formations, by the enormous caverns known to exist to the south and west in Europe, and by the fact of the great depressions or fallings in of the earth's crust represented by the Dead Sea and the Caspian Basins. M. Struve is engaged in further investigating the subject. An artisian boring, of two or three thousand feet deep, might possibly pierce into this vast Russian Hades beneath their sacred city, or failing to do so, might elate all Pansclavism with the hope that to the north and south of the ancient capital, they possessed beneath the surface enormous banks of platina or gold, wolfram or lead, or some such heavy material.

The Annamite Ambassdors in Paris.

The Annamite Ambassadors are objects of great curiosity in Paris. Their appearance cannot be said to be prepossessing, and cleanliness they seem to look upon as a crime. Like the Chinese and Japanese they dispense with pocket-handkerchiefs, but the square pieces of paper which the former use as a substitute, either have not found their way to the kingdom of Annam, or are considered there as one of the superfluities of exaggerated civilization. The consequences are not pleasant to witness, the change of climate having affected some of the distinguished visitors with *coryza*. It has also been seen with surprise that the chief dignitaries among them alone wear shoes—rank with the Annamites being outwardly marked by the covering for the feet. They are great smokers, and are hardly ever to be seen without a cigar or cigarette in their, mouth, and they are said to show a lively appreciation of French *cuisine;* they are fond of champagne and truffles in particular meet with their approbation; they are even said to prefer this savoury tuper to their favourite dish at home—pickled caterpillars. Like other countries, the empire at Annam possesses several orders of chivalry—the Order of the "Elephant's Tusk," and that of the "Horn of the Rhinoceros" being the principal. These honorary marks of distinction are not, it is stated, greatly coveted, as the insignia weighs, according to the various classes, from 15 to 100 pounds, so that a grand cross is exposed literally to sink beneath the the weight of his sovereign's favour.

Death from the Bite of a Fly.

One not unfrequently reads in French papers of deaths occasioned by the bite of a fly that has been feeding on some putrid substance. A case of this kind occurred a few days ago at Pessac, a village in the department of the Gironde. The man bitten paid no attention at first to so trifling a matter, but violent inflammation and pain came on the same night, and on the second day he died. The papers are continually impressing upon the country people the importance of burying carcases and offal, which are too frequently left in the fields and in the ditches by the road-side. In several departments the prefects have found it necessary to decree the interment of such noxious substances. [A similar fatal result from the bite of a fly occurred in Toronto during the last summer.]

Novel Application of Water Power.

Just forty years since, M. Fourneyron commenced a series of experiments in water power, which resulted in his invention of the turbine or horizontal water-wheel. Since that period considerable improvements have been made in the turbine by different persons, the chief and most useful having been effected by Mr. Schiele, of Manchester, whose ingenious applications of mechanical curves seem to have been fully adapted by him for the production of this form of motive power. One form of his arrangement for supplying power we have recently seen (working the bellows of a powerful organ) at the residence of a citizen of Manchester, where the impression was given that, if all the results achieved by Mr. Schiele be equally successful, a new feature will be rapidly developed in applying water power, especially in cases where a small amount of power may be required at irregular periods; as in the case of working the bellows of organs, driving small lathes, fans for ventilation, printing and other presses, sewing machines, washing machines, &c. In the house referred to, a water-wheel, 4 ft, in diameter, consuming 15 gallons of high pressure water per minute, formerly employed to work the bellows of an organ in the drawing-room over the cellar wherein the water power was produced, has been replaced by a turbine only 1¼ in. in diameter, with a 3-in. case 1¼ in. wide, supplied by a ⅜-in. pipe, and consuming less than a gallon of water per minute. An ingenious and yet very simple economical regulator, invented by Mr. Eccleston, organ builder of this city, works in connection with the apparatus just mentioned, by means of which the organist may easily supply his instrument with the required wind by simply turning a handle near the organ. By availing themselves of the ample supply of high pressure water secured to the city by our Corporation, all persons using machines requiring a small amount of power appear, now to have supplied to them by this invention the means of working their machines with no trouble and at a trifling cost: while at the same time this kind of turbine appears to be equally well adapted for turning large mills and works, even when they require several hundreds of horses' power. Orders are now being executed by Messrs. Schiele & Co. for the construction of 50 small turbines, to be used as direct-action fans (the turbine and fan being on one spindle) for the production of the new gas obtained from petroleum. Several powerful turbines will shortly be at work in this locality, when our readers will be able to see and judge for themselves of the extraordinary yet simple effect of this new water engine, which seems to be equally suited for the requirements of the sewing machine in a lady's boudoir, the washing machine and mangle in the laundry, or the hydraulic press and hoist in our huge warehouses. In fact wherever our Corporation waterworks will enable persons to turn a water tap, and thus to supply at a moment's notice the power required, these machines will be available; while all the risk from fire and the cost and troube of steam boilers and engines will be avoided. —*Manchester Guardian.*

Preservation of Meat.

It is worth knowing at this time of the year that meat may be kept sweet for a long time in an atmosphere strongly impregnated with acetic acid. The meat is placed on a wooden support, or suspended, in a close vessel, on the bottom of which some strong acetic acid is poured.—*Dingler's Polytechnic Journal.*