

"I have been struck with the correctness of the remarks which terminate the Report of Dr. H. Wurtz, and which in my opinion answer the objections formulated by Dr. Henry Morton, inserted in two articles in the *American Gas Light Journal*, published in New York. No doubt the danger of poisoning exists with all gases containing Carbonic Oxide, and Coal Gas is not exempt from the latter, as it can contain as much as twelve per cent. of its volume. But I think the danger—which could only have sad consequences in exceptional cases and through a sort of fatality—has been exaggerated, and should not be taken into account, considering that gas is used without hesitation for lighting our houses, notwithstanding the very real danger of explosion and fire, no matter what kind of gas and its composition.

"Further, the use of Water Gas has never been prohibited in France; and if the numerous processes which have been indicated for its production have been abandoned, or have received only a restricted application, the cause is principally due to the circumstance that the technical and economical conditions of the production have up to the present been very unfavorable."

In reply to inquiries made by me regarding the relative danger of Coal and Water Gas, PROF. T. STERRY HUNT, of Montreal, writes:

"I must say, however, that the notion of any important difference as to the safety or fitness for use of two such gases seems to me to be absurd. The only questions to be raised are the relative cheapness and illuminating power."

The following are answers to questions addressed to DR. HENRY WURTZ, of New York, regarding the Lowe Gas:

"Question 5.—Are the products of combustion of this gas, when in use, more or less deleterious to health than those of gas from gas-coal?

"The answer to this question must be qualified by assuming it to apply to gases of like candle-powers. In this case it is matter of chemical demonstration that the amount of carbonic acid formed by the Lowe Gas when burning, the amount of aqueous vapor formed, and the amount of atmospheric oxygen consumed or destroyed, are all three very considerably less than in the case of gas from gas-coal. The effects upon the atmospheres of rooms (equally lighted with the two gases) tell, therefore, considerably in favor of the Lowe Gas.

"Question 6.—Whether, in the event of leakage in dwellings,