it will be the means, at least, of furnishing us with some useful facts as to the best practical modes of obtaining ventilation in vessels. The hospital ships which left London on September 27, have been provided with various contrivances for the admission of fresh air and the removal of foul. The relative advantages of these different methods will be tested by surgeons who have been specially trained at the Netley school, and who have gone out in charge of the ships. These gentlemen are provided with thermometers, anemometers, and all the accessory apparatus requisite to test thoroughly the efficiency of the ventilation, etc, and will furnish an elaborate report to the Army Medical Department."

Canal to Connect the Atlantic and Mediterranean Seas.

The French government contemplate a new and vast project, which if carried out will be of incalculable importance to that nation. This is to enlarge the *Canal Deux Mers*, so that large vessels may pass directly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean, without passing under the guns of the fort of Gibraltar. At present the canal connects with the Garonne river at Toulouse, and falls into the Mediterranean near Agde; the river reaching the ocean at Bordeaux completing the chain of communication. In order to fill the canal when it is enlarged, it is proposed to intercept the innumerable mountain streams, from the Pyrenees and mountains of Auvergene, and imprison them in huge reservoirs whence the water can be drawn as needed.

Salt in Kerosene Lamps.

A number of persons in this town have found by experience that the light of coal-oil lamps is greatly improved by adding to the oil one-fourth its weight of common salt. It makes the light much more brilliant and clear, keeps the wick clean, and prevents smoking.—*Norfolk Journal.*

Paris vs. The Provincial Towns.

Our flying travellers are much deceived by the brilliant bustle of Paris—the most magnificent City of Pleasure in the world—fed by the lavish expenditure of the idle wealth of all nations, and governed by two most sagacious men. If every carrot brought into Paris is taxed, and if the poorer inhabitants are glad to eat the flesh of the horse and the ass because beef and mutton are too dear, they have the pleasure of seeing their money spent for their amusement, and they know that millions of money are brought to be laid out in Paris in consequence of the sacrifices made by the people to elegance and luxury. But you must go to the provincial towns of France, similar in position to Derby, or Macclesfield, or Halifax, to learn the deadly stagnation that weighs upon everything like intellectual progress. Paris is full of free libraries, galleries of art, and schools of art and science, open to the willing workmen on the cheapest terms, where not absolutely gratuitous. Paris, too, possesses a society of workman—mechanics who pay as much attention to the art part of their work as any British candidate for the honors of the Royal Academy—a society composed of art-workmen of all the European countries except English—of Italians, Germans, Swiss, Poles, as well as Frenchmen. These men carry a degree of enthusiasm into the work unknown in England, where honest, faithful work is common, but art feeling, out of the highly educated classes, almost unknown. But when you leave Paris, and investigate the social condition of towns of from thirty to fifty thousand inhabitants, you find a degree of mental stagnation almost incredible to the inhabitants of an English county town.—*London Gas Light Journal*

A New Agent for Amalgamating Gold.

From the London *Mining Journal* we learn that sodium has been superseded in gold amalgamation.

The value of sodium amalgam has been thoroughly tested in the Pacific States of America, and better results have been obtained with it there than in any other mining district, yet it is now found that it can be entirely dispensed with by the substitution of a well-known and much cheaper chemical compound — cyanide of potassium. It has always been considered that sodium amalgam owed its value to its power to attack and decompose the oxyds of many of the metals, and it is now found that cyanide of potassium possesses the same property. It has been successfully used both on copper plates and in the pans. The plates are first cleaned with sand and nitric acid, and well washed in cold water. The surface is then swabbed over with the cyanide solution, and the mercury applied immediately, and rubbed on well; the plates will thus get a highly sensitive coating of mercury, which will seize upon the gold as it passes over them. In the pans the cyanide solution is applied with each charge of mercury, the proportion being varied to suit the ore operated upon.—*American Artisan.*

Comparisons are Odious.

Some writer of leisure on an exchange, has been figuring upon the amount of noise which an average sized man would be capable of making provided his voice power as compared with that of a locust, was commensurate with his greater size and weight. Supposing that the lord of creation weighs as much as sixteen thousand of the stentorian insects whose notes can be recognized at the distance of one sixteenth of a mile, then the human competitor ought to be able to make himself heard one thousand six hundred miles away, and when he sneezed "his house ought to fall about his ears." Again, supposing a flea to weigh one grain, which is more than its actual weight, and to jump one and one half yards, a man of one hundred and fifty pounds, with jumping powers in proportion, could spring from his office in this city and land among the affrighted inhabitants of Cochin China.

A YOUNGSTER who wanted liquor at the Portland City Agency for a "mechanical purpose," further explained that it was needed for sawing wood.

OVER three hundred millions of matches are made and used daily in the United States, or about nine to each person of the population.