

Little Elephants.

"How is that for an elephant?" said an artist to a New York Post reporter, taking a green cloth from a clay model of an elephant about 12 inches in length. "Yes, it is small," he continued, "but that's just the great point in its favor. See this bone," he continued, taking up a small object from the table—"the real bone of the elephant I am making a model of. It was the famous recently discovered pigmy elephant of Europe. Some months ago a party of French geologists, rambling through Italy, came upon great quantities of these bones, and soon identified them as those of a race of elephants that were pocket editions, so to speak. The largest were not as large as our sheep, and smaller than any of the baby elephants that have been exhibited in this country. Their young in turn were elephants in miniature, being about as large as a small cat, and could easily have been held upon the open palm. Herds of these pigmies were undoubtedly captured by early man, and if the circus was in existence then we can imagine a rare entertainment. What a troupe of elephants could have been marshaled in! First would appear the great mammoth, with its long coat of hair; then the dinothorium, with its curved tusks, the gigantic Ganges, from India, with its small head and enormous tusks extending fourteen feet in front, and, finally, last but not least, the pigmies and their young, arousing the enthusiasm of the throng of young cave-dwellers.

The pigmies, so far as known, represented two distinct species known to science as *elephas mittensis* and *E. falconeri*, and their remains are found over a wide geographical area, showing that they had an extended range. In the second book of the "Æneid" Virgil notes a tradition to the effect that Sicily was at one time a part of the mainland, and it is now believed by many that long ago Italy was connected with Africa by a neck of land, and that Malta and other places, now islands, were a part of it. Over this ancient bridge the pigmy elephants are supposed to have made their way to Europe, where their tracks can be traced in many localities. In Malta most of the skeletons have been found, while others have been discovered in various parts of Italy and among other remains in various parts of Europe. These were real pigmies, while the so-called dwarf elephants of to-day are merely elephants whose growth has been retarded in some natural or artificial manner.

The pigmies, however, were not all elephants, as at this time pigmy horses roamed the slopes and valleys of North America. They were the ancestors of our present horse, and their remains have been found to such quantities that more than twenty different kinds have been recognized. The smallest of these pigmy horses was about as large as a fox, and differed considerably from our present horse. It lived in what has been termed the eocene time, and is called the *cohippus*.

"A few months ago a pigmy whale was washed ashore on the New Jersey coast, and was sent to the National Museum. In appearance it resembled the enormous finback, but instead of being 60 or 80 feet in length, and weighing several tons, it measured only nine feet in length, was accompanied by a baby pigmy that was little over a foot long. The pigmy whales properly belong in the Pacific Ocean, and are often seen on the Californian coast; but this specimen probably strayed around the Horn.

"Among the birds there is a pigmy quail—a delicate little creature, so small that the ancient Chinese used it to warm their hands in cold weather, carrying a bird in each closed palm. Among the quadrupeds the pigmy deer is perhaps the most interesting, and when seen it seems a perfect antelope in miniature.

"Quite as much of a pigmy is the sultana antelope, found in the hilly regions of Abyssinia. Its height at the shoulder is only fourteen inches; the horns are extremely thin, and about four inches long. The young of these midgits of the hoofed tribe are beautiful little creatures, those of the antelope being about eight inches long when born, and, with their soft colored fur, delicate pipe-stem-like limbs, large and expressive eyes, they are, perhaps, the most attractive of any of the minute animals."

Our Old Maids.

We have forgotten the typical old maid. She has given place to a more attractive type of womanhood. The modern old maid is round and jolly, two dimples in her cheeks, and has a laugh as musical as a bobolink's song. She wears nicely-fitting dresses, and becoming little ornaments about her plump throat, