

little drops of the fluid, and observed that it is not a slimy but a decidedly liquid and oily substance. He therefore concluded that the adherence is not due to *viscosity*, but to *capillarity*, that is, molecular attraction between liquid and solid bodies. In his opinion the adhesion of flies on glass is produced by the action that each little drop exercises on the hair which emits it. In order to prove this theory Dr. Rombouts made numerous experiments on capillary attraction, and came to the conclusion that the molecular action between the fluid and the hairs of a fly can bear up a weight of 0.69 grains, whereas the average weight of a fly is 0.49 grains. He also found that the attraction is sufficient to enable flies to remain on a vertical surface, even were ordinary water substituted for the emitted fluid.—*Acadian Scientist*.

FASHIONS.—Fashion's freaks and fancies, in all their intricacies, advantages and absurdities, are beyond the power of our explanation. Whether the survival of the fittest will explain the evolution of the modern apparel of some society individuals or not, we do not intend to discuss; but evolution—that *dernier ressort* of scientists—will explain anything and everything in the hands of the ingenious. Some day, when you have nothing better with which to amuse your mathematical propensities, sit down and calculate the amount of time, money, etc., wasted by newspaper writers and readers over silly paragraphs (omitting this) on the modern *dude*. Then calculate the number of other similar trifles, and make an estimate of the time the world spends, loses, wastes over useless, profitless, not to mention harmful, trifles. We fear the results upon our own mind of such a calculation, and leave it to other triflers. There are, however, scientific principles underlying many of the fashions of the day, and a careful study of the nature of colors, the harmony of shades, the effect of light, etc., would add much to the appearance of ladies, to say nothing of men. Let us take an example. Persons look larger in light clothes than in dark, and a black dress contributes to an elegant figure. The fact may be