

fectly performed, as the silver in any jeweller's shop will testify, and we therefore have as the most common impregnations, sulphuretted hydrogen, carbonic acid, and sulphurous acid, any of which are as deleterious, if not more so, than the carburetted hydrogen, or carbonic oxyde gases.

It is not a little singular that all the medical witnesses and the coroner, should have agreed in the statement, that the "carbonic oxyde gas was the active portion or poisonous part of the gas, and the heavier." On examination they will find, unless we are grievously mi-taken, that it is the *lightest* of all the constituents of the coal gas, the ammoniacal compounds alone, probably excepted. But the coal gas is a mixed gas, and therefore, the poisonous effects are due, not to any one gaseous ingredient of its composition, but to the combined effects of all, every one of them being to a greater or less extent deleterious when inhaled.

There are numerous examples on record of poisoning by coal gas, not a few of them fatal. To what extent coal gas may become mixed with atmospheric air, and that mixed air prove respirable for any length of time, without inducing bad effects, may never be known with precision. There is some reason for believing that a mixture of 8 or 9 per cent. of coal gas, will prove deleterious if not fatal, if inhaled for a length of time. If mixed with eleven parts of air, it becomes explosive on the approach of flame, and these facts tend to shew that the employment of coal gas, as a means of illumination, requires great caution on the part of those who use it. We would esteem it a favour if some of the medical gentlemen who were engaged in the professional attendance on Miss Kerr, would furnish this Journal, with a detail of the symptoms as they were developed in the several members of this unfortunate family.

HOMŒOPATHY.

It is really pitiable to witness the shifts, which sometimes otherwise excellent men resort to, to secure their object. For that purpose no scheme, however dishonourable, is deemed so; and even prevarication, the evidence of a distorted mind, is esteemed right and proper, provided the end be attained, much upon the principle, false as its own meaning however, that the end sanctions the means. We have been led into reflections of this kind, by certain proceedings among the globulists, lately in St. Louis, who sought to obtain a portion of the City Hospital, in which to treat patients, on what they are pleased to term their own principles, and among the arguments employed in their petition to the City Council, they observed that "Homœopathy was sanctioned by the crowned heads and nobility of Europe, and that European governments recognised it, by permitting its teaching and practice in their Hospitals." It appears, however, that a gentleman addressed a note to the American ministers resident at Vienna and Berlin, and to the Minister of Public Instruction in France, asking a reply to the following questions:

1st. "Is the teaching of Homœopathy authorized or permitted in any of the Colleges or Institutes of your Government?"