

cheap water gas in it. They ought to charge by the thermage, not the volume of gas. I made enquiries ^{of the Gas Co's} about this, & wanted a rebate. No answer at first; asked again, & was informed ^{by the Secretary that he had said} that the Gas Co's new Act of Parliament was not yet in operation. He is a solicitor. Perhaps he said it to some one else. It does not look nice. The public has rights as well as the Gas Co. - It is not easy to find out what they are. ... To walk comes on as frost approaches, and more when there is a trial frost. Then the main pipes, which are old, and much too small, get choked with naphthalene ^{crystals} and moreover, other people consume more gas, in cooking & heating, and take it away from me! ... Yet one great improvement has been made - I ^{had} told the Gas Co. that the distribution of the gas in time followed the antiquated system put in force when gas was used only for lighting; now it was nearly all for heating. Yet they turned off the gas in the old way at 11 pm, so that the house got very cold, and remained cold all day, and did not warm up till 11 pm! I recommended a considerable incr. of pressure ~~at~~ all night, and a large increase in the day ^{without the big increase} ~~at dusk~~ ^{in the morning} till 11 pm. They carried this out!! The result is excellent, in mild weather, & in really cold weather will be excellent also, if they can only keep up a sufficient supply. So much for gas. ... I shall have a tremendous bill to pay for the quarter just ended, and probably more for the quarter to come, but I have Faith that things will come right. ... Some of the Forquay houses up here have from 30 to 40 gas pipes. They have supply pipes of great size joined on to the main, a foot or so in diam. That is how they can get the heat at the very low pressure, and how they rob me. ... I have nothing to do with the nasty coal now, ^{or wood,} of course. ... It was about June that I began working in the garden. My feet were so bad that I could not safely stand without a pole, or spade, or something to support me, & could sit walk about, but I persevered, working with the body & arms only, cutting & digging, to keep my liver going, and kidneys, and improved very greatly, in spite of the cold wet summer; then came the end of summer & I had to give it up; and here it is, winter again, with the work only half done! ... I was not able to get on with the Corrections & notes I promised you. ^{not} I could do the misprints, but the notes in my interleaved private copy! Voluminous! And I had lost my measuring lead, I had to read up the W.B. investigations to find out what I meant! There was a man in a big Telegraph Instrument Co who said he was the only man in the Co. who understood my E.L.P. I said that was more than I could. And I did not joke! Nevertheless I can send the Corrections &