

CAMDEN GAZETTE.

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Volume I.

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CONDITIONS OF THIS GAZETTE.

THE price to Subscribers is THREE DOLLARS per annum, for fifty-two numbers, exclusive of postage; and in all cases where papers shall be delivered at the expense of the publisher, the price will be, including postage, FOUR DOLLARS a year, payable half yearly in advance.

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Advertisements not exceeding eight lines will be printed for FIFTY CENTS, for the first publication, and half that price for every subsequent insertion. Larger advertisements will be charged in proportion.

A liberal discount will be made on the bills of those who are constant or considerable customers in this line.

If no directions are given with an advertisement, it will be continued till forbid.

THE present Editor, influenced by no other motives than those of public good, will devote such a part of his time as may be unoccupied by professional engagements, to the discharge of those duties connected with that department. Convinced that no paper, edited in the interior of Carolina, can be read with general interest unless it assumes something of a literary character, it is presumed an attempt to improve the present standing of the CAMDEN GAZETTE, will not be deemed an effusion of arrogance. Such no doubt would have been the plan pursued by the former editor, had not his residence been too remote from this place to pay the attention which became necessary. Selections from all periodical reviews and magazines of standing will be strictly attended to, as soon as arrangements already made can be executed. The public will then be presented with a synopsis of many things new, interesting and important. The rapid advancement of literature, science and the arts in our country, demands an attention to every thing like improvement. It is only by consulting works of this description, published by gentlemen of acknowledged talents and erudition that a laudable thirst for knowledge can be gratified. In exercising the privilege of selection from such works, it is not to be supposed that news and political information will be discarded. Things of importance upon any subject will receive every attention. Should there be a want of matter at any time, the editor will present the public with original communications.

Such being the case at present, he begs leave to offer a few remarks on the importance of the study of chemistry, as communicated to the City Gazette of Charleston, about the close of the late war. It was intended to awaken the attention of our youth, but as scarcely any of those papers were taken in this place at that time, it may not be amiss to renew his exertions.

From the (Charleston) City Gazette.

ON THE UTILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF CHEMISTRY.

No. I.

There is no subject better calculated to arrest the attention, and cultivate the understanding of our youth, than Chemistry. Having for its object the development of those mysterious phenomena which are every where scattered over the face of nature, it is sure to impress upon the juvenile mind a spirit of scrutiny and true taste for philosophical research, which never deserts it through subsequent life.

Natural philosophy and natural history, two of the most interesting branches of general science, can never be understood with precision and critical accuracy, without some knowledge of the elementary part of Chemistry at least. The former may be said to present a summary or synthetical view of the various subjects on which it

treats; the latter affords an analytical survey of many of them. In more plain and significant terms, the first presents to the view of the spectator a mass of lumber containing the materials for a superb or magnificent edifice; whereas, the latter takes them up individually, surveys their external appearance, examines their individual structure, investigates their composition, arranges them systematically, and points out those laws by which they were formed, governed, and supported.

It is probably to Chemistry that Locke, Newton, Bacon, Humboldt, Priestly, and many other philosophers are as much indebted for a steady habit of thinking, persevering enquiry, and accurate deductions, as to mathematics and logic. It is true, the latter enables us in some measure to regulate our intellectual operations; but the former affords a wholesome and invigorated aliment, which enables us to sustain the greatest mental labors.

The utility, therefore, of drawing the attention of our youth to this branch of study, not only as a source of rational amusement, but of improvement, must appear obvious to every one. By engaging the attention in so laudable an undertaking, we not only, as I have already said, make an indelible impression on the mind, but draw them from habits of indolence which has ever been the parent of vices the most opprobrious.

Were my only object, to accelerate the progress of our youth in the acquirement of chemical knowledge, I should be poorly compensated, notwithstanding the most strenuous endeavors. Happily for society, this most delightful study is equally well adapted to the genius of the adult of both sexes.

It is pleasing to reflect, that female amateurs have already rivaled the hardier race of competitors in the fair field of chemical fame. Mrs. Fulhume, so far from being dependent upon the labors of her male predecessors, for the facts on which are grounded her theory of the deoxydation of metals, (the main pillar of her celebrity) actually hit upon those rational deductions by a previous train of reasoning, which does honor to her mind without the suggestions of accident. Many of her illustrious compeers have done equal honor to their sex.

Shall it be said, whilst the ladies of the older continent are rivaling their fathers in science, and shedding lustre upon their mental capacities, that the females of our country are reveling in the excesses of a tea table tete a tete? I hope not. Methinks those fair countenances, on which are depicted brightness, genius and intelligence, are determined to emulate those illustrious personages of their own sex who shine in so distinguished a manner throughout the literary world. Shall we infer from this that there are no females within the limits of the United States who have thus done honor their sex? By no means. It is true their manner of living and inattention on the part of parents precludes the possibility of their having arrived at that excellence; but there are many, notwithstanding those impediments, who have burst the fetters of confinement and vie with literary gen-

tle men in the acquisition of chemical knowledge. May we not infer from a general thirst after books of science, genius, and taste, they will ere long blend chemical erudition with miscellaneous literature?

