

intrude obstacles to its introduction, but that light, good light, cheap light, at one quarter of its present price, may be immediately enjoyed by all, and we advise our readers, when they pass that noble pile, the "Astor House," at night, just to take a peep at the new water gas, and make their own comparison. The splendid drawing-room for ladies, when lighted, looks almost supernatural and fairy like, and when we enter the reading room, we find the light soft and pleasant to the eye—very different to the killing coal gas and spirit lamps.—*New York Herald.*

WATER BEDS FOR INVALIDS.

The most of us are contented with a good feather bed to rest upon when we are weary, but there are instances when even the softest becomes hard to the invalid. Water has been substituted for leathers, with good advantage. Its fluidity is such that it will accommodate itself to the inequalities of the form, and thus produces equal pressure upon every part of the body. This was an invention of Dr. Arnot.

Prof. Brown thus speaks of it in the last number of the Practical Christian:—"It consists of a trough of a convenient length and breadth, and a foot deep, half filled with water, over which a sheet of caoutchouc cloth large enough to reach the bottom is thrown. The edges of the cloth are varnished and securely fastened to the top of the trough. Over this a thin soft mattress is laid with pillows and bed clothes in the usual way.

The great advantage of this bed for a surgical patient consists in lessening and equalizing the pressure of the body whilst lying. Those parts of the body which touch an ordinary bed, from compression, receive a smaller supply of blood than the rest; and as in sickness the patient is often too weak to turn frequently without assistance, the consequence is that the pressed part mortifies and sloughs off. This disastrous result, (the cause of many deaths,) may be entirely prevented by using the hydrostatic bed. With it wounds may be dressed, and other necessary operations performed, by depressing the mattress at any particular part, which the water underneath readily allows, so that in extreme cases the patient may not require to be moved at all.

It is indeed surprising that this admirable invention has not come into general use.—Dr. Arnot, with his accustomed liberality, declined taking out a patent for it. It can, therefore, be made at a cheaper rate than most any other bed, whilst in every respect it is by far the best bed for patients who may be confined to the horizontal posture for a very considerable time.

The inhabitants of a village might subscribe for a hydrostatic bed, and use it in common, as it might be needed. Great comfort and advantage to the sick would accrue from such an arrangement. Let some of our more spirited villages set the example.

ABSORBENT POWER OF THE EARTH USED AS PREVENTIVE OF DISEASE.

The earth is a powerful absorbent, and will prevent the spread of disease. If we have a dead animal, or anything which becomes troublesome to the olfactories by reason of unpleasant odors produced by decomposition, we bury it in the earth, and immediately everything of the kind is neutralized. It is remarkable how small and thin a coating of earth will oftentimes effect this. In some of the southern cities, where the cholera has been prevalent, an observing gentleman has taken advantage of this fact and applied it practically to the neutralization of the *malaria* which is supposed to produce it. This he does by noting the place where the pestilence first broke out, and covering all the filthy and neglected puddles and sewers, or other fountains of foul air, with *clear, fresh sand*, and on this a sprinkling of fresh lime or plaster of Paris. By following up this course he has been uncommonly successful in checking the prevalence of this terrible disease.

THE TELESCOPE AND MICROSCOPE.

It was the telescope that, by piercing the obscurity which lies between us and distant worlds put infidelity in possession of the argument against which we are now contending. But about the time of its invention another instrument was formed which laid open a scene no less wonderful, and rewarded the inquisitive spirit of man with a discovery which serves to neutralize the whole of this argument. This was the microscope. The one led me to see a system in every star; the other leads me to see a world in every atom. The one taught me that this mighty globe, with the whole burden of its people and of its countries, is but a grain of sand on the high field of immensity; the other teaches me that every grain of sand may harbor within it the tribes and the families of a busy population. The one told me of the insignificance of the world I tread upon; the other redeems it from all its insignificance, for it tells me that in the leaves of every forest, and in the flowers of every garden, and in the waters of every rivulet, there are worlds teeming with life, and numberless as are the glories of the firmament. The one has suggested to me, that beyond and above all that is visible to man, there may lie fields of creation which sweep immeasurably along, and carry the impress of the Almighty's hand to the remotest scenes of the Universe; the other suggests to me, that within and beneath all the minuteness which the aided eye of man has been able to explore, there may lay a region of invisibles; and that, could we draw aside the mysterious curtain which shrouds it from our senses we might there see a theatre of as many wonders as astronomy has unfolded, a universe within the compass of a point so small as to elude all the powers of the microscope, but where the wonder working God finds room for the exercise of all his attri-