which attended the use of cast-iron stoves, he said, was enormous and truly formidable. In his lecture-room at the Sorbonne he had placed two electric bells, which were set in motion soon as hydrogen or oxide of carbon was effused in the room. Well, during his lecture the two cast-iron stoves had scarcely been lit when the bells began to ring. These facts are certainly startling, if we consider the reputation of comparative harmlessness which these articles of domestic use had hitherto enjoyed. Of course, we are inclined to question M. Carret's conclusions; at the apparently accurate character of the facts recorded, joined to the authority of those who have brought them forward, demand for them a serious investigation.—*The Lancet, London.*

DISTANCE OF THE SUN.

Imagine a prisoner confined within a room which has a single circular window, only six inches in diameter. Suppose him to be provided with accurate instruments, and conceive that directly in front of the window, and somewhat more than a mile off, there is an object—say a steepie—whose distance he wishes to determine. Then a moment's consideration will show that whatever the accuracy of his instruments, and whatever his skill in using them, yet, with the best base line of only six inches, he could not expect an error of less than at least half a mile in his result. The position of such a prisoner corresponds closely with that of the inhabitants of the earth, limited to their little globe, less than 8,000 miles in diameter, as a base from which to estimate the distance of the sun, upwards of ninety millions of miles away. But in some respects our prisoner is better situated than the inhabitants of the earth. A single observer, using in one place a single set of instruments, is not troubled with the numerous important considerations which affect the value of the work done in two observatories situated on opposite sides of the earth. Different observers—each with his peculiar, perhaps variable, "personal equation"—must be employed; or, else a single observer, having completed a series of observations in one hemisphere, must commence a new series, (when, perhaps, important changes may have occurred in his observing qualities) in another. Different instruments, each with its peculiar instrumental equation, must be employed, or else the same instrument must be transported, at the risk of all sorts of changes in its performance, from one to another hemisphere of the globe. Differences of climate are also to be considered. And, in fact, we attempt to obtain any approach to a knowledge of the sun's distance simply by making use of a base line on our small earth, can be pronounced absolutely hopeless. Now to return for a moment to our prisoner. If there were objects intervening between him and the steepie, and if he had by any means obtained a certain knowledge of the relative distances of the steepie and of these objects, it is clear his power over his problem would be greatly increased. Let the reader look from opposite sides of a window at objects unequally distant, but nearly in the same direction, and he will immediately see the sort of use our prisoner might make of the knowledge we have spoken of. He may not, indeed, know the exact mathematical principles involved in

the problem, nor would this be the place to explain them, but he will see that there is something tangible and appreciable in the new form of observation.

Now, the observer on earth has, at long intervals, an opportunity of grasping, at some such aids as we have conceived available to our prisoner. Venus and Mercury occasionally pass between the Earth and the Sun, and by observing their transits carefully from different parts of the earth, astronomers have been able to gain juster conceptions of the sun's distance than they could otherwise have obtained. All the difficulties, however, which we have mentioned above are involved in the solution of this form, also, of the problem.

Yet with no other aid, and with the comparatively inefficient instruments of the last century, astronomers managed to determine the sun's distance with what may fairly be termed wonderful accuracy—certainly within one thirtieth part of the true distance. This is as if our prisoner should determine the steepie's distance within fifty or sixty yards. But, the astronomers of the present day, using a variety of delicate methods, into whose nature we need not here enter, have arrived at more trustworthy results. It is hoped that during the transits of Venus in 1874, and 1882, these results may be improved upon. Yet even now, we may note as a great achievement of modern science the following series of values; differing little (proportionately) among themselves, though well separated from the old determination, 95,274,000 miles.—The German astronomer Hansen, making use of a peculiarity in the moon's motion as a guide, was led to the value of 91,700,000 miles. Stone, of the Greenwich Observatory, was led by the same means (only the peculiarity was estimated by other instruments); to the value of 92,400,000 miles. Wincke and Stone, from observations of Mars, obtained, respectively, the values, 91,300,000 miles and 91,500,000 miles. Estimates founded on a comparison of the velocity of light, as determined by the experiments of Fizeau and Foucault, with the astronomical determination, give a value of 91,600,000 miles. A method employed by Leverrier, and founded on a peculiarity of the earth's motion, gives 91,600,000 miles. And lastly, the new estimate obtained by M. Simon Newcombe (U. S.), founded on observations of Mars in 1862, make the sun's distance 92,400,000 miles. The mean of these values is 91,771,000 miles, or nearly 680,000 miles less than the greatest estimate.

