Scientific Museum.

Kerosene.

This is the name applied to a new liquid hydro-carbon recently obtained from bitumen. The discoverer, Dr. Gesner, of Williamsburgh, N. Y., has received letters patent for his new combination of matter, and operations are now in progress by a company in this city for the extensive manufacture of the valuable products of his invention.

Kerosene is readily separable during its distillation into three distinct varieties, distinguished by the patentee, as A, B, and C Kerosene. Each of these varieties possess different numbers of the equivalents of carbon and hydrogen and different and somewhat peculiar characters, and each has been the subject of a patent. Their densities and boiling points are as follows, viz.:

	Spec. gravity.	Boiling point.
A Keroseue	0·750	150° Fah.
B "	0·775	250° "
C "	0·800	350° "

The A Kerosene has one of the properties of benzole, namely, that of rendering common air, when passed through it or its vapor, a gas suitable for illuminating purposes. It was therefore at first taken for benzole, but recent investigations made by American and European chemists have proved that its specific gravity, boiling, and congealing points, chemical composition, &c., differ widely from those of benzole, or naptha. Its lower density and boiling point, and greater volatility, give the Kerosene a great advantage over benzole, which, in cold weather is certain to condense in the pipes conveying the air vaporized by it. On the other hand a gas light of great brilliancy is produced from the A Kerosene, and steadily maintained during the coldest periods of winter, and even when the gas pipes pass through ice.

Like the foregoing, the B Kerosene is a spirituous hydro-carbon; but it has a greater specific gravity and a higher boiling point. It is incapable of vaporising atmospheric air passed through it in a sufficient degree to afford light. It however gives a beautiful white light when consumed in a proper lamp.

The C Kerosene is an essential oil, which is also admirably adapted for lamps of proper construction. The three liquids are separated the one from the other, at one and the same distillation, and the yield even from bituminous rocks or shales is equal to forty gallons per tun, exclusive of a quantity of mineral tar, which is applied to the manufacture of a superior hydraulic cement and other useful purposes. The A and B Kerosene exercise but a feeble action on gutta percha and india rubber, while the C Kerosene is a perfect solvent for those substances.

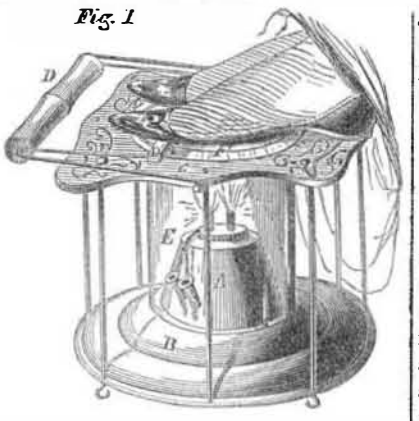
The peculiarities of these liquids are no doubt derived from the nature of the material subjected to manufacture and which is acted upon by cheap and powerful re-agents, and a peculiar mode of conducting the distillatory and decoloring processes, all of which are set forth in the specifications of each patent. Bituminous rocks of any kind, and such as have not heretofore been applied to any useful purpose, yield these liquids abundantly, producing cheap agents for illuminating purposes. They may be made and sold at much lower rates than any of the oils or burning fluids hitherto offered in the market. It is not yet known what further uses may be found for these new products. Dr. Gesner is still engaged in prosecuting the inquiry, and his own labors, or those of other chemists may discover still further applications for the liquid hydro-carbons he has produced.

Several machines have been invented or proposed for passing the air through the Kerosene to produce the Kerosene light. To light a room, a building, or a town, it is only necessary to wind up the machine in the manner of winding up a clock. The machine collects and distributes the air which is rendered a splendid illuminating gas by passing it through or over the surface of the Kerosene.

Combination Portable Stove and Lantern.

On the 11th of last April a patent was granted to Francis Arnold, of Middle Haddam, Conn., for the invention represented by the annexed figures, of which figure 1 shows its application as a foot stove, and figure 2 as a portable stove for boiling a kettle, &c.

