

NEW AND CURIOUS.

A French pharmacist has invented a process by which he says he can form from the leaves of various fruit-bearing trees and shrubs the flavors that are characteristic of the fruits themselves. From apple-tree leaves, crushed and fermented, he obtained a liquid having the fragrance and the taste of apples, and from vine leaves, a beverage resembling wine. His theory is that the peculiar flavor of apples, pears, grapes, and berries, is prepared in and derived from the leaves of the plant.

An experiment for transferring to paper the natural outline and tints of a leaf, the impression having the fidelity of a photograph, is described in Harper's Round Table. Take a piece of fine linen, free from starch, and soak it in spirits of niter (saltpeter) until it is thoroughly saturated. Have ready a sheet of drawing or other smooth paper, and place on it the leaves from which impressions are to be made. Place over them the piece of linen wet with the niter, lay a sheet of paper over the linen, put all between two pieces of heavy cardboard, and put into a letter-press or under heavy weights for three or four days. When removed from the press the leaves will be found bleached perfectly white, while the shape of the leaf in all its natural colors will be found imprinted on the paper. These leaf impressions can be used in many ways for decorative purposes.

Mr. Charles E. Tripler of New York, the Scientific American says, has accomplished the economical liquefaction of air in large quantities. He recently sent two and a half gallons of liquid air to Professor Barker of the University of Pennsylvania. The latter found a piece of tin thrust into the intensely cold liquid—311.8 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit—became as brittle as glass, but that copper and platinum were not thus affected. This suggests material from which vessels intended to contain liquid air should be made. The nitrogen of the air liquefies at a temperature several degrees below the point at which oxygen becomes liquid; consequently when air is allowed to evaporate in an open dish the nitrogen vaporizes first, and what remains is mostly liquid oxygen, which possesses a characteristic blue color. In Mr. Tripler's apparatus the air, after passing through three coils, each colder than the preceding, finally flows from the end of the last coil in a liquid stream.

In describing a new ice-making plant just completed in Philadelphia, The Manufacturer says: Ar-

tificial cold or ice may be most readily produced by the evaporation of a more or less volatile liquid. In the first machines constructed this liquid was water. One tenth of the amount of water used was converted into ice, but as it is necessary to maintain a vacuum in the apparatus, its perfect working was a difficult problem. A more readily volatile liquid, therefore, had to be substituted, such as liquefied sulfuric acid and liquefied ammonia. Being gaseous at ordinary temperatures, they are very suitable substances for this purpose. The ammonia ice machine is the one in most general use. This liquefied ammonia is allowed to expand in coils of pipe which are placed in tanks filled with brine. The temperature of the brine is thus reduced to a point below the freezing point of water, that is to 14-18 degrees Fahr. In this refrigerated brine are placed galvanized iron tanks having the shape of the large cakes of ice one is accustomed to see in the wagons that pass through our city streets. After a period of 48-50 hours this can of water is converted into solid ice. The can is hoisted out of the brine, warmed with hot water, which allows the cake to slip out upon a chute that runs into the storage-rooms. The gaseous ammonia in the pipes can be used over and over again, a large compression engine being a part of the plant, which reduces the expense of the process. From this description it should be plain that there is no taint of ammonia to give a taste to the ice. The plants usually employ distilled or artesian water, so that the ice is of the best quality. What impurities the water contains are collected in the white streak found in the center of each cake. The pure water separates from the impure and freezes first.

REFLECTED RAYS.

To enjoy a thing exclusively is commonly to exclude yourself from the true enjoyment of it.—Thoreau.

Indeed, lightning insurance on Churches is a great modern necessity, to ward off the losses that Divine Providence inflicts upon his own. —Freethinker.

A church building was struck by lightning in Cincinnati the other day and was literally knocked into smithereens. Now, this is by no means an uncommon occurrence.

True progress is a complete development of the individual, comprehending the improvement of the physical being in strength, beauty, grace, longevity, material enrichment, and increase of knowledge—in fine, the perfecting of character; the becoming more noble, more

generous, and more devoted.—Elise Reclus.

When a man is satisfied that Nature is Nature, that Nature is all, that he himself is a phenomenon of Nature, and that, like all other phenomena he will have his day and disappear and be no more, he feels none of the troubles and perplexities that religion so plentifully creates.—[Liberator.

Why are we all afraid of one another? If all Agnostics uttered their thoughts, the chorus would come upon us as thunder. If all the emancipated held up their hands, we should see a sight that would give courage to the weakest. We ought to make the world aware of our presence. We ought to speak plainly.—[F. J. Gould.

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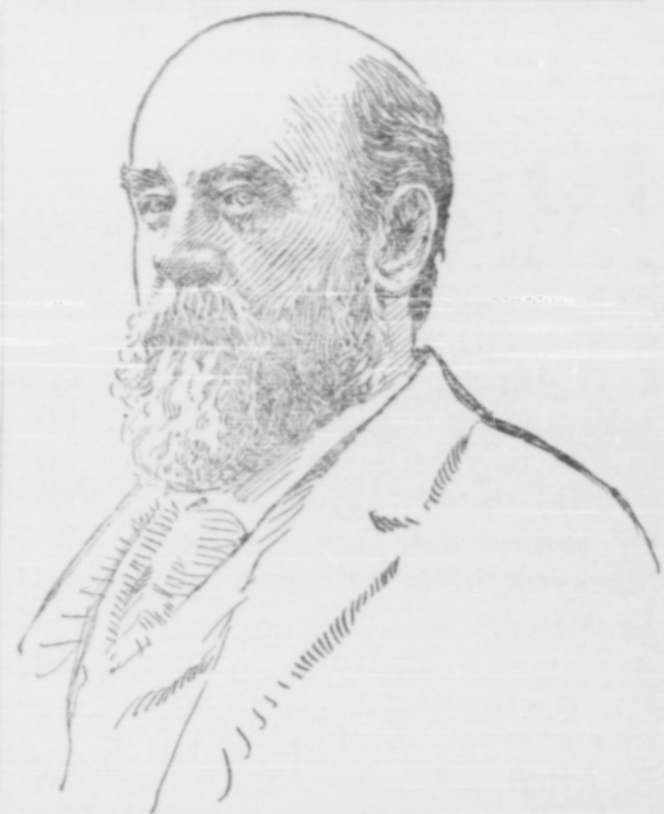
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