

leaves is employed in the medicinal bath. The membranous substance and refuse are compressed into blocks and used as fuel; from the resinous matter they contain, they produce sufficient gas for the lighting of the factory in which the production of these useful articles is carried on. The result of one hundred quintals of wool in combustible material is equal in value to six cubic metres of pine wood.

The Forest-wool ware manufactory at Remda in the Thuringer-wald advertises Forest wool, oil, spirits, wadding, and the other articles already enumerated. Whether these deserve or not all the high encomiums that have been passed upon them, it is nevertheless an important fact that a material before considered useless is now converted into articles of domestic utility and commercial importance.—*The Technologist*.

METHOD OF PRESERVING CUT FLOWERS.

Most persons are fond of preserving bouquets of natural flowers. Many methods of preservation have been proposed, but they have all more or less failed. The water in which they are placed becomes tainted, and is obliged to be changed at least once or twice a day, but even then the decay of the flowers, which begins very soon after their separation from the plant, is not materially prevented. The following method, which has completely succeeded, consists in putting a table-spoonful of powdered charcoal into the vase which contains the water destined to receive the flower or cut spray, and carefully placing the latter so that their lower extremities are beneath the liquid. This method has produced the most favourable results, for flowers may be thus preserved without any visible alteration—at least as long a time as in their natural condition—without the necessity of renewing the water or the charcoal.—*Mémorial des Pyrénées* and *Journal de Chimie Médecine*.

DANGER ARISING FROM THE EMANATIONS OF PLANTS.

CASE 1.—A most singular case of asphyxia has occurred at Lyons. Widow J— residing in the Rue du Mail, à la Croix-Rousse, bought in the Market of St. Jean some apricots for preserving, which she laid out on the floor of her room.

Her son J—, a pattern-drawer, going to his mother's room in the morning, after having knocked, was much surprised at receiving no answer. Suspecting some evil, he burst open the door, and found his mother almost insensible and giving no signs of life. A medical man, who was called in immediately, bled her copiously and she was soon restored. This circumstance is accounted for by the emanation of carbonic acid which had escaped during the night from the apricots which were deposited the evening before on the floor of the room.

CASE 2.—A lady, Louise B—, says the *Courier de Lyon*, the wife of one of the principal merchants of our town, had received on her birth-day a number of bouquets, which she had placed in her room by her servant.

The next morning, the latter, wishing some orders from her mistress, found her, on entering her room, in a fainting fit, and almost insensible. Thanks to the skill of one of our best practitioners, who hesitated not to attribute to the odour of the flowers the state of syncope into which she had fallen, Mad. B. was soon restored. Nevertheless, from that time, she has complained of neuralgic pains, which are occasionally intolerable.—*Journal de Chimie Médicale*.

THE TOUCH CURE.

A singular superstition exists in the northern provinces of France, that a person who is struck by lightning and not killed, possesses a miraculous power of healing by touch for a period of about forty days. A correspondent of the *Lancet* says that a little girl, eight years of age, at the village of Aubigny-au-Bac, was recently struck by lightning, but escaped with some trifling burns on the abdomen and legs. As soon as the news of the accident and escape transpired, all the lame, blind, and diseased of the vicinity flocked to her to be touched.