

There are various shades of colour; but all are of Indian origin. The waters of the Rio Negro, one of the finest tributaries of the Amazon, are very dark, and in places quite black, owing to the presence of waste matter from the extraordinary vegetation along its banks. The dense forests are "never still at night." He speaks of having greatly relished a dinner of monkey-meat in one of the native palm huts, and declares the flesh of monkeys very palatable and by no means to be despised. Living in Brazil costs only twenty cents a day. Mr. Morris intends soon returning to explore the Japura River.

THE heart is composed of striated muscular fibres, a kind usually under the control of the will and hence termed voluntary; yet only two or three cases have been authentically recorded where the heart was really voluntary, and the individual, by volition, had the power to regulate its action. One of these persons, in showing his heart to be voluntary, stopped its movements for too great a length of time, and of course death resulted. Another instance of this rare and wonderful power is to be seen in the case of Dr. Elias Thomas, a native of Calcutta, who not only possesses control over the heart, but is also destitute of both pericardium and diaphragm, so that he can at pleasure remove the vital organ from its own proper position to other parts of the body-cavity, and back again to its natural place. Not long ago Dr. Thomas gave an exhibition in the presence of the medical professors and students in Augusta, Ga. At the beginning of the demonstration the heart was felt by Drs. Black, Campbell, and other gentlemen, and found to be beating naturally in the place where a heart ought to beat. Shortly afterwards there appeared low down in the left lumbar region a large tumour whose pulsations were synchronous with those at the wrist, while the pulsations before observable in the chest had now disappeared. He then removed the tumour to the right side of the abdomen, where the beating was again distinctly perceived. Then he raised the heart up into the chest, and altered its position so

as to make the pulsations appear at one time on the right side and at another time on the left. During the forced stoppage of the heart's action no pulse could be felt in wrists, ankles or temples.

An explanation of this singular ability to order the workings of the central circulatory organ is apparently found in the predominance of the cerebro-spinal nerve-supply over the supply from the sympathetic system which prevails in most individuals.

THE corn crops of Southern Russia have been terribly ravaged by swarms of insects belonging to two species of Coleoptera. The damages sustained are estimated at \$1,500,000. These beetles are very well known to European entomologists, always occurring in the southern portions of that continent, but seldom appearing in great numbers. They are said to be smaller than the English cockchafer, but in other respects to bear strong resemblances to it. With a view to check the multiplication and progress of these ravenous insects, the London Entomological Society appointed a committee to investigate the matter and record observations, to be sent to the British Consul at Taganrog. In their report the committee express their belief that, "It is impossible, in the present state of entomological science, to account accurately for visitations like this. It may be that the pupal condition is prolonged indefinitely, or until circumstances favour its determination; by this reasoning—which is warranted by what we know to be the case in some other insects—the pupæ might be accumulated from year to year, and the perfect insects from these accumulations burst forth simultaneously."

The *Weekly Scotsman* of 19th ult., treats at some length of the noxious vapours so abundant in the towns and cities of Great Britain, especially in those possessing large manufactories. Although Canada is comparatively a young country, and, as a consequence, our manufacturing establishments are not so numerous, nor are our cities so large and densely populated as the British,