

COAL.—The countries in Europe which produce the greatest quantity of coal, are—Great Britain, which produces 230,000,000 quintals. Belgium, 55,100,000. Prussia, 13,300,000. France, 19,450,000. Austria, and some other states, and even Sweden, possess coal mines; but these Mines are but little wrought, as they have a sufficiency of wood. The German Journal *Geographische Ephemerida*, from which we take this notice, states that M. Villefosse has erroneously estimated the amount raised in France, at 12,758,906 metrical quintals, whilst M. Piquot gives the above as the correct statement.

JOURNAL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.—This little periodical is published monthly at Philadelphia, and is devoted to the Mechanic Arts, Manufactures, General Science and the recording of Patented Inventions. It is regularly received at the Halifax Mechanics' Library, and although dry as regards general perusal, is worthy the attention of those interested in scientific advances. The number for *September*, contains: A very fine specimen of "medal ruling," a species of engraving by machinery, with an account of the invention; a drawing and description of an ingenious apparatus for raising heavy stones; an interesting article on the strength of Cylindrical Steam Boilers; a description of a machine for making Crackers and ships' bread; a description of a Smoke Ventilator; an important report of a Committee of the House of Commons on Steam Carriages, with remarks thereon, and a number of other original and selected articles. As this work is not much known, or of a character very appropriate to general circulation, we intend to give monthly an analysis of its contents, and occasionally extracts from it for the benefit of our readers.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

THE second session of this very interesting Institution, commenced on Wednesday evening, October 3.

The President, Dr. Grigor, delivered an introductory Address, in which the objects of science, its superiority as a recreation over other amusements, and its individual and national importance was fully dwelt on. The lecturer also, reviewed the proceedings of last session, and made some remarks on the future prospects of the Institution.

A conversation followed the lecture, the chief topics of which were, Lord Bacon's Philosophy, the advantage possessed by these Colonies and the United States in speaking the same language and being in close communication with Great Britain, and the superiority of the latter kingdom as regards information generally, and scientific advances, compared with any other country.

MECHANICS' LIBRARY.—The first Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Library Association, was held on Tuesday evening, October 2. A Report was read, and Officers and Committee chosen for the ensuing year. Officers, Mr. John Morrow, President, Mr. John Naylor, Secretary; Mr. Whytal, Treasurer; Committee. Messrs. Joseph Howe, John S. Thompson, Johnson, Harvie and Dawson.—We subjoin the Report.