

pavement ornamented with the figure of a dolphin pursued by an sea-horse. In the first atrium, the walls of which are adorned with small theatrical scenes, the pavement is sunk and broken, as if by an earthquake, and there is a large hole through which one sees the cellar. The second atrium is very spacious with a handsome peristyle, the columns—white and red stucco—being twenty-six in number. In the centre is a large marble basin, within the edge of which runs a narrow step. On the pedestal at one side was found the statuette of the Faun which I lately described. The most interesting place in the house is an inner court or room, on one side of which is the niche, with tiny marble steps, often to be seen in Pompeian houses. The frescoes on the walls are very beautiful. Close to the floor runs a wreath of leaves about a quarter of a yard wide with alternately a lizard and a stork. Above it, about a yard distant, droop, as if from over a wall, large branches of vine or ivy and broad leaves like those of the tiger-lily—all very freely, naturally, and gracefully drawn. At each corner of the room a bird clings to one of these branches. Then comes a space—bordered at the top by another row of leaves—in which is represented a whole aquarium, as if the room were lined with tanks. There are different sorts of shells and aquatic plants laying at the bottom of the water, and swimming in or on it all kinds of fish, jelly-fish, sepias, ducks, and swans, admirably sketched with a light yet firm touch. The ripples made by the swimming ducks are indicated, and one duck is just flying into the water with a splash. On each side of the niche this amusing aquarium is enlivened by a special incident: To the left a large octopus has caught a monstrous murena (lamprey)—which turns round to bite—in its tentacles; to the right a fine lobster has pierced another murena through and through with its long, hard feelers, or horns. These creatures are painted in the natural colors very truthfully. On the left of the room, above the fishes, are two sphinxes, supporting on their heads square marble vases, on the brim of each of which sits a dove. Behind the niche, and on the left of the room, runs a little gallery with a corridor underneath, lighted by small square holes in the border of hanging branches. The wall of this gallery behind the niche is decorated with a woodland landscape, in which, one side, is represented a bull running frantically away with a lion clinging to its haunches; on the other, a horse lying struggling on its back, attacked by a leopard; all nearly the size of life. On each side of the doorway is painted, respectively, a graceful doe and a bear. The other rooms are also very beautiful; one with a splendidly elegant design on a black ground; in another a small fresco representing a man pouring wine out of an amphora into a large vessel. The bath-rooms are large and elegant, the cold bath spacious and of marble. In one room a corner is dedicated to the *lares* and *penates*, and in the fresco decoration, among the usual serpents, etc., I notice the singular figure of a Bacchus or bacchante, entirely clothed with large grapes. In one of the Mosaic pavements is a head of Medusa, the colors very bright and well preserved. As some of the rooms are only excavated to within two or three feet of the floor, it is possible that many valuable ornaments or statuettes may yet be found, as everything indicates that this splendid house belonged to some rich citizen."

**MEAT BREAD.**—M. Scheurer-Kestner has discovered the remarkable fact that the fermentation of bread causes the complete digestion of meat. He found that a beefsteak cut into small pieces, and mixed with flour and yeast, disappeared entirely during the process of panification, its nutritive principles becoming incorporated with the bread. The meat would also appear capable of preservation for an indefinite period in its new state, for loaves of meat bread made in 1873 were submitted to the French Academy of Science, when not a trace of worms or mouldiness was observable. At the beginning of his experiments, M. Scheurer-Kestner used raw meat, three parts of which, finely minced, he mixed with five parts of flour and the same quantity of yeast. Sufficient water was added to make the dough, which in due time began to ferment. After two or three hours, the meat disappeared, and the bread was baked in the ordinary manner. Thus prepared, the meat-bread had a disagreeable sour taste, which was avoided by cooking the meat for an hour with sufficient water to afterwards moisten the flour. The meat must be carefully deprived of fat, and only have sufficient salt to bring out the flavour, as salt by absorbing moisture from the air would tend to spoil the bread. A part of the beef may be replaced with advantage by salt lard, which is found to improve the flavour. The proportion of meat to flour should not exceed one half, so as to insure complete digestion. Bread made with a suitable proportion of veal is said to furnish excellent soup for the sick and wounded.

