

SINGULAR EXPLOSION OF GAS.

in the valley. This substance is a poor substitute for coal, hard to kindle, and burns slowly without flame or smoke. No true coal is found in Switzerland, and that which is used in the district comes principally from the Black Forest.

To some

no case can they do any harm.—Yours faithfully,
ARDON HOLMES, L.R.C.P.E. Senior Physician to

communicates with the Polka Seam, and leads on to the middle, or blind, pit, where a considerable descent has already been made. A party descended into the pit by means of the downcast shaft, and afterwards

timonate arrival at the middle pit (the mouth of which, not upon the surface) disclosed the immense amount of work that has here been executed, the place being properly cugged up, and arched for a considerable distance, and the fall that formerly blocked up the way being entirely removed. Three relays had been at work, each party engaging themselves for upwards of eight hours consecutively, and very material head-
 and had been

from the employer a debit and credit account for his per centage, instead of clamouring (and rightly) for a share in the profits. It is a simple and fair, but often-handled justice. Both sides of procedure indicated are suicidal in the long run. No firm is equal to the workman to that which secures large per centages. None employs so many men, and none are so able to pay relatively high wages as a firm which employs a handful of whom each man is a thriving one. If you give your men large returns and claim a share thereon, cripple them by unreasonable exactions, put on the brake of a trades union, send them to the Glasgow or Belfast schools, or, worse, try to force yourself to endure terrible privations at the same time your employers are ruined. The stability and well-being of a firm is the workmen's stability and well-being also. Peering into balance-sheets is a modern innovation, and a very bad one indeed. The time has passed when the lords of the land made up some centuries

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there were in 1871. The Mines' Act has entirely changed the position of the miner, and has raised the expense of his 3d. per ton on every ton of coal to 187s. in 1873. What good has it done? It has raised the price of coal to 32s. 324,000 tons of rails were manufactured in the north of England in 1877, only 23,000 in Wales the production of 1877, only 200,000, in 1877, about 50,000. The steel work of Cleveland, put up late in 1877, produced in 1878 60,000 tons of steel rails. It is very probable that iron plates for boiler and shipbuilding purposes will share the same fate. From 3 to 4 tons of coal are required to produce a ton of iron rails; steel rails require scarcely one-fourth of that quantity. The total output of

The following extraordinary vow is performed by some of the Hindus at their festival of Chatur Puja. The devotee takes a handful of moist earth and placing it on his under lip, he plants in it some mustard seed and exposes himself to the dews of the night and the heat of the day until the seed germinates. This position he must assume in a fixed, motionless condition, without food or drink, till the vegetable process liberates him, which will, be generally, about

not. Yea, this I say, free trade is a glorious thing, but how can that trade be free in which one

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Business Announcements.

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