

draw away the filings in a long chain. If the very greatest care is used, every particle of iron may be in this way taken from the box and suspended in the air. The union of the metallic particles is not supposed to result from any attraction between them, but from a kind of soldering due to a superficial fusion.

[2.] Dissolve a teaspoonful of salt in a wine-glass-ful of water; and place in it some coarse sewing cotton. In about an hour take out the thread and dry it. Tie a piece of this prepared cotton to a small ring, about the size of a wedding-ring; hold it up, and set fire to the thread. When it has burnt out the ring will not fall, but remain suspended, to the astonishment of all beholders. Philosophers account for this effect by stating that the salt in the thread forms, with the ashes of the cotton, a fine film of glass, which is strong enough to support the ring, or any other small weight.

[3.] Procure a basin of milk-warm water, throw into it half a dozen pieces of camphor about the size of a pea; they will soon begin to move, and acquire a rotary and progressive motion, which will continue for a considerable time. If now one drop of oil of turpentine, or sweet oil, or gin, be let fall upon the water, the pieces of camphor will dart away, and be deprived of their motion and vivacity. Little pieces of cork, that have been soaked in ether, act much in the same way as camphor when thrown upon water. Camphor, being highly combustible, will burn if ignited while floating upon water, producing a singular effect.—*American Artisan.*

#### What do you do with Soap Suds.

The *Scottish Farmer* says, although generally deemed only fit for being run off into the common sewer in the easiest and most expeditious manner possible, they are nevertheless highly beneficial vegetable feeders, as well as useful insect preventives; hence they should never be wasted, more especially by parties having gardens, as their application to the ground, whether in winter or summer, will show beneficially not only on ordinary crops, but also on berry bushes, shrubs, border flowers, and even window pot-plants; while if poured or syringed over roses, cabbages, ect., they will prevent, or at least mitigate the mischievous doings of the green fly and caterpillars.

#### Rinderpest, Pleuro-Pneumonia, and Cholera Disinfectant.

A communication has been received at the department of State, from our legation at London, inclosing two pamphlets relating to certain experiments by Dr. James Dewar, of Kirkcaldy, Scotland, for testing the efficacy of sulphurous acid gas as a disinfectant. Results are cited which lead to the conviction that the diseases—cholera, rinderpest, pleuro-pneumonia, and others—may be not only very much modified, but even wholly prevented by this means. The method of generating the gas is very simple and inexpensive. It is only necessary to have a chaffer of red-hot cinders. Set a small crucible into them and drop a piece of sulphur stick about as large as a man's thumb into it. This will fumigate a large cattle shed in twenty minutes.

The animals seem to enjoy it, and it acts as a tonic on man and beast. The shed must be well

ventilated during the fumigation, as well before as after it, and sanitary rules must be enforced in regard to cleanliness, removal of dung heaps, ect. During the prevalence of such epidemics as above-named, the fumigation may be made according to the foregoing directions four or five times a day; and not only is this treatment said to cure these diseases, but it is stated that mange, ringworm, and lice have also vanished before it, and that grease heels in horses have also been cured by it, while severe cases of phthisic and tubercular affections of the lungs have also been relieved in human beings.

#### The Tomato as Food.

A good medical authority ascribes to the tomato the following very important medical qualities:

1. That the tomato is one of the most powerful aperients of the liver and other organs; where calomel is indicated, it is one of the most effective and least harmful medical agents known to the profession.

2. That a chemical extract will be obtained from it that will supersede the use of calomel in the cure of disease.

3. That he has successfully treated diarrhoea with this article alone.

4. That when used alone as an article of diet, it is almost sovereign for dyspepsia and indigestion.

5. That it should be constantly used for daily food. Either cooked or raw, or in the form of catsup, it is the most wholesome article in use.

#### Chlorine as a Disinfectant.

A French chemist has recently brought forward a cheap method of generating chlorine as a disinfectant, in place of the comparatively expensive chloride of lime. The preparation consists of common salt, red lead, sulphuric acid and cold water. The red lead is mixed with the salt, and introduced into a bottle full of water; the sulphuric acid is added afterwards gradually, and shaken at intervals. By this process sulphate of lead is formed and precipitated, and sulphate of soda and chlorine remain dissolved in the water. The chlorine, which gives the liquid a yellow color, is disengaged as soon as the bottle is opened. This preparation presents another advantage, in addition to that of cheapness, namely, it does not disengage the chlorine too rapidly, and is, hence, not so rapidly exhausted. If, however, a rapid disengagement be required, the liquid may be poured into flat plates, so as to offer a large surface for evaporation. Managed according to this method, the preparation is found to realize the most satisfactory results as a disinfectant.—*N. Y. Methodist.*

#### Hints to the Thoughtless.

Persons who eat onions should not stand within five feet of those whom they talk to, and should not follow them up when they back away.

Kitchen refuse should be burnt, while fresh, especially when there is danger of cholera. It is of some use as fuel; but the great advantage of burning is to avoid the stench, which will surely arise in less than a day in summer.

Ash-boxes on sidewalks are obstructions, and do not become men who own buildings on Broadway. Some of them have lately disappeared, much to the credit of those who ordered them away. The best