

started upon another collecting round. This ingenious contrivance which lifted the waggon appeared to be comfortably worked by one man, so situated that the waggon was from first to last always in his view. The gearing is, however, automatically arranged to stop itself in case the man should neglect his duty. The drawing of the clinkers gave us ample evidence of the heat contained in the cells—molten metal and glass, etc., in one red glowing mass, forming, in some instances, in bulk cinders two feet long by one foot wide. Water is conducted near to hand, by which the clinkers are slacked and taken at once to the grinding or motor mills. These works, from a sanitary, and probably financial point of view, are, beyond doubt, far ahead of similar business works, either in London or elsewhere."

POISONING BY ROTTENNESS WITHIN THE HUMAN BODY.

The civilized world is all astir, says the *Detroit Lancet*, to shut off the causes of human sickness and human death from the decomposition of organic matters outside of the body. Sewer gas, swamp poison, dump dwellings, and a thousand other conditions under which organic decomposition occurs, are sought to be eliminated, with more or less success.

Of the generation of poisons within the body we know less. But some facts are sufficiently established to show that cases of more or less gravity of poisoning do occur from this source. Senator, in *Berlin Klin. Woch.*, described a case in which the patient became collapsed, and nearly died with all the symptoms of poisoning by sulphuretted poison generated in its own intestines. Dr. Golding Bird has described a group of symptoms, including hypochondriasis, and depression of spirits, produced by an excess of oxalates, as shown by their abundant accumulation in the urine. Poisonous alkaloids have been shown to circulate in the blood. Bocci (*Arch. per le Scienze Med.*) has extracted from the human urine an alkaloid which has exactly the same action as curare. This alkaloid has the same effect as an alkaloid found by Brieger to be formed from fibrin by the action of gastric juice. Both of these alkaloids, like curare act by paralyzing the peripheral terminations of the motor nerves.

Dr. Brunt shows that the bitterness of gall is not from any normal constituent of

the gall itself but from the admixture therewith of some alkaloidal substance or substances derived from digestion. It is well known that in some cases an excessive languor comes on a couple of hours after a full meal rich in nitrogenous substances. Dr. Brunt (*British Medical Journal*) regards this as due to poisoning from alkaloids formed by imperfect digestive processes. In these cases there is a curious weight in the legs and arms, the patient describing them as lumps of lead. The symptoms are extremely like those exhibited by curare poisoning.

In some cases sick headache can be prevented by confining the patient to an exclusive non-nitrogenous diet. It is more than probable, Brunton says, that some headaches, as well as langor, are due to poisonous products derived from nitrogenous food. This field of study is just being opened up, and it gives promise of revelations that shall be most helpful to all, in their endeavors to maintain a healthy state of the body and mind.

C. Anton Ewald, in DuBois Ramond's *Archives*, reported a case in which a gentleman on lighting his cigar, was astonished to find that inflammable gas was issuing from his mouth. Here marsh gas was formed in the intestines and passed through the orifices of the stomach into the mouth.

A PAPIER MACHE FLOOR COVERING.—A new papier mache process for covering floors (*Sci. Am.*) is described as follows: The floor is thoroughly cleaned. The holes and cracks are then filled with paper putty, made by soaking newspaper in a paste made of wheat flour, water and ground alum, as follows: to one pound of flour add three quarts of water and a tablespoonful of ground alum, and mix this thoroughly. The floor is then coated with this paste, and a thickness of Manilla or hardware paper is next put on. If two layers are desired, a second covering of Manila paper is put on. This is allowed to dry thoroughly. The manilla paper is then covered with paste, and a layer of wall-paper of any style or design desired is put on. After allowing this to thoroughly dry it is covered with two or more coats of sizing, made by dissolving one-half pound of white glue in two quarts of hot water. After this is dry, the surface is given one coat of "hard oil finish varnish." This is allowed to dry thoroughly, when the floor is ready for use.