

Sudden, as when a gadfly stings.

Then, laughing loud in highest glee,

The imp upsprings:

"Mine host," says he,

"Rejoice with me;—

My bow's not hurt in any part;

But as for thee:—

Thou 'lt have a pain about thy heart!"

W. P. D.

SCIENCE---ART---NATURE.

DISINFECTANTS.

DISINFECTANTS may be divided into three classes: 1. Those that arrest fermentation. 2. Those that effect chemical decomposition. 3. Deodorizers. Those of the first class include the coal tar products, heavy oil of coal tar or dead oil. Carbolic acid and its preparations are included in these. The impure form is that best adapted for the purpose of disinfection, both by its low cost and its easy solubility. Its disinfecting power is most markedly shown in contact with putrifying nitrogenous matter. Carbolic acid, when mixed with chalk, is sold under the name of carbolic powder. This is a very poor disinfectant, not only because seventy per cent. of it is an inert substance, possessing no disinfecting properties whatever, but because, after a few hours, the carbolic acid passes off into the air. Carbolate of lime is a valuable preparation, however, for it contains two disinfectants of different orders. This substance is not, strictly speaking, a chemical salt, but is hardly more than a perfect impregnation of the lime. A very good preparation, and one that will meet all requirements, is the following: Crude carbolic acid, one ounce; sulphate of zinc, eight ounces; water, three gallons. Carbolic acid effects its disinfection by a coagulation of the albuminous matters.

Under the head of disinfectants of this order, we find sulphate of zinc, protosulphate of iron, and sesquichloride of iron. All of these enter, to a greater or less extent, into different preparations offered for sale. The Girondin fluid, so much used of late, is a