

he had made an animal with strychnia, and entered it with probable reasons for its non-detection in certain cases, although (as he had just shown before) a method of detecting infinitesimal quantities of strychnia by tests. He procured three rats. At seven o'clock p.m. (assisted by Dr. Wright) gave each rat a quarter of a grain of powdered strychnia, and, two hours afterwards, a quarter and a half a grain more to one of the three. Next morning, at four o'clock they were all alone and had eaten food (bread and milk) in the night. But at seven or a few minutes after they were all dead. The longest liver was one of the rats that had only had a quarter of a grain. In about three hours afterwards I applied the usual tests, but could not detect the least indication of strychnia in the precipitate. There was, moreover, a total absence of bitterness in all the liquors. He tried every part of the bodies of the rats with the like result. What then became of the strychnia? Had it been decomposed in the organism, and its nature changed, as Baron Liebig intimated? As to the non-detection of strychnia, he thought it not improbable that the strychnia had become imbedded into the albumen or other solid matter, and so abstracted from the fluid forming of coagulation (as, for instance, in the blood) a more or less insoluble albumonite. The idea had occurred to him upon noticing the coagulation of the glairy white of egg with strychnia, and the fact of his not recovering the full quantity of the alkaloid whenever he had introduced it. At any rate, it merited consideration.

In his second experiment he administered three-quarters of a grain of strychnia to a wild rat, but the animal escaped little of the effects of poison, and it was purposely killed after five days. The third experiment was with two grains of strychnia, administered as a pill, wrapped up in blinding paper, to a dog—a full-sized terrier. It was, apparently, quite well for five hours, when the operator went to bed, but it was found dead next morning, but lying, apparently, in the most natural position for a dog asleep. When taken up, blood flowed freely from its mouth. On opening the animal (continued Mr. Horsley) I found the right ventricle of the heart empty of blood, whilst the left was full, some of the blood being liquid, and some clotted. The stomach was carefully secured at both its orifices and detached. On making an incision I was surprised at not seeing the paper in which I had wrapped the pill, naturally expecting it would have been reduced to a pulp by the fluid of the stomach. I therefore sought for it, and lo! here it is, in precisely the same condition as when introduced into the gullet of the dog, and containing nearly all the strychnia. I have been afraid to disturb it until I had exhibited it to you, and now I will weigh the contents and ascertain how much has been absorbed or dissolved. The experiment is important, as showing the small quantity of strychnia necessary to destroy life; and had I not been then particular to search for the paper envelope, it might possibly have led to a fallacy, as I must have used an acid, and that would have dissolved only the strychnia, and the inference would have been that it was obtained from the contents of the stomach, whereas it had never been dissolved. In this case, also, none of the absorbed strychnia was detectable in the blood or any part of the animal, although the greatest care was observed in making the experiment. The lecturer added that he had made fresh experiments, which, he thought, proved that it was highly probable a more or less insoluble compound of organic or animal matter with strychnia is formed."

**THE NEW CREATION.**—A nobleman had inherited a broad tract of land, together with a village, from a wealthy uncle. But the land was boggy, unhealthy, and waste. The new possessor drained off the standing water and planted all kinds of trees and shrubs, so that the morass became a delightful garden, with a shady grove stretching out towards the village. After a few years, the nobleman received a visit from the teacher of his youth, and he showed him how he had cultivated the wild bog, and converted it into a lovely garden. The aged man beheld it all with pleasure, and praised every part of it. The owner, however, said that he intended to do yet more, and preserve all kinds of deer and other game in the wood; and what an enjoyment this little creation afforded him. Upon this, the old teacher replied:—"Thou dost deserve it, for thou hast made the dead morass into the dwelling place of life and joy. But there is something yet wanting to the perfection of this creation." "And what is that?" asked the nobleman. "Know'st thou not?" replied the old man, "that when God, the Lord of the Garden, had created Eden, he placed man therein?" The rich man was silent, and took those words to heart; and in

the following spring, when his faithful teacher revisited him, he conducted him to the extremity of the wood. There stood two new and pleasant looking buildings. The old man smiled; and pressed the nobleman's hand as he said—"I well know that thy heart would understand me. I have now brought the work to perfection." And the buildings were—the one, an Orphan's Home; the other, a School.—*Krusenacker.*

