

The number of deaths which have taken place here since the introduction of Water Gas in January, 1879, has given color to the charge, that Water Gas is more dangerous than Coal Gas; but a reference to the past may tend to disabuse the minds of any who may hold that opinion. It is certainly a fact, that accidents of a similar character do often occur very soon after each other, and then again for a long period none occur whatever.

The past history of this Company fully bears this out. Late in 1853, a man was suffocated at the works. Early in 1857, a house was completely demolished and all of the inmates more or less injured from an explosion caused by the gas having entered the cellar through a sewer. About the same time, two girls were suffocated in a hotel, from an escape from a burner. In 1860, a young lady was suffocated from gas escaping into a house through a sewer, and two other persons were asphyxiated at the same time, and recovered with great difficulty. In 1861, a woman was found dead in a room in the morning, from the effects of gas escaping from a burner during the night.

Here there were five deaths from suffocation in Toronto in less than eight years; two occurring in one year, and two more within two years, besides another serious accident.

Taking into consideration the difference in the amount of the consumption, which averaged during these years only about one-fifth of what it has been here recently, relatively a much larger number of deaths from Coal Gas suffocation took place then, than since this Company commenced making Water Gas.

The number of accidents which have taken place within a very short time recently from gas escaping from coal stoves is another illustration in point.

Experience here has not proved that Water Gas causes death more rapidly than Coal Gas. While in some of the above mentioned cases, the parties were found dead in the morning from the escape of Coal Gas from an ordinary burner during the night, persons have recovered here after inhaling the Water Gas for a much longer period—one after having inhaled it thirteen and a half hours, and another after inhaling it eighteen hours; all the apertures in both of the rooms being closed up tight, and in the latter case the room being a very small one.

It remains to be seen whether or not Mr. Littlehales' predictions will be verified; but if his prophecies are not more correct than his statements of fact, there is not much danger of them being fulfilled; and it is worthy of note that Mr. Lit-