

"The following I get from the 'Coroner's Office,' and by inquiry at the places where the deaths occurred:

"There have been *eleven* deaths from illuminating gas in the City of New York in the past two years.

"*Three* of which were caused by explosions at gas works.

"*Three* were suicides, by the persons deliberately stopping key-holes in door and putting rugs at bottom of same, and closing fan-light, unscrewing gas bracket. Neither of these should be mentioned, I think, in yours or any other report.

"*Three* by accidental suffocation with 'Water Gas.'

"*Two* by accidental suffocation with 'Coal Gas.'"

Whether the three deaths from suicide were from Water or Coal Gas is not stated, but it would be manifestly unfair to blame either, for them, and such a quantity of gas was allowed to escape as would be far more than sufficient with either gas to cause death.*

This leaves *three* cases of suffocation which can be properly charged to Water Gas, and *three* from *explosions*, the kind of gas which caused them not being stated. Now, suppose we allow Mr. Littlehales these cases for the sake of argument, and include in the list of deaths in Great Britain, during the time referred to, those which took place from a similar cause, and see how far this claim is borne out.

In venturing to say that there were a greater number than could be traced to Coal Gas *in the whole of Europe* in the same time, Mr. Littlehales ventures a statement that it would be somewhat difficult to controvert, as far as the *Continent* of Europe is concerned, owing to lack of information on the point. As far as *Great Britain alone* is concerned, I find the following accidents recorded in the *American Gas Light Journal* as having resulted from Coal Gas. *How many took place that are not recorded it is hard to say:*

1878:—Explosions, 14; deaths, 1; fatal suffocations, 11.

1879:—Explosions, 20; deaths, 4; fatal suffocations, 6.

1880, to December 7th:—Explosions, 6; deaths, 2; fatal suffocations, including 2 from carbonic acid gas, 5.

Total:—Explosions, 40; deaths, 7; fatal suffocations, 22.

Besides the deaths from explosions, a number of persons were seriously injured.

In estimating the relative danger of the two gases, as I before said, the danger from *explosions* must be taken into consideration.

* Since this was written I have received information of two more deaths having taken place in New York from Coal Gas.—W. H. P.