**WILD MAN OF AFRICA.**—There is yet, says Dr. Prince, another inhabitant of the woods by the Gaboon River, more to be feared than the African lion. It is the wild man of the woods—not the orang outang though, an immense ape—always acting on the offensive, and ready to attack man. The bones of his extremities are larger than those of an ordinary sized full grown man. I have examined them here, and whilst contemplating the skull, the jaws, and other terrible apparatus, really experienced a sort of shuddering. The canine teeth are upwards of two inches long, and of proportionate bulk. There is a ridge running from the top of the nose backwards over the crown of the head; to this is affixed a muscle, by which the living animals draw backwards and forwards a most frightful crest of stiff hairs; when enraged, or purposing to inflict injury, he erects them, and draws the crest forwards over his large glaring eyes, and utters most hideous yells at the same time. Nothing seems to intimidate him. Sometimes he advances with boughs of trees broken off for the purpose of concealing his approach and attack, and suddenly grasps the legs of the human being, brings him instantly to the ground; breaks his bones by blows of his mighty arms and bands, and tears the flesh by his monstrous teeth. The native huntsman who goes in search, or meets with him whilst pursuing less formidable animals, has learned that the safest way to engage is to act quite on the defensive; and to let the monster draw near, when he will immediately seize the end of the muzzle of the gun (ready cocked and presented) between his teeth. Instantly it must be discharged; if the man either delays till the ape has compressed the barrel so as to close it, or fails to give a mortal wound, worse be to him; his doom is sealed!

**ORIGIN OF CHESS.**—The game of Chess, it is said, had its origin at the siege of Troy, and was invented by Pallas, to amuse the Grecian chiefs. The following account of the Origin of Chess is given by the Arabian writers. At the commencement of the fifth century of the Christian era, India was governed by a young and powerful monarch of an excellent disposition, but who was greatly corrupted by his flatterers. This young prince soon forgot that monarchs ought to be the fathers of their people, that the love of the people for their king is the only solid support of the throne, and that they constitute all his strength and power. It was in vain that the brahmans and the rajahs repeated to him these important maxims. Intoxicated by his greatness, which he imagined to be unalterable, he despised their wise remonstrances. Then a brahmin, named Sissa, undertook, in an indirect manner, to open the eyes of the prince. With this view he invented the game of chess, in which the king, though the most important of the pieces, is powerless to attack, and even to defend himself against his enemies, without the assistance of his subjects. The new game speedily became celebrated; the king of India heard talk of it, and wished to learn it. Sissa, while explaining the rules of it, gave him a taste for those momentous truths, to which till this moment he had refused to listen. The prince, who possessed both feeling and gratitude, changed his conduct, and gave the brahmin the choice of his recompense. Sissa required to be delivered to him the number of grains of wheat which would be produced by all the squares of the chess-board, one being given for the first square, two for the second, four for the third, and so on, still doubling the amount till the sixty-fourth square. The king, without difficulty, acceded to a request of such apparent moderation; but when his treasurer had calculated the quantity, they found that the king had engaged to perform a thing for which not all his riches nor his vast estates would suffice. They found, in reality, that the amount of these grains of wheat would be equal to 16,384 chits, each containing 1,024 granaries, each granary containing 174,632 measures, each measure consisting of 32,768 grains. Of this circumstance the brahmin availed himself to make the king sensible how much sovereigns ought to be on their guard against those who surround them, and how much they ought to fear lest even their best intentions would be perverted to sinister ends.

