my books and more to my judgment and every day experience. If I be what he supposes, my every day experience will teach me that the numbers I mentioned are the correct ones, and no others are in accordance with fact—my judgment will have little to do with the matter.

The latter part (a quotation) of this paragraph is unhappily chosen, as it militates directly against Mr. R. and proves what I have stated. The most accurate chemists have been unable to detect any difference between the composition of air taken from hospitals and crowded theatres and that from freely exposed places. Mr. Ruttan refers all the ill effects of such air to carbonic acid (I beg his pardon-or something) and yet a mere trace would not escape the notice of the veriest bungler that ever executed a chemical analysis. Let it be remarked that I have never made any reference to the presence or absence of miasm or malaria, that mysterious agent which, it cannot be doubted, is the cause of innumerable diseases, although its properties are such that the most expert analysis have failed to detect its presence or ascertain its nature, even when their attention was particularly directed to it; but miasm is not carbonic acid, and if Mr. Ruttan criticises my remarks on the one as if applying to the other, he is only continuing that system of misrepresentation (I can call it nothing else) by which he vainly hopes to render me ridiculous in the eyes of your readers.

In paragraph 14 he quotes Chambers' Chemistry to prove that carbonic acid accurrul ites in wells, caverns, &c. Had Mr. Ruttan Leer able to understand plain English, he would have seen that the very allocation of the words shows that the writer of that excellent treatise ascribes the accumulation of the gas to the very same causes that I mentioned, and not to a separation as according to Mr. R.'s theory.

If the quantity of gas in the Grotto and in the Valley of Death be owing to its separating from the air, why, in the name of all that is wonderful, are not such phenomena to be observed on every part of the earth's surface ?

But, Mr. Editor, I have already occupied too much space, and you must be as heartily tired of the subject as I am. There is not one single paragraph in Mr. Ruttan's communication which could not be thoroughly picked to pieces, excepting perhaps some of those on ventilation, which, as I said before, has nothing to do with the subject under discussion, and on which I have never ventured any remarks.

In conclusion, I would observe that I cannot agree with your correspondent in courting a further discussion of the subject, at least in the manner in which it has been as yet conducted. Let him bring to the discussion some slight adherence to facts and principles, some moderate acquaintance with the subject under consideration, and I will be perfectly willing to continue the argument; I shall be as ready to receive correction and information as I am desirous to impart it, but under the present circumstances I shall beg to decline any further correspondence on the subject of,

Mr. Editor,

Your still surviving correspondent, CARBONIC ACID.

As the discussion, so far, of the character of Carbonic Acid, has by some means or other induced an amount of caloric, which, if allowed to accumulate, might eventually occasion a very undesirable and inconvenient expansion of this gaseous subject ;-we hope that Mr. Ruttan (who is entitled, by the common usage of literary warfare, to a rejoinder) will not allow the matter to terminate without enlightening us and our readers on what after all is by far the most useful and important part of the whole question, viz., the modus operandi of his system of ventilation. The somewhat jocose remarks of his aerial antagonist were not, we feel certain, intended to apply to Mr. Ruttan's method of ventilating, but simply to correct, by a little pleasantry, a few inadvertent mistakes. That Carbonic Acid, with his extensive and accurate knowledge of physical science. can essentially aid Mr. Ruttan in carrying out his important and most praiseworthy objects, we aro quite confident, and our pages shall always be open to their communications.

A Lecture on Geology.

Dr. Antisell delivered the second lecture of his course on geology, a few evenings ago, in Clinton Hall, New York, before a numerous and intelligent audience. The subject was "The Carboniferous Period of the Globe—the Nature and Origin of Coal."

The Doctor commenced by observing that it was impossible within the space of four lectures, to present any thing like a correct and ample view of the present position of geological science. These lectures had for their object rather to stimulate than to gratify curiosity; and the periods comprised within the four lectures, to which the course was limited, were selected, not because they had any interconnection : but rather that by the contrast which they afforded, panoramic sketches of a former world were presented, and the mind of the hearer dwelt with more satisfaction upon a few epochs, the characteristic life of which was clearly placed before him, rather than in a condensed summary of progressive changes and repeated developements of new species. In the first lecture the primitive condition of the globe was pourtrayed—its passage from a chaotic mixture of land and water, with a hazy and probably a more elevated atmosphere, to a condition in which the land had arisen to a considerable elevation above the water level, producing thus greater depths of ocean, and the more powerful influences exerted by water in motion. At the close of that period, life dawned on the creation; and it was almost impossible to say whether the first traces of life belonged to the animal or vegetable kingdom. The total life, however, was marine, neither the earth nor the atmosphere appearing to possess the conditions necessary to support life. The chief inhabitants of the deep were molluses and crestaceans, and towards the close of the silurian period, or that in which the New York system of rocks were deposited, Fishes commenced to appear, differing in organization from those who now inhabit our seas. At the present time, quite a new creation was presented, totally distinct from the pre-