

CHEMISTRY.

From the National.

Chemistry is a science, which treats of the intimate nature of bodies, and their mutual action on each other.

When the housewife knows why the yeast or the soda and cream of tartar cause her dough to rise, she can make better bread.

But of all men, the physician most needs a knowledge of chemistry. Standing by the side of one poisoned by arsenic, or corrosive sublimate, he can, if he knows the antidote in time, save his patient.

But in the preparation and administration of all his medicines, the physician should know what remedies are incompatible with others, and this he cannot, without knowing their mutual action on each other.

We were once called to visit a patient of another physician, who had by mistake taken a tablespoonful of sugar of lead (acetate of lead).

Practically considered, chemistry is a recent science. Until the opening of the present century, it was scarcely taught, and little known, on this continent.

The colleges, and some higher academies, teach chemistry, why should not the common schools?

The following is from Edward Everett's "Trip to Sybaris." A funny thing happened as we left the play. An April shower had suddenly sprung up, and so we found the porches and passageways lined with close stacked umbrellas.

Mr. E. Goodman, of Monroe county, Mo., has been married three times, and has thirty-three children, all boys.

The Prophet Mohammed.

How he looked, acted, lived and had a being.

From the British Quarterly Review. He was of middle height, rather thin but broad of shoulders, wide of chest, strong of bone and muscle.

His face was oval shaped, slightly tawny of color. Fine, long, arched eyebrows were divided by a vein, which throbbled visibly in moments of passion.

His eyes were of a deep black, restless eyes shone out from under long, heavy eye-lashes. His nose was large, slightly aquiline. His teeth, upon which he bestowed great care, were well set, dazzling white.

In his habits he was extremely simple, though he bestowed great care on his person. His eating and drinking, his dress and his furniture, retained, even when he had reached the fullness of his power, their almost primitive nature.

He made a point of giving away all "superfluities." The only luxuries he indulged in were, besides arms, which he highly prized, certain yellow boots, a present from the Negus of Abyssinia.

His constitution was extremely delicate. He was nervously afraid of bodily pain; would sob and roar under it. Eminently unpracticable in all common things of life, he was gifted with mighty powers of imagination, elevation of mind, delicacy and refinement of feeling.

He was almost indulgent to his inferiors, and would never allow his awkward little page to be scolded, whatever he did. "Ten years," said Anas, his servant, "was I about the prophet, and he never said as much as 'Up' to me. He was very affectionate to his family. One of his boys died on his breast in the smoke-house of the nurse, a blacksmith's wife. He was very fond of children. He would stop them in the streets, and pat their cheeks.

The worst expression he ever made use of in conversation was, "What has become of him? may his forehead be darkened with mud!"

The following is from Edward Everett's "Trip to Sybaris." A funny thing happened as we left the play. An April shower had suddenly sprung up, and so we found the porches and passageways lined with close stacked umbrellas.

An old man in Connecticut was recently buried in the suit he had worn at his own four weddings.

The Leopard of the Air.

From Harper's Magazine, for December. BY PAUL DE CHALLE.

One morning I heard a strange cry high up in the air. I looked, and what do I see?—what do I see yonder up in the sky? An eagle. But what kind of an eagle? For it appears so much larger than any eagle I have ever met with before.

"Yes," said Querlaonen; "in my younger days I remember that my wife and myself were on our plantation, with some of our slaves, and one day we heard the cries of a baby, and saw a child carried up into the sky by one of these gantonions.

The people were afraid of them, and were compelled to be very careful of the babies. Those grand eagles do not feed on fowls; they are too small game for them. They like monkeys best; they can watch them as they float over the tops of the trees; but sometimes monkeys get the better of them.

"People had better not try to get hold of the gantonion's young, if they want to keep their sight," said Gambo; "for as sure as we live, the old bird will pounce upon the man that touches its young."

Now, looking up again I saw several of them. How high they were! At times they would appear to be quite still in the air—at other times they would soar; they were so high that I did not see how they could possibly see the trees.

In the afternoon I thought to ramble round. I took a double-barreled smooth-bore gun, and loaded one side with a bullet in case I should see large game; the other barrel I loaded with shot No. 2. Then I carefully plunged into the woods, till I reached the banks of a little stream, and there I heard the cry of the mondi (Colobus Satinus), which is one of the largest monkeys of these forests.

I advanced very cautiously until I got quite near to them. I could then see their big bodies, long tails, and long, jet black, shining hair. What handsome beasts they were; what an elegant muff their skins would make, I thought.

Just as I was considering which of them I would fire at, I saw some big thing, like a large shadow, suddenly come down upon the tree; then I heard the flapping of heavy wings, and also the death cry of a poor mondi. Then I saw a huge bird, with a breast spotted somewhat like a leopard, raise itself up slowly into the air, carrying the monkey in its powerful, finger-like talons.

The claws of one leg were fast in the upper part of the neck of the monkey, so deep that they were completely buried, and a few drops of blood fell upon the leaves below. The other leg had its claws quite deep into the back of the monkey. The left leg was kept higher than the right, and I could see that the great strength of the bird was used at that time to keep the neck, and also the back of the victim, from moving.

I looked on without firing. The monkeys seemed paralyzed with fear when the eagle came down upon them, and did not move until after the bird of prey had taken one of their number, and then decamped.

Curiosities of Earth.

At the city of Medina, in Italy, and about four miles around it, wherever the earth is dug, when the workmen arrive at a distance of sixty-three feet, they come to a bed of chalk, which they bore with an auger five feet deep.

They then withdraw from the pit before the auger is removed, and upon its extraction the water bursts through the aperture with great violence, and quickly fills the newly made well, which continues full, and is affected by neither rains nor droughts.

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