Fluorine Gas.

Fluorine gas is of a yellow color, with a smell resembling bleaching powder. It has not been liquefied, and still remains gaseous at 140 degs. Fahrenheit.

Every precaution has to be taken in studying its action on other bodies, both on account of its dangerously irritating action on the eyes and mucous membrane of the operator and its marvelous and wonderful energy, far exceeding that of anything hitherto discovered. There is hardly a gas, liquid or solid, that it does not attack, usually with the greatest violence; in fact its mere contact with any other substance is nearly always signalized by the sudden evolution of intense heat and light and fierce detonations. It almost realizes the fondest dreams of the alchemists. and might fitly be their long sought liquor, alkahest, or universal solvent, for even dull, inert flint takes fire instantly it is exposed to the vapor, and the whole mass becomes luminous with a grand incandescence.

As a supporter of combustion it leaves oxygen far behind. Lampblack bursts immediately into brilliant flame and gets red hot in a current of fluorine gas; and charcoal is made to give an interesting exhibition of its porosity by first filling its interstices with the gas and then burning spontaneously with sparkling scintillations. The diamond, however, is able to withstand its action even at high temperatures.—Chambers' Journal.

The Danger of Metaphor.

Metaphor and simile, poignant weapons in the armory of a skilled debater, produce disastrous effects in the hands of the inexpert. Certain figures, originally of force and freshness, cause a bleak sense of depression from the frequency of their employment by halting speakers, and one who desires to engage the understanding of an audience ought, at whatever sacrifice, to take a pledge of total abstinence from such outworn phrases as "the thin end of the wedge," "oil on the troubled waters," etc. Sometimes, it must be confessed, the audience derives unexpected and lasting enjoyment from the delightful incongruity of figurative discourse.

The pages of Hansard bear, or at least ought to bear on record, the poetic flights of a certain honorable baronet, who became in parliament the very darling of postprandial debate. Those who were fortunate enough to be present on the evening when he was denouncing the course taken by one of his colleagues in the representation of Ireland will remember the rich brogue in which he referred to him as "the young sea serpent from County Clare," and how he was promptly called to order by the speaker for using the expression. "Very well, Mr. Speaker," he rejoined, "I bow to your ruling of course and beg leave to withdraw the sea serpent."—Blackwood's Magazine.

The Migration of Reindeer.

The annual migration of the reindeer from Lapland in search of food has now become a serious matter. In the first place, it necessitates the migration of man, for if owners want to keep their deer and their property they must follow them wherever they wander. Secondly, the migrating animals travel in such great herds that they do not a little damage to the meadows, plowed lands and forests. There seems to be no stopping it. The deer migrate with more or less regularity, and within a week or two of the usual time a hundred thousand reindeer come to Tromsoe, which is the meeting point. The owners simply see that their herds do not get away.

But this invasion of reindeer is viewed with alarm by Scandinavian farmers, who have their crops trampled down. The farmer may sue for damages, but if he obtains a judgment in his favor how is he to find the defendant? Some seven or eight years ago a special law was passed to meet the case. The country is divided into districts, and if the owners of the destructive animals cannot be found the district is held for the damage, each family paying in proportion to the number of reindeer they possess.—J. L. Vance in Our Animal Friends.

Handel, the Composer.

George Frederick Handel, who was a composer at the age of nine, and had written three operas before he was fifteen, was a man of uncommonly large appetite, and it is told of him that whenever he stopped at an inn or elsewhere where the host was not familiar with the greatness of his hunger he would order dinner for three.

Upon one occasion he gave his order for three as usual, and when the hour for dinner arrived he called to his host:

"Ees de tinner retty?"

"It will be served, sir, immediately upon the arrival of your company," was the response.

"Ach!" said Handel, with a laugh. "Don you may pring it up right avay. I am de gompany."—Harper's Young People.

Country Folk Are Tender with Birds.

Real country folk are very tender in their dealings with the birds that live near them. In the course of my experience, extending over many years, I have never known a case of wanton cruelty occur in regard to wild birds. The laboring man, whose work so often lies far from the haunts of men, seeks companionship with the birds. Of these none is more friendly than the robin, who is sure to appear, however lonely the place.—Cornhill Magazine.

Cold Water Killed Him.

In a small house of the Rue Ste. Marguerite, Paris, there has lived for a long time past a crippled old beggar known in the quarter as "The Terrible Savoyard." One morning recently he left his lodgings as usual to offer pencils to the charitably inclined, and when he arrived at the wineshop of the Rue Basfroy, where he was known, he began to tease the housemaid, Clemence Pruvost. The girl, not relishing his attentions, retorted, "If you had watered your wine this morning you would be less troublesome," and threw a glass of water in his face. The old man sprang forward with an insult on his lips, but suddenly staggered back and fell down dead. The doctor summoned in haste to the spot declared the cause of death to have been congestion of the brain, produced by the unexpected cold aspersion.—Pall Mall Gazette.

