



DOORWAY IN A MINE.

Ventilation in mines is secured by having doors or brattices erected at proper places in order to divert or conduct the air in its proper course. As the doors are so arranged that the pressure of the air tends to keep them closed it is necessary to have a boy at each door to open it and keep it open while the car passes through, and this is what our picture illustrates. Genuine helpers about a mine are the "door boys"; patient little fellows who serve their part in the grand aggregate and do it well.

The importance of artificial means of ventilating a mine can scarcely be overestimated. Not only are there hundreds of men and mules to be supplied with pure air, but in many cases noxious gas escapes in more or less volume from the walls of every room and passage; this must be drawn off ere it accumulates, for when a certain percentage is present in the air most serious consequences will ensue.