

New Electric Phenomenon.—About ten years ago, Govi found that the interior volume of a Leyden jar seemed to expand during a charge, and he attributed the phenomenon to a contraction of the liquid which it contained. Duter has now shown that the effect is due to a temporary expansion of the dielectric envelope.—*Comptes Rendus.* C.

New Mode of Cementing Metal to Glass.—Mix two parts of finely powdered litharge and one part of fine white lead; mix three parts of boiled linseed oil with one part of copal varnish; stir the powder into the liquid until it has the consistency of a stiff dough. Spread the cement on the metal, press it against the glass, and scrape off the surplus. It dries quickly and is remarkably tenacious.—*Fortschr. der Zeit.* C.

Spartan Soups.—Most persons have heard of the *black broth*, in which the Lacedemonians dipped their bread, and which they preferred to the most savory dishes. Meursius thinks that it was the water in which pork had been boiled, with the addition of vinegar and salt, the only seasonings which they employed. Ricard thinks it was a soup, and says that they made another kind with eels, which they called *white soup*.—*La Nature.* C.

Greenland Native Iron.—Prof. J. Lawrence Smith has presented a memoir to the French Academy upon the remarkable deposits of native iron in the basaltic beds of Greenland. After long study, he concludes that the iron is of terrestrial origin; that it is often so closely joined to the basalt that feldspathic and other crystals penetrate the iron, and that the iron is probably a secondary product formed by the decomposing action of lignite beds and other organic matters, which have been pierced by the immense basaltic dykes.—*Comptes Rendus.* C.

Giffard's Success.—Giffard made 1000 captive ascensions, on 72 days, taking 3,500 passengers, without the least accident, receiving 839,555 francs, distributing 35,000 commemorative medals at a cost of 44,000 francs, burning 150,000 kilogrammes (147.63 long tons) of coal under the boilers. He has solved some problems of great importance: the preservation of hydrogen for a long period in an impermeable tissue, the preparation of that gas on an enormous scale, the new construction of all the parts of a balloon on a plan which prepares the way for building true aerial ships.—*G. Tissandier.* C.