

ELECTRIC LIGHT.—The recent discoveries in relation to the production of artificial light for domestic and other purposes are of great hygienic value, especially as regards the eyes, and likewise, doubtless, the air we breathe. The secrets of Edison's electric light (*Druggists' Advertiser*), which has created such universal excitement in the scientific world, have just been revealed, though the principles of their application will not be disclosed until fully protected by patents. The light is produced by incandescence. The conductor, which is made incandescent by the electrical current passing through it, is a small, curiously shaped apparatus, consisting of a high alloy of platinum and iridium, which cannot be melted under 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit. A sufficient quantity of this metal is placed in each burner to give a light equal to that of a gas jet. Devices of exceeding simplicity, and, as repeated experiments have proved, of equal reliability, are connected with the lamp. They surmount the apparent impossibility of regulating the strength of the light. The lamp, when placed in the electric circuit in which a strong current circulates, is absolutely independent of the strength of the current. This Edison considers one of the vital features of the invention. Thus, if the regulator is set so that the light gives only, say, ten candle power, no increase in the strength of the current will increase its brilliancy. The lamps used give a light by incandescence, constant and unwavering, of five, ten or fifteen candle power. It gives off no deleterious gases. No consumption of material takes place, and the proportion of heat to light is infinitely less than that from a gas jet.

THE BATH.—If every man and woman in Canada could be induced to take every morning a cool bath, as cool as the system or constitution would bear,—a sponge bath, say,—a wash all over, simply, just as they, for the most part, wash only face and hands, it would impart such life and vigor into the people as would give a greater stimulus to work and business generally than could be given by the best legislation in the world. And the bath, by keeping the pores of the skin open, and rendering it less susceptible to sudden changes in the weather, would also tend greatly to prevent inflammations and other diseases arising from 'colds,' and many forms of chronic sickness. All that is essential for this bath is a quart or two of water in a dish, and a course towel; the warm hands being much better for applying the water—more agreeable, or less disagreeable, to the skin than any sponge or any bathing cloth or rits. Only those who have used this bath for some time can form any fair estimation of its value.

THE "INDEX MEDICUS."—We have received the prospectus of a new publication with this title, to be compiled under the supervision of Dr. John S. Billings, Surgeon U.S.A., and Dr. Robert Fletcher, M.R.C.S. It will be a record of all the publications in medicine, surgery, and the collateral branches, and will be published monthly by F. Leyboldt, New York. It will also contain the titles of all valuable original articles that appear each month.