bangles through the air; but the owner biffed the two foremost benefactors in the eye, and then swore to fire promiscuously among the kind-hearted crowd with a navy revolver if it didn't disperse. It dispersed accordingly, but the letters it wrote to the papers about the ingratitude of that jewelry man (whose shop never took fire at all) in not allowing his stock to be thrown into the street were very severe indeed.

Electricity and Health.

The London (Eng.) papers contain some startling statistics regarding the increase of scarlet fever. The report of the Metropolitan Asylums Board shows that while the record for 1872 was only 108 cases, last year saw 12,125 dealt with. These figures seem to indicate that the medical fraternity and the sanitary engineers have a tough task ahead of them in fighting an old yet troublesome disease. Surely, the extraordinary increase in this scourge of so many households can be ascertained and prevented. Of course, the prevalence of this pestilence is being attributed to stagnant air, impure water and faulty plumbing, and upon these important matters the President of the Sanitary Institute at its recent annual meeting has been addressing the members. His observations upon the importance of ventilation and the use of electricity should be most carefully read by all the heads of families in Montreal and other Canadian cities, where during the winter months just such conditions as he pictures prevail in our homes, offices and places of amusement. The "Insurance Observer," an English journal, thus reports the excellent remarks of Sir William Preece, the President of the British Sanitary Institute:—

Touching upon the question of pure air, he observed that the supply of such air to those who breathed it was the object of ventilation, and the problem was to promote thorough circulation without imparting the feeling of draught, and without affecting the temperature or the humidity of the air. Thus the whole theory of ventilation was circulation of air maintained at a proper temperature, for cold air might be injurious. The British Legislature had taken care that lunatic asylums, hospitals, workhouses, and gaols should be well provided with proper air space per person, and should be supplied with effective means for ventilation, but churches, chapels, theatres, meeting halls, assembly rooms, railway carriages, and other places where healthy, honest, and well-to-do people mostly congregated, were totally neglected, and remained sinks of discomfort. Who did not dread a dinner party, even in his dearest friend's house! People had a horror of draughts, windows were mercilessly kept closed. The minimum cubical space in feet for hospitals was 1,000 and for factories 250. In a dining-room where he recently dined with four gas burners alight, by taking each gas burner as equivalent to five persons, the cubic space was 160 ft. per head, and this air remained stagnant for two hours, and hence his head became an aching mass. In a third-class railway carriage, when full, it was only 47 cubic feet per passenger. What constituted a draught? Was it air moving with a velocity of over 3 ft. per second? We gloried in a breeze at much higher velocities in the open. Was it difference of temperature between air and the blood? What was more exhilarating than rushing on skates against an icy blast? Was it the relative dryness of air promoting evaporation from the pores of the skin? Water was thus cooled in hot countries. He must leave the medical fraternity to answer. Could we not train ourselves to endure draughts? Ladies and children sat with pleasure and impunity facing the locomotive in a railway-carriage with the full blast of a gale of wind upon their delicate frames. If the air was pure, the temperature and dryness normal, the winds might crack their cheeks against the healthy frame, but when the difference of temperature was considerable and the skin active it required courage, if not temerity, to resist the temptation to close the window. The problem was to promote thorough circulation without imparting the feeling of draught, and without affecting the temperature or the humidity of the air. Electricity had fortunately come in to simplify their difficulties. It had the great merit that in the glow-lamp it did not vitiate the air. It supplied us also with a convenient form of energy to promote circulation either by forcing in the open air or by withdrawing the foul air. It could even warm the air, and it could sift it from all material impurities before admission. Where the energy was cheap, as in a free waterfall, it could be used, not only for lighting, but for heating, cooking, ventilation, and for all mechanical purposes, such as raising lifts, cleaning knives, etc. If electricity were properly utilised, the span of life should certainly be extended beyond David's allotted span.

THE NEW ONTARIO "ACT TO SUPPLEMENT THE REVENUES OF THE CROWN."

During the last Session of the Ontario Legislature an Act was passed bearing the above title. It ranks as 62 Vic., cap. 8. A correspondent in Scotland writes to a financial firm in this city to the following effect: "The action of the Province of Ontario in asking offices like ours to pay a tax on interest receivable in Ontario, under the new Province of Ontario Revenue Act, is preventing us considering any Canadian securities at present."

The only Province of Ontario Revenue Act to which this can refer is the one above named, viz.: "An Act to supplement the Revenues of the Crown in the Province of Ontario." While this Act was before the House of Assembly there was a clause in it which seemed intended to impose a tax on interest receivable in Ontario, though the securities were held outside the Dominion. This provision, however, was eliminated from the Act, and it now contains no reference even to the interest on securities. It is highly desirable that the misunderstanding which, by the above allusion, is shown to exist in Scotland in regard to the