

BATHS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS.—Throughout the vast empire of Russia, through all Finland, Lapland, Sweden, and Norway, there is no cottage so poor, no hut so destitute, but it possesses its vapour bath, in which all its inhabitants every Saturday at least, and every day in cases of sickness, experience comfort and salubrity. It is true with us, now, the first-rate buildings generally have attached to them a private bath; but the use of them amongst the middle class is not so general as might be. In America a bath room is a part of every modern dwelling, and no one will occupy a house without one; the bath itself being provided with hot water from a peculiar and ingenious kind of cooking stove, somewhat like those used in the houses of our nobility, but on a more economical plan. In the suburban districts of London the houses generally erected have not these conveniences supplied, but it is owing to the bad management of the speculating builders; to supply these deficiencies is a moral duty they owe to all. Builders themselves must bear in mind that, during the progress of the building, a bath room might be built at half the cost, when the materials and labour are there on the spot; and that after a house is finished few are willing to incur such an additional trouble and expense. If cement were less used for external effect, which, even in the hands of a skilful architect, is rarely treated successfully, that additional expense would be saved, and the conveniences internally might be more generally attended to; and the saving in this respect might be employed for the erection of a bath room.—*Builder.*

HOW TO GET RID OF COCKROACHES.—Mr. Tewkesbury, of Nottingham, in a letter to the *Manx Sun*, says:—"I pursued an easy, clean, and certain method of eradicating these insects from dwelling houses. A few years ago my house was infested with cockroaches (or 'clock,' as they are called here,) and I was recommended to try cucumber peelings as a remedy. I accordingly, immediately before bedtime, strewed the floor of those parts of the house most infested with the vermin with the green peel, cut not very thin from the cucumber, and sat up half an hour later than usual to watch the effect. Before the expiration of that time the floor where the peel lay was completely covered with cockroaches, so much so, that the vegetable could not be seen, so voraciously were they engaged in sucking the poisonous moisture from it. I adopted the same plan the following night, but my visitors were not near so numerous—I should think not more than a fourth of the previous night. On the third night I did not discover one; but anxious to ascertain whether the house was quite clear of them, I examined the peel after I had laid it down about half an hour, and perceived that it was covered with myriads of minute cockroaches about the size of a flea. I therefore allowed the peel to lie till morning, and from that moment I have not seen a cockroach in the house. It is a very old building; and I am certain that the above remedy only requires to be persevered in for three or four nights, to completely eradicate the pest. Of course it should be fresh cucumber peel every night.—*Builder.*

PROPERTY IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The Committee of the House of Commons, in their report on the law of partnership, which has, with the evidence, just been printed, state that in round numbers, in thirty-three years since the peace, whilst lands in Great Britain have increased only \$,500,000 in annual value, or a little more than 5 per cent., messuages (being chiefly houses and manufactories and warehouses in and near towns, and inhabited by persons depending greatly on trade and commerce) have augmented

above £26,000,000 in annual value, or about 30 per cent., in the same period. The value of railways, gas works, and other property chiefly held in shares as personal property, had increased about twelvelfold in the period.

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE.—A Christian who found himself in want of money, wished to borrow money from a heathen, and gave him a pledge for it. He drew up a note in the form desired by the heathen, in which he bound himself by a heathen oath to repay the money lent in a given time. But he considered himself as not bound by his word, because he regarded an oath taken in the name of the gods as a nullity, and thought himself guilty of no idolatry, because he had only written down words dictated to him by another, and because in doing so, he had shown that he regarded an oath taken in the name of the gods as absolutely null and void. It might be, that the Christian at first, when necessity led him to seek for a loan, intended to repay it at the right time; and that he at first justified himself in that sophistical manner only in reference to the acknowledgment of the gods, but afterwards when he could not repay the money, added a second self-deception to the first, when he asserted the nullity of an oath taken in the name of the gods, and then made use of this assertion, in order to clear his conscience from the charge of taking a part in the worship of the gods. Tertullian lays open the sophistry of this twofold self-deception. He says that when one person writes what another dictates to him, as if it proceeded from himself, he thereby makes it his own, equally whether he expresses his sentiments by word of mouth or in writing.—*Neander's Planting of Christianity: Bohm's Standard Library.*

TENACITY OF LIFE IN THE POLYPI.—Among the lower animals this faculty is the more remarkable in the polypi: they may be pounded into a mortar, split up, turned inside out like a glove, and divided into parts, without injury to life; fire alone is fatal to them. It is now about a hundred years since Trembley made us acquainted with these animals, and first discovered their indestructibility. It has subsequently been taken up by other natural historians, who have followed up these experiments, and have even gone so far as to produce monsters by grafting. If they be turned inside out, they attempt to replace themselves, and if unsuccessfully, the outer surface assumes the properties, and powers of the inner, and the reverse. If the effort be partially successfully only, the part turned back disappears in twenty-four hours in that part of the body it embraces, in such a manner that the arms which projected behind, are now fixed in the centre of the body; the original opening also disappears, and in the room of feelers a new mouth is formed, to which new feelers attach themselves; and this new mouth feeds immediately. The healed extremity elongates itself into a tail, of which the animal has now two. If two polypi be passed into another like tubes, and pierced through with a bristle, the inner one works its way through the other, and comes forth again in a few days; in some instances, however, they grow together, and then a double row of feelers surround the mouth. If they be mutilated, the divided parts grow together again, and even pieces of two separate individuals will unite into one.—*Thomson's Passions of Animals.*

THE EAR OF ANIMALS.—Among mammalia the formation the ear varies in very many cases, according to the habits and peculiar nature of the animal. The portion of the ear of the mole assigned for the cognizance of sounds passing in the air, is less perfect than those which, deeper seated, receive the impression of any