

LIGHT SCIENCE—THE CAT BATTERY.

NATURE knows no waste. At least scientists have been acting upon this principle. From what we can gather from an article in a late issue of *Electrical Review*, we are on the eve, or rather daybreak, of the brilliant application of a hitherto superfluous article to practical use. The cat has long been waiting—impatiently so at times, we have thought—bemoaning her fate with no uncertain sound; but now, if science speaks aright, she is to be elevated to her true position to shed light upon a darkened world. "Every dog has his day," 'tis said; but soon every cat shall have her day, especially in the night.

This may be another example of *Transformation of Energy*—sound, motion (visible), electricity, light. These are subjects of which we may be justified in making light. From pressure of space, as well as other reasons, we must omit illustrations and prolonged details. Imagination and memory may recall illustrations, and the details are principally concerned with connections, regulators, etc. We clip a paragraph or two for the benefit of young scientists and those interested in "Light Science for Leisure Hours:"

As early as 2306 B.C., Sarcophagus, the Egyptian philosopher, accidentally discovered the electric energy of the cat. Having accidentally sat upon his private cat one evening, while that pampered animal was taking a nap in the arm-chair, he was surprised to find himself enriched with a violently galvanic sensation, together with a sudden desire to stand up and say something. Subsequent investigations led him to the conclusion that the energy of the cat, like latent heat, might be developed by sudden compression. He gave this theory to the world in a celebrated treatise which he wrote that night on the mantel-piece; but eventually died without discovering the true nature of the phenomenon. But after this the domestic Egyptian cat was never sat upon—a fact which gave rise to the modern belief that it was a sacred animal. Two centuries later Obeliskus Mummi, the famous metaphysician of Memphis, while experimenting with two cats suspended from a clothes-line, observed that a strong repulsion existed between them, but was ignorant of its cause. Various other philosophers commented upon cats, and endeavored to explain these phenomena, but it remained for Benjamin Franklin to reveal the long