

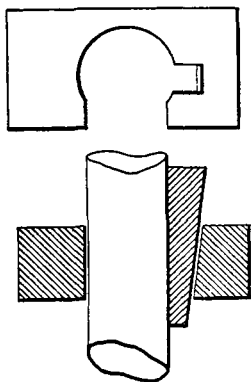
These two men had the theory of combustion in their grasp, and almost explain it in their writings, that they were unconscious of this fact is surprising.

The publishers of these Reprints are to be thanked for placing before the chemical world the work of these two men in such a handy and attractive form. A digest of a work is good, but the original furnishes the only true satisfaction. So these little books should be extremely valuable to the student, by enabling him to see the discovery of oxygen in its original shape.

OWEN L. SHINN.

### NOTES.

*Convenient Burette Clamp.*—A convenient form of burette



holder may be made from the appended sketch. A simple wedge being employed in place of the screw clamp to hold the tube in position. The surface of the wedge bearing on the tube should be slightly curved to ensure accurate contact. Cork is not necessary on bearing parts, as very slight pressure on upper end of wedge causes the tube to be held with great rigidity. Holder should be made of maple, wedge of hickory or other hard wood.—*Clarence Quinan.*

*A New Atmospheric Element.*—Lord Rayleigh and Professor Ramsay announce the discovery of a supposed new element contained in the atmosphere to the extent of about one per cent. Two methods of separation have been used. The first method consists in passing high tension electrical sparks through a mixture of equal bulks of air and oxygen confined over potash solution until no further diminution in volume ensues. The excess of oxygen is then absorbed by alkaline pyrogallate. The second method consists in removing the oxygen from air by red hot copper and the nitrogen by heated magnesium. The remaining gas has a sp. gr. of 18.9 and is more inert than nitrogen.

Wm. Crookes has examined the spectrum of the gas when the