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Hydrophobia.

Some seeds have been received at the Patent Office from New Orleans, for distribution, which are used in St. Bernard's Parish, Louisiana, for the cure of hydrophobia. The plant originally came from Mexico, and the seeds alone are employed for effecting a cure of this peculiar disease. The way to use it is, to steep the seeds in wine for about 24 hours—three seeds is a full dose—and three doses are given to a patient every day, for nine days.

The discovery of a perfect antidote for hydrophobia would really be one of the most important ever made in medicine, for although many substances have, from time to time, been brought forward as curatives, still no one has really proved so. The case of a patient who died in the New York Hospital on the 15th of last month, proves that this disease is not altogether well named. The physician found, that the most distressing part of the malady is the *difficulty and pain in swallowing*, arising from sharp spasmodic action of the muscles concerned in this function, extending sometimes even to those of the neck and chest, and producing a feeling of alarming constriction of the organs of respiration, causing almost complete, though temporary suffocation, and thus aggravating if not actually exciting the convulsions, with the more or less violent contortions and discoloration of the countenance, protrusion of the eyeballs, and other active and painful symptoms. But he experienced no dread of the sound of water, and even took some in his mouth, but found great pain in an endeavor to swallow it. He was carefully treated, with cool cloths applied to his head, mustard poultices to his feet, and the administration of anodyne and nourishing enemata, but he died in twenty hours after he was admitted.

The peculiarity of the hydrophobia poison is, that it may slumber in the system for some time, and then begin to exert its terrible power in some unexpected moment.—This patient was bitten five weeks before he was taken to the hospital, and the wound was perfectly healed, but, although the poison slumbered so long in his system, it at last did its fearful work.

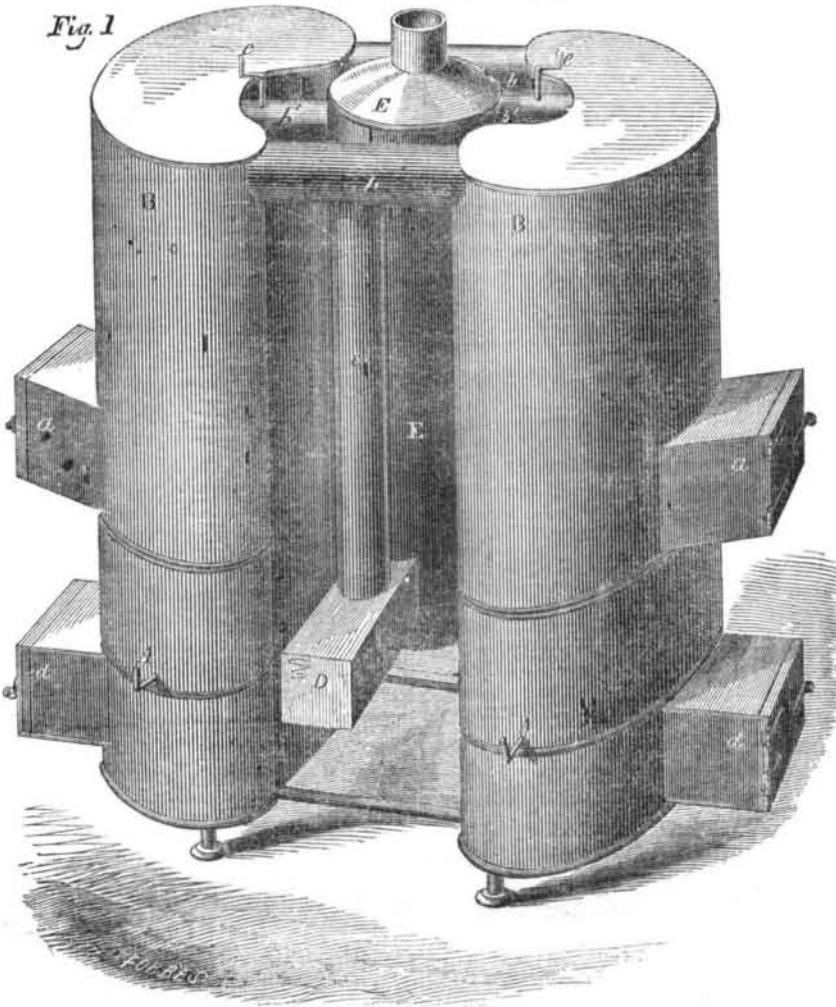
Tobacco.

In the United States, physicians have estimated that 20,000 persons die every year from the use of tobacco. In Germany, the physicians have calculated that, of all the deaths which occur between the ages of 18 and 35, one half originate in the waste of constitution by smoking! They say that the article exhausts and deranges the nervous powers and produces a long train of nervous diseases, to which the stomach is liable, and especially those forms that go under the name of dyspepsia. It also exerts a disastrous influence upon the mind.—[United States Gazette.]

[Can the above be substantiated by positive testimony?]

Nearly six million bushels of salt were made at the Salt Works of Onondaga Co., N. Y., last year.

