It thus appears that the American specimens are much richer in alcaline carbonates than those of Europe. It is very remarkable that the tobacco of the South of France (Departement des Lot) contains none at all.

Of Lime, Magnesia, Silica, Phosphate of Lime and Carbonic Acid they all contained portions not very materially varying from each other. It is thus proved that plants of the same species have the property of extracting from very different soils, the mineral substances adapted to their own nature, and rejecting others.

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Mechanics' Register.

New Lamp.

A lamp of a new construction, which describes a circle of light of about thirty feet in diameter, of the apparent intensity of sunshine, showing the objects within its sphere as distinctly as on the table of a camera obscura, has been erected at the head of the inclined plane in St. Leonard's depot. Its object is to enable the engine-man to have a distinct view of the inclined ropes during the night, and this has been fully attained. The lamp consists of an Argand burner, placed in the focus of a large speculum, of a peculiar form, by which the whole light is distributed just on the space where it is required. It is computed that the light on the above space is equal to that of twenty-five or thirty similar burners in common lamps. A lamp of this kind we have no doubt would be useful for other purposes. It appears to us that the largest assembly-room might be brilliantly lighted by one placed at each end of the room, and one would be sufficient to light the stage of a theatre. The cost of this one is said to be about £200, but we understand it saves an annual expense of about half that sum. The inventor is a Mr. Rankin, and he names it the conoidal lamp, probably because the light is thrown from it in the form of a cone.—Caledonian Mercury.

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Extraordinary Draught by one Horse.

The following extraordinary feat of a draft horse has been recorded. Soon after the completion of the Surrey Iron Railway, and when it was open for the conveyance of goods from Wandsworth to Merts ham, a bet was made, that a common horse could draw thirty-six tons for six miles along this road, and that he should commence his labour with a dead pull, as well as turn it round the occasional windings of the road. A number of persons assembled near Merts ham to witness the performance. Twelve wagons loaded with stones, each wagon weighing three tons, were linked together, and a horse, taken from the timber team of Mr. Harwood, was hooked to the first wagon. He started from near the Fox public house, and drew this immense weight with apparent ease, to near the turnpike at Croydon, a distance of six miles, in one hour and forty-one minutes. In the course of his journey, he was stopped four times, in order to show that it was not by the acquired impetus that he performed the task. After each stoppage, a chain of four wagons was added to the train, with which the same horse set off again without difficulty, even after about fifty men had mounted them.
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