

at least half an inch long, and are armed with very powerful fore legs and sharp jaws, with which they bite. They are red or dark brown in colour. Their numbers are so great that one does not like to enter into calculations; but I have soon one continual line passing at good speed a particular place for twelve hours. The reader may imagine for himself how many millions on millions there may have been contained here."

TEACHING HOGS TO DESTROY THISTLES.—A writer in the *Southern Homestead* says: I will give a method of exterminating thistles which I have tested and found effectual, and which costs nothing. It consists in teaching hogs to eat the roots of the plant. Tramp on the buds of a goodly number of the largest plants in the spring, and place on each bud a teaspoonful of salt; then turn your hogs on them. They will eat the roots of the salted plants first, and will thus acquire a fondness for the roots, and will continue to eat them daily as long as any can be found. If but one hog be educated in this way, he will teach the whole herd to eat them, and they will exterminate all on the farm."

MAD DOGS.—A man who are in charge of a dog may by a little attention, discover the early symptoms of rabies, and prevent any mischief by sequestering the animal in time. Is he fidgety and sullen? Does he, when ill, manifest unportunate affection? Is he affected with hallucination? Does he exhibit ardent thirst? Does he scratch his ear violently? Does he paw at the corners of his mouth, and not keep the mouth permanently open while doing so? Does he misconduct himself in the room, and pertinaciously lick at the corners where he has done so? Does he refuse his natural food, and exhibit a depraved appetite? Is he insensible to pain? Is his voice strangely altered? Any one of these symptoms should awaken suspicion, and a close observation will quickly discover the true state of the case. We advise all readers to commit these symptoms to memory; to learn them as a lesson is learnt, which in after life, may be of permanent importance.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

POWER OF A HORSE'S SCENT.—There is one perception that a horse possesses that but little attention has been paid to, and that is the power of scent. With some horses it is as acute as with the dog; and for the benefit of those that have to drive at night, such as physicians, and others, this is invaluable. I have never known it to fail, and I have driven hundreds of miles on dark nights; and in consideration of this power of scent, this is my ample advice: never check your horse at night, but give him a free head, and you may rest assured that he will never get off the road, and will carry you expectantly and safe. In regard to the power of scent in the horse, I once knew one of a pair

that was stolen, and recovered mainly by the rack being traced out by his mate, and that after he had been absent six or eight hours.—*Homestead*.

ORIGIN OF LIFE.—Starting from this point, we may fairly enquire how and by what means this earth became the "procrustean cradle" of organized existences? Was it by some process of secondary causation, or directly and at once by the fiat of the Creator? Alas for the impotence of science, and the scope of our finite intelligence! Science cannot even indicate the line of inquiry—our highest philosophy is the humble recognition of the fact. The chemist and the physiologist may resolve the vital organism into cells, and granules, and nuclei, but here their efforts stop; they cannot endow these cells and germs with life, or cause them to assume the lowliest form of vegetable or animal existence. The "slime that mantles o'er the stagnant pool"—the simplest arrangement of cell growth that spreads over the surface of the decaying rock, are results beyond the proudest achievements of science. And even could we in any way connect these manifestations of life—lowly as they are—with the subtle agencies of heat, light and electricity, this would be only bringing us a little nearer, but not within the precincts of that mysterious shrine which science may not unveil, and before which the proudest philosophy can only humble itself and adore.—*Pages Past and Present Life of the Globe*.

WISDOM FOR WINTER.—Never go to bed with cold or damp feet.

In going into colder air, keep the mouth resolutely closed, that by compelling the air to may circuitously through the head and nose, it may become warmed before it reaches the lungs, and thus prevent those shocks and sudden chills which sequently end in pleurisy, pneumonia and other serious forms of disease.

Never stand still a moment out of doors, especially at street corners after having walked even a short distance.

Never ride near the open window of a vehicle for a single half minute, especially if it has been preceded by a walk; valuable lives have thus been lost, or good health permanently destroyed.

Never wear india rubber boots in cold dry weather.

Those who are easily chilled on going out of doors should have some cotton batting attached to the vest or outer garment, so as to protect the space between the shoulder-blades behind, the lungs being attached to the body at that point; a little there is worth five times the amount over the chest in front.

Never begin a journey until breakfast is eaten.

After speaking, singing or preaching, in a warm room in winter, do not leave it for at least ten minutes, and even then close the mouth, put on the gloves, wrap up the neck and put on a cloak