

evitably follow its introduction there, owing to its poisonous, explosive and destructive nature, and praying the Government to prohibit it. They evidently for a long time succeeded, as that city was not lighted with gas until five years afterwards.

A brief statement, showing the slow rate of progress Coal Gas made for a long time, may not here be out of place.

The first proposals to light a town with Coal Gas were made in England as early as 1765. It was not practically applied for lighting until 1792, when William Murdoch lighted his own house with it in Redruth, Cornwall. It was not introduced into London until 1807, when a private individual lighted Pall Mall with it, and a gas company was not formed there until 1810. Paris was not lighted with gas until 1820, New York until 1834, and Philadelphia until 1835.

The idea of lighting by electricity was entertained over thirty years ago, and attempts were then made to introduce it, but it is only recently that to any extent this idea has been practically carried out.

Apart, however—from any other consideration, there were powerful economic reasons, such as the high price of Anthracite Coal and Oil, to prevent the successful introduction of Water Gas in England, and on this account it is doubtful if it will ever make much headway there.

Whatever want of success it may have met with in England, Water Gas is making rapid progress in America—about sixty companies having adopted it within about five years, four of them being in Canada, whilst a number of new works are contracted for or are in course of construction.

One of the processes referred to as having failed in England—the Tessie du Motay—was introduced, with modifications and improvements, in New York, about five years ago, and has been in successful operation ever since. About four years since, in consequence of the great demand for their gas, the Company working the process erected new works capable of producing three million cubic feet per diem. Other works have since been erected elsewhere, and are working successfully.

The Lowe Process, which Mr. Littlehales says is almost a precise copy of Kirkham's plan, differs from it in some material points, as can be easily shown, and is a great improvement upon it.

In both the "Report" and Mr. Littlehales' letter exception is taken to the gas now supplied by this Company, principally upon two grounds, namely, its *quality* and *safety*.