How to Fish a Trout Pool.

I presume every fly fisher has at some time or another found a likely looking trout pool and worked it carefully with his flies from one end to the other, and perhaps changed his flies and rested the pool and again worked over it without getting a rise from a trout of decent size, and then proceeded down stream or up stream, just as it happens that he is a down stream or up stream fisher, feeling that in the pool a big trout is lurking, that he must be there because everything indicates it, but unfortunately the flybook does not contain the particular fly that will bring his troutship from his lair.

If this should happen to a fly fisher during this charming blossom season, and he has fished the pool artistically and well instead of proceeding on his way, haunted by the thought of a big trout left behind, let him fill his pipe, if he is a smoker, and retire from the pool until the soothing weed is consumed, and smoker and pool are both rested. Then approach and cast the flies below or at one side of the particular spot which appears to hold the fish, and when the flies sink below the surface draw them past the spot with force enough to make the water curl as it is divided by the flies drawn so swiftly that neither trout nor man can distinguish the particular flies of the cast.—Forest and Stream.

It Rained Crawfish.

Friday people who were in the vicinity of the Union depot were surprised to find the ground covered with crawfish, and it is the general supposition that they fell with the heavy rain the night before, which came down very hard for awhile. Their appearance cannot be explained on the ground that they came up out of the earth, because for some distance south of the depot the ground is bedded with rock and covered with cinders. The most of them were an inch and a half long. If they fell with the rain they had probably been fished out of some large body of water by a cyclone and taken overland by the wind.—Cameron (Mo.) Observer.

How Chinamen Are Shaved.

The Chinese of San Francisco shave nearly every day. A queer little razor it is that they use, too. It is in no respect like our razor, except in the matter of the keenness of its edge. It is a wee bit of a blade, nicely curved into a semicircle. With this tool the Chinese barber scrapes the almost hirsuteless face of his customer and then shaves him around the ears and down the neck to the first bone of the spinal column. The rounded point of the razor is also inserted into the Celestial ear, and every ambitious hair that dares to show itself in the aricular lobe is clipped before it proceeds very far. The Chinaman, you know, is scrupulously cleanly about his ears. A growth of hair in them is considered a mark of low birth or of carelessness or ungenteel habits.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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For Washington, week days, 5.00, x6.20, 6.25, x7.10, x7.20, x8.00, 8.35, x9.30, x10.20, (10.35 a. m., 12.00 p. m., 45 minutes) 12.15, x2.10, x2.30, 2.50, (3.45 45 minutes) x4.15, 5.00, x6.00, 6.18, x6.50, x7.15, x7.40, x8.18, 9.05, x9.55, x10.15 and 11.30 p. m., Sundays 6.25, x7.10, 8.35, x9.30, x10.20, (10.35 a. m., 12.00 p. m., 45 minutes) 1.05, x2.10, x2.30, (3.45 45 minutes) 5.00, 6.18, x6.50, x7.15, x7.40, x8.18, 9.05, x9.55, x10.15 and 11.30 p. m.

For Annapolis 7.20, 8.35 a. m., 12.15 and 4.15 p. m. On Sunday, 8.35 a. m. and 5.00 p. m.

For Frederick, 4.00, 8.10 a. m., 1.10, 4.20 and 5.30 p. m. On Sunday, 9.35 a. m. and 5.30 p. m.

For Virgin ia Midland Railroad and South via Danville, *9.30 a. m. and *8.18 p. m.

For Luray, Roanoke and all points in the South via N. & W. R. R., 7.10 a. m., 9.55 p. m. daily. Parlor car to Roanoke on morning train. Sleeping car to Memphis on night train from Washington. For Luray 2 30 p. m. daily.

For Lexington and points in the Virginia Valley, †4.00, †9.30 a. m. For Winchester, †4.20 p. m. Mixed train for Harrisonburg, ‡4.00 a.m.

For Hagerstown, †4.00, †9.30 a. m., †4.15 p. m.

For Mount Airy and Way Stations, *4.00, †8.10, ‡9.35 a. m., †1.10, (†4.20 stops at principal stations only,) *5.30, *6.30, *11.15 p.m.

For Ellicott City, *4.00, †6.32, †8.10, ‡9.35, †11.00 a. m., †1.10, ‡1.35, †3.30, †4.20, *5.30, *6.30, *8.30, *11.15 p. m.

Trains orrive from Chicago, Columbus and the North West, daily, 1.00 and 6.00 p. m., from Pittsburgh and Cleveland, *9.00 a. m., *6.00 p. m.; from Cincinnati, St. Louis and the West, 6.30, a. m., 3.15 p. m. daily.

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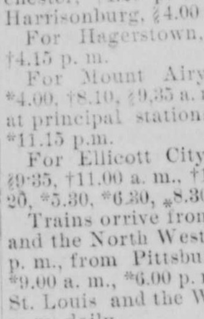
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