

Mr Youatt the greatest authority on rabies in dogs, thinks that it does not now occur spontaneously, and he believes it may be extirpated everywhere if a thorough quarantine could be established on dogs. It appears to us that at least eighty out every hundred dogs in every community are of no use, and that it would be well to destroy just about this proportion of them.

The essayist says:—"All who are in charge of a dog may, by a little attention, discover the early symptoms of rabies, and prevent any mischief by sequestrating the animal in time. Is he fidgety and sullen? Does he, when first ill, manifest importunate attention? Is he affected with hallucination? Does he exhibit and not thirst? Does he scratch his ear violently? and does he paw the corners of his mouth without keeping the mouth permanently open? Does he refuse his natural food, and exhibit a depraved appetite? Is he insensible to pain, and his voice strangely altered? Any one of these symptoms should awaken suspicion, and a close observation will soon discover the true state of the case. We advise all our readers to commit this information respecting the symptoms to memory, as it may be of paramount importance at some future period."

The poison of rabies is not communicated by contagion, but inoculation with the saliva. One mysterious feature connected with this poison, is that after being bitten it may remain in the system for nearly a year before it develops itself. How it thus remains inert is unknown. When a person is bitten by a dog supposed to be mad, the only course to pursue is to cauterize the wound at once. It is a consoling fact that only one out of every three persons bitten by mad dogs have become affected with hydrophobia; still, the malady is so terrible and treacherous that every precaution should be used at all seasons of the year to prevent it.—*Scientific American*.

**A TEN MILE ARMY OF ANTS, AND THEIR EXPLOITS**—We take the following description of the "Bashikouay"—or reddish brown African ant—from Du Chailla's account of his African travels. "It is their habit to march through the forest in a long and regular line, about two inches broad and often ten miles in length. All along this line are larger ants, who act as officers, stand outside the ranks, and keep this singular army in order. If they come to a place where there are no trees to shelter them from the sun, whose heat they cannot bear, they immediately build underground tunnels, through which the whole army passes in columns to the forest beyond. These tunnels are four or five feet underground, and are used only in the heat of the day or during a storm. When they get hungry, the long file spreads itself through the forest in a front line, and devours

all it comes to with a fury which is quite irresistible. The elephant and gorilla fly before this attack. The black men run for their lives. Every animal that lives in their line of march is chased. They seem to understand and act upon the tactics of Napoleon, and concentrate with great speed their heaviest forces upon the point of attack. In an incredible short space of time the mouse, or dog, or leopard, or deer is overwhelmed, killed, eaten, and the bare skeleton only remains. They seem to travel night and day. Many a time have I been awakened out of a sleep, and obliged to rush from the hut and into the water to save my life, and after all suffered intolerable agony from the bites of the advance guard, who had got into my clothes.—When they enter a house they clear it of all living things. Roaches are devoured in an instant. Rats and mice spring round the room in vain. An overwhelming force of ants kill a strong rat in less than a minute, in spite of the most frantic struggles, and in less than another minute its bones are stripped. Every living thing in the house is devoured. They will not touch vegetable matter. Thus they are in reality very useful (as well as dangerous) to the negroes, who have their huts cleared of all the abounding vermin, such as immense roaches and centipedes, at least several times a year.—When on their march, the insect world flies before them, and I have often had the approach of the bashikouay army heralded to me by this means. Wherever they go they make a clean sweep, even ascending to the tops of the highest trees in pursuit of their prey. Their manner of attack is an impetuous leap. Instantly the strong pincers are fastened, and they only let go when the piece gives way. At such times this little animal seems animated by a kind of fury, which causes it to disregard entirely its own safety, and seek only the conquest of its prey. The bite is very painful. The negroes relate that criminals were in former times exposed in the path of the bashikouay ants, as the most cruel manner of putting them to death. Two very remarkable practices of theirs remain to be related. When on their line of march they must cross a stream, they throw themselves across and form a tunnel—a living tunnel—connecting two trees or high bushes on opposite sides of the little stream. This is done with great speed, and is effected by a great number of ants, each of which clings with its fore claws to its next neighbour's body or hind claws. Thus they form a high, safe tubular bridge, through which the whole vast regiment marches in regular order. If disturbed, or if the arch is broken by the violence of some animal, they instantly attack the offender with the greatest animosity. The bashikouay have the sense of smell finely developed, as indeed have all the ants I know of, and they are guided very much by it. They are larger than any ant we have in America, being