

Scientific and Useful.

ALIGATORS. The alligator bids fair to become as useful as he is ugly. Those which are so abundant in the rivers of tropical America are now extensively hunted for their skins. Large bales of the skins are being imported into France and Hamburg, for the manufacture of large over-all boots.

ALCOHOL AS A REMEDY FOR BURNS. Alcohol, recommended by Sydenham, has lately been employed by Levisseur, particularly with children, as the most rapid and effective means of alleviating the pain of burns. The affected part is either simply covered loosely with an alcoholic compress, or is bathed with alcohol, when the pain instantly disappears, but returns again when the application ceases. It must, therefore, be continued for one or two hours, and then repeated at longer intervals, until the reddened epidermis is bleached and shriveled, or until any blisters that may have formed have opened and discharged, which will take place in from six to twelve hours. Care must be taken, especially where the surface to be treated is large, that the vapor of the alcohol does not affect the patient.

LIME WATER FOR WASP STINGS. Dr. Danverne writes to a French journal that some time ago he was stung on the head and face by a number of wasps. The pain was great, and he had no ammonia at hand, nor was there a druggist near by. Recollecting the fact that lime water was good for burns, it occurred to him to try it for the relief of the burning sensation produced by the stings. It answered the purpose perfectly, and he has since advised its use in some twenty cases of wasp stings, and it has always caused an instant cessation of the pain. The remedy is a simple one, and one worth making a note of.

CHARCOAL AND COAL TAR AS A DRESSING FOR WOUNDS

The London Lancet strongly recommends the use of a mixture of charcoal and coal tar, containing 33 per cent. of the latter in pulverized form, as a dressing for wounds. The powder exercises no irritative action, and is easily removed by lotions of cold water. The charcoal absorbs gasses due to fermentation, coagulates the albumen, and prevents decomposition, in this respect materially aiding the action of the carbolic acid contained in the coal tar. For wounds which cannot bear the contact of the powder, 100 parts of pulverized coal tar are macerated for some hours in 400 parts of rather weak alcohol. The solution is said to be very efficacious.

FRUITS AND HEALTH.

Dr. Hunt said at a recent meeting of the Warsaw Horticultural Society, that "an absence of fruit implied doctor's bills." We have urged for many years the importance of a regular supply of ripe fruit to prevent diseases, and insisted that the best medicine chest which an emigrating family could carry to a newly-settled country would be a box of early bearing fruit trees, currant, gooseberry and raspberry bushes, and strawberry plants. We know a family who moved West, and took with them a very large supply of dried fruit, which lasted them throughout the first summer. None of them were sick, although disease prevailed all about them that year; but the next year, with more comforts and less privations but with no fruit, they suffered much from sickness. Other western residents have told us that so long as they could have ripe fruit that they have been free from all disease resulting from malaria.

PALPITATION OF THE HEART.

"In perfect health we are not conscious of the action of our vital organs. But we should advise everybody not to pay that attention. People should not study their vital actions as if they suspected them. They should take their health for granted, unless it is so far wrong as to be distinctly noticeable. When the heart beats sharply, or too quickly, and thumps against the chest, then we say there is palpitation. Now, there are many things which without any disease of the heart will disorder its action and cause palpitation, such as strong green tea, too much anxious study, and tobacco. For the most part these things act on the nervous system, and through this system they disorder the heart. Dyspepsia, or derangement of the stomach, hysteria, and some rheumatic conditions of the system, will suffice occasionally to set the heart beating irregularly. In gouty people there is often both indigestion and palpitation, which quite disappear when the gout is cured. The mere fact of palpitation, is, then, no proof of the existence of disease of the heart. A change of diet, the abandonment of a bad habit, such as that of smoking, or drinking strong tea, or taking heavy suppers, will often suffice to cure the palpitation. If indigestion exist, or any gouty symptoms, or any rheumatic feelings, the wisest course a patient can take is to take himself to a doctor that these may be removed."—Cassell's Household Guide.

New Advertisements.

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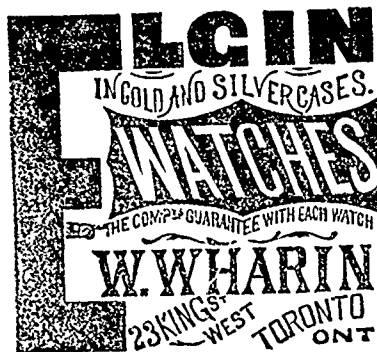
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