

### PTOMAINE POISONING.

Cases of considerable rarity in the history of the Healing Art.

The husband and two children of the poisoned family in Belgium are better. It is a case of ptomaine poisoning, and the fact that that kind of poisoning is exceedingly rare makes it most interesting. It comes from putrid meats and vegetables, and also exists in cheese. It is a poisonous salt developed in the process of putrefaction, and a case of this kind of poisoning is rarely seen or marked as this case, because it is seldom that people eat meats that are pronouncedly tainted.

In this case the meat was in the most dangerous stage, and all that ate it were very sick. An evidence which shows that this was a case of ptomaine poisoning resulting from the meat is that the family upstairs ate some of the same meat, which was cooked, and were very sick for two days, but recovered. Symptoms of this kind of poisoning, according to Dr. Lutze's statement, are violent vomiting and purging and a pinched expression of the face. This is often mistaken by the best physicians for other troubles, and such a mistake is not surprising when the best chemists do not thoroughly understand the nature of these cases and the poison.

It is a blood poison by absorption, and its effect is first upon the blood, producing tissues of the capillary circulation. In reality death commences at the surface and continues inwardly until the heart is reached. Its secondary effect is on the vasomotor nerves which regulate the circulation. Dr. Lutze called Dr. Sowers in consultation on the case, and both are satisfied that this is a clear case of ptomaine poisoning.

Regarding the rarity of such cases Dr. Lutze says he has in his practice never seen but one, and that was the case of a man in New Jersey. In that instance the cause was putrid fish. A whole family was stricken down and five died. Dr. Sowers says he never saw a case with fatal results before. In giving the peculiar effects of the poison he cited a medical work which is compiled from the best authorities over the world:

"No characteristic post-mortem appearances are recognizable. The body is emaciated and the skin bleached and parchment-like. Rigor mortis begins early and continues longer than usual, and putrefaction is delayed in some cases, but very rapid in others. The mucous membrane of the mouth and pharynx is often white, dry and parchment-like or horny. The mucous membrane is frequently congested and sometimes cachymatic. The spleen is sometimes enlarged, congested and extremely soft and friable. The blood, as a rule, is dark and contains no foreign organisms or elements. The corpuscles are unaltered. The lungs are frequently congested and oedematous."

"Often," says Dr. Lutze, "the symptoms are the same as in the case of arsenic poisoning, but this is not always so."—Denver News.

### Eyes of Different People.

Eyes have always been regarded as a sure tribal characteristic. Tacitus, for example, describes the Germans as "fierce, with blue eyes and red hair." The Celts are mentioned as being swarthy skinned and black eyed; the Gauls are red haired and light eyed, while the Nubians, the Turks, the Egyptians and the Italians have always been spoken of as "the dark eyed races." These peculiarities have not changed. Even today the people of the temperate zones have generally light colored eyes, while those of the torrid and the frigid zones are usually dark, or even black. Of the races in particular, the only one that can be said to be "light eyed" is the Caucasian, and even in this race the eyes are by no means uniform in point of color.

The whole period of human history goes to prove that the light haired, blue eyed races are capable of the highest degree of civilization, but it does not by any means follow that the highest degree of civilization is confined to people of blonde complexion. There was a time when a blue eyed person was rarely seen, and today seven-eighths of the world's inhabitants have dark eyes. Lavater, when discussing the eye as a feature in national physiognomy, gave the following as the results of his observations: "The Italians have small eyes; the Germans, light colored eyes surrounded by many wrinkles; the English, strong, open, steadfast eyes; and the Swiss, eyes that are very dull looking."—St. Louis Republic.

### He Had a Friend at Court.

A laugh was raised in the United States district court by the testimony of John Boye, a resident of Lewiston, N. Y. Boye is old and somewhat deaf, and gave his testimony with an air of childlike innocence. The following dialogue took place on cross examination: "Did Rich ever sue you?" "Yes." "Did he beat you?" "No." "You beat him?" "Yes." "He caused you trouble and expense?" "Yes, a little." "You had to hire a lawyer?" "No." "Did he hire a lawyer?" "Yes." "You did not have one?" "No." "Are you a pettifogger and try cases yourself sometimes?" "No." "What did you do when you were sued, if you did not get a lawyer?" "I got the magistrate." The laugh that followed this reply indicated that some of those present appreciated the importance of having the favor of the court.—Utica Observer.

### A Very Careful Man.

William Brown, of this place, has a pair of old fashioned fringed mittens. They were knit for his father, Gilman Brown, forty-six years ago. They are knit in three colors, red, white and blue. Mr. Brown also has a pocket knife that he has carried for twenty-eight years.—Cor. Dexter (Me.) Gazette.