**CURIOUS HABITS OF MACKEREL.**—The habits of these fish are very peculiar. And although they

have been taken in immense numbers for three-quarters of a century, their habits are not well understood. They often move in immense bodies, apparently filling the ocean for miles in extent. They are found near the surface. Sometimes they will take the hook with the greatest eagerness. At other times, not a mackerel will bite for days, although millions of them are visible in the water. When they are in the mood for taking the bait, ten, twenty, and even thirty barrels, are taken by a single vessel in a few hours. They usually bite most freely soon after sunrise in the morning, and towards sunset in the evening. They all seem to bite at the same time, as if they were actuated by the same impulse. They are easily frightened, and will descend into deep water. It has often happened that a fleet of vessels has been lying off the cape, a mile or two from shore, in the midst of a school of mackerel, and taking them rapidly upon their decks, when the firing of a gun, or the blast of a rock, would send every mackerel fathoms deep into the water, as suddenly as though they had been converted into so many pigs of lead; and perhaps it would be some hours before they would reappear. They are caught most abundantly near the shore, and very rarely out of sight of land.—*Peter Gott.*

**THE YELLOW FEVER EXERCISE.**—We learn that out of the eleven infected vessels anchored at Gravesend Bay, eight have been removed to the vicinity of the Southwest spit, as directed by a recent resolution of the Commissioners of Health. The continuance of these vessels for so long a time at their former anchorage is stated to have caused the breaking out of yellow fever in the various towns lining the shore opposite Gravesend Bay. On Saturday night, one of the vessels anchored at Quarantine dragged her anchor, and has not been heard from since. There are at present but twelve cases of yellow fever under treatment at Quarantine Hospital. The *N. Y. Herald* of Monday publishes a communication from the Castleton Board of Health, intended to be laid before the commissioners of Emigration in answer to the recent letter of Dr. Thompson to the same body. The entire action of the Castleton Board of Health since its large organization is reviewed, and its course in reference to the Quarantine authorities and the erection of the barricade sought to be vindicated.

**ANOTHER DISGRACEFUL AFFRAY AT WASHINGTON.**—A most disgraceful assault was committed on the 18th inst., by a member of Congress, Mr. McMullen, of Virginia, upon Mr. Granger, of New York. The parties were in an omnibus, and got conversing on politics. Both were very earnest in the discussion. Mr. Granger having made some remark which irritated Mr. McMullen, the latter thereupon clinched him and struck him two severe blows, bruising his face badly. Mr. Granger defended himself as well as he could. The parties were separated immediately by Col. Chester, of the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*. Mr. Granger is described as an old gentleman considerably under the medium height—very earnest in his manner, but frank, good-natured and generally popular.

**THE EFFECT OF HEAT UPON THE ICEBERGS.**—A rolling noise is heard like the thunder peals of our autumnal tempests, and we see the head of an iceberg separate from the trunk, and fall crashing into the sea, throwing up clouds of spray to a great height. The monster oscillates several times, as if to recover itself upon its base, or, perhaps in sign of salutation to other icebergs; for who can interpret the mysterious language of nature? A long swell goes to announce at a distance of several miles, its entry into the world; a few minutes more, and that which but now was a dependent portion of a larger block, is become itself a member of that family of giants. Oh, pig, how little you are in the world! What are your pyramids two hundred feet high—your dome of St. Peter's—your Kremlin? Here are mountains eight hundred feet out of the water, and with basis two thousand feet deep; here are cupolas and domes at a height of four hundred feet.—*Memoirs of Lieut. Bellet.*

**A G.O. OLD AGE.**—We learn from a reliable source that there resides in Johnsonville, Williamsburg district, a lady by the name of Singleton, who is 136 years of age. She is a native of Georgetown district, was a grown young lady at the time of Braddock's defeat, and can recount many incidents of the revolutionary war. She has been perfectly blind for thirty years, but can walk about the house and yard with no other assistance than a walking stick.—*Mercury, N. C., Jan.*

As gratitude can only grow in a virtuous soil, so various minds will be ever found to possess it.