Fig. 1



A is a lamp; B is the bottom plate of cast-iron, with a recess for the seat of the lamp; C is the top plate of cast-metal, and D D′ is a double handle which answers for a foot fender, as shown in figure 1, with the projecting heel support, G; E is a transparent mica case surrounding the lamp, B, and the underside of the top plate, C. It is therefore a portable stove and lantern. The various purposes for which this neat apparatus can be used, may be readily conjectured by every person. No further description of the parts is required. No one can misunderstand them. In cases of sickness it is a very useful apparatus to keep any needful drink warm, it can also be used for heating flat irons, and for this purpose can be kept in any chamber. To say anything more respecting

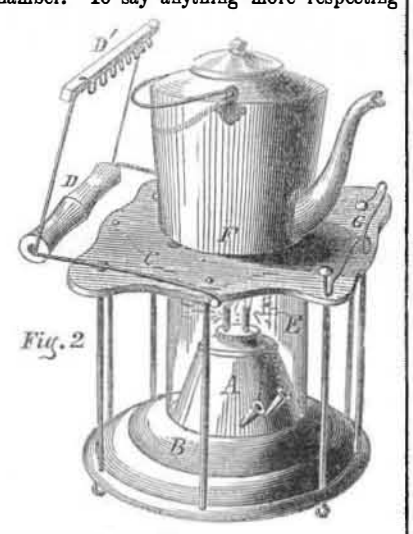


Fig. 2

its general adaptability to a hundred purposes, would just be telling what our readers can see at once for themselves.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to the patentee at his place of residence named above.

To Extinguish Fires on Steamboats.

A. Walker, Supervising Inspector for the 9th District, under the new Steamboat Law, has directed the attention of the owners and agents of steamboats navigating the lakes, to the importance of extinguishing fires by steam, he says, "I most earnestly recommend that all steam vessels should be provided with a blow-off cock or valve, permanently attached to the boilers, with a rod or handle connected, and leading from the same, above the main deck, where it would be accessible at all times to the engineers and officers of the boat, so that in case fire communicates in the hold, as it generally does, this cock or valve may be opened in an instant, and allow steam to escape into the hold of the vessel, which is one of the most effectual means of extinguishing fire that has yet been discovered; and in nine cases out of ten would be the means of saving the boat, though badly on fire at the time it was discovered. The cost of pipe and attachment to boilers is but a small expense—not exceeding $30. It is one of the great safe-guards, and should be placed on all steam vessels, as their safety so much depends on some ready and certain means to check the flames in the outset, which steam will do most effectually, if allowed to find its way into any room, recess, or aperture where there is any fire. Many boats and propellers on the lakes have already adopted the same, or a similar plan, and some can bear testimony to the utility of such an auxiliary in the extinguishment of fire.

I would also respectfully invite the especial attention of engineers to this particular subject, believing all can appreciate the importance of having some ready and sure means to prevent further disasters by fire, thereby avoiding such scenes as have been enacted in past years, the contemplation of which is by no means pleasant to dwell upon."

Lime Water a Remedy for Diarrhea.

In a letter to the Charleston (S. C.) "Mercury," J. Lartigue asserts that lime water is an excellent remedy for the above disease. He does not claim it as something new, it being first suggested to his mind by reading Youatt, a writer on the "Horse." Mr. L. believes it is also good for cholera, for which he has tried it personally, with the following experience:

"The first case in which I tried it," he says, "was very interesting. The patient, a man about forty years of age, was taken with the most copious evacuations. He said that another would be his end. I thought so too, as the last, and several of the preceding were very violent. I gave him a half pint of the solution of quicklime, as strong as the unslaked lime would make it, but perfectly clear of the sediment. He had scarcely swallowed it before he began to sneeze violently, and said that he was frying in his stomach. He never had another operation—no fever, and was well in half an hour, except as to debility. I have had occasion to try it this summer with similar success. In one case it was checked too soon, and produced fever, but the patient soon recovered of that.

I am no advocate for quack medicines, nor am I a believer in panaceas; but I believe this remedy can be accounted for on chemical principles."

Cure for Cholera,

The "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal" recommends for cholera attacks, a prescription as follows:—Laudanum, two drachms; spirits of camphor, one drachm; sweet tincture of rhubarb, four drachms; aqua ammonia, (hartshorn,) half a drachm; oil of peppermint, 15 drops. Take a teaspoonful in hot sweetened water every fifteen minutes, to allay the vomiting and pains.

