

branchings of the veins and arteries, and the blood circulating through them with amazing velocity. In a drop of stagnant water he perceives thousands of living beings of various shapes and sizes beautifully formed, and swimming with wanton vivacity, like fishes in the midst of the ocean. In short by this instrument he perceives that the whole earth is full of animation, and that there is not a single tree, plant, or flower, and scarcely a drop of water, that is not teeming with life and peopled with its peculiar inhabitants. He thus enters, as it were, into a new world, invisible to the naked eyes, where every object in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, presents a new and interesting aspect, and unfolds beauties, harmonies, contrasts, and exquisite contrivances, altogether inconceivable by the ignorant and unreflecting mind.—*Dick.*

Recent experiments in Germany show that when the thickness of ice is an inch and a half, it will just bear the weight of a single man; when about three inches and a half, it will bear detachments of infantry with their ranks rather wide apart; with a thickness of four and four-tenth inches, eight pounders can be conveyed over it on sledges; five and two-tenth inches will bear 12 pounders; eight inches will bear 24 pounders; and a thickness of twelve inches will bear almost any weight.

THE CHAMOIS HUNTER AND THE FLOWER—A chamois hunter's life is regarded as the most enviable that can fall to the lot of man; and the daring climber, the skillful stalker, and the sure shot receives due appreciation on all sides. Among the most daring deeds of his life is the obtaining of the "Edelweis," (*Gnaphalium Leontopodium*) a flower met with only on the highest mountains in certain parts of Tyrol and Batavia. It is much valued for the snowy purity of its color, as well as on account of the difficulty of getting it. The very name "nobles purity," has a charm about it, and, strangely enough, it always grows in a spot only to be reached with the utmost peril. You will see a tuft of its beautifully white flowers overhanging a precipice, or waving on a perpendicular wall of rock to be approached but by a ledge, where a chamois could hardly stand.—But it is this very difficulty of acquisition which gives the flower so peculiar a value, and impels many a jager to brave the danger, that he may get a posy of edelweis for the hat or breast of his ladye love; and often has such an one fallen over the rocks just as he had reached it, and been found dead with the flower of such fatal beauty still held firmly in his hand.

THE DINNER-HOUR IN OLDEN TIMES.—Two o'clock was, in this country, the ancient hour of dining, and continued so in the University of Cambridge even to the reign of Edward VI., as appears from a very remarkable passage in a

sermon of Thomas Lever, at Paul's Cross, on the 14th of December, 1550. About the middle of Queen Elizabeth's reign the dining hour was somewhat later. 'With us,' says the author of the *Description of England*, in the preface of of Holliushet, 'the nobilitie, gentry, and students do ordinarily go to dinner at eleven before noone, and to supper at five, or between five and six in the afternoone. The merchants dine and sup se'dome before twelve at noone and six at night, especially at London. The husbandmen dine also at high-noone, as they call it, and sup at seven or eight; but out of the terme, in our universities the scholars dine at ten.' Such was the custom till the middle of the seventeenth century, and even in the middle of the last the colleges all dined at twelve.—*Murk Lane Express.*

THE LEECH AS A WEATHER-GLASS—The following observations on a leech were made by a gentleman who kept one several years for the above purpose:—"A phial of water containing a leech was kept in the lower frame of a chamber window sash, so that when I looked in the morning I could know what would be the weather on the following day. If the weather proves serene and beautiful, the leech lies motionless at the bottom of the glass, and rolled together in a spiral form. If it rains before or after noon, it is found to have crept up to the top of its lodging, and remains till the weather is settled. If we are to have wind, the prisoner gallops through its limpid habitacle with amazing swiftness, and seldom rests till he begins to blow hard. If a remarkable storm of thunder and rain is to succeed, for some day before, it lodges almost continually out of the water, and discovers uneasiness in violent throbbing and convulsive motions. In the frost, especially clear weather, it lies at the bottom; and in snow, as in rainy weather, it pitches its dwelling upon the very mouth of the phial. The leech was kept in an 8oz. phial, about three-fourths filled with water. In the summer the water was changed once a week, and in the winter once a fortnight."

HYDROPHOBIA IN THE DOG—How the nature of the dog can be so utterly charged as to charge its bite with deadly venom, or how it that the moist saliva of the rabid animal should communicate the disease with other beings, at present but a mystery. There seems to be an actual infusion of the dog nature into the animal which is bitten by a rabid dog, or by one of the creatures which has been inoculated by the bite of one of these terrible beings. It is evident that the virus is resident in the saliva, because the malady has been communicated by the touch of the dog's tongue upon a wound without the infliction of a bite from its teeth. It is equally evident that the poisonous property belongs not to the saliva, but to the infuse-