

under a corner of a rug brought with us, but even then it is too cold to sleep, and we are glad when the guide comes to call us. At a quarter to four we start for the summit, our party being increased by two Sicilian generals and a captain, with their two guides. We hope to reach the summit before sunrise, but we little reckon the difficulty of this two mile ascent. At first our path lies over loose scoria or ashes, into which our feet sink to the depth of several inches. By and by the mountain side becomes steeper, and the pathway is over hard lava, in which the guides with their axes have to cut niches, in which our feet may find safe hold. It is trying work, for an insecure foothold means a precipitate fall. Our alpenstocks greatly help us, resting on which every few minutes we take breath. Looking down, the Sicilian party is seen to be in trouble, and they presently give up the attempt. Before we reach the top the sun has risen, but in a mist, so that an earlier start would not have secured the view desired. But in spite of the mist the view is indescribably grand and extensive. All around and below us are the undulating sides of the mountain, which is more than ninety miles in circumference at its base. Beyond, on every hand, stretches away the island of Sicily, with its variegated landscapes, fringed with the blue sea. Of course the extent of our view, grand as it is, is circumscribed by the mist, so that it may be well to quote from Murray what may be seen under exceptionally favorable circumstances. It says: "Perhaps from no spot on earth's surface are the splendors of creation seen to more advantage. This pinnacle, on the brink of a bottomless abyss, commands a prospect which for extent and majesty, and for the combinations it presents of the sublime and beautiful, is unrivalled. Admiral Smyth calculates a hundred and thirty miles as the radius of vision from the summit, which would give a circumference of nine hundred and thirty-seven miles."

Grand as is the panorama that opens up before and around one, the scene which the crater itself affords is no less imposing and unique in its way. Creeping over to the summit, and lying down, with covered nose and mouth, to protect them from the fumes of sulphur which rise up from a thousand fissures, we peer down into the awful abyss. The sides are almost perpendicular, colored by the sulphur, but relieved by patches of green and brown. Every now and again we bury our faces, as the wind blows such fumes of sulphur across them as threaten to blind and choke us. We strain our eyes to peer into the recesses of this awful gulf, but all in vain. Far, far down beyond our sight the unfathomable chasm yawns, and we cannot help letting our fancy picture, all too faintly, what awful eruptions might come forth from these hidden depths. One of the guides rolls to the edge a huge stone, and prepares us for its descent. Over it goes, but it seems minutes before it reaches the bottom, and when it does there is not simply the sound of a great crash, but a series of thunder peals, which travel round the sides of the crater, and reverberate again and again like a thunder storm. Some idea of the size of the crater may be gathered from the fact that it is from two to three miles in circumference. Our way down is on the other side of the mountain, over loose fields of cindery lava, into which the legs sink, so that a precipitous descent is avoided. We reach the English House at seven, where we have an all too frugal breakfast, but most-to-be-desired of all commodities, ice, with which we refresh ourselves till our teeth ache. At eight we begin our descent on the mules, which step out more briskly, but as carefully as in our ascent. At ten we reach the Woodman's House, where we again rest and get some cool water. At twelve we reach Nicolosi, glad of the rest and shade from our four's ride under a broiling sun.—*Sunday Magazine*.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

### OUR DUMB BROTHERS.

Let no reader have his dignity shocked by being brought into such close relationship with the brute creation, for it is of the dumb animals I write. The phrases, "brotherhood of man" and "ties of a common humanity," are often heard, let us broaden out a little and consider the brotherhood of being. There is surely more in common between man and the lower animals (so-called) than between man and a vegetable or a stone. That horse that has often borne you gallantly and well, and that recognizes its master with an eye of intelligence, is it not more to you than a turnip; or that dog whose fidelity is almost unequalled by anything human, is it not nearer to your soul than a piece of coal or a lump of clay? Say not they are no brethren of yours; they may be more nearly related to you than you think. If the theory of evolution demonstrates anything, it is that there is a tie, and a strong one too, between man and the other animals, and if the evolutionists are not all wrong we will surely admit that the life principle is the same in all, aye—and that we are all from one Creator's hands.

Orthodoxy cries out, "God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul." Yes, I know that we are not told that he put souls in animals, but are you prepared to prove that they have *no* souls, no hereafter? I read in my Bible of animals seen in heaven by prophets and vision-gifted seers; what does that signify? Some of us surely have known a horse, a dog, a bird, or some other dumb companion now dead, whose welcome at the gates of glory would make heaven more sweet.

