SCIENCE AND INVENTION

Immune From Poison.

There is a young American achieving fame in England in an unusual way. He is showing the British medical men how much poison he can eat and drink without ill effect. His menu on a recent occasion was paris green, strychnine, blue indigo, phosphorus and atropine. It was all very simple. Each plate contained its deadly burden of brilliant green and blue and white powders. One after the other the American partook of each, missing none, but deploring that he had been unable to secure certain other things, owing to the stringency of the law controlling the sale of poisons. Medical experts marveled at the demonstration. Every dish was severely tested and the admission was freely made that enough poison had been swallowed to kill a regiment of ordinary mortals.

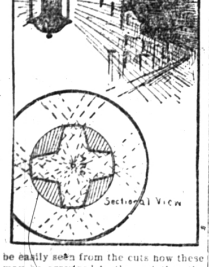
Cement for China.

The following formula is given for making the well-known cement of Pompeii, or universal cement: Dissolve eight ounces of sugar in twenty-four ounces of water, in a glass flask on a water bath, and to the thin syrup add two ounces of slaked lime; keep the mixture at temperature of about 70 to 75 degrees Centigrade (158 to 167 Fahr.), for three days, shaking frequently, then cool and decant the clear liquid. Dilute six and a half ounces of this liquor with as much water, and in the mixture steep sixteen ounces of fine gelatine for three hours after heating to effect solution. Finally, add to the mixture an ounce and a half of glacial acetic acid and fifteen grains pure carbolic acid. One of the strongest and most easily prepared cements for mending is lime and white of an egg. To use it, take a sufficient quantity of the white egg to mend one article at a time, shave off a quantity of lime and mix thoroughly. Apply quickly to the edges and place firmly together, when the article will soon become set and strong. Mix but a small quantity at a time, as it hardens very soon, so that it cannot be used. Calcined plaster of Paris answers as well as lime.

Arc-Light Distributor.

The operation of the arc light has been lately improved by the use of what is called a distributor, which changes the appearance of the lamp entirely. The use of prisms is now largely resorted to as a means of directing light rays to dark corners and places remote from windows and other sources of illumination. Prisms are made use of in the arc light distributor for the purpose of concentrating the light in certain directions where most desired without completely shutting them off from the other quarters.

The arc light distributor is especially designed for street illumination and particularly for the intersections of streets. It consists of four panels of plain glass and four prisms, and it will



be easily seen from the cuts how these may be arranged to the end that the rays will be more generously directed up and down the streets. The direct rays from the light are allowed to shine through the panels of plain glass and are augmented by the rays diverted by the prisms. In this manner it is said to be possible to illuminate the streets with fewer lights.

Electricity in the Household.

Of electric cooking apparatus there are now in use innumerable devices, such as portable stoves, saucepans, tea kettles, blazers, boilers, broilers, coffee pots, electric ovens, griddle-cake cookers, waffle irons and water urns. And outside the list of kitchen utensils, but also useful in the household, are such devices as chip-food warmers, immersion coil heaters which may be inserted in any kind of a vessel and used for heating liquids.

Electric heating pads for the application of heat to the human body are a great improvement over the hot-water bottle. In the "electrotherm" the heating units are covered with soft lamb's wool and as high a temperature as 180 degrees Fahrenheit may be maintained.

Electric curling irons for the lady traveler are a dainty toilet accessory. More than fifty thousand of the appliances are now in use. They draw their energy from an incandescent lamp.

Cigar lighters, which use the current only while the cigar is being lit, is another unique adaptation of the electric unit. Pressing the button, the current strikes a little arc between two carbons.

Protection from Submarines.

Experiments have been carried out by the British naval authorities with a new method for combating submarine vessels. This device comprises a new type of quick-firing torpedo. This missile is less than six inches in diameter and carries a smaller explosive charge than the eighteen-inch weapon, while furthermore it is not provided with a gyroscope. The new torpedo is fired from an above-water tube and the mechanism is so arranged that the weapon sinks when it has reached its limit of range, if the object at which it was discharged is missed. The trials are being carried out at Portsmouth

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