MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NOTES.

NOXIOUS GASES IN WELLS.—Lives are frequently lost by noxious gases in wells. This may be prevented by the adoption of the following very simple means: Take some pieces of carpet, or common sacks, and make them up into a loose bundle, nearly as large as the area of the well. Inclose in it a brick to give weight, and attach to the bundle a rope of sufficient length to reach to the bottom of the well. Throw this bundle down the well, and haul it up again as quickly as possible. Repeat this operation rapidly for ten minutes, and the atmosphere of the well will become quite innocious, as may be proved by letting down a lighted candle. The bundle, as is easily understood, carries before it a quantity of fresh air from the surface, and this, of course, displaces the foul and dangerous air from the bottom.

ALCOHOL FORMED IN DOUGH.—It has been generally stated and believed that the alcohol formed in dough, during the process of fermentation, is all expelled in the baking; but it now appears that a really perceptible amount of the intoxicating fluid may be obtained from even so small a quantity as two ounces of ordinary bread. From a report of investigations made by Mr. T. Bolas, published in *The London Chemical News*, it seems that six samples of new bread, bought at shops in London, yielded from .221 to .401 of one per cent of alcohol. It was found that after the bread had been exposed to the air in a moderately warm room for a week two-thirds of the alcohol had evaporated. Mr. Bolas remarks that "the amount of alcohol contained in bread is too small to be of any dietetic importance, but it may be perhaps worth while to notice that 40 2-pound loaves are about equal in alcoholic strength to an ordinary bottle of port." By means of some additional experiments, he hopes soon to determine the amount of alcohol which dough loses while baking.

AN ANATOMICAL HINT.—Dr. Hermann Meyer of Zurich asserts that a shoemaker ought not only to produce a shoe that does not pinch, but a shoe so constructed that it will give to a foot distorted by the pinching it has borne already, a fair chance of a return to its right shape, and full possession of its power as a means of carrying the body onward. He says that, in measuring a foot for a shoe or boot, the first thing to be considered is the place of the great toe. Upon this toe, in walking, the weight of the whole body turns at every step; in a natural foot, therefore, it is in a straight line with the heel. A central straight line drawn from the point of the great toe to the middle of its root, if continued, would pass very exactly to the middle of the heel. But, by the misfitting boot usually worn, the point of the toe is pressed inwards, the root outwards. No last, or model of a foot already injured by wearing ill-fitting boots or shoes should ever be made of the exact size of such a foot.

LIGHT AS A CURATIVE AGENT.—The statement has been made that Sir James Wylie, late physician to the Emperor of Russia, having attentively studied the effects of light as a curative agent, in the Hospital of St Petersburg, discovered that the number of patients who were cured in rooms properly lighted, was four times those confined in dark rooms. This led to a complete reform in lighting the hospitals of Russia, and with the most beneficial results. In all the cities visited by the cholera, it was universally found that the greatest number of deaths took place in narrow streets, and on the sides of those having a northern exposure, where the salutary beams of the sun are excluded. The inhabitants of southern slopes of mountains are better developed and more healthy than those who live on the northern sides, while those who dwell in secluded valleys are generally subject to peculiar diseases and deformities of person, these different results being attributed to the agency of light.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

SARATOGA, AND HOW TO SEE IT. By Dr. R. P. Dearborn. Pamphlet. (American News Co.)....

A BROWN STONE FRONT. A STORY OF NEW-YORK AND SARATOGA. By Chandos Fulton. 16mo. pp. 147. (Henry L. Hinton.)....

THE UNITED STATES INSURANCE ALMANAC FOR 1873. By G. E. Currie. 8vo. pp. 224. (G. E. Currie)....

SERMONS PREACHED IN COUNTRY CHURCHES. By the Rev. F. D. Maurice. 12mo. pp. 362. (MacMillan & Co.)....$3 50

LOYAL UNTO DEATH. A Novel. Three volumes in one. Complete. 12mo. pp. 474. (G. W. Carleton & Co.)....

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OUR NAVAL SCHOOL AND NAVAL OFFICERS. Translated from the French of M. De Criseuoy. By Commander Richard W. Meade, U. S. N. 12mo. pp. 58. (D. Van Nostrand.)....

TOO SOON. A Study of a Girl's Heart. A Novel. By Katharine S. Macquoid. Pamphlet. (Harper & Bros.)....50

OLD ROME AND NEW ITALY. By Emilio Castelar. Translated by Mrs. Arthur Arnold. 12mo. pp. 301. (The Same.)....

THE LIFE OF JOHN MILTON. Narrated in Connection with the Political, Ecclesiastical, and Literary History of His Time. By David Masson, M. A., LL. D. Vol. III. 1643-1649. 8vo. pp. 729. (MacMillan & Co.)....5 00

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