As yet I have only drawn your attention to Chemistry for the most part as a rational amusement. There are charms, however, attached to the study of this science, which result from its extensive utility. To it we are indebted in part for our excellence in the culinary art.

In the operation called cooking, many accidents happen daily which a proper application to Chemical principles might have averted with the utmost facility. The exquisite flavor of our best deserts depends upon a judicious arrangement and proper combination of the component parts.

Not only is the eye of Chemistry directed towards the composition of those luxuries, but the composition of vessels in which they are prepared is equally entitled to its attention. Many of those are metallic, and easily corroded by the prevailing acid of the article about to be cooked. The eagle eye of Chemistry having detected this, would immediately make a more judicious selection. Tin imperfectly deprived of its mineralizing substances, among the most deleterious of which is arsenic, may impart a deadly property to those articles of diet which are submitted to its influence.

Lead, another metal frequently blended with some of our culinary utensils, possesses properties equally pernicious when taken into the system. Here Chemistry, by a judicious application of reagents, enables one to detect the source from whence these bodily evils are derived.

Spirituos potations are vehicles which convey the greatest quantity of metallic poisons in a general way.

Those groveling, speculative, mercenary creatures who are daily fabricating artificial mixtures as substitutes for the most salutary beverages, are in the habit of impregnating them with preparations of lead to correct that disagreeable and unnatural taste with which they are at first fraught. Here by a very astonishing play of chemical action, man is rescued from the jaws of the most intolerable and loathsome disease (choleraicictone) with which he is afflicted, about to be communicated by a fellow creature, through the most sordid of motives, lucre. An acquaintance with Chemistry is calculated to teach us the manner in which this change is brought about, and averts the most severe twinges of the imagination (apprehended death) from a source which would prove destructive were it not for the wise and benevolent interposition of Providence.

Another domestic engagement, requiring a knowledge of Chemistry, is dying, blanching and soap boiling. No three arts are in more general use, and there are none of which less is known.

No country possesses a greater variety of dyes than our own, and without a knowledge of Chemistry, an improper admixture of the different articles made use of will occur in our first attempts. Dexterity in any art, when acquired by re-

peated manipulation alone, is always at the expense of much time, great labor, and some money. Hence, a knowledge of Chemistry as a mean of accelerating the acquirement of this art, is peculiarly important. It points out the errors into which a novice is inadvertently plunged—it teaches the nature of the dye, enables the operator to apply a proper mordant, and guards him against the destruction of the article submitted to the operation.

Blanching is a much more simple operation than dying, but nevertheless, requires an equal knowledge of Chemistry for success in the process.

There are several methods of blanching—some of which are much more simple than others; but all are equally dependent upon chemical principles.

The boiling of soap is rendered familiar, from the very frequent repetition of this (as commonly practised) elaborate process. There is no operation in any art, in which a more complicated play of chemical action takes place, and did our house-wives understand the philosophy of the process, I am sure they would be more successful in making the article with very little expence, and much less trouble. The lye commonly made use of is far inferior to the potash that could be obtained from it in the ordinary way, and never fails to give a discoloration and impurity to the soap. This imparts a dirty appearance to the cloth attempted to be cleaned by it, which cannot be gotten off without repeated washings.

Tanning is becoming, annually, an art much more common, and of greater importance to our country. The unhappy dilemma into which we were plunged recently, from the injustice of a cruel, implacable and relentless foe, has increased the consumption of home productions, in consequence of a cessation of trade, and the dependence of this art upon chemistry for success is too obvious to require demonstration.

The scarcity of that particular growth, the red oak, in certain parts of our country, precludes the possibility of carrying on an extensive factory of this kind to advantage. A desideratum has accordingly arisen. Can this peculiar body called tannin be produced by any artificial process? Experiments of this kind have been instituted and prosecuted with some kind of success by chemists, and I think it not improbable that a complete substitute may be found; but whether it ever can be manufactured in sufficient quantities to enable us to apply it with advantage in the process of tanning, is a question which cannot yet be answered.

—BLUE LAWS.

The "Blue laws of Connecticut" have often been a source of merriment to the citizens of the present day. But it is not generally known that some of the early acts of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, are equally queer. About the year 1683 or '84, the legislature of Pennsylvania passed a resolution that "no member thereof should come to the house barefoot, or eat his bread and cheese on the steps."

Philadelphia Ado. June 8.

BLANK BONDS
For Sale at this Office.