ling discovery is too good to be lost by a sensation loving public; but when journals of an avowed scientific character give prominence to it with all the blazon of a full head and leaded type, our patience must certainly give way, or rather, our impatience must find vent.

One extract will be sufficient to show the character of the article in question. After stating that in the hands of an intelligent and dishonest chemist, a barrel of peanuts can be transformed into excellent coffee, and lard can be made to absorb an enormous quantity of water, the writer, out of consideration for the nerves of his readers, breaks the discovery of champagne gently upon them, and then bursts into the following rhapsody:—

"Yes, from the fiery benzoles a sparkling bubbling, foaming champagne can be produced, which will delight the eye, tickle the palate, gladden the heart momentarily—but quicken our paces to the graveyard."

The idea is too absurd to require comment, and the possessor of the smallest amount of chemical knowledge, or common information, cannot fail to see untruth on the very face of it. Even supposing petroleum benzole capable of taking the part of alcohol in wine, in regard to taste, and effect, we know it could not be rendered miscible with the water necessary for dilution.

There is as little excuse for the writer of the above paragraph as those would-be scientific journalists who, if they lack the capacity for promulgating truth, should, at all events, possess the negative quality of withholding error.

Remedy for Toothache.—When this distressing complaint is accompanied with inflammation of the gums, great relief may be procured by the application of nitrate of silver, in stick, or strong solution. We have tried it.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

Death of Professor Dussauce.—This well-known chemist and author, died suddenly, at his residence, New Lebanon, N.Y., on the evening of June 21st. The name of Prof. Dussauce is familiar to all our readers, through his practical treatises on the industrial arts, and the widely spread contributions of his pen, in American scientific periodical literature. Up to the time of his death, he held the office of manager of the laboratory of Tilden & Co., N. Y.

Accident to Prof. Bunsen.—The illustrious chemist of Heidelburg recently met with a serious accident. Having prepared a quantity of metallic rhodium, he was proceeding to examine it, when an explosion occurred, which so far injured his eye that it is feared he will be completely blind. It may be remembered that some years ago he lost the sight of one eye while experimenting on kakodyl and its compounds. To the renowned spectroscopist the loss of sight would be indeed grievous, and in recording our deepest sympathy, we would also hope that the injuries sustained are not of so serious a nature as represented.

Accidental Poisoning.—The *Pharmaceutical Journal* (London, Eng., July) reports four cases. Mr. Williams, surgeon, Penbury, had been in the habit of taking a solution of acetate of morphia. A fresh supply of the medicine being required, the bottle was re-filled by an apothecary, who, in making the solution, used from a package labelled "acetate of morphia," which had been received from a wholesale druggist, three years previously, and which turned out to be a salt of strychnia. The first dose resulted in the death of Mr. Williams, who expired in great agony. Verdict—"Poisoned by misadventure." The second case arose from the substitution of strychnia for sugar, by a registered chemist of Gravesend, in making up some "teething powders" for an infant. The bottle from which the poison was taken was labelled *strychnia*, which was probably mistaken for *saccharum*. Shortly after taking one of the powders the infant died. Verdict as in the first case. The druggist had only commenced business in that locality, on the day of the occurrence. The third case resulted in the death of a miner, in the Isle of Man, who eat the root of *atropa belladonna*, thinking it to be wholesome, from its resemblance to a carrot. Death supervened in less than ten minutes. The last case occurred in Dublin, and is said to have created intense excitement, partly from the rarity of such accidents in Ireland, and also from the social position held by the unfortunate subject—Mr. F. Grattan Guinness. This gentleman sent a clerk to the establishment of Messrs. Hamilton, Oldham, Long & Co., Grafton street, with two empty bottles to be re-filled with medicine, "as before." The mixture containing carbonate of ammonia, and the shop bottle being empty, a porter was sent up stairs to replenish it. He filled the bottle with cyanide of potassium from a stone jar, whicl he supposed contained the article in which he was in quest. The medicine was compounded under this supposition, and sent to Mr. Guinness, who took a dose almost immediately, which resulted in death before medical aid could be procured. It appears to have been the custom of the establishment from which the medicine was dispensed, to send two persons to fill their shop bottles, in order that one might keep a check on the other; but in this instance the rule had not been complied with. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, but considered there was not sufficient circumspection taken by the firm in question, against whom the deepest censure was recorded.

A case is reported in Schmidt's *Zahrbücher*, of a woman who drank two glassfuls of an infusion of arnica, made from a large handful of the leaves. Symptoms of poisoning ensued: violent vomiting, intense headache, diarrhœa, with very severe colic, followed by collapse, cold extremities, and remarkable depression of the pulse—these lasted seven days; but under a treatment consisting of thebaine and morphia, the patient ultimately recovered.

Acid Proof Cement.—R. T. Fairthorne, (*Jour. Franklin Institute*) recommends a paste composed of silicate of soda and finely powdered glass. It is said to remain unaffected even when immersed in strong nitric, sulphuric or muriatic acids. Corks protected by it were but slightly acted upon, though remaining over boiling nitric acid for more than four hours, and over hot acid for ten. The corks were previously soaked in a solution of silicate, covered with the paste, and washed with a solution of chloride of calcium. The cement hardens quickly.

Excretion of Carbonic Acid by Plants.—J. Broughton, F.C.S., read a paper before the Royal Society, detailing experiments made by him on living plants, showing that they excrete carbonic acid, even when deprived for days of all access of oxygen. The conclusions arrived at by the author, are as follows:—

1st. That nearly all parts of growing plants evolve carbonic acid in considerable quantities, quite independently of direct oxidation.

2nd. That this evolution is connected with the life of the plant.

3rd. That it is due to two causes, namely, to previous oxidation, resulting after a lapse of time in the production of carbonic acid, and to the separation of carbonic acid from the proximate principles of the plant while undergoing the chemical changes incident to plant-growth.

Composition of Sow's Milk.—Prof. Cameron (*Chemical News*) has been making an analysis of this fluid, and finds it of the following composition:—

Water	818·00
Butter	60·00
Cheesy matter	53·00
Sugar	60·70
Mineral matter	8·30
	1000·00

This goes to show that sow's milk is one of the richest of that class of liquids, containing nearly 50 per cent. more nutritive matter than is found in cow's milk. Prof. Cameron thinks that in certain forms of disease, where a milk diet is prescribed, the use of so concentrated a liquid food might prove serviceable.