thirteen. Furthermore, it consumes less oxygen in this process, and hence vitiates the air less in both respects. The temperature of the acetylene flame is much less than that of the coal gas flame, and it will heat a room much less in consequence. It is, however, more explosive than coal gas inasmuch as less of it with the same amount of air will explode when ignited. Lothar Meyer and Professor Clowes have both testified as to its explosive nature, although it is, of course, not near as explosive as many other gases. When not mixed with air it is not explosive, and liquid acetylene is hence probably safer than acetylene generators in houses, for these are apt to have air in them, while cylinders of liquid acetylene cannot. Only one type of generator, also, is safe, as Professor Lewes has shown, and that is the one in which the carbide is dropped into an excess of water, for here no overheating of the generator can take place, while in all others it can, and when it does the generator is liable to explode. Whereas acetylene can be burned with safety in the household, it is undoubtedly more explosive and less safe than coal gas as far as explosibility is concerned. Hence, as answer to our query, we have from the facts cited, 1. That acetylene produces the most desirable flame; 2. Acetylene is cheaper per candle-power than coal gas or other illuminants; 3. Acetylene can be very easily made, and is easily transported, at the same time doing away with gas pipes in the street; 4. Acetylene is more explosive than coal gas, but much less poisonous. The main objection to its introduction thus far has been the burner, which has not yet been perfected. It is not as easy to light, and will hence not as easily produce a fire by leakage or the promiscuous use of matches as will coal gas, and the fire risk should not hence be any greater, if as great, although the explosibility is greater, and this may of course generate a fire at the same time.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE EXTRACTION OF SUN-BEAMS FROM CUCUMBERS (LIMITED).

There has been trouble in the kitchen and kitchen-garden of this Society.

The directors and management proposed to put a cupola on the roof of the establishment. The shareholders did not want a cupola, but offered to build more cucumber frames at their own expense and risk. So a special general meeting was called, and numerously and fashionably attended, The invited guests passed a very enjoyable afternoon. The directors were carefully attired for the occasion. The orchestra played "*Thou Shinest Fair for Me Love*," and then the business of the meeting was begun by a shareholder who asked why his statement that the company had declared net earnings of from forty to fifty per cent. per annum, had been declared by the management to be untrue. A directors replied that the statement was both incorrect and untrue. (Confusion caused by several shareholders falling off their chairs.) It was true that in the printed annual reports such announcement of net profits had been made, and they would really have been made if the company had not lost about half of them.

He hoped that the shareholders would consider this explanation satisfactory.

A shareholder said that it looked very well in the report—picturesquely so—he hoped to see as large net profits in the report in future, and begged the management not to lose them again on the way to the bank.

A director stated that the very handsome profits of the past two years must not be expected in future, because, during that time, they had turned their attention to the manufacture of jam as well as of light from cucumbers.

A shareholder:—"I like jam too."

This disturbance having been promptly quelled by the chairman, the director continued: "That jam, gentlemen, we sold to our own families at an enormous profit." (Cheers.) "This valuable source of revenue is alas! no more, for the jam not proving to be nourishing, though filling, our families are tired of it."

A Scotch shareholder then asked: "Hoo's a' wi' ye at hame?"

The interpreter to the Board was called in, and having translated this question, the directors replied through him: "Brawly, an' sma' thanks to ye for speerin'."

The Scotch shareholder then sang part of a verse from Ossian, but was checked by the chairman.

A fool shareholder then asked what the directors wanted a cupola for anyhow. If they needed more cucumber frames, he was willing to put up his share of the money.

A director replied that the Board had really no place to smoke in, and that the proposed cupola would be very comfortable. It would be handsomely lined and the shareholders might admire it—from the outside.

Then everybody spoke at once for five minutes, and enjoyed themselves, after which a vote was taken, and the cupola rejected.

The orchestra played the Dead March in "Saul," and the shareholders filed out two by two. The last one out turned the key in the door, and left the directors to get out as best they could.

THE OCTOBER BANK STATEMENT.

The highest point ever reached by bank note circulation was on the 31st of October. Last year the highest point was reached up to that date, but this year has exceeded that showing by a large amount. The trade returns show an unfavourable comparison with last year, but withal the country seems in a more thriving condition, and crop reports in Ontario are decidedly in this year's favour. Every heading in the bank statement, the amount under