

## THE DISADVANTAGES OF GAS-LIGHT.

AS compared with the incandescent electric light, Mr. Edison gives the following views on the existing system of gas lighting:

"Gas is a barbarous and wasteful light. The distribution of gas through a city is done by means of an immense system of sewerage pipe, through which it is forced and kept under pressure—a gas reeking with impure material and made by a dozen different processes. This gas is allowed to escape through holes into our apartments, where it is burnt, taking oxygen from the air to support combustion, the products of which are carbonic acid, carbonic oxide, sulphuric acid, sulphuretted hydrogen, and a host of other substances which vitiate the atmosphere. It thus gives 98½ per cent. more heat than light; in fact, the result of the vile poison is almost entirely heat, and only incidentally a little light. It is a yellow light, too, and far removed from the color of natural light, and it is charged for by quantity and not by quality, for it is passed through meters which measure the QUANTITY and not the QUALITY of the light—certainly a wrong system. At the source of supply the crude material from which this gas is made, namely, the coal, is passed through a distillation process, by which it is liberated from the other constituents of the coal, more or less imperfectly. It is then stowed in the *gasometer* ready for distribution. This is one half the process. The other and final portion of the process takes place in our sitting and bed rooms, much to the detriment of our health, our sight and our household effects. In other words, matter is sent into dwellings for the ostensible purpose of producing light, whereas its main product is heat."

Increase of light by gas only increases the heating and