Cure for the Venom of Snakes and Insects.

A correspondent of the N. Y. "Tribune," signing himself "Old Physician," asserts that the virus of snakes, &c., is "Prussic Acid," and states that the antidote for it is spirits of hartshorn (ammonia). After a person is bitten he recommends a few drops applied to the wound, and 20 drops drank mixed with a little water and whiskey. This dose is to be taken every ten or twenty minutes, until profuse perspiration is produced, when all the symptoms of the poison, he asserts, will disappear. This antidote, he says, is perfect and unfailing, and every person is advised to carry it with him, whenever he goes among venomous reptiles, &c.

This remedy is not new, but is old and well known, and perhaps is very good, but we are not acquainted with a single case of its successful use, although we have often heard its efficacy spoken of.

Vandalism.

The English Consul at Jerusalem publishes a letter denouncing a Yankee named Jones, who lately sojourned in the Holy City, and turned a penny by chipping off with a hammer pieces of the "Holy Sepulchre," the "Tombs of the Kings," and other famous monuments, and selling them to travelers at pretty high prices, to be carried home. The Consul adds that "it is notorious throughout the East that a similar propensity is chargeable peculiarly to travelers from the United States." This is particularly just, considering that the British Museum has been enriched by such robberies.

It is also believed that the said Consul, through spite, has made an overt charge. Mr. McGreggor, the Secretary for the Association for Converting the Jews, in this city, denies the whole allegement, against Mr. Jones.

Seasonable Advice.

Use chloride of lime freely if the premises or vicinity of your house is impure. If bedbugs annoy you destroy them with corrosive sublimate, beaten up in the white of an egg, and paste it on the wood-work infested. If roaches abound, moisten and sweeten bread crumbs or boiled potatoes, mix red lead with them, spread on sheets of paper, and scatter them about in the evening to be gathered up in the morning. If rats or mice be the pests, use good traps. In poisoning them you may poison greater folks, and if you do destroy them in this way, you create bad odors in the house.

Pearl Fishing.

A party of gentlemen, from Wilmington, Del., visited Havre de Grace, a few days since, to witness the operations of the diving bell, preparatory to the formation of a company to engage in the pearl fishery. Thirty-five thousand dollars were subscribed, which is to be increased to fifty thousand. When organized, an expedition is to be sent to the coast of Mexico, to commence operations.

LITERARY NOTICES.

BIBLIOTHECA SACRA.—The July number of this expositor and repository of New England theology, published at Andover, Mass., by G. W. F. Draper & Bro., contains seven original articles on different subjects, and a considerable amount of miscellaneous matter. The first article in it, is the account of an excursion from Damascus to Yabrudd, by the Rev. J. L. Porter, Missionary at Damascus, which is very interesting, but the one that has attracted our attention most, is the second, on "Druidism," by Rev. E. D. Morris, of Auburn, N. Y. This review is second to none other in the world.

OLD EBONY.—The last number of Blackwood's Magazine, republished by Leonard Scott & Co., No. 79 Fulton st., this city, is as usual rich, racy, and pungent. It contains nine original articles, one of which, "The recent growth of the United States," should be read by every American; it is worth the whole price of the magazine.

PUDDLEFORD AND ITS PEOPLE.—By H. H. Riley. With illustrations. 12 mo., pp. 289. Samuel Hueston, 348 Broadway.—This is one of the best written amusing books we have read for some time. Puddleford was a new village, located in the far West, and its inhabitants composed every variety of character necessary to form a western village. The houses were built of logs, they had a tavern and a Justice of the Peace—the Squire did all the law business of the town. He lived in a frame house, the only one in Puddleford, and that was never finished. For a book of fun and truthfulness in portraying western life, we have read nothing which has pleased us more for some time.

CHAMBERS' JOURNAL.—For August, has been sent us by P. D. Orvis, No. 130 Fulton St. It contains several interesting chapters, the more entertaining being the remarks of Wm. Chambers concerning New York.