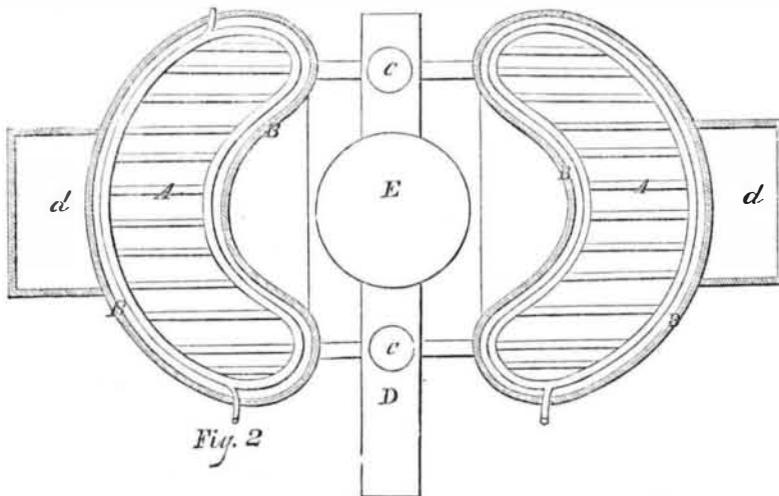
SUTTON'S AIR HEATING FURNACE.



The accompanying engraving represents a hot air furnace, for which a patent was granted on the 11th of last March, to James. H. Sutton.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, and fig. 2 is a horizontal section taken above the grates. This air heating furnace has two distinct fire chambers, B B, combined with a hot air chamber and a central smoke pipe. Similar letters indicate like parts.

B B are the cases of two fire chambers or boxes, and A A are their grates, which are hung on central pivots, and swing in the usual way. a a are the doors for feeding in the fuel to the fires, and d d are the doors of



the ash pit. The smoke and hot gases can pass immediately into the central smoke pipe by the pipes, b' b', which have dampers, e e; but the heat from the fires is directed through the side pipes, b b, down the pipes, c, (one on each side,) into the air box, D, and then enters at the foot of cylinder, E, into the central smoke pipe, then passes up into the chimney. The cylinder, E, is a case, with the smoke pipe in the center; into this (the case) the air is conducted at the box, D, and is thus heated, and from thence conveyed away to any apartment by a tube or tubes. This heater is a very simple one, and having two furnaces combined, one can be in

full operation while the other is being cleaned out; or when the temperature of the weather is such that one fire will be sufficient for heating purposes, only one of the furnaces may be used. The heater itself possesses a great amount of heating surface, and is of a neat and compact form. The air heating chamber, according to the patent, may be placed around the furnace box, and connected in a continuous chamber with one

surrounding the central smoke pipe, from which tubes may conduct the warm air to any distant part of the building in which the heater is placed.

This apparatus can also be used as a local heater, if desired, without conducting the hot air to distant rooms.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to Sutton & Brown, Honesdale, Pa.

Smelling Salts.

It is singular that this substance, which is considered so delicate and refreshing a perfume, should be prepared by chemical art from matters of the most obnoxious character to the nasal organ; yet such is the fact. The proper and chemical term for smelling-salt is ammonia; it originally derived its name from the temple of Jupiter Ammon, at Ammonia, in Libya, a district of Egypt, in the neighborhood of which it was first manufactured. In Egypt the chief fuel is the dung of the camel; and as all animal substances yield a large portion of ammonia, there is much of it in this substance; hence the soot arising from its combustion is impregnated with ammonia, from which it is afterwards abstracted. In Europe, ammonia used to be made by distilling bones, horns, parings of hides, and other waste animal matter from the tanners' and slaughter-houses; but latterly a cheaper source has been discovered, namely, from the refuse of the manufacture of coal gas. It is found that all plants and coal (which is of vegetable origin) yield, by distillation, from one to three per cent. of ammonia. Many other substances come over with the ammonia in the distilling apparatus, which are horrible to smell, but which the chemist and perfumer rectify, so as at last to produce that exquisite perfume which is carried by the ladies, encased in crystal, gold, and silver.

SEPTIMUS PIESSE.

London.

The Course of Cities.

The Academy of Sciences in Paris have been investigating the causes which almost invariably make the west end of a city grow more, and become more fashionable than the east. "It arises from the atmospheric pressure," answers the Academy of Science. The wind which causes the greatest ascension of the barometric column is that of the east, and that which lowers it most is the west. When the latter blows, it has the convenience of carrying with it to the eastern parts of a town all the deleterious gases which it meets in its passage over the western parts, and the inhabitants of the eastern part of a town have to support not only their own smoke and miasma, but those of the western part of the town, brought to them by the west winds. When, on the contrary, the east wind blows, it purifies the air by causing to ascend the pernicious emanations which it cannot drive to the west. The deduction from this law is, that the western part of a city is the best place of residence for persons of delicate health, and that all establishments from which emanate pernicious vapors and gases should be placed to the east. There seems to be good philosophy in these conclusions.

[The above we have seen in quite a number of our cotemporaries, but we cannot acquiesce in the philosophy. The conclusions may be correct for Paris, and some other European cities, where westerly winds prevail, but not for other places. Cities on navigable rivers generally grow downwards when there is room for such growth, but New York, which has outstripped all the European cities in rapid growth, has not expanded westward, but to the north; and as Brooklyn may really be considered a part of it, its progress has been towards the east, not the west. Neither the east nor west winds cause the greatest ascension and depression of the barometric column in New York, but the south and the northwest winds. Our west winds, however, are pure and pleasant, while our east winds are damp and chilly; but these never have been consulted in relation to the growth of the city.]

