

OUR BLUENOSE CLUB.

Next time we assembled, Mr. Rod inquired of Mr. Cage, whether coal mines did not give off sufficient gas to be utilized as is the natural gas at Pittsburg, Pa.

"Yes," replied Cage. "A German mining engineer has been making some measurements and calculations relative to the emission of fire-damp in mines not subject to blowers. He estimates, that from the Nien Iselohm Colliery there is given off annually about 320 million cubic feet of carbonated hydrogen; and that the seven most fiery mines of Westphalia yield, in the aggregate, an annual quantity of not less than 1,380 million cubic feet. There ought to be some plan devised for utilizing this enormous quantity of a useful gas, which is now allowed to waste away into the atmosphere."

The *American Engineer*, from which I gather the above, states that a scientist, lecturing in Philadelphia on coal, says it takes a prodigious amount of vegetable matter to form a layer of coal; and estimates that the present growth of the world would make a layer only 1-8 of an inch thick, and that it would take a million years to form a coal bed 100 feet thick. There is in the United States an area of 440,000 square miles of coal fields; 100,000,000 tons of coal were mined in that country last year, and there is enough coal in the United States to supply the whole world for period of 1500 to 2000 years.

"Here," said Mr. Rod, "is an article from the *The Garden*, on the endurance of different kinds of woods. 'In some tests made with small squares of various kinds of wood buried one inch in the ground, the following results were noted:—Birch and aspen decayed in three years; willow and horse-chestnut in four years; maple and red beech in five years; elm, ash, hornbeam, and Lombardy poplar in seven years; oak, Scotch fir, Weymouth pine, and silver fir decayed to a depth of half-an-inch in seven years; larch, juniper and arbor-vita were uninjured at the expiration of seven years.'"

"Have you got some scraps of miscellaneous information for us, asked somebody of the chemist.

"The chemist was a little man of a nervous, excitable temperament, and when thus addressed, he thoughtfully smoothed down an imaginary lock of hair on a remarkably bald spot on the top of his head, and then observed—"The greatest novelty in flowers this year is a tea rose, of the most dazzling scarlet hue. It was originally grown in England, and has only just appeared in this country. It is attracting much attention among florists.

The *Scientific American* says the latest and most ingenious way of getting rid of roaches and water-bugs, we have heard of, is told by a citizen of Schenectady, whose kitchen was infested with them. A servant hearing that toads were an antidote, caught three ordinary hop toads, and put them in the kitchen. Not a roach or a water-bug, it is stated, can now be found in the house. The toads have become domesticated, never wander about the house, and are so cleanly and inoffensive that there is no objection to their presence.

Another use for toads is to employ them for insect destroyers in the garden. They are determined enemies of all kinds of snails and slugs, which it is well known can in a single night destroy a vast quantity of lettuce, carrots, asparagus, etc. Toads are also kept in vineyards, where they devour during the night millions of insects that escape the pursuit of nocturnal birds, and might commit incalculable havoc on the buds and young shoots of the vine. In Paris, toads are an article of merchandise. They are kept in tubs, and sold at the rate of two francs a dozen. The same paper has a receipt for indelible ink for paper. Its indelibility depends on the fact that when bichromate of potassium and gelatine come together, particularly in the form of a thin film, in the presence of daylight, the film becomes insoluble in hot or cold water. A good formula is the following:—Gelatine 2 grs., bichromate of potash 2 grs., nigrosine 10 grs., water 1 fl. oz. Dissolve the gelatine and nigrosine in most of the water, and the bichromate of potash in the remainder. Mix the two solutions in an amber-coloured bottle. If it is found that the ink "gums" in the pen, the quantity of gelatine and bichromate may be reduced somewhat. But the ink, when properly made, and dry, cannot be entirely removed from paper by hot or cold water, acids, or alkalis."

"A good deal has been said through the papers about the healthfulness of lemons," remarked the doctor. "The latest advice is how to use them, so that they will do most good, as follows:—Most people know the benefit of lemonade before breakfast, but few know that it is more than doubled by taking another at night also. The way to get the better of the bilious system without blue pills or quinine is to take the juice of one, two, or three lemons, as appetite craves, in as much ice-water as makes it pleasant to drink, without sugar, before going to bed. In the morning, on rising, at least a half-hour before breakfast, take the juice of one lemon in a goblet of water. This will clear the system of humour and bile with efficiency, without any of the weakening effects of calomel or Congress water. People should not irritate the stomach by eating lemons clear; the powerful acid of the juice, which is always most corrosive, invariably produces inflammation after a while, but, properly diluted, so that it does not burn or draw the throat, it does its medical work without harm, and, when the stomach is clear of food has abundant opportunity to work over the system thoroughly, says a medical authority."

Manganese dioxide is coming to be used instead of lamp black in the best printing and marking inks.

Golfer, to test the hardness of metals, draw upon their polished surfaces, with a pin cylindrical in form and drawn out to a conical point, the pressure and distance being carefully observed, and the effect upon the surfaces was the measure of the hardness.

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