cent, and more distinguished for honesty than for cunning, espied a Tartar mounted on a horse, whom he thought it would be a valuable trophy to capture and bring into camp. To this end, the Dutchman, seizing a favourable oppurtunity, sprang upon the horse behind the Tartar, and clasped him tightly about the waist. The Tartar, as may be supposed, clapped spurs to his horse, and made of to join his troop, and the last that was known of the unfortunate Dutchman by his comrades, was his going at a furious pace towards the Turkish army behind his intended captive, and singing out at the top of his voice—"*I've caught a Tartar.*"

Iodine and Carbolic Acid.

The *Journal des Connaissancè Medicales* publishes a letter addressed to Dr. Caffe on Dr. Percy Boulton's late discovery of the action of carbolic acid on iodine. "The inconvenience," says the writer, "attending the external application of iodine and its preparations is so serious that physicians are often compllled to abandon a remedy the therapeutic efficacy of which is undoubted, nay almost unequalled in *materia medica*. The great objection to the external use of this remedy is, that it leaves marks both on the linen and on the skin. This is a sufficient motive for seeking some means of getting rid of this drawback, especially in the case of ladies. Dr. Percy Boulton's method consists in adding a few drops of phenic (carbolic) acid to the iodine solution to be employed. This addition renders iodine perfectly colorless, so that it may be applied with impunity. But this combination has another advantage. It appears from that practitioner's observations, which I can confirm, that, so administered, carbolate of iodine, which is the new substance in question, is not only one of the most powerful antiseptics we possess, but is intrinsically a more efficacious agent than iodine alone. I have used this compound under the form of injections, gargles, and lotions, in all cases in which iodine is prescribed. In sore throat, ozæna, abscess in the ear, etc., this preparation is a sovereign remedy; since, besides its disinfecting qualities, it modifies the mucous membrane, causes all local sensibility to dissappear, and cures the patient much sooner than if either of the two agents were employed separately. The formula I employ is as follows: Compound tincture of iodine, 3 gms.; pure liquid carbolic acid, 6 drops; glycerine, 30 gms.; distilled water, 150 gms. The writer then enters more particularly into the properties of carbolic acid, but with which our readers are already acquainted. Its efficacy as a disinfectant agent in the case of sores is well known; it may be prescribed in all cases in which tar water is administered, and is, we trust, now pretty generally adopted for disinfecting purposes in hospitals and barracks. —*Scientific American.*

London Gas Supply.

The London gas companies, thirteen in number, it is proposed to consolidate into four gigantic corporations, the city to be divided into four districts, so that one corporation will supply gas to each of these districts. During 1866 these thirteen companies supplied London with the enormous amount of 8,653,000,000 cubic feet of gas.

On Sleep.

No person who passes only eight hours in bed can be said to "waste time in sleep." According to Gorget, a woman should sleep a couple of hours longer than a man. For the latter he allows six or seven hours, for the former, eight or nine. It is certain that strength or energy of brain will, when aided by custom, modify the faculty of controlling the disposition to slumber. Frederick the Great, and Hunter the great surgeon, slept only five hours in the twenty-four, while Napoleon seemed to exert a despotic power over sleep and waking, even amid the roar of artillery. An engineer has been known to fall asleep within a boiler while his fellows were beating on the outside with their ponderous hammers; and the repose of a miller is not incommoded by the noise of his mill. Sound ceases to be stimulus to such men, and what would have proved an inexpressible annoyance to others, is to them altogether unheeded. It is common for carriers to sleep on horseback, and coachmen on their coaches. During the battle of the Nile, some boys were so exhausted, that they fell asleep on deck, amid the deafening thunder of that terrible engagement.

The faculty of remaining asleep for a great length of time is possessed by some individuals. Such was the case with Quin, the celebrated player, who could slumber for twenty-four hours successively; with Elizabeth Orvin, who spent three-fourths of her time in sleep; with Elizabeth Perkins, who slept for a week or a fortnight at a time; with Mary Lyall, who did the same for successive weeks; and with many others more or less remarkable. In Bowyer's Life of Beattie, a curious anecdote is related of Dr. Reid, viz.:—That he could take as much food and immediately as much sleep as were sufficient for two days. The celebrated Gen. Elliot never slept more than four hours out of the twenty-four. In other respects he was strikingly abstinent; his food consisted wholly of bread, water and vegetables. In a letter communicated to Sir John Sinclair, by John Gordon of Swiny, Caithness, mention is made of a person named James Mackay of Sherry, who died in Strathnaver, in the year 1797, aged ninety-one; he only slept on an average, four hours in twenty-four, and was a remarkably robust and healthy man. The celebrated French General Pichegrue informed Sir Richard Blanc that during his whole year's campaign he had not above one hour's sleep in the twenty-four. Macish knew a lady who never slept above an hour at a time and the whole period of whose sleep did not exceed three or four hours in the twenty-four; and yet she enjoyed excellent health.

Rapid Printing.

A gentleman from Paris says: Rapidity of printing has just been carried out in France, to a degree far exceeding anything which has yet been accomplished in machine work, and out-stripping the famous American machines which were supposed to have realized everything attainable in the way of speed. M. Marinoni has put up in the new printing offices of the *Petit Journal* (a half-penny daily paper), a machine of his invention, which prints 600 copies a minute. Four of these powerful machines turn out 144,000 copies an hour, the whole impression being 446,000 daily.