

posed from the tainted stock, must of course, be strictly enjoined, and as the acari, deposited at the bark of trees, or on other such objects, in mild weather retain their vitality for some time, no sound sheep should, for at least a fortnight, have access to the fields from which the tainted stock have been removed.—*North American Agriculturist*.

Miscellaneous.

The Horse-Hair.

Professor Agassiz's interesting paper on "Methods of Study in Natural History," the end of the series in the *Atlantic Monthly*, and this anecdote of an animal known to all country boys :

A gentleman from Detroit had the kindness to send me one of those long, thread-like worms (larvæ) found often in brooks, and called horse-hair by the common people. When I received it, it was coiled up in a close roll at the bottom of the bottle, filled with fresh water, that contained it, and looked more like a tangled ball of black sewing silk than anything else.

Wishing to unwind it, that I might examine its entire length, I placed it in a large china bowl filled with water, and proceeded very slowly to disentangle its coils, when I perceived that the animal had twisted itself around a bundle of its eggs, holding them fast in a close embrace.

In the process of unwinding, the eggs came away and floated to a little distance. The animal finally stretched it out to its full length, about half a yard, I sat watching to see if this long being that looked like a long, black thread in water, would give any signs of life. It immediately it moved towards the bundle of eggs, and, having reached it, began to twist itself through and through the little white eggs, passing one end of its body through it, then returning to make another stitch, as it were, till the eggs were at last entangled again in a intricate net-work of coils. It seemed to me most impossible that this care of offspring should be the result of any instinct of affection in a creature of so low an organization, and I separated it from the eggs, and placed it at a greater distance, when the same action was repeated.

On trying the experiment a third time, the animal's care of eggs had become lessened, and a few eggs had dropped off singly into the water. The animal, which the animal then made to recover from its losing ones, winding itself round and round about failing to bring them into the fold of its body, because they were too small, and making all efforts to secure them, when once they were from the first little compact mass, came to me that there was a definite purpose in the animal's conduct, and that even a being so low in the animal existence has some dim consci-

ousness of a relation to its offspring. I afterwards unwound also the mass of eggs, which, when coiled up as I first saw it, made a roll of white substance about the size of a coffee-bean, and found that it consisted of a string of eggs, measuring more than twelve feet in length, the eggs being held together by some gelatinous substance that cemented them and prevented them from falling apart. Cutting this string across, and placing a small section under the microscope, I counted on one surface of such a cut from seventy to seventy-five eggs; and estimating the entire number of eggs according to the number contained on such a surface, I found that there were not less than eight millions of eggs in the whole string.

MANAGEMENT OF DOGS.—Dogs kept constantly in the house must be let out four or five times a day for a few minutes, otherwise it is cruel to punish them for want of cleanliness. All dogs, whether long or short haired, are better for being brushed once a day; it conduces to the health, and greatly increases the comfort of the animal. A dog who is well brushed regularly, seldom requires washing, and is never infested with vermin; but if the dog is to be washed let it be done with yokes of eggs and not with soap, which irritates the skin, inflames the eyes, and by temporarily depriving the skin of its natural oily secretion, makes the dog extremely liable to be chilled afterwards. The washing with the yoke of eggs may be managed as follows:—Let the dog stand in an empty tub, rub the yolks of two, four, or more eggs by degrees into his coat, adding lukewarm water a little, until the dog is covered with a thick lather. When it is well rubbed in over the whole coat, pour clean warm water over the dog till the egg is entirely washed out. The advantages of this process are, that the dog's coat does not lose its glossy appearance afterwards, and that the whole operation can be performed quickly and quietly, and without any splashing of water or rough handling. To remove flea, take enough soft soap to rub into the whole coat of the dog; add to this a teaspoonful more or less, according to the size of the dog, of spirits of turpentine; rub this mixture well into the roots of the hair, adding a little warm water to make it reach the skin. Let this remain on for a quarter of an hour, then plunge the dog into a warm bath, and rub off the mixture with the hand. Care should be taken not to let it get into the eyes, and to wash it completely out of the skin.—*Household Dogs and Sporting Dogs; by J. Meyrick*.

GOSSEN ABOUT COACHES.—The Egyptians used a car or box, upon wheels, and the word "coach" is supposed to be of Hungarian origin. In 1294 the citizen wives of Paris rode in them. The oldest (used by ladies) were called whirlicotes, or open cars. The mother of Richard II. rode in one; and in 1474 the Emperor Frederick III.