### Danger of Agreeing.

Clara—That handsome stranger appears to have taken quite a shine to you, Maud.  
Maud—Yes; I can't imagine why.  
Clara—Nor I.  
Maud—I'll never speak to you again, so there.—New York Weekly.

### At Mme. Recamier's.

The salon of Mme. Recamier was not in any sense philosophical or political, but after the cruel persecution of La Harpe, the banishment of Mme. de Staël, and the similar misfortunes of other friends, her sympathies were too strong for her diplomacy, and it gradually fell into the ranks of the opposition. It was well known that the emperor regarded all who went there as his enemies, and this young and innocent woman was destined to feel the full bitterness of his petty displeasure.

We cannot trace here the incidents of her varied career, the misfortunes of the father to whom she was a ministering angel, the loss of her husband's fortune and her own, the years of wandering and exile, the second period of brief and illusive prosperity, and the swift reverses which led to her final retreat. She was at the height of her fame in the early days of the Restoration, when her salon revived its old brilliancy, and was a center in which all parties met on neutral ground. Her intimate relations with those in power gave it a strong political influence, but this was never a marked feature, as it was mainly personal.

But the position in which one is most inclined to recall Mme. Recamier is in the convent of Abbaye-aux-Bois, where, divested of fortune and living in the simplest manner, she preserved for nearly thirty years the fading traditions of the old salons. Through all the changes which tried her fortitude and revealed the latent heroism of her character, she seems to have kept her sweet serenity unbroken, bending to the passing storms with the grace of a facile nature, but never murmuring at the inevitable. One may find in this inflexible strength and gentleness of temper a clue to the subtle fascination which held the devoted friendship of so many gifted men and women long after the fresh charm of youth was gone.—Amelia Gere Mason in Century.

### Behavior at Table.

Keep your mouth closed when eating. Never play with food, nor mince your bread, nor handle your knife and fork or the glass or silver near you unnecessarily. If a fishbone, etc., should inadvertently get into the mouth, the lips must be covered by the napkin while removing it. Never pick your teeth at the table. Do not put large pieces of food in your mouth; if you are addressed when your mouth is so filled, you are obliged to pause before answering until the vast mouthful is masticated, or run the risk of choking by swallowing it too hastily. To eat very fast is a mark of greediness, and should be avoided. Never soak up gravy with bread or scrape your plate. Never, if possible, cough or sneeze at the table. Do not lean back in your chair.

The hostess or host should not insist upon guests partaking of particular dishes, nor ask persons more than once, nor put anything on their plates which they have declined. It is ill bred to urge a person to eat anything after he has declined. A half ladleful of soup is enough to serve, unless it is a country dinner, where a full ladleful may be given; but do not fill the soup plate. Avoid the appearance of self engrossment when eating, unless you wish to be considered entirely devoted to your food. Never overload the plate of a guest or any person you would serve. If you are to serve anything of which the supply is limited, use discretion that all may enjoy some of it.—Mrs. S. H. Snider in Housekeepers' Weekly.

### Properties of Aluminum.

Before dealing with the many processes now in the field for the cheap production of aluminum, we may briefly glance at the properties and special characteristics of the metal under consideration. Aluminum has a white silver like appearance, is both malleable and ductile, and from its sonorous properties is much used in the manufacture of bells. An exceedingly important feature is its lightness, a property which favors its employment for many special purposes. Aluminum has a specific gravity of only 2.56—that is, it is two and a half times as heavy as water, and is four times lighter than silver.

Heat and electricity are conducted by aluminum as well as by silver, while it does not oxidize in air even at red heat, has no action on water at ordinary temperature, and preserves its luster where silver would tarnish, being thus specially remarkable as the lightest metal capable of resisting the action of air even in the presence of moisture.—Chambers' Journal.

### Women in the Bank of France.

The Bank of France employs a very large number of women as accountants in the classification of bills, in the classification of coupons and in the department of printing and binding. The ladies employed in this category are called dames titulaires. They are paid three francs (sixty cents) a day, and are required to pass a preliminary examination in writing, spelling and arithmetic. They must be from eighteen to thirty-five. In the printing office an apprenticeship of two years is required as pamphlet sewers. These women work in the same shop as the men, and are paid at exactly the same rates. After twenty years' service they are retired with a pension of 400 francs (\$50). Recommendations from influential persons are requisite for obtaining places in the Bank of France.—New York Sun.

### Quite an Every Day Affair.

One of the Rescuing Party—My man, you have had a miraculous escape! Blown fifty feet through the air and then piled under 500 tons of brick and mortar. You don't seem to realize your good luck; just as cool as a cucumber.

The Survivor (calmly)—I don't mind a little thing like this. You see, boys, I married red hair and a temper.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

### Long and Short of It.

Tailor—Haven't you run a pretty long account here, sir?  
Wentman—I don't know. But at home I've run confoundedly short.—American Grocer.

