

Metallurgy and assaying, the former the art of separating metals from their ores, the latter of testing the proportion and purity of the ore; and thus, pointing out the propriety of, and the profit to be derived from, working it, may receive useful lessons from the practical suggestions of Chemistry. The manufacture of substances used in every day life, is founded on Chemistry; as of all the saline substances: the vegetable and mineral alkalies: fermentation in its various forms, as distilling, brewing, making vinegar: the manufacture of sugar, soap; the art of bleaching, dyeing, tanning, calico printing, glass making, and numberless other operations, are but the result of Chemical actions, and demonstrate, that even in the management of common operations, the practical man may derive permanent advantages resulting from an acquaintance with Chemistry. We cannot go abroad into our streets at night, without the laws of Chemistry being a "light to our path;" every lamp is a Chemical phenomenon, every gas light a Chemical illustration; no longer is "darkness visible;" in our chief streets the beams of Chemical action, radiating in all directions, almost put to the blush the fires of the noon day sun, and spread over our homes, as seen from a distance, a halo resembling that part of the heavens known as the milky way, that galaxy of accumulated lustre from innumerable stars. No longer do we appear, as whilome we did in a "dim religious light" mysterious figures, spectral shades, hypothetical entities, now, de facto, illuminated by Chemistry, we appear as real and positive existences, beings instinct with life, forms possessed of determinate physical boundaries.

Let me not forget the less solar, though equally effective Camphine, a discovery of late years, a fluid whose vapour is as inflammable as gas, and whose illuminating power is quite equal to it, and which is destined to be the spirit to enlighten you in this room; may it prove efficacious, may it enable you to perceive that every act of "this breathing world" is intimately associated with the science which I here intend to make as familiar as possible. And recently, too, the application of electro-galvanism as a motive power, and an agent in decomposing salts of metals, for plating and gilding; the discovery of the Daguerreotype, or photograph, the instantaneous fixing, and accurate imprint of an object on a polished metallic surface, exposed to the strong solar rays, acting on iodine, have shed an additional lustre on Chemistry, and exhibit still more its omnipresence.

The loss of our lives within the last 12 months at Quebec, by the deadly effect of carbonic acid gas, ought, of itself, to urge the study of laws, which thus "feelingly" affect our very lives. We certainly cannot repress or prevent this spontaneous Chemical action in the regions below; yet, surely, were the knowledge more generally extended, even the common vulgus would participate in the benefit to be thence derived, and at all events four men could not be found who one by one would precipitate themselves into such a yawning gulph. While on the subject, I may mention, that a plan has been recommended for extinguishing fire on board of ship, by the formation of this gas; the plan would answer were the fire smouldering but raging and furious I cannot conceive that even the specific gravity of the gas could preponderate over the expansive force of heat.

Enough, perhaps more than enough, has been said to urge the study of this branch of Medicine, upon the attention at least of the Medical Student; enough to point out the intimate connection between it and other subjects of general interest and utility, with which you, as educated and scientific men, should be not only acquainted, but intimately, thoroughly versed.

PATHOLOGY OF NEURALGIA.

Dr. Skae claims for himself the discovery, that neuralgia is dependent on congestion taking place in a nerve, in a part where, from the rigidity of the neighboring structures, as, for instance, in osseous canals, a ready diffusion of the pressure cannot take place.—*Lon. Med. Times.*