

habit reconciles us to the most appalling appearances, and the man who has crouched with humble and reverential feeling under this demonstration of Almighty power may acquire confidence by repeatedly beholding the same phenomenon ; and at last, when his mind has been divested of terror, he may delight to watch the broad flash of the electric light, and listen with a sensation not devoid of pleasure to the reiterated peal of the thunder.

“ Wide bursts in dazzling sheets the living flame,
And dread concussion rends the ethereal frame ;
Sick earth convulsive groans from shore to shore,
And Nature, shuddering, feels the horrid roar.”—FALCONER.

Dr. Tilesius has given, in a continental journal, an account of some very curious effects produced upon the human body by atmospheric electricity. As two carts were passing through a wood, they were struck by lightning, which was conveyed from one to the other, more or less affecting the persons who were in them ; one of the horses was killed upon the spot ; and in the cart which it drew, a perforation was made nearly six inches in diameter. Both the persons in the cart were also struck. One of them received so violent a blow that he was thrown to some distance, and remained senseless for a time, but received no permanent injury. The other person was killed on the spot ; and when the body was examined, it was found to bear the marks of the electricity. The arms and hands were furrowed to the bone, the sleeves of the coat and shirt were torn, but neither the skin nor the clothes bore marks of burning, but appeared as though they had been torn by the rapid passage of a sharp point. The two persons in the other cart were seriously injured, but soon recovered, though they appear to have afterward suffered under a drowsiness and lassitude which they had never before experienced. But the most singular circumstance, in a physiological point of view, is, that one of these persons was perfectly deaf at the time of the accident ; but the electricity, in passing through his body, scratched the inner part of the ear, near the tragus and antihelix, and on the following day he recovered his hearing.

It is not, perhaps, uncommon for electricity to produce a decidedly medical effect in those instances where its intensity or quantity is not sufficient to destroy life. This may be