

MEAT BREAD.

An interesting observation which bids fair to receive an extensive practical application, is reported to have been made by M. Scheurer-Kestner. This savant discovered the noteworthy fact, that meat, when added to bread, during the process of fermentation, disappears entirely, its nutritive principles being incorporated with the bread. In this condition the meat appears to be capable of being preserved for a lengthened period, as the discoverer above named exhibited to the French Academy specimen loaves of meat bread made several years before, which showed no signs of either worms or mouldiness.

In the account given of his experiments, he states that at first he used raw meat, three parts of which, finely minced, he mixed with five parts of flour and the same quantity of yeast. Water was added in sufficient quantity to make a dough of proper consistency and the mass in due time underwent fermentation. In two or three hours the meat had disappeared, having undergone a species of digestion in the fermenting mass, and the bread was baked as usual. The taste of the meat thus prepared was disagreeable and sour, an objection that was subsequently obviated by first cooking the meat for about an hour with enough water to afterwards moisten the flour. The meat used for the purpose should be carefully freed from fat, and only enough salt added to give the necessary flavor, as the condition of too much would, by its property of absorbing atmospheric moisture, spoil the bread. The proportions recommended are one-half of meat to one of flour, in which quantities the meat will be thoroughly incorporated during fermentation. Meat bread prepared with a suitable quantity of veal, is asserted to make an excellent, nutritious soup for the sick and wounded.

SKIN GRAFTING FROM A SHEEP.

The *Chicago Times*, of September 4th, contained a full account of an operation in skin grafting which was performed at the County hospital. The patient was a young man, 23 years of age, named John Filas. A large cancer had been removed from the outside of his right leg near the hip, and the wound which resulted was about 10 inches long and nearly as wide. Nature was healing it so slowly that it was decided she should be assisted, and wisely, too, as the result shows. A previous operation of a similar nature on little Aggie Sheehy, was successful, but the vitality in her wasted frame became so nearly exhausted that her life went out like the light from a lamp exhausted from oil, but it was no fault of the skin transplantation. Filas' frame was strong, and if the experiment should fail he would be none the worse for it. A flap of skin was cut away from the hip of a young sheep, large enough to cover about two-thirds of the wound. It was sewed fast to the natural skin of the sheep on three sides and left attached to the patient on the fourth side. It was expected that while the circulation of the blood of the sheep would keep the flap alive, it would become attached to the exposed surface of the wound on which it rested, and in time be nourished by the blood of the patient. The flap was kept covered for 24 hours. At the end of that time the dressing was removed, and it was found that the tip of the flap, or two inches of it, had died.

Within a few days it became apparent that the remainder of the flap had become firmly attached, the cutting of it away from the sheep was commenced at once, and clippings were made each day. Finally, the sheep began to waste away, and sheep and patient both became very restless. It was thought best to detach the flap from the sheep wholly, and one stroke of the surgeon's knife liberated the animal. It is assured that the skin will grow to the man's hip, though some portions of it may yet slough away. If a piece no larger than a silver dollar is finally attached, the fact is settled that skin grafting may be a success. It was not expected at first that less than three operations would be sufficient to supply the patient with all the skin he needed. As soon as the portion now transferred is properly fixed another operation will follow.

PROTECTION AND CULTIVATION OF FORESTS.

In our notice of the proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, we refer to the action of a committee that was appointed to memorialize Congress and the State Legislatures on the importance of taking requisite steps to preserve and cultivate the woodlands of the country. This subject, save in the case of a few of the newly settled Northwestern States, has been almost wholly neglected in this country, and

for want of proper safeguards our forests are rapidly disappearing.

The action of the Association on this subject is very timely and sensible, for the evil effects of the denudation of the forests are known to most persons of average intelligence.

Abroad the importance of protecting woodlands is so keenly appreciated, that there is scarcely a country of Europe where stringent laws on the subject are not in force; while many lands of the older settled Orient, that once were the garden spots of the earth, have, within the historic period, through the destruction of their woodlands, been rendered almost uninhabitable by man, and are given over to drought and desolation.

A full abstract of the action of the Association committee on this important subject is worthy of being read, since its recommendations are highly judicious and sensible, and will be found in another part of this issue.

GLASS IN EGYPT.—Egypt offers us the earliest positive evidences of glass-making. Sir Gardiner Wilkinson mentions that glass bottles containing wine are represented on monuments of the fourth dynasty, more than 4,000 years ago; and, in the tombs of the Beni Hassan, the process of glass-blowing is represented in an unmistakable manner. The earliest specimen of glass, bearing an inscription from which its date may be ascertained, which has as yet been met with, is the lion's head now in the Slade collection in the British Museum. This was found many years ago at Thebes by Signor Drovetti. It is formed of opaque blue glass of a very bright and beautiful colour (as may be seen from a fractured part), but time has changed it externally to an olive green. Dr. Birch has informed the writer that the hieroglyphics which are on the underside consist, on the right side, of an arcus wearing the "hut" or white crown of the upper world or upper Egypt, and representing the goddess Sati (Juno), on the left side an arcus wearing the tesh or red crown of the lower world or lower Egypt, and representing the goddess Nat or Neith (Minerva), while the central hieroglyphics form the premon of Nuantef IV. of the eleventh dynasty, whose date, according to Lepsius' chronology, was B.C. 2423—2389. A head found at Thebes bears the premon of Hatafu, a queen who is conjectured to have lived 1450 B.C.; this is of a dusky green glass, quite transparent, and is stated to have the specific gravity of bottle glass. It has been suggested that the material is not artificial glass, but obsidian, which abounds in Egypt, and is occasionally of a green tint. Many coloured fragments are found in the tombs of Thebes, and a vitrified coating, usually blue or green, was given to objects formed of earthenware, and even of stone or granite. A high value seems to have been attached to coloured glass at an early date; and vessels of fine opaque blue glass of Egyptian manufacture exist, edged with a tolerably thick plating of gold. Glass, if the Syrian, Greek, and Latin versions of the Old Testament are correct, is placed (in the book of Job) in the same category as gold; the English version renders the word crystal.

AURAL DISTURBANCES FROM BATHING.—The frequency of attacks of aural inflammation from bathing demands more than a mere mention, for complete deafness may result from the injuries to the ear from this cause, and partial impairment is frequent. The injuries from bathing are mainly due to the fact that man is not afforded the protection to the ear that amphibious animals possess, and hence the water may act injuriously in various ways. In suri bathing the mere force of contact, when the water flows into the ear, may injure the tympanic membrane, and when an incoming wave dashes against the face, water may freely enter the mouth or nose, and thus be driven into the ears through the eustachian tubes. The presence of cold water for a long time in the canal leading to the ear, as when much diving is done, may set up much inflammation in the canal or in the tympanic membrane, which may extend to the drum cavity itself. Ill effects may be produced by allowing the ears, head and body to dry in a current of air after coming out of the water. Sea water is probably more obnoxious than fresh, on account of its comparatively low temperature and the large quantity of salt in solution. A long continuance in the water should be avoided. The Russian bath should not be taken without protection to ears when the cold plunge is used. Diving is, however, the most dangerous practice connected with bathing, for it is difficult to keep water from entering the ears, or nose or mouth. In diving, the pressure of water on the tympanic membrane from without may cause vertigo. Even syringing the ears gently is known in some instances to occasion decided dizziness.—*Harper's Magazine.*