



[Special Smoke Abatement Photograph.

SHEFFIELD, SUNDAY, SEPT. 19th, 1920, 11 a.m.

On Sunday morning, when the factories are silent and their chimneys smokeless the air is clear.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the House of Commons, and all our historic buildings are being defaced by fogs. It is estimated, for instance, that a single bad smoke fog costs the Metropolis over a million of money. No less than 200,000 tons of sulphur are poured over London from coal fires each year.

The extra cost of washing, the injury to clothing and fabrics of every kind, the depreciation in the value of house property, of works of art, and of everything that comes beneath the fretting influence of sulphurous acids—these are merely indicative of the dire results which accompany the smoke nuisance.

All these things are illustrated by means of pictures, diagrams, and specimens at the Gas Exhibit, and the display is so arranged and labelled that visitors can read the lesson for themselves and that is to set their chimneys in order.

Yes, the chimneys are at the root of the evil, and the fogs of England are a by-word among the nations. What is wanted is a Blue Sky Bill for England, for a scavenged sky means a smokeless sky, and a smokeless sky means a sun-lit sky and happier and healthier people."

Again, Sir Henry Gauvain, the fine results of whose work for crippled and tuberculous children at Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital at Alton, and at the Home at Hayling Island are so well known, utilises sunlight, "the world's great antiseptic," in his scheme of treatment of tuberculous children with most fruitful results.

Speaking at a Reception given by the Lord Mayor of Bristol, on the occasion of the Eleventh Annual Conference of the British Commercial Gas Association, Sir Henry Gauvain said :—

"What a sad and dreadful thing it is that

our cities are so beclouded with smoke, and that so little effort is made to prevent this smoke nuisance, which is not only a nuisance, but is detrimental to the health of the people in the cities. If we could have more light in our cities, it would mean an immense amount, not only for the health of our people, but also for the mental activity of those who could get access to the light. I wish the great gas industry all prosperity if it will enable us to have cleaner cities and purer air. It is a strange fact that we, the most hygienic people of the world, who would be horrified to think of drinking impure water, who insist on a high standard of personal cleanliness, will yet tolerate filthy cities and filthy air, and fill our lungs with it every day of our lives, when so much of it could be avoided by a little care and sensible legislation."

The British Commercial Gas Association claim that a gas fire is a purified coal fire, which, properly fixed, is more hygienic than a coal fire so far as the room in which it is used is concerned, and vastly more hygienic than a coal fire in regard to its ultimate effect upon the outside atmosphere. In considering the influence of the use of gas for fuel upon the atmosphere of London, sight must not be lost of the extent to which gas has displaced smoke-producing fuel in the factory, workshop and office, as well as in the private house and public institution.

Just before the war the meteorological reports revealed that in London the periods of winter fog had been halved while those of summer sunshine had been doubled in the previous ten years. This increase in sunshine was, when charted, shown to coincide in the most remarkable way with the increase in the use of gas fires during the same period.

Do we not all remember the clarity of atmosphere and beauty of London during a prolonged coal strike ?



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SHEFFIELD, MONDAY, SEPT. 20th, 1920, NOON.

By mid-day on Monday the outpourings of hundreds of chimneys have hrouded the city in smoky fog.

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