

sults. Put a man where there is no air, and he goes out, he dies; put him in a room where no more air can possibly get in, and after a time he will go out as the candle, and die. Examine what is left of the atmosphere in the room, and the nitrogen will be found remaining. The fact is, that the oxygen of the air which is necessary for the support and life of a flame is likewise that part of the air which is necessary for our support and life. Furthermore, that we cannot live in each as separately, but only when they are mixed in about the proportion mentioned. Do anything but animals breathe this air? Yes; birds, reptiles, fish, plants. Why, how do plants breathe? Examine with a microscope, a leaf, and you will discover little holes in particular portions of the leaf, through which the plant breathes. The leaves answer to lungs; the little holes are called spores. What do fish breathe? Air! How can they breathe air in the water? Because there is air *in* the water! If they are obliged to breathe air for a living, why do they die when they are out of the water and where there is lots of air? They die because there *is* lots of it, perhaps just as we would were we trying to live in pure oxygen. The quantity of air in water frequented by fish is enough for their constitutions. The more agitated the water is the more the air goes into it, and where there is little air you cannot expect to find the living beings so hearty and strong as where there is more of it. Where do you find your nice trout, your salmon, and your whales? in a nice, quiet, unruffled pond? No; in the stream and pools of dancing brooks, in waters that lash the shores, where ocean billows roar. Can you prove that there is air in water? Yes, in some waters! Take a globe full, apply a gentle heat, and the air collects in the top, which is known to be air by its properties, the only difference between it and our ordinary atmosphere being that it contains twice as much oxygen. The water, then, when it absorbs atmosphere, takes in oxygen and hydrogen, not in the proportion of 1 to 4, but 2 to 4, a very wise provision of nature for the fish.

Enough now. Next time we shall see what food is composed of, and how it is effected by oxygen, after a fuller study of oxygen.

ALONE WITH MY CONSCIENCE.

SELECTED.

I sat alone with my conscience,
In a place where time had ceased,
And we talked of my former living
In the land where the years increased;

And felt I should have to answer
The question it put to me,
And to face the answer and question
Throughout an eternity.

The ghost of forgotten actions
Came floating before my sight,
And things that I thought were dead things
Were alive with a terrible might;

And the vision of all my past life
Was an awful thing to face,
Alone with my conscience sitting
In that solemnly silent place.

And I thought of a far away warning
Of a sorrow that was to be mine,
In a land that there was the future,
But now is the present time;

And I thought of my former thinking,
Of the judgment day to be;
But sitting alone with my conscience
Seemed judgment enough for me.

And I wondered if there was future
To this land, beyond the grave;
But no one gave me an answer,
And no one came to save.

Then I felt that the future was present
And the present would never go by,
For it was the thought of my past life
Grown into eternity.

Then I woke from my timely dreaming
And the vision passed away.

And I pray that I may not forget it
In this land before the grave;
That I may not cry in the future
And no one come to save.

And so I have learned a lesson
Which I ought to have known before,
And which though I learned it dreaming,
I hope to forget no more.

So I sit alone with my conscience
In the place where the years increase,
And I try to remember the future
In the land where time will cease.

And I know of the future judgment,
How dreadful soe'er it may be,
That to sit alone with my conscience
Will be judgment enough for me.