

when the melting points are determined as they were in these experiments. If they are determined, however, as I have permitted them to be in other experiments, by the sinking of a drop of water in the sufficiently softened fat, it is self-evident that then the half-soft condition caused by a preliminary melting is not without influence upon the result. This, however, is a circumstance which can not be easily avoided. I have, nevertheless, when making melting point determinations of butters by this method, obtained fairly concordant or at least parallel results with those obtained when I took the mean of the melting and congealing points determined in the manner described.

The experiments were made by Mr. F. J. von Pesch, Assistant at the Station.

ROYAL EXPERIMENT STATION,  
Wageningen, July 10, 1893.

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### NEW BOOKS.

EXPERIMENTS ON AIR. PAPERS BY THE HON. HENRY CAVENDISH, F.R.S. 1784-1785. Alembic Club Reprints, No. 3. 12mo. Cloth. 52 pp. Wm. F. Clay.

To read Cavendish's papers is inspiring. He did so much with so little. Accuracy in experiment and insight into the causes of phenomena characterize all his work, notwithstanding the phlogiston fog in which he moved. This booklet contains two of his papers both taken from the Philosophical Transactions; the first, read Jan. 5, 1784, relates to his discovery of the composition of water: the second, read June 2, 1785, tells how he discovered the composition of nitric acid by uniting the oxygen and nitrogen of the air by the electric spark. To those who do not have access to the originals this series of reprints will be invaluable.

E. H.