1836, daily relief was afforded to 3200 permanent pau­pers, and occasional relief to 4000. The number of those whose names were enrolled as paupers, and who in the course of one year received occasional assistance in the shape of money, medicine, &c., amounted to 41,300 per­sons ; in another year to 40,782. If to these be added the several institutions for lunatics, sick, orphans, foundlings, &c.. It will appear that no fewer than 52,443 persons, or more than one-half of the population of the city, receive charitable assistance. The population of Venice is about 103,000, without including the garrison, which is incon­siderable. Eight hundred patricians receive a kind of daily wages from the government. The number of foundlings now maintained in the city is stated to be 3338; and for the country districts of Venice, 10,625. There is no want of elementary schools for reading, writing, and arithmetic ; and infant schools have recently been introduced.

A railroad has been projected, and is now in progress, to connect Venice with Milan, passing through Padua, Vi­cenza, Verona, Mantua, and Brescia, a distance of 166 miles, nearly upon one level. The greatest, and indeed almost the only serious obstacle to the execution of the work, is the carrying of the road across the lagune, ex­ceeding two miles of mud and water.

To the north of the city is the small town of *Murano,* whose glass-works were in great repute for several centu­ries, though their productions are now inferior to those of France, England, and Bohemia ; and to the eastward is *San Lazzaro degli Arment,* an island with a convent inha­bited by Armenian monks, who devote themselves to the education of their countrymen, and the cultivation of their national literature. They have published several useful works in their national language, and they issue a weekly journal, which is circulated throughout the East. For an account of the Venetian territory, see Lombardy, (c.h.)

VENLOO, a city of the Netherlands, in the province of Limburg and circle of Roermund. It is situated on the right bank of the Meuse, over which is a flying bridge. It is strongly fortified, and is protected by Fort St. Michael on the opposite side of the river. It contains 5740 inhabi­tants. Its chief trade is by the river, but it has manufac­tories of needles. Lat. 51. 22. 17. Long. 5. 4. 26. E.

VENTILATION is the art of providing any confined area or apartment with an adequate supply of air, in a condition suitable to the purposes for which it may be re­quired. The air is usually introduced in a stream which maintains a freshness and purity of atmosphere in the place that is ventilated, any contaminated air being withdrawn as the pure air enters.

In numerous operations of nature and of art, and more especially during combustion, respiration, and the decay that attends the putrefaction of animal and vegetable mat­ter, unwholesome products are evolved; and so deleterious are these to animal life, that death is the necessary conse­quence when they accumulate in a more concentrated form around the person. In a smaller proportion, they produce an endless variety of discomfort or disease, from the most trifling sense of languor or debility to the more violent apoplectic headache, for the time suppressing all attempts at exertion either of mind or body, while on other oc­casions a slow and insidious action gradually undermines the constitution, and induces a permanent loss of health. In extreme cases death is induced, more or less rapidly, according as the oxygen of the atmosphere is withdrawn, or an impregnation of poisonous gases communicated to it.

The air of respiration is the great *pabulum vitae:* we draw upon it no less than twelve hundred times an hour, on an average, for nourishment and support, during the whole period of our existence ; we consume oxygen, and replace it by carbonic acid ; and were it withdrawn from us, or changed in its qualities, death would inevitably ensue.

The air acts incessantly, not only on the blood as it passes through the lungs, but also on the surface of the body ; and disease and death may ensue from an unwholesome atmosphere in contact with the skin, even when the lungs are supplied with pure air. Well attested cases are re­corded where severe oppression has attended the action of an amount of impurity so small as from 1-15000th to l-5000th part of sulphureted hydrogen gas; while the ab­solute amount of impurity in air tainted by miasma is so excessively minute, that its precise nature, as well as the minuteness of its weight in the most pestilential atmos­phere, is unknown.

A supply of a fresh and wholesome atmosphere may ac­cordingly be ranked among the first and most essential ne­cessaries of life. In the atmospheric ocean which rests on the surface of the terraqueous globe, a perpetual move­ment, *or natural ventilation,* is sustained on a great scale by numerous causes, more especially however by the un­equal action of the rays of the sun on the equator and at the poles; the colder air moving along the surface from the poles to the equator, while the warmer air from the equa­tor ascends and proceeds in a contrary direction towards the poles. These great and primary currents are modi­fied in endless variety by the attraction of the sun and moon, the rotation of the earth upon its axis, the relative effect of the land and water, the ever-varying influence of local temperature, volcanic action, meteoric phenomena, more especially the evaporation and deposition of moisture, the electrical condition of the air and of the surface of the earth, and the innumerable changes that attend chemical action in the mineral kingdom, as well as in those that oc­cur in the organic world. The animal and vegetable kingdoms not only contribute to the movement of the air, but are at once the great causes of the most important changes induced upon it, and of its restoration to its for­mer composition ; the animal kingdom consuming its oxy- ' gen and producing carbonic acid, while in the vegetable kingdom, the great tendency is to absorb carbonic acid and replace oxygen. But where these great movements are interrupted by local causes, or an undue accumulation of vegetable and animal debris takes place, there the due balance is not sustained, pestilential effluvia contaminate the air, and were it not for the wind, the rain, and the im­petuous storms which from time to time visit such locali­ties, and the operation of a peculiar diffusive power, in con­sequence of which no gas can accumulate permanently on the surface of the earth, whatever may be its specific gra­vity, they would in general become at last as fatal as the valley of death in Java, or the carbonic acid springs in Bavaria, in the grotto del Cano, and other places, which are so notorious for their destructive atmosphere.

In selecting a site either for a house, a city, or any es­tablishment where persons are crowded together, too much attention cannot be paid to its natural ventilation ; an as­pect towards the south, a dry gravelly soil and moderate elevation, securing efficient drainage and freedom of access to the air, with protection from offensive currents, and an immunity from local impurities, are the great desiderata.

In the open air the temperature is generally under that of the body; and the air expired from the lungs, and also that in contact with the surface of the body, being ex­panded by the heat which it receives, escapes, from its levity, and a fresh stream is immediately supplied ; but when the body is confined within a limited space, special means must be employed to sustain a constant renewal of fresh air.

This artificial ventilation. It is obvious, must be modi­fied and adapted to the peculiar circumstances of each in­dividual case, and the state of the external air which is supplied. It is a subject therefore of great extent, and as various in its details, as the climate in which man lives, the habitations in which he dwells, the occupations in