From the above results it will be seen that astronomers over-estimated the accuracy of their calculations, when they expressed the sun's distance as if it were known correctly within a thousand miles. But we may justly wonder at the results recorded. Returning to our illustrative prisoner, it is as if his estimates of the steepie's distance differed from their mean by less than fourteen yards.—*London Spectator.*

Rural Economy.

VALUE OF TIMBER TREES.

A few years ago, timber in the region of country between Urbana and Sandusky, Ohio, was but little valued. The finest trees could be had almost for asking, provided the party desiring it took the timber away. Oak was valued, of course, for rails and staves, ash for shingles, poplar for boards and shingles, and cherry for furniture. But when it came to black and white walnut and the like timber, they were not appreciated, especially if they were gnarled and curly in grain. How different the state affairs now! Almost every class of timber has its important use; the black and white walnuts being the most valuable. The cherry, poplar, and all other timbers so much valued in years gone by, are now less sought after for furniture, house finishing and ornamental purposes than the walnut. For joiner's purposes, or for furniture, the more tangled and curly the grain the better. The neatest and handsomest drawing room or parlor finish to be found in the country is the white walnut, or "butter-nut," and for veneering purposes, next to rosewood, curled black walnut is the richest and grandest. We saw a fine bedstead head-board in one of our furniture warehouses, a few days ago, (says an exchange,) finished with black walnut veneer, which we regarded as decidedly richer than any rosewood in the room. But we are getting far from what we started out to tell our readers. A gentleman residing a short distance north of Huntsville, sold from his farm a single curled black walnut for \$500. The tree was not an exceedingly large one at that. The purchaser, after the tree had been felled, and its true value ascertained, remarked that he would not take \$2,000 for it. There are many such trees in the immense forests extending across from Huntsville to the northwestern part of the State. In the north of Williams county there are hundreds and thousands of the finest white and black walnuts we have ever seen.—*Selected.*

CRANBERRY CULTURE.

If my experience for the past fifteen years in the cultivation of the cranberry, would be of any utility to those engaged in a similar pursuit in your state, you are at liberty to publish it. Cranberry plants, though indigenous to low, swampy lands, will grow in almost any soil. They can be propagated from seeds, roots, or vines without roots, and cuttings. Although large crops are raised upon dry sandy soil on Cape Cod, yet water, by protecting the fruit from frost, and not only the fruit, but the vines from worms, is indispensable to insure a yearly crop. The expenses of cultivating the cranberry consist in preparing the land for the plants.

I speak of my own "yard." While the original cost of this land is \$15 or \$20 per acre, \$500 will barely cover the cost of preparing. It may be proper to add, that in this vicinity, the outlay would not pay without sufficient water at command.

As drainage is an important element, the first thing to be done is to secure it, by digging main ditch, with side ditches, of a sufficient width, every two or three rods. The water must be taken off the vines as rapidly as it goes on, otherwise the sun will blister and destroy the fruit. The ditch being dug, next remove from six to twelve inches of the top soil; this may be used for manure, or burnt, and the ashes spread upon grass ground. When the approach of winter prevents further grubbing, level the work and put the "yard" under water, and, at a proper state of the ice, spread upon it gravel six inches deep. In May or June set out the vines in rows, at least two feet apart, planting the roots through the gravel into the muck and trailing the vine along the gravel, binding it down with the same, every six inches, for where it is bound down a new roof will strike from the leaf. The root of the second plant should be placed at the end of the first vine. It will be found advantageous to weed the vines for one or two seasons.

