

(formed in 1661), which was rightly regarded as the headquarters of the New Philosophy; attacks and rejoinders were as thick as leaves in June. Sprat found it desirable to write a history of the foundation and work of the Society in order to demonstrate that it did not exist for the purpose of upsetting Church and State, but that when fully understood the New Philosophy will be found to be a bulwark of Christianity, not its destroyer. In an article upon the Royal Society, included in the 'Quarrels of Authors,' the elder Disraeli gives an interesting account of this literary controversy. From this it appears that the zeal of the opponents often outran their discretion, for not only the aims, but many of the obvious practical results of scientific inquiry, were inveighed against. Crasse, the Vicar of Chew Magna in Somersetshire, anathematized the Royal Society as a Jesuitical conspiracy against both society and religion; he regarded the use of the newly-invented optick glasses as immoral, since they perverted the natural sight and made all things appear in an unnatural, and therefore false, light. It was easy, he said, to prove the deceitful and pernicious character of spectacles; for take two different pairs of spectacle glasses and use them both at the same time, you will not see so well as with one singly; therefore your microscopes and telescopes, which have more than one glass, are imposters. Hostility went further than this; it was declared to be sinful to assist the eyes, which were adapted to the capacity of the individual, whether good, bad, or indifferent. It was argued that society at large would become demoralized by the use of spectacles; they would give one man an unfair advantage over his fellow, and every man an unfair advantage over every woman, who could not be expected, on esthetic and intellectual grounds, to adopt the practice."—*B. M. J.* (Book Notices.)

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Apropos of the wide use of effervescent beverages, it is admitted that carbonic acid gas in mineral waters greatly improves digestion, and that this is especially so in the case of Apollinaris, because its mineral constituents give additional help in that direction, so that Apollinaris is by far the best of the few naturally effervescent waters for mixing with whiskey, wine, fruit syrups or milk. The consumption of effervescent liquids is especially large in Great Britain and the United States.