

a nervous affection must have been induced. More generally, however, the effects are simply irritant; and the seat of the irritation will vary with the mode in which the poison is given. If it is swallowed, the stomach and intestines will suffer; if it is imprudently inhaled in too great quantity, inflammation of the lining membrane of the nostrils and air-passages will ensue. Huxham has related a very interesting example of the former affection, as it occurred in a young man, who had acquired a strange habit of chewing the solid carbonate of the shops. He was seized with great hæmorrhage from the nose, gums and intestines; his teeth dropped out; wasting and hectic fever ensued; and, although he was at length prevailed on to abandon his pernicious habit, he died of extreme exhaustion, after lingering several months.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN VOLTAIC ELECTRICITY.—Mr. Alfred Smee, the Surgeon to the bank of England, and inventor of the battery which bears his name, has announced important discoveries in animal electricity. By a test which he terms electro-voltaic, he has satisfied himself that the terminations of the sensor nerves are positive poles of a voltaic circuit, while the muscular substance is the negative pole. The sensor nerves are the telegraphs which carry the sensation to the brain, and the motor nerves carry back the volition to the muscles. The brain he infers to consist of five distinct voltaic circles, which, upon theoretical grounds he believed to be sufficient to account for all mental phenomena. Mr. Smee has succeeded in making artificial electric fish, and an artificial muscular substance. The bare announcement of such a discovery must put the whole medical world upon the alert, and in their hands for the present we leave it. Should Mr. Smee's views be confirmed by other investigators, he will establish an imperishable name in the records of physiological science.

WHITEWASH.—Take one bushel of unslacked lime, and slack it with cold water; when slacked add to it twenty pounds of Spanish whiting, seventeen pounds of salt, and twelve pounds of sugar. Strain this mixture with an iron sieve, and it will be fit for use after reducing with cold water. This is intended for the outside of buildings, or where it is exposed to the weather. Two coats should be laid on wood and three on bricks. A whitewash brush may be used for laying it on, and each coat must be dried before the next is applied. This may be made any color you please. For straw color, instead of the whiting, use yellow ochre; for lemon color, use ochre and chrome yellow; for lead or slate color, use lampblack; for blue, indigo; for green, chrome green.

USE OF LIME IN VAULTS.—There can be nothing more wasteful to the fertilizing properties of night soil, than throwing quick lime into the privies. It expels the offensive odors, it is true, but these are precisely what are most efficient and desirable as manures. It is a practice only to be tolerated by those who never make any use of the contents of their vaults. The strongly alkaline properties of the lime combine with the carbonic and other acids, already in combination with the ammonia, thus driving off the invaluable fertilizing materials of the latter. Fine charcoal, charred peat, plaster of Paris, sulphuric acid, and common copperas, (sulphate of iron,) are the best additions for vaults, where the contents are to be used as fertilizers, as they absorb the gases, ammonia, &c., and retain all for manure. If these are wanting add dry mould, or peat, tanbark, or saw dust, though these are much more

bulky than the former, in the ratio of their absorbent powers. These may be added from time to time, and when sufficiently accumulated, withdrawn for use.

When the earth contiguous to privies is exposed to saturation, by which the contents may be diluted, and thus drain off, the vaults should have perfectly tight boxes, which can be easily drawn out from behind as fast as filled. The addition of wood ashes is to be placed in the same category with lime, though these are less objectionable. The alkalis of the ashes operate in the same way as the stronger and more active alkali of the lime, though in a less intense degree. But the cinders of the ashes are absorbents of the gases, and, to the extent that they exist are directly beneficial in this combination.—*American Agriculturist.*

THE STOVE.

And here I may premise that I have condemned the open fire place for dust and cold feet, I may denounce the stove for dust, dirt and hot heads. But the condemnation of this mode of heating dwelling houses has now become nearly universal, and were it not for the want of a substitute in the matter of economy, would long ago have been exploded altogether. I shall therefore condense my remarks upon it as much as possible.

The moment you place fire or heat in the centre of a cold room, having no open flue in it, that moment every particle of air within that room is put in motion. This motion is upward from the centre of heat, and rotary, similar to the water in a boiler or cauldron placed over a fire; rising from the centre to the top, thence outward and down the sides of the boiler, until it again reaches the spot it started from, and so on. The hotter your stove gets, the more rapid will be the state of ebullition. Every step taken upon the carpet, especially when near the centre of such a room, a quantity of impalpable dust is sent to the ceiling, until the whole room fairly becomes hazy. As proof of all this, you have only to examine the tops of your book-cases, window cornices or shelves of any kind,—covered with dust; and, in the best kept room, you may wipe your name every five minutes in the day upon the furniture, especially if it be placed near the walls of the room. It is because of this motion of the air that we avoid taking a wall pew in church, there being in winter a constant current of cold air directly downward, and for the same reason this seat is preferred in summer.

The local currents of cold air in a stove heated apartment are very slight. During the time the room is heating up in the morning, the expansion of the air by rarefaction is considerably more than sufficient to supply the necessary combustion air, and consequently, instead of a draught inward it is during this period outward; but after the room has obtained its maximum of heat, even then the ingress of cold air is little more than sufficient for this purpose. A room will be heated much more rapidly when the stove is placed in a central position in the room, where all parts of the hot metal shall be freely swept by the current of air, than if it be placed near one of the walls, where but one or two of the plates are made to do the work of the whole. The feet in a stove room are kept warmer than in one having an open fire place, but the head is about thirty degrees warmer! so that the difference of temperature between the head and feet in the two cases is far greater, and therefore more injurious in a stove room than in one heated by a fire place. All these evils however, fall into utter insignificance when compared with that of respiration!—*Ruttan on Ventilation.*

KEEP BEES.—Bees cost nothing for their food, neither for their pasture in summer nor for their provisions in winter.