### HYDRAULIC MONITORS.

THE INCREDIBLE FORCE OF THE STREAMS THEY THROW.

Mountains Have Been Moved, Valleys Dug Out and the Whole Face of Nature Changed in Parts of California by Small Streams of Falling Water.

One of the most noteworthy features in many portions of the gold region is the elaborate system of water supply for the use of the hydraulic mines and the tremendous changes which were the result of the few years during which hydraulic mining was at its height. So great have been these changes—hills washed away, valleys filled up, others created—that in many localities the entire landscape has been altered.

The old proverb ascribing the power to remove mountains such as had faith only to the amount of a grain of mustard seed has never been exemplified, but the hydraulic miners have afforded the most ample demonstration of their ability to move mountains in the search of wealth. Lofty mountains have in fact been brought low through no other agency than the pipe line, the monitor and the sluice, and the tremendous power of water never received such an exemplification as in the history of the hydraulic mines of California.

There are indeed so many remarkable facts connected therewith that, were they not abundantly substantiated, one might well be pardoned for receiving their relation with incredulity. One might not believe that a stream of water issuing from a nozzle or pipe six inches in diameter, and with no other force but gravity behind it, would have much effect at any considerable distance from the aperture, yet such an apparently insignificant stream, with a fall behind it of 375 feet, will carry away a solid boulder weighing a ton or more at a distance of fifty to 100 feet, while at a less distance it will toss such a boulder about as a boy would throw a pebble.

### POWER OF WATER.

The velocity and force of such a stream as it issues from the nozzle of the monitor is something terrific. The column of water is solid—so solid that if one were to undertake to thrust any object into it it would make no more impression than if it were iron instead of liquid. If a crowbar or other heavy object be thrust against the stream it would be snatched from the hand and thrown to a great distance as if it were a feather weight, while the man who should firmly grasp an ax and attempt to cut through the stream would undergo an experience that he would remember for many a day.

If a man were to receive the full force of such a stream at a distance of a couple of hundred feet, even though the impact be momentary, he would be killed as quickly as though struck by a cannon ball. He might escape being mangled, but the breath would be most effectually and suddenly expelled from his body.

At 400 feet from the nozzle a 6-inch stream, with 375 feet fall, swinging momentarily against the trunk of a tree will denude it in a second of the heaviest bark as cleanly as if an ax had been used. Whenever such a stream is turned against a gravel bank it cuts and burrows into it in every direction, gouging out great caves, causing thousands of tons of earth to fall, which in turn is quickly disintegrated and washed into the sluices.

Boulders so heavy that a man can scarcely lift them are tossed about like chaff, stumps and trunks of trees are thrown to one side like straws, and the work of destruction goes on at a pace that is appalling. If one who has never seen a monitor in operation under full head could imagine the ordinary stream from a fire hose magnified about a thousand times he would be able to form some conception of its power.

### THE MONITOR IN ACTION.

The water is brought in open ditches or flumes, sometimes from a great distance, around mountain sides and across valleys and ravines. When the vicinity of the mine is reached a box is put in, from which a pipe conducts the water to the point where it is to be used. It is the distance between this box and the level of the monitor that gives the pressure. With from 300 to 450 feet fall the execution done is tremendous.

At the monitor the water is conducted into a still smaller pipe, with nozzle about one-third the size of the supply pipe, the compression giving it still greater force. The monitor is constructed something like the ordinary hose nozzle, but has a ball joint that permits it to be swung in any direction. Almost the weight of a finger will suffice to direct the movement.

Easily as it is managed, however, the monitor sometimes becomes uncontrollable, and when this happens a scene of destruction and even death ensues. The pipe sways to and fro at its own volition, and the stream flies first in one direction and then in another. If the miners are not warned in time to get out of range they may be mowed down as if by the discharge of a volley of grape. Sometimes the runaway monitor seems as if manipulated by some bloodthirsty monster, and appears to be deliberately turned upon the fleeing men, following them as they fly in every direction and overtaking them before they can reach a place of safety.

When a monitor gets away from control in this manner there are two things that can be done. The water may be shut off at the headgate, a process involving much delay and perhaps loss, or some brave man may rush in and get to the monitor without being struck by the stream. To do this requires agility and luck. The stream is liable to box the compass inside of a minute, and its course must be watched and the probable direction noted. Then over the rough surface the man must hasten, careful not to make a misstep, and at the same time ready to flee should the erratic stream betray a tendency to change its course so as to endanger life.—San Francisco Chronicle.

