Mr. H. Lamonte,—

Regarding Pocohontas coal. This is of course a semi-bituminous coal of very select grade, but there are other fields down in that district that pan out nearly on the same basis as Pocohontas. There are semi-bituminous fields in Penn., Md., W. Va. and Va. The Pocohontas fields are in Virginia, the New River in West Virginia, while Cumberland in Maryland, and several counties in Pennsylvania, produce semi-bituminous coal. You generally find anthracite coal the highest in ash. So far as slate is concerned, slate is generally found in mines as a layer between different coal, and it depends on the care that is taken in getting the coal out the amount of slate that will be found in the coal.

Mr. T. B. Cole,—

This coal question has always been somewhat of a mystery to me and I do not know but what the mystery has been deepened rather than made clearer this evening. While these papers are very nice and interesting to hear, and I think we should have more of them, yet there are some points of practical interest to engineers on the coal question that we should endeavor to get cleared up while we are on the subject. We are supposed to have a considerable amount of Pocohontas coal, yet we have had the smoke inspector down more than once complaining that we were making too much smoke. My experience has been that we engineers have to take whatever kind of coal is given us. Down at our place we use two or three different kinds of coal for different purposes. Pocohontas coal which is supposed to be a smokeless coal we use for some of our ovens; lump anthracite for others, and pea anthracite we use for our producing gas plant. My experience has been that we engineers have to take what coal is supplied us.

A question I might ask, and I think it is an important one. Is a certain amount of moisture in coal detrimental to it? I have also heard that hydrogen in coal is an advantage to it and will increase the heating value.

Mr. H. Lamonte,—

Hydrogen when present in combination with carbon is an advantage. Any good effect the moisture has is mechanical. It is true that once the moisture or steam is disassociated the hydrogen burns with great heat, but in order to get hydrogen from steam you have first got to expend the same amount of energy in order to get the hydrogen from the steam, as you will get in burning it again. You will see you have to expend more energy in separating the hydrogen from the water in order to