

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, August 1, 1908.

CAST-IRON STOVES A CAUSE OF DISEASE.

When the attention of the Academy of Sciences, in Paris, was drawn, some time since, by M. Carret, one of the physicians of the Hotel Dieu, of Chambery, in several papers, to the possible evil consequences of the use of cast-iron stoves, but little interest was excited in the matter. Recently General Morin has again brought the subject forward with better success. M. Carret does not hesitate to declare that positively that cast-iron stoves are sources of danger to those who habitually employ them.

During an epidemic which recently prevailed in Savoy, but upon which M. Carret does not furnish us with any detailed information, he observed that all the inhabitants who were affected with it made use of cast-iron stoves, which had been lately imported into the country; whereas, all those who employed other modes of firing, or other sorts of stoves, were left untouched by the disease.

An epidemic of typhoid fever, which broke out some time after at the Lyceum of Chambery, was regarded by the same author as being influenced by a large cast iron stove in the children's dormitory.

General Morin speaks in the highest terms of M. Carret's Memoirs, to which the recent experiments of M. M. Treast & Deville give additional importance. These able investigations have established that iron and cast iron when heated to a certain degree, become previous to the passage of gas. They have been enabled to state the quantity of oxide of carbon which may, as they suppose, transude from a given surface of metal, and have shown that the air which surrounds a stove of cast iron is saturated with hydrogen and oxide of carbon. They conclude that cast-iron stoves, when sufficiently heated, absorb oxygen, and give issue to carbonic acid.

General Morin related some comparative experiments which had been performed by M. Carret, and which, he said, corroborated this theory. Thus, after having remained one full hour in room heated to forty degrees (centigrade) by means of a sheet-iron stove, M. Carret perspired abundantly, got a good appetite, but felt no sickness whatever. He had obtained the same result with an earthen stove, but the experiment, when performed only during one half hour with a cast iron stove, had brought on intense headache and sickness.

M. Deville, at the same sitting of the Academy supported these views with considerable warmth. The danger which attended the use of cast-iron stoves, he said, was enormous, and truly formidable. In his lecture-room at the Sorbonne, he had placed two electric bells, which were set in motion as soon as the hydrogen or oxide of carbon was diffused in the room. Well, during his last lecture, the two cast-iron stoves had scarcely been lit when the bells began to ring. These facts are certainly startling if we consider the reputation of comparative harmlessness with these articles of domestic use has hitherto enjoyed.

In France, particularly, the lodgings of the poorest classes, the barracks-rooms of the soldiery, the artists studios, the class-rooms of large schools, etc., are commonly heated by these means. Of course we are inclined to question M. Carret's conclusions; but the apparently accurate character of the facts recorded, joined to the authority of those who have brought them forward, demands for them a serious investigation.

We are glad to be able to add that a committee has been appointed by the Academy, for the purpose of examining thoroughly into the subject. This committee is composed of MM. Claude Bernard, Morin, Freimy, Deville and Busay; and we shall not fail, when the time comes, to mention what shall have been the results of their researches.—London Lancet.

BEAUTY.

What is beauty, after all? Each eye makes it for itself. You think Smith's lady-love raw-boned and hard-featured. He calls her a "magnificent woman," and wonders what you see in your little angel with her baby face and stature. So it is the world over; and yet, we would each give something to be beautiful after our own fashion. How the powders and lotions which are bestowed upon poor-bellied mortals skins of satin and snow, and the hair dyes and pomades and cosmetics of all sorts sell, we need not mention to prove the facts. In France old ladies are even being made over, at the cost of half their fortunes. Heaven keep me from ever catching a glimpse of one of those emerald, dyed, and miserable old creatures after the reparation by the way. Yes, we all want to be beautiful; and if only our ideas of beauty were those they should be, we might accomplish our desire easily. Meekness and love make all faces pleasant. We all feel this. There are plain features so charming with the sparkle of good humor that we love them. There are blemished faces so sweet that they are pleasant to look upon than the most perfect. After all it is in the expression that the actual charm lies. So that, were some one to promise the secret of beauty for twenty-five cents and a post-paid envelope, he would scarcely be an impostor were he to return the golden rule with instructions to learn and practice it. If we only could do this earnestly and truly for one generation, the next might wonder whether it were not a fable that such a thing as ugliness was ever known upon old earth.—Emeline Palmer.

PERSUASION BETTER THAN FORCE.—Deal gently with the obstinate. Draw them back by love and persuasion. A kiss is worth a thousand kicks. A kind word is more valuable to the lost than a mine of gold. Think of this, and be on your guard, ye who would chase to the grave an erring brother. We must consult the gentlest manner and softest persona of address; our advice must not fall like a violent storm, bearing down and making those to drop whom it is intended to cherish and refresh. It must descend to the dew on the tender herb, or like melting flakes of snow, so that it falls the longer it will upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind. If there are few who have the handling of these delicate things, it is often because there are few who have the discretion to convey it in the proper way, and who can qualify the harshness and bitterness and reproach.

against which human nature is apt to revolt. To probe the wound to the bottom, with all the boldness and resolution of a great spiritual surgeon, and yet with all the delicacy and tenderness of a friend, requires a very accurate and masterly hand. An accurate diagnosis and a comprehensive of behavior will disclose the nature of the disease. If, instead of merely pointing out the mistakes of the patient, we point out the mistakes of passion, we come to have any influence.

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