

THE EFFECT OF LIGHT, regarded as the revival of life in the vegetable world, has just been illustrated by the observations near Athens of Prof. Hendreich under very curious circumstances. The mines at Laurium, concerning which of late years there have been such active diplomatic procedures, consist for the most part of the scoræ produced by the workings of the ancient Greeks. These still contain a great deal of silver, which can be extracted by the superior appliances of modern times. Beneath these scoræ have lain in a doormant state for at least 1,500 years the seeds of a papaveraceous plant, of the genus *Gluucium*. But since the scoræ have been removed to the furnaces, this plant has sprung up with its pretty yellow petals, over the whole space which they covered. Unknown in modern times, it was described by Pliny and Dioscorides, and had disappeared from the face of the globe for fifteen or twenty centuries.—*Union Med.*

PRESERVATION OF FOOD BY COMPRESSED AIR.—Professor Paul Burt communicated to the Academic des Sciences some of the results of the experiments which he has long been engaged in conducting with compressed air. Specimens of meat submitted to a compression of forty-four atmospheres were found at the end of three weeks to be in a state of perfect preservation. Cutlets were declared to be in as good a condition as when quite recent, a little more tasteless perhaps. Eggs which had been beaten up and exposed to the compression on May 28 were found to be on June 28 as fresh as at first, while others beaten up at the same time and left in open vessels were frightfully stinking. Oxygen, then, at this strong tension either kills vibriones or at least prevents their development in organic matters. Fruits, as strawberries, cherries, etc., comport themselves in like manner, as also does moistened bread. The coagulation of milk is not prevented by compression, being only retarded. It thus seems that in oxygen of high tension we possess an agent for the preservation of animal and vegetable substances, which may prove of utility in scientific investigation, and perhaps in commercial pursuits.—*L'Institut*.

DEGENERATION OF THE FACTORY POPULATION.—In his evidence before the Royal commission on the working of the Factory and Workshops Acts, Dr. Ferguson, who has held office as certifying surgeon under the Factory Acts at Bolton for fourteen years, stated as the result of his observations that there