

On Thursday evening last, Mr. Ebenezer D. Bassett, Principal of the Institute for Colored Youth, lectured on "Carbon" in which many interesting facts were grouped together concerning this branch of chemistry. The diamond received a large share of his attention, its nature, specific gravity—3 ½ times heavier than water—and its scarceness, together with its value, were dwelt upon. Plumbago, commonly called black lead, was noticed next, its nature and use was the burden of his remarks. Charcoal came under another heading of the subject, and some practical information was given concerning it. Its mode of manufacture was described, and that so accurately, that one who had never seen a coal-pit might have learned to burn charcoal. Mr. Bassett showed the reason why it had a deleterious effect upon the human system when inhaled from being burned in open vessels in a close room. These remarks were well timed. In addition to the diamond, plumbago, charcoal, and lamp-black, the latter receiving a share of attention, carbonic acid gas, as found in wells, cellars and damp marshy places, occupied the lecturer's attention. He mentioned and accounted for the many marvellous stories which had been circulated concerning the Upas tree, by saying that the vicinity of it is low marshy ground, and that jets of carbonic

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