

be found upon trial that this charcoal residue, although it will not burn with a flame like the gas, will slowly burn away with a *glow* when held by a wire in the flame of the lamp.

It seems from this experiment that when wood is heated in a closed space, it breaks up into other substances besides charcoal and water. This will explain too in part, the manufacture of charcoal and wood alcohol by the destructive distillation of wood, that is by heating wood in closed vessels, and the production of coke (carbon) and coal gas from bituminous coal by destructive distillation.

Let the children char small samples of starch and sugar—try whether they contain water—and whether combustible gases are formed when they are decomposed by heat. The last experiment may be performed by heating a little starch and sugar in an iron spoon until they take fire. It will be seen that the solid substance does not burn, but the flame is a burning gas which rises from the solid matter. The starch and sugar are really being heated in a closed space, shut off from the air by the spoon below, and the burning gas above. In like manner, in the case of wood fire, we see that the flames are caused by the burning of the combustible gases, given off from the hot wood.

The children will now be able to describe the results of their experiments with sugar and starch and to state and justify their conclusions as to the composition of both. They will doubtless conclude that, like wood, starch and sugar are probably composed of charcoal and water chemically united. They may then be told that sugar, starch and wood and several other substances of similar composition, are called carbohydrates. The fitness of this name should be shown from its derivation.

In all this work, the teacher is supposed to act only as the director of experiments and as the referee in deciding the validity of the arguments and inferences. His skill is measured by the success he has had in inducing each pupil to do his own observing and thinking independently.

After a careful review of the whole ground, the children should retain a good working idea of chemical union—will see that heat tends to separate substances that have been chemically united—will understand what agricultural lecturers mean by carbohydrates—will know that when carbohydrates are heated in a closed place until they decompose they break up into carbon, water, and other substances liquid and gaseous—will see that