to the fact that the succeeding chapters are sprinkled with far too many misprints and that the whole book is marred by a loose and slovenly style. We do not wish to imply that the book does not contain many valuable and interesting facts, but the general lack of precision of statement is painfully evident in a passage like this: "It has been bidden that putrefaction was a chemical action only, but recent researches have shown that numberless microbes are concerned in the process, and without these micro-organisms organic bodies retain their form." (p. 69).

Debatable questions are dismissed in a rather summary fashion, e.g., "There can be no doubt whatever that sewer gas may produce sore throat, diarrhoea, and typhoid fever. . . ." (p. 65). "The germs of disease may be easily carried into the air from refuse and fecal accumulations." (p. 71).

As for the style, "Koch demonstrated the presence of cholera bacilli in the water of Indian ponds or tanks, probably harboring and multiplying in the banks" (p. 76). "However urgent those especially familiar with the deteriorating influences at work may regard the remedies applicable, yet they can never secure their adoption without the consensus of the opinions of others." (p. 355).

The author in a measure, however, disarms criticism with his unimpeachable statement in the conclusion (p. 344), "Errors of omission and of commission may be readily found in all human work . . . ."


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- Brown coal and lignite of good quality are capable of replacing bituminous coal for all household, industrial, and metallurgical processes.
- Texas has an abundant supply which is so situated as to permit its being mined and delivered for use at a far less cost than bituminous coal.
- The raw coal can be used in stoves and grates, under locomotive boilers, in iron smelting, lime burning, etc. It may be used for the manufacture of gas for lighting or heating. It can be made into artificial fuel by "briquetting" with coal tar, pitch, etc., and then used like ordinary coal. Certain varieties, if charred, will form a coke with coking coal and coal-tar pitch, which can be used for locomotive engines and other similar purposes.
- These facts are of great importance to a country like Texas, where wood is practically absent, and where the ordinary soft coals and anthracite are nearly unknown. There seems no reason why similar deposits of lignite in other States west of the Mississippi River should not be utilized. - JOSEPH F. JAMES.


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