### Heating a Wolf.

It is not often that a wolf story is told in a way to show the cowardly nature of the animal. For this reason the following account, given by the author of "Twenty-seven Years in Canada West," has its own value and interest:

My wife's youngest sister had a pet sheep that she had brought up from a lamb, and to which she was much attached. One afternoon she was going down to the spring for a pitcher of water, when she saw a large dog, as she thought, worrying her sheep, upon which she picked up a large stick and struck the beast two or three strokes with all her strength, thus compelling him to drop his prey.

This, however, he did very reluctantly, turning his head at the same time, and showing his teeth with a most diabolical snarl. She saw at once when he faced her, by his pricked ears, high cheek bones, long, bushy tail and gaunt figure, that her antagonist was a wolf. Nothing daunted, she again bravely attacked him, for he seemed determined, in spite of her valiant opposition, to have her pet lamb, which he again attacked.

She boldly beat him off the second time, following him down the creek, thrashing him and calling for aid with all her might, when, fortunately, one of her brothers, attracted by her cries, ran down with the dogs and his gun. But he was too late for a shot, for when the wolf saw the reinforcement he scampered off with all his speed.

### A Rival of the Famous Strasburg Clock.

The most wonderful clock is on exhibition in the parochial school building connected with St. Paul's German Lutheran church in Janesville, Wis.

The timepiece is divided into four parts—geographical, astronomical, musical and numerical. A little bell strikes every minute. The first quarter hour represents childhood; the second, youth; the third, middle age, and the fourth, old age. As the clock strikes the hours a corresponding number of apostles make their appearance, from one to twelve. Above them stands Jesus blessing them. The twelve signs of the zodiac are represented. At 6 and 12 o'clock a sexton rings a bell, an old man kneels in prayer, the cock crows and the organ is played. There are four dials on each side of the clock, showing the years on one side and the leap years on the other.

At midnight heathen gods make their appearance, and scenes in the life of Jesus are represented at noonday. The four seasons are represented by appropriate figures, as are the moon's phases. The clock was built by Mr. Martin, a millwright, of Schwarzwald, Baden, and is said to exceed in ingenuity any other clock ever exhibited in the United States.—Jeweler's Weekly.

### An Old Bullet.

Bob Lockhart dropped in to renew his subscription.

"I have something in my inside pocket which I want to show you," he said, and after searching for a few seconds Bob produced the half of a large round leaden ball.

"I was sawing up a fat lightwood log, and you will see where the saw passed through the center of the bullet. Well, I got to thinking afterward how old this bullet must be. The log was fat heart pine two feet thick. Evidently the bullet was shot into the tree when small or else it could not have pierced so the center, and the tree was evidently 100 years old when it fell to the ground. It may have laid there 100 years or more. You know fat pine never decays. I am satisfied that old man Ponce de Leon, on his tour through this country, must have fired a fancy shot at a skulking savage, and plugged the tree instead of the Indian. You see it's a round ball, and as it is so large I judge it to be of Spanish make."

Bob is quite an antiquarian, you know.—Atlanta Journal.

### Oil Ponds in the Gulf.

Between the mouth of the Mississippi river and Galveston, ten or fifteen miles south of Sabine Pass, is a spot in the Gulf of Mexico which is commonly called "The Oil Ponds" by the captains of the small craft which ply in that vicinity.

There is no land within fifteen miles; but even in the wildest weather the water at this spot is comparatively calm, owing to the thick covering of oil, which apparently rises from the bed of the Gulf, which is here about fifteen to eighteen feet beneath the surface. This strange refuge is well known to sailors who run on the small vessels trading between Galveston, Orange, Sabine, Beaumont and Galveston. When through stress of weather they fail to make harbor elsewhere they run for "The Oil Ponds," let go anchor and ride the gale in safety, this curious spot furnishing a good illustration of the effect of "oil upon a troubled sea."—St. Louis Republic.

### The Silver Dollar "M."

There is a popular idea prevalent that the minute letter "M" to be seen at the base of the head of Liberty on the face of the present issue of silver dollars stands for "Mint," and is an evidence of the genuineness of the coin bearing it. This is a mistake. The "M" stands for Morgan, George T. Morgan, who is the originator of the design. Upon the same side there is another "M," also the initial of the designer. This is to be found in the waving locks of the fair goddess, and is so cleverly concealed in the lines of the design that it can only be seen after a long scrutiny. A prominent mint official, in speaking of this other initial, said that he had had it shown to him scores of times, but could never find it unassisted.—Philadelphia Record.

### No Fondness for Science.

A well known scientist sat in a Chestnut street hotel watching the throngs pass by, when a gentleman entered and said:

"Mr. Blank, can you give any scientific reason why women walk pigeon-toed?"

"My dear sir," replied the professor, in impressive tones, "women and science have nothing to do with each other."—Philadelphia Press.

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