**RECENT DISCOVERIES AT POMPEII.**—The recent excavation of a house in Pompeii, which is perhaps the largest and best preserved of all antique dwellings known, has excited the greatest interest. The building, two stories high, contains a double atrium and tablinum. In the middle of the spacious peristyle there stands an ornamental fountain. A complete bath has also been found which doubtless will throw much light upon questions of arrangement. It is this part of the complex Roman dwelling-house upon which the opinions of archaeological authorities have hitherto been most at variance. The decorative paintings of the interior have been executed with great taste and are well preserved. Those of the second story, representing marine animals, are especially interesting. The frescoes of the two wings of the building show scenes of animal life, like those so much in vogue about the advent of the Christian era, and known from many examples previously discovered in the buried cities. These excellently preserved works, so characteristic of the time and place in which they were executed, cannot but add valuable illustrations to the history of Roman painting. They are said to markedly betray the influence of great art. An early publication of the plan and details of the house is promised by the Archæological Society.

**AVOIDANCE OF VIBRATION WITH MACHINERY.**—Mr. W. H. Delano, in a paper read before the British Institution of Civil Engineers, spoke of the use of asphalt for the foundation of machinery, notably for those running at high speeds, the asphalt having the valuable quality of absorbing vibration. This was instanced in the case of a car disintegrator, which being mounted in a pit lined with bituminous concrete, was worked at 500 revolutions per minute, without sensible tremor, whereas with the former wooden mountings on an ordinary concrete base, the vibration was excessive, and extended over a radius of 25 yards. At the Paris Exhibition of 1878, there was shown a block of bituminous concrete, weighing 46 tons, forming the foundation of a Carr disintegrator, used a flour-mill, and making 1,400 revolutions a minute, a speed which would have been impracticable on an ordinary foundation. Extensive applications of the material for this purpose are made in France, especially in connection with steam engines and steam hammers.

**BRITISH RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.**—The *Railroad Gazette* is authority for the statement that in the year 1879 there were no less than 1,032 persons killed and 3,513 injured on the railroads of Great Britain. In this country, on the other hand, in spite of our reputation for recklessness, our railroads are responsible in the same time for only 180 deaths and 644 injuries to persons. This showing our contemporary holds to be highly creditable to American railway management.

It must be admitted, in making such a comparison, that the condition of things in the two countries is very different since on the railways of Great Britain there is naturally a much greater concentration of traffic both of passenger and goods; but, on the other hand, the immense extent of the railway lines operated in this country interposes a correspondingly greater difficulty in keeping the road-way in good condition, so that the comparison is not an unfair one.

**REMOVAL OF STRONG ODORS FROM THE HANDS.**—Ground mustard, mixed with a little water, is an excellent agent for cleansing the hands after handling odorous substances, such as cod-liver oil, musk, valerianic acid and its salts. Scale pans and vessels may also be readily freed from odor by the same method. A. Huber states that all oily seeds, when powdered, will answer this purpose. In the case of almonds and mustard, the development of ethereal oil, under the influence of water, may perhaps be an additional help to destroy foreign odors. The author mentions that the smell of carbolic acid may be removed by rubbing the hands with damp flax-seed meal, and that cod-liver oil bottles may be cleansed with a little of the same, or olive oil.—*Druggists' Circular.*

**HEALTHY PROPERTY OF ONIONS.**—The healthy property of onions has never been fully understood. Lung and liver complaints are certainly benefited, or cured by a free consumption of them, either cooked or raw. Colds yield to them like magic. Don't be afraid of them. Taken at night, all offence will be gone by morning, and the good effects will amply compensate for the trifling annoyance. Taken regularly they promote the health of the lungs and digestive organs. An extract made by boiling down the juice of onions to a syrup, and taken as a medicine, answers the purpose very well, but fried, roasted or boiled onions, are better. Onions are a very cheap medicine, within everybody's reach, and they are not by any means as "bad to take" as the costly nostrums a neglect of their use may necessitate.