be covered here and there with patches of electricity, and we make of it a system compared with which the universe of planets and stars is simplicity. To understand it is far beyond our power. And what do we know as to the nature of what we call electricity, that subtle force, or movement, or substance, which attaches itself to molecules and atoms and gives them their peculiar power !

And what is the ether which binds all things together and is the medium which carries all forces ? We can find for it no atoms, and yet it fills all space without limit, like the ubiquity of God, and through it, and it only, any two portions of matter separated near or far from each other are brought into mutual action, whether through the forces of gravitation, electricity, magnetism, light or heat. lt alone carries the vibratory motion of each atom or molecule, to be continued into infinite space. No matter whether the force be as feeble as rubbed amber, or as mighty as the rush of energy from the sun, whether we put into a cubic inch of this ether the thousands of horse-power of heat issuing from the sun's surface, or millions of electric volts, it carries them easily with no signs of breaking down. What is this simple, incomprehensibly simple, ether, and what are its waves, and how do atoms catch hold of ether and start its vibrations? Maxwell and Hertz tell us that the movement of matter alone will not start ethereal waves : its molecules must first be electrified; but what is this electro-magnetism, and how again does it grasp the ether ?

Science-and the word means knowledge—only lengthens a little, by each discovery, the radius of what we know, and enlarges the visible circumference of our ignorance. We know something of properties, of relations, but very little of things. We know a little of movements, of qualities, but nothing of mat-We know of love and hate, and ter. joy and fear, and right and wrong, but what do we know of souls ? Yet we know enough of inexorable Nature, and of danger and duty, to govern fairly our lives; and what we do not know must be the object of constant search. This search is the highest purpose of science, of whatever sort; yet where in the world, asks Professor Kowland, is the institute of research which has an income of a hundred millions a year, an amount readily granted as the price per year of an army or a navy designed to kill other people ?- The Independent.

THE WHITE PLAGUE.

Dr. E. J. Barrick, of Toronto, issues an important and timely pamphlet on the best means of dealing with the consumptive poor. He urges strongly the establishment and maintenance of rural sanatoria and the co-operation of Dominion and Local Legislatures and municipalities for providing the means therefor. He shows that between the ages of fifteen and sixty, an age when their lives are of most value to the nation and to the home, no less than thirty-seven out of every hundred die of a disease that is preventable and curable. He demonstrates that from a financial point of view it would be extremely economical, apart from all philanthropic or religious considerations, to maintain such sanatoria, and thus lessen the distress and poverty which costs such large expenditure every year. He shows that Canada is eminently adapted for such sanatoria, that we are far behind other countries in their adoption, that an increased interest is being shown in this subject, and that a large committee of the medical men. representing many parts of the Dominion, has been appointed for the promotion of this important movement.

The hottest furnaces in the world are the electrical furnaces at Niagara Falls, where clay is transformed into aluminum; where lime and carbon are combined to form calcium carbide, the chief agent in producing acetylene gas; where carborundum—gem crystals as hard as a diamond and as beautiful as a ruby—is made; where graphite hitherto mined from the earth, is produced as easily as soap; and where, it is predicted, pure diamonds will yet be "produced in quantities and shipped in peck boxes." In the furnaces a heat of more than 6,500 degree F. has been produced—all through the power of the mighty cataract.

We find that the credit given to LaScience Illustric in the December number of this magazine for the curious article and illustration on "Fly's Eyes and What They See," should have been given to The Literary Digest. We have no hesitation in saying that with its broad outlook on the world of science and invention, of letters and art, of the great movements of the world, the Digest gives the best condensed review that we know. We are often indebted to its columns and are glad to acknowle lge our indebtedness.