

with the capability of immediate and ready action impressed upon it. To Schonbien is awarded the discovery, who, in 1840, applied the term ozone to the peculiar smell which is perceptible during the action of the electrical machine, and also during the decomposition of water by the galvanic apparatus. It was subsequently ascertained that a similar smell is developed by the influence of Phosphorus on moist air, and also by a great many chemical changes, and for some time its existence was recognized by its smell, or odour, alone; but in April, 1848, Schonbien became possessed of another of its characters, viz: its oxidizing principle, and it is this property which it possesses more particularly, when we direct our attention to its presence in the atmosphere, although these oxidizing properties may be common to some other bodies, as nitrous acid, which is said to be generated in the atmosphere by atmospheric electricity.

When largely diffused in the atmosphere, it causes like chlorine (to which it is somewhat allied) very unpleasant sensations, such as difficult respiration, and it acts powerfully on the mucous membrane, it kills small animals very quickly; it is insoluble in water, and oxydizes very quickly all metallic bodies, and it has the power in a large degree, of destroying *miasma* arising from the decomposition of animal and vegetable substances, and Schonbien came to the conclusion, that its formation depended upon the action or formation of atmospheric electricity, and he referred the beneficial effects of thunder storms, to the action of the ozone formed, neutralizing the *miasma* arising from the decomposition of animal and may be vegetable substances, and it possesses in a powerful degree bleaching properties, and in this it is again analogous to chlorine.

Since Schonbien brought its properties before the scientific world, it has received more or less attention both from the physician and the meteorologist.

It has been advanced, that during the presence of cholera and other epidemic disease, its absence was remarked, while on the other hand, when the atmosphere has indicated a great amount present, diseases of the lungs and mucous membrane have been more prevalent, it has been still further stated that its action on the vegetable kingdom is similar in its effects as in the animal economy; the potatoe disease or rot especially, and other diseases in vegetables has, it is said, been caused by either its absence or presence, in too large quantities.