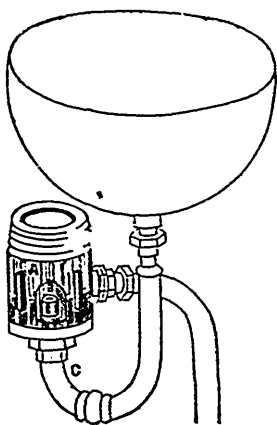


FOUL COURT-ROOMS PREVENT CLEAR JUDGMENT.—On a number of occasions we have drawn attention to the very badly constructed and badly ventilated state of most of the Court-rooms in this country. Judges and others in attendance have suffered greatly on account of the foul air in court-rooms. Dr. H. James, of Belleville, once examined the air taken from a crowded court-room in that city, and, of course, found it very foul. He says: "I maintain, according to the laws of physiological chemistry, that it would be impossible for judges, attorneys, teachers or children, in crowded rooms to put forth a healthy mental effort under such unfavorable conditions to health. The effort to retain one's judgment and clearness of mind under such peculiarly painful influences, would in a short time injure the constitution and destroy life." It may be that the foul air is sometimes responsible for some peculiar verdicts and judgments.



THE MERCURY SEAL TRAP.

The water, when discharged from the basin, enters the reservoir *A*, and the inverted glass cup *B* is raised nearly to the top, allowing free egress to the water. As the water recedes, the cup falls back into the mercury surrounding the end of the inlet pipe *C*, thus making a perfectly air-tight joint, which cannot be broken or unsealed by evaporation or syphonage.

INFANT MILK-FOOD.—A late number of *Science*, on the authority of a German Scientific Journal, refers to a process for preserving milk, which makes this exceptionally useful for sick infants. It consists in simply putting new milk without any addition into glass bottles, stoppering and then heating them by steam for one or two hours to a temperature from 212 to 248 degrees, under a pressure of from two to four atmospheres. The milk is "not merely rendered capable of preservation but the casein is peptonized, so that in contact with the gastric juice it is converted into fine, easily divisible and digestible flocks, as in the milk of a non-ruminant animal." Any contagiums too, as of foot-and-mouth disease or tuberculosis, with all germs, are destroyed by the heating. Cow's milk treated in this way, it appears, is not coagulated by rennet, and even when acidified or allowed to sour, yields "a fine granular coagulum," which the infant can digest without distress.

CONSCIOUSNESS.—An interesting article on the investigations of the past few years, into the physiology of the brain and psychology, in the *New York Medical Record* for November, concludes as follows:—Has anything in our investigation given us a clue to the origin and meaning of consciousness? Nothing. Consciousness is an ultimate fact, beyond which we cannot go, and all attempts to explain the transition from the unconscious to consciousness are mere tricks to evade the real question. The materialistic hypothesis regards the soul as a function of organized matter, the result of vibrating molecules in the same sense that heat is the result of such vibrations. But this is entirely untenable. The step from vibrating molecules to thought and feeling is an impassable one, and that unconscious atoms should become conscious by agglomeration into complex molecules is simply unthinkable. Our immediate knowledge is that of consciousness. Consciousness is the fact; matter, the inference.