

## MINERAL POISONING.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The staff correspondent of the *Courier Journal*, who is in the mountains of eastern Kentucky investigating the plague in that section, says the disease has spread with great rapidity and now extends over a large territory in Virginia and Kentucky, about 70 miles wide by 80 miles long. It is most widespread closest to the highest mountains. It generally takes some days for the disease to run its course and it generally proves fatal. In many instances those attacked died in a short time. Mineral poisoning is the real cause of the epidemic. It is a well known fact that the streams along which the disease is revealed find their beginning in the mountains among rocks containing alkali and other poisonous minerals. Until recently no rain had fallen for many weeks and the streams had nearly dried up. The water remaining, and which these people were forced to use, was powerfully charged with these poisonous substances and the continued use of it resulted in an epidemic. The number of victims of the plague will probably reach 1,000.

In some portions of Nova Scotia, especially in some gold regions, *arsenical pyrites* abounds. It has been suggested that the alkaline ashes from a felled and burned hardwood forest in these regions might cause the solution of sufficient arsenic from the pyrites to make the water poisonous.—Ed.]

## Zoological.

California Ostrich eggs are only \$120 a dozen.

A twelve year old boy was attacked by an eagle, which measured 8 feet from tip to tip, on Long Island a few days ago. He killed the bird after a desperate struggle.

Edward Howe is dying in a New York hospital from the effect of a scratch from an anteater which he received at a Coney Island aquarium in September.

Charles Halluck sends from New Orleans to the editor of the *American Angler* the femur and tibia of a frog, measuring conjointly five and a half inches.

New Orleans is suffering from an invasion of insects. They come at night and are everywhere, but are most numerous around the electric light. Millions of them cover the sidewalks and make a disagreeable sound as they are crushed to death by footsteps.

An octopus was caught recently with fish-hooks near Portland in Oregon. There was a great struggle in getting it into a boat and bringing it ashore. It was hooked in about three hundred feet of water. As it was brought