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## Scientific and Sanitary.

The Australian colonies have adopted the standard zone time. By the new mode of reckoning Victorian time is advanced 20 minutes, thus making Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane time alike 10 hours ahead of Greenwich, while Adelaide is 9 hours, Perth 8 and Wellington 11.

An instrument for detecting the presence of escaped gas has been placed on the market, and is claimed to do its work safely and effectively. It contains an air column, the length of which is measured by the amount of air necessary to produce a musical note of standard pitch, and as the length of the column depends upon the density of the air, the presence of the gas is shown by a difference in the sound.

The proper method of heating greenhouses was the subject of discussion at a recent meeting of the Manchester (Eng.) Institute of Gas Engineers. Most of the speakers favored the idea that, on economical grounds and for the purpose of maintaining a steady heat, a gas fire was much superior to a coal or coke fire for the heating of small greenhouses, but that solid fuel was preferable to gaseous fuel in the case of large conservatories.

As a result of experiments in filtering the water of the Merrimac at Lawrence, Mass., it has been found that 98 per cent. of the germs of typhoid fever and other diseases present in the water are removed by proper filtration. Since the introduction of the system now in use the deaths from typhoid fever in Lawrence have been reduced 60 per cent. Philadelphia, however, continue to drink Schuylkill mud, and take the chances as to disease germs.

A cheap, and it is said, efficient disinfectant for use in the sick room has been published by M. Meillere of Paris. It is at least a good deodorizer. It consists of two pounds of sulphate of zinc, two drachms of sulphuric acid, thirty grains of essence of mirbane, and three drachms of colouring matter, for instance indigo blue. About a teaspoonful of the mixture is placed in the bed-pan, and deodorization is said to be instantaneous on contact with the liquid of the stools, sterilization also being effected. The objectionable odors are entirely removed and replaced by even agreeable smells. One recommendation is that the mixture is cheap.

In a West Philadelphia pharmacy last night a visitor, who is on terms of familiarity with the proprietor, remarked chaffingly to the latter, "I presume you cleared 90 per cent. profit on that prescription that just went out." "Better than that," replied the druggist. "That prescription called for three grains of powdered alum in two ounces of water. I buy the alum for about a cent a pound and draw the acqua from the spigot yonder. The actual cost of the mixture was so infinitesimal that it could scarcely be expressed in fractions of a cent. Yet, I charged thirty-five cents for it, and my conscience doesn't reproach me the least bit. Had I given it to him the probability is that the patient wouldn't have used it at all, and in any event its efficaciousness would have been impaired by the knowledge that its commercial value was next to nothing. And there's another side. I compounded a prescription this morning, the bare ingredients of which actually cost me nearly \$3. I charged \$1 for it, and the customer gave me a look which said as plainly as words, 'You're a swindler'."

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