

LITERARY NOTES.

Kipling's New Animal Stories.

Rudyard Kipling is going to tell of "The beginning of the Armadillos" in the May Ladies' Home Journal. Of course, Mr. Kipling brings to bear an irresistibly funny, but withal a highly ingenious, philosophy in describing the peculiarities of the armadillo. He evidently found enjoyment in writing these stories—he calls them "Just So" stories—for he has interwoven more inimitable humor into his account of the way by which the armadillos came into being, and the others of the series, than in anything else that has come from his versatile pen.

Mr. W. K. Moody, who has in his possession all of his father's papers and is preparing a very complete life of the great preacher, has consented to write especially for the Saturday Evening Post a series of anecdotal papers on his father's life and work, profusely illustrated with hitherto unpublished photographs.

The people who want to know about the latest place for "getting rich quick," should read Professor Angelo Heilprin's article in the April number of Appleton's Popular Science Monthly. It gives an account of the Cape Nome district in Alaska, which, according to Professor Heilprin, who is a scientist of high standing and whose statements may be depended on, is an extremely promising, if not the most promising of all the Alaskan gold fields. A number of illustrations add much to the interest of the text, and give one an idea of the physical characteristics of the Cape Nome region.

Watching Digestion with the X Ray

The use of the fluorescent screen, too, has been greatly extended. Dr. Francis H. Williams of Boston has used it as a valuable instrument in medical diagnosis, especially in studying lung diseases. It has been used at the Harvard medical school to follow the processes of digestion. To accomplish this, in one instance a goose was fed with food mixed with subnitrate of bismuth, a salt which absorbs X rays.

The passage of the dark mass down the long neck of the bird could be traced on the fluorescent screen, and the peculiarities of its motion in the gullet could be studied. A cat was also fed with the same substance, and the movement of its stomach noted. These movements are analogous to those of the heart—in other words, were rhythmic when the processes of digestion

were going on normally and uninter- ruptedly. When, however, the cat was irritated, it may be by the sight of a dog, these pulsations instantly ceased. As soon as the source of vexation was removed and the purring of the animal showed a contented frame of mind, the stomach resumed its rhythmical move- ments. The dependence of the diges- tive apparatus on the state of the nerv- ous system was thus clearly shown. The female cat was much more tractable under these experiments than the male. —From "Recent Developments with the X Rays," by Professor John Trowbridge, in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly for April.

Napoleon on Suicide.

In April Century Napoleon gives his views of suicide.

"They perhaps think that I will put an end to myself. No; there is greater courage in supporting it. A gamster or a harlot may finish themselves, but it becomes not a man of my character. True, I could do it in an instant beyond your help. They seize upon me with violence, and forcibly transport me here, and want me to pay fourteen or fifteen thousand pounds yearly for living in such a place as this."

"They tell the governor to let me spend as much money as I like of my own. It is true, I believe, I am above want, but I do not know how much money I have, and I do not choose to let them know where it is, as probably they would seize upon it as they did before. I did not settle my affairs after the battle of Waterloo; I had not the time, and before it I had other things to do. Besides, I never was a man who occupied himself with money affairs. I never knew what I had. I thought that I would go either to London or America, and I had bills for whatever sums I chose to take upon America. I have probably as much money as I ever shall want, but I do not know exactly where it is." Here he said that he had spent sixteen millions of ready money before the battle of Waterloo which belonged to himself.

"The people of England want to know why I still call myself emperor. I have here explained it. It was my intention to have lived in England as a private person, but since they have sent me here, and wanted to make it appear that I was never emperor or chief magistrate, I shall retain the title. The admiral told me that he had heard Lord Liver- pool and Castlereagh say that the prin- cipal reason they sent me here was that the ministers were afraid that I would be cabaling with some of the opposition, and that I would tell the truth of them, and explain some things they would not

like. They know they must let people of rank see me, and were afraid for themselves." Here I said that the min- isters were afraid that if they left him in England he would mount again upon the throne of France and wage another war against England. "Bah, bah!" said he, "the times are changed; the time for that is over. I am old, and be- sides, fifty years must elapse before France will be able to face England again. No, no; I know all that well; I know that that is all gone—vanished."

The Same Effect.

"It is very odd," remarked Mr. Hub- bub, "that in Africa there is a tribe which cannot wear clothes at all. Clothes make them sick. Isn't it strange, my dear?"

"Not at all," replied Mrs. Hubbub. "The same thing happens in this coun- try also."

"Oh, surely not. I never heard of such a thing in civilized countries."

"Well, Mr. Hubbub, I can tell you that even in this great and glorious land the same phenomena is by no means unknown. When I see Mrs. Poindexter coming out every month or so with a fine new outfit from head to foot, her clothes make me sick—make me sick, I say, Mr. Hubbub—when I reflect that you are just as able to buy me new clothes as Mr. Poindexter is to buy them for his wife, and don't."

And Mrs. Hubbub dissolved in tears. —The Smart Set.

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