

MAKING LIQUID AIR.

A SCIENTIST EXPLAINS HIS CHEMICAL DISCOVERIES.

Professor Dewar's Experiments May Prove to Be the Greatest Investigations of the Century—Powerful Gases Reduced to a Fluid State.

The Pall Mall Budget of London published an interview with Professor James Dewar on what is represented as being "a great scientific discovery," that of making liquid air. Introductory to the interview the article says that "his liquefactions of permanent gases and the use of vacua to preserve great cold mark one of the most important chemical discoveries of the century."

Of the gases that may be liquefied carbonic acid has been found to be the cheapest and readiest made, and while it has been known for many years that it could be liquefied it has generally been so prepared only in small quantities for scientific uses.

As a motive power it is used at a pressure of from 600 to 900 pounds. But if Professor Dewar has discovered an economical and ready way of liquefying it, it will tend to solve a problem in carrying a motive power in storage bulk that will be of great benefit to the students in this line.

"Well, I don't think there's very much to say, because I've told all I have to tell about the matter in my two lectures, but I do believe there's a great deal more to be learned about the subject. You see, at present we've got these gases down to 210 degrees below zero, and the lowest possible temperature is 274 degrees below zero."

Now, it's a strange thing that air can be made into a homogeneous fluid. You would think, as oxygen can be liquefied at -182 degrees and nitrogen not until -193 degrees, that as you made the air colder and colder the oxygen would become liquid first and then the nitrogen.

Stepping quickly back to the desk Professor Dewar took up a pencil and began to draw with rapid strokes on the back of a letter. The diagram when it was finished looked more like the law of diminishing returns turned up on one side than anything else that I am acquainted with.

Ozone can be liquefied by acting on the vapor given off from liquid oxygen by electricity. It is a splendid dark blue color, almost as dark as indigo. Ozone has not the same molecule as oxygen, and the electricity breaks up three twos into two threes.

We have discovered that liquid oxygen acts as a lens. It is so transparent to heat, so to speak, that even at 182 degrees below zero you can focus heat on it from one side and light a piece of paper by it on the other.

Professor Dewar gave a lecture on "Liquid Air" at the Royal Institution in the presence of the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Lord Salisbury and other notable persons. He showed that by the withdrawal of heat the air is converted into a liquid with total loss of chemical properties, incapable of supporting combustion, or of entering into combination even with phosphorus and sodium.

What is more awful to contemplate," said a lecturer, glancing about him, "than the relentless power of the maelstrom?" And a hunched looking man in the rear of the building softly replied, "Femalstrom."

Man and Wolf Surprise.

A hunter and a wolf had an interesting mutual surprise party to themselves in the hills near Helena a few days ago. The hunter, arrayed in a heavy wolfskin overcoat, far side outward, was examining some traps set the previous night.

A curious mode of catching turtles is practiced in the West Indies. It consists in attaching a ring and a line to the tail of a species of sucker fish known as the remora.

Aristotle believed that some creatures were capable of supporting life even though confined to the devouring element. He says: "In Cyprus, when the manufacturers of chalcitis (lime) burn it many days in the fire, a winged creature something larger than a great fly is seen emerging from the stone and leaping and walking about in the fire."

"Boughten" has the authority of age, example and well-considered use by Coleridge, Southey and others. Still more weighty authority is found in a story told to us by Roscoe Conkling, who was present at a fashionable hotel in Philadelphia thirty years ago.

The constitutions of princes are not superior, but subordinate to ecclesiastical constitutions. The laws of the emperors cannot dissolve the ecclesiastical or canon laws.

The civil law is derived from man, but ecclesiastical or canon law is derived directly from God, by which the pontiff can, in connection with his prelates, make constitutions for the whole christian world.

The goods of heretics are to be confiscated and applied to the church. Advocates or notaries, favoring heretics, or their defenders, or pleading for them in law suits, or writing documents for them, are infamous and suspended from office.

Whoever dies in battle against the unbelieving, merits the kingdom of heaven. We do not esteem those homicides, to whom it may have happened in their zeal for their mother church against the excommunicated, to kill some of them.

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That the council of Trent, the last and great authority of Rome, decrees and commands that the sacred canons and all general councils, also the other apostolic enactments issued in favor of ecclesiastical liberty, and against its violators, all of which by this present decree it renews, and must be exactly observed by all.

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I do further declare that I will help, assist and advise all or any of his holiness' agents in any place wherever I shall be, and to do so by all means in my power, but to do so by all means in my power, but to do so by all means in my power.

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