Souls or no souls, we do not treat our animals as we ought. It seems to me (and I have a deal of love for my kind,) that they should have as good treatment according to their nature, as our own children and kin. Granted that an animal has no soul, no part in eternity, should that not be an overwhelming plea for its life being made pleasant while it does have being. Oh, what an utterly miserable thought that one of God's creatures should have ill-usage, hard words and harder treatment all its life of mayhap years, and then cease to be. If justice be in heaven or earth, a man that treats a brute so must have a day of reckoning. Again, if animals have souls they are verily brought into close relationship to us, nearly as close as those of

our own shape and genus. And how would one feel at the day of judgment if confronted by some horse or dog which had been the subject of abuse on earth?

These things may be worth our thought and it may, too, be well for us to study our dumb brothers more, not merely as to the best food or harness or training for them, but there may be wondrous hidden depths in these natures for psychological research, and startling discoveries to be made in the study of their mind.

This is the day of great attainments in all the sciences, and it is also the day of forecasting discoveries and events. Civilization is marching on with rapid strides—when will the day come when we can understand the language of the brutes and they will no longer be our dumb brothers?

J. A.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

### OF INTEREST TO ALL.

#### USEFUL HINTS FOR HOME-NURSING.

In choosing a nurse you should look for one of medium age, neither too young or too old, she should be quiet in her demeanor, and conscientiously carry out all the directions of the medical attendant. She should not be talkative, nor given to asking questions. Some nurses have a habit of relating to their patients the bad cases they have had under their care, this is unwise, as it excites and frightens the patient. There is nothing which irritates a sick person more than the rustling of a dress or the creaking of boots in sick rooms, unless it be a palpable attempt to stifle the sounds. The nurse's dress, therefore, should be of some soft woolen material, not too dark, as anything which may give a gloomy appearance to the sick room should be avoided, brown is a good color, and some bright adornment, say a red bow in front, will add to the general cheerfulness of the sick room. Ordinary house slippers are the best to wear on the feet, and the nurse should avoid walking about on tip-toe, as it is certain to irritate the patient; she should tread lightly but firmly. The night-nurse should not begin her watch before eleven or twelve o'clock, and between two and three she should partake of a light meal, otherwise she will soon grow weary of watching. As soon as she is relieved she should, if possible, change all her clothes, and, after a bath, she should take a short walk. Immediately after she returns she should sleep.

The sick room should, if possible, face south or south-west, in order that the patient may have the full benefit of the sun. The temperature should, as a rule, range between 62° and 65° F. A feather bed in a sick room is an abomination, it becomes hot and uncomfortable, besides which the feathers get together in a lump under the patient. The best bed is one filled with hair or wool. Great care should be employed in making the bed so as to have everything smooth and even. If a blanket be used next to the bed, see that it is both longer and broader than the bed itself, and be particular about the same points in choosing the sheet which is to cover the blanket. First, tuck the blanket well in at the head of the bed, draw it down tightly and tuck it well in at the foot, then tuck it under the sides. Lay the sheet over the blanket in the same manner, so that there may be no wrinkles. Then place the bolster and pillows. When you cover up your patient, tuck the clothes firmly and smoothly in at the foot of the bed, so that they may not be disturbed if he be restless. Do not turn them down on the patient's chest, as the weight will be uncomfortable, and, perhaps, even distressing.

The bed-clothes should be well aired, if possible, every day, they should never be aired in the sick room, but should be taken outside and then well shaken and aired.

It is well, if possible, to change and air the patient's night-clothes each morning and evening. This should always be done when the patient has night-sweats.

The sick room should, if possible, connect with another room in which the nurse may sleep. Soiled clothes should never be left lying about, but should immediately be removed. Flowers, growing or cut, are always grateful to the sick. The floor is best without a carpet, or if one be used, it should be only a square placed in the middle of the room, so that it may be carried away and shaken when necessary. When the carpet cannot be taken up it will be well to sweep it thoroughly once a week, having first sprinkled it well with wet tea leaves. On other days it should be gone over with a wet cloth.

When the patient is too weak to help himself, it will be necessary to use a "draw-sheet." This should be made to extend from the shoulders to the knees. On taking away the under bed-clothes, any one of three ways may be employed. You may first loosen them at the head of the bed, and and gradually roll them down to the foot, under the patient's body, or else you may remove them in a similar manner from side to side. Some nurses pin the clean sheet to the soiled one, and draw it down in the place of the latter, while it is being removed. The draw-sheet should be removed in the same manner, and similarly replaced.

It is very important to move the patient into another room while his bedding is being changed, as the room can be then aired by opening the windows.

Sick people are often subject to nervous fancies. Thus a particular pattern of wall paper, or a crooked picture, will frequently act on a certain individual's mind, as to become a source of great discomfort, or worse. The nurse should be above all things, patient, and have perfect self-control. She must make every allowance for the various moods of her patient, and *never keep him waiting*, particularly at night. She should allow no whispering in the room, nor outside the door. It is far better to say what you have to say openly in the presence of the patient, otherwise he will be subject to all sorts of fancies concerning the subject conversated.

The best mode of ventilating the sick room is by means of an open fire-