

decision; but they fined Zadig for saying that he had seen that which he had not seen.

The first thing was to pay the fine; afterwards Zadig was permitted to open his defence to the court, which he did as follows: "This is what happened. I was taking a walk towards the little wood, near which I subsequently had the honor to meet the venerable chief eunuch and the most illustrious grand huntsman. I noticed the track of an animal in the sand, and it was easy to see it was that of a small dog. Long faint streaks upon the little elevations of sand between the foot-marks convinced me that it was a she-dog with pendant dugs, showing that she must have had puppies not many days since. Other scrapings of the sand, which always lay close to the marks of the forepaws, indicated that she had very long ears; and as the imprint of one foot was always fainter than those of the other three, I judged that the lady-dog of our august queen was, if I may venture to say so, a little lame.

"With respect to the horse of the king of kings, permit me to observe that, wandering through the paths that traverse the wood, I noticed the marks of horseshoes. They were all equidistant. 'Ah,' said I, 'this is a famous galloper.' In a narrow alley, only seven feet wide, the dust upon the trunks of the trees was a little disturbed at three and a half feet from the middle of the path. 'This horse,' said I to myself, 'had a tail three and a half feet long, and, lashing it from one side to the other, he has swept away the dust.' Branches of the trees met overhead at the height of five feet, and under them I saw newly fallen leaves; so I knew that the horse had brushed some of the branches, and was therefore five feet high. As to his bit, it must have been made of 23-carat gold, for he had rubbed it against a stone, which turned out to be a touchstone, with the properties of which I am familiar by experiment. Lastly, by the marks which his shoes had left upon pebbles of another kind, I was led to think his shoes were of fine silver."

This story is one which may well be pondered by every practitioner and student of medicine, for much of our daily task consists in carrying out this method, and our success or failure in diagnosis depends greatly on how successfully we do it. It was the custom of Sir William Osler to read this story to each class as an introduction to the study of observation and diagnosis. The importance of this method in the advancement of medicine has been discussed by Dr. Balfour,* and to-day its

* On the Method of Zadig in the Advancement of Medicine. "Edinburgh Medical Journal," 1900, VII., p. 200.