I uncover my vines from the 1st to the 10th of April, and they are not allowed to be chilled until the fruit is gathered in September.

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Speak their own praise wherever planted. If the reader of the above wishes to rear Landreth's Seeds in comparison with the best he has ever used, and cannot conveniently obtain them from mechanics or druggists of his neighborhood, a package of 50 papers, judiciously assorted, sufficient for the use of a small family, will be mailed, post-paid, and safe carriage insured, on the remittance of \$5.

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Purchasers who do not reside within ready access of the city nor near mechanics or druggists who vend our seeds, can be supplied by mail, post-paid. Priced Catalogue, for family use, with the BUREAU MANUSCRIPTS for 1868 (abounding in useful hints), will be mailed, without charge, to all who apply enclosing a 3-cent stamp.

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They are both equally good, and contain the same medicinal virtues, the choice between the two being a mere matter of taste, the Tonic being the most palatable.

The stomach, from a variety of causes, such as Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Nervous Debility, etc., is very apt to have its functions deranged. The Liver, sympathizing as closely as it does with the Stomach, then becomes affected, the result of which is that the patient suffers from several or more of the following diseases:

- Constipation, Flatulence, Inward Piles, Fullness of Blood to the Head, Acidity of the Stomach, Nausea, Heartburn, Disgust for Food, Paleness or Weight in the Stomach, Sour Eructations, Sinking or Fluttering at the Top of the Stomach, Swelling of the Head, Headache, or Difficulty Breathing, Fluttering at the Heart, Choking or Suffocating Sensations when in a Lying Position, Dimness of Vision, Drops or Webs before the Sight, Dull Pain in the Head, Dizziness, Pain in the Side, Back, Chest, Limbs, etc., Sudden Flushes of Heat, Burning in the Face, Constant Imaginations of Evil, and Great Depression of Spirits.

The sufferer from these diseases should exercise the greatest caution in the selection of a remedy for his case, purchasing only that which he is assured from his investigations and inquiries is free from injurious ingredients, and has established for itself a reputation for the cure of these diseases. In this connection, we would submit those well-known remedies—

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There is no medicine extant equal to these remedies in such cases. A tone and vigor is imparted to the whole system; the appetite is strengthened, food is enjoyed, the stomach digests promptly, the blood is purified, the complexion becomes sound and healthy, the yellow tinge is eradicated from the eyes, a bloom is given to the cheeks, and the weak and nervous invalid becomes a strong and healthy being.

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Are made strong by the use of either of these remedies. They will cure every case of MARASMOUS, without fail. Thousands of certificates have accumulated in the hands of the proprietor, but space will allow of the publication of but a few. Those, it will be observed, are men of note and of such standing that they must be believed.

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Hon. James Thompson, Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 28, 1866.

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From Rev. Joseph H. Kennard, D.D., Pastor of the Third Baptist Church, Philadelphia. Dr. Jackson:—Dear Sir: I have been frequently requested to connect my name with recommendations of different kinds of medicines, but regarding the practice as out of my appropriate sphere, I have in all cases declined; but with a pleasing exception in my own family of the usefulness of Dr. Hooiland's German Bitters, I consent for one from my usual course, to express my full conviction that, for general debility of the system, and especially for Liver Complaint, it is a safe and valuable preparation. In some cases it may fail, but usually, I doubt not, it will be very beneficial to those who suffer from the above causes. Yours, very respectfully, J. H. KENNARD, Eighth and a-half Coates St.

From Rev. E. D. Fendall, Assistant Editor, Christian Observer, Philadelphia. I have derived decided benefit from the use of Hooiland's German Bitters, and feel it my privilege to recommend them as a most valuable tonic, to all who are suffering from general debility, or from diseases arising from derangement of the liver. You are truly, E. D. FENDALL.

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