

### THE COMPOSITION OF BUTTERS OF DIFFERENT ORIGINS.—E. Duclaux.—

The author questions the constancy of the proportion of volatile fats in genuine butters. He finds that the sum of the butyric and caproic acids ranges from 7.95 to 5.77 per cent. The greatest uniformity is found in the butters of Isigny. In this district there is the greatest uniformity in the race and in the conditions of alimentation. M. Duclaux thinks that, in addition to the care employed in making and preserving the butter, the race of the cows and the food supplied, the geological nature of the soil, and the climate, are not without influence.

### DETECTION OF ANNATO IN BUTTER.

—Sir,—In giving a method for the detection of annato in butter (*CHEMICAL NEWS*, lv., p. 49) I recommended testing the filtered fat, and that is a good plan when the commercial "butter colors," containing annato coloring-matter, dissolved usually in some oil, are employed. I have, however, recently met with a butterine which gave only a very faint annato reaction from the filtered fat, while the unfiltered fat, decanted from the water, salt and curd, and tested as I have directed, gave a fine reaction. I noticed that the filter-paper through which the fat had been filtered assumed an orange-red tint, and on extraction with ether I got an annato reaction from this paper. Evidently in this case the annato had been employed in the solid state, and much of it had not been dissolved in the fat, so that it would be well to test the clear unfiltered fat for annato in such a case.—I am, etc., H. B. Cornwall, John C. Green School of Science, College of New Jersey, Princetown, June 8th, 1887.—*Chemical News*.

THE *Æolus* Waterspray General Ventilating and Electrical Engineering Company gave an interesting exhibi-

tion of the action of their patent ventilators, at their premises in High Holborn. This system of ventilation was patented several years ago, and is now becoming widely known and appreciated throughout the country. The method employed for inducing a current of air is, as its name implies, by a spray of water squirting through a nozzle of peculiar construction, so arranged that it can be flushed in a few moments whenever necessary, simply by giving a few turns to a screw. The action of this spray is somewhat similar to that of a Bunsen filter-pump or a Gifford injector, the rush of water dragging the air after it. One gallon of water is said to be sufficient to move 1,000 cubic feet of air, which is much more than could be done if the power used was applied to driving a fan for the same purpose. Besides ventilating apparatus, this company supply all kinds of electrical machinery and appliances for electric lighting. Their mechanical or acoustic telephone is by far the simplest and most effective telephone for short distances, such as a mile or so; it is free from all patents, does not require an electric battery to work it, and is very cheap, three points in its favor which should strongly recommend it.

### COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION.

—It was originally intended to confine the reports of this exhibition to the consideration of raw products only, or such manufactures that might be of importance to trade between England and her colonies. A few exceptions have, however, been made in the case of some exhibits which appeared to be of special interest. The first report is on Mining Industries, by C. Le Neve Foster, and is, owing to the vast mineral resources of the colonies, of very great importance. The collection of metallic ores, coal and other minerals was an extensive one, and attracted a good deal of