ROAD MAKING BY STEAM.—A London paper says:—

Last year we were called attention to the rapidity with which the roads in St. James' Park were being formed by the aid of a powerful steam roller. Our readers have now an opportunity of seeing the process in operation upon an improved plan in the same place, and some of the metropolitan parochial authorities may study the system with advantage. The road is first prepared by being loosened with pickaxes, then covered with the ordinary broken granite; above this a dressing of sand is laid; the whole is then well watered. At four o'clock each morning an immense roller, propelled by steam, is moved slowly over the prepared surface. It exerts a pressure of twenty-eight tons, and the result is that in an unusually short time a firm and compact macadamized road is formed so smoothly that the lightest vehicles may be immediately driven over it without fear of injuring the springs. The engine works almost without noise, and appears to consume all its own smoke. It has the appearance of a large railway break van. The work is continued daily from four a.m. to four p.m., and excites considerable interest. It is a pity that something is not done to improve the footpaths in this park. They are in a disgraceful condition, especially that portion between Buckingham and Marlborough gates. The slightest storm turns it into a muddy swamp, and in dry weather the rough stones are very trying to pedestrians.

THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE.—Sir J. Y. Simpson, of Edinburgh, who adds to his great fame, as the head of the progressive school of surgery and medicine in great Britain, a touch of poetical genius and a decided bent towards universal knowledge in his studies, indulges in the following anticipations of the future progress of the healing art:

"But that day of revolution will not probably be fully realized till those distant days when physicians a century hence shall be familiar with the chemistry of most diseases; when they shall know the exact organic poisons that produce them, with all their exact antidotes and eliminatories; when they shall look upon the cure of some maladies as simply a series of chemical problems and formulæ; when they shall melt down all calculi, necrosed bones, etc., chemically, and not remove them by surgical operations; when the bleeding in amputations and other wounds shall be stemmed, and not by septic ligatures or stupid needles, but by the simple application of hæmostatic gases or washes; when the few wounds then required in surgery shall all be swift and immediately healed by the first intention; when medical men shall be able to stay the ravages of tubercle, blot out fevers and inflammations, avert and melt down morbid growths, cure cancers, destroy all morbific organic germs and ferments, annul the deadly influence of malaria and contagions, and by these and various other means markedly lengthen out the average duration of human life; when our hygienic conditions and laws shall have been changed by State legislation, so as to forbid all communicable diseases from being communicated, and remove all causes of sickness that are removeable; when the increasing length of human life shall begin to fulfil that ancient prophecy: 'The child shall die an hundred years old;' when there shall have been achieved, too, advances in other walks of life, far beyond our present state of progress; when houses shall be built and other kinds of work be performed by machinery, and not by human hands alone; when the crops in these islands shall be increased five or ten fold, and abundance of human food be provided for our increased population by our fields being irrigated by that waste organic refuse of our towns which we now recklessly run off into our rivers and seas; when men shall have invented means of calling down rain at will; when he shall have gained cheaper and better motive powers than steam; when he shall travel from continent to continent by submarine railways, or by flying and ballooning through the air."

ADJECTIVE SMASHING.—A word about the adjective smashers. It was only a few days since, as I was eating my dinner at my restaurant, two young ladies flew in, in a billowy, Grecian-bendish sort of way, and lit at a table next to mine. Creams were ordered and the twain commenced eating. The silence was shortly interrupted by one, who exclaimed: "Tsplendid, idn't it?" After a moment's pause and apparently with some effort came the reply: "El-l-legant." If these young women really believe that itheth kream is splendid and elegant, what in the name of all miserable, abused adjectives would be their words for Charlotte Russe and strawberry short cakes, not to speak of the thousands of beautiful things in this great world, of which their dear little brains probably have no comprehension? Why must a bonnet always be a love of a bonnet; a dress superb; a bit of lace, adorable; a poodle dog, divine; a daub, magnificent, Angelina's nose, charming, and so on, and so on? You exhaust your vocabularies on nothing. You apply the adjective to your bonnet which you give your dearest friend. Perhaps they are of equal value in your estimation, however. The adjective for your dress leaves you nothing to say for Michael Angelo, while that for your lace puts you in the same plight with regard to Raphael. The adjective for your miserable, careless little beast of a poodle, places him in the same category with things heavenly, while your adjective for Angelina's nose places it in the scale of Niagara.

MAGNITUDE OF LONDON.—Its houses number more than 350,000, and its streets, if placed in a line, would extend from Liverpool to New York, and are lighted at night by 360,000 gas lamps, consuming in every twenty-four hours about 13,000,000 cubic feet of gas. Of the water supply 44,383,328 gallons are used per day. The travelling public sustain 3,000 cabs and 1,500 omnibuses, besides all other sorts of vehicles which human need can require or human wit invent. Its hungry population devour in the course of every year 1,600,000 quarters of wheat, 240,000 bullocks, 1,760,000 sheep, 28,000 calves, 34,000 pigs, 10,000,000 head of game; 3,000,000 salmon and innumerable fish of othersorts, and consume 43,200,000 gallons of beer, 2,000,000 gallons of spirits, and 65,000 pipes of wine. As a consequence, it should find in charitable institutions full compensation. London finally supports 852 churches, which are presided over by 930 divines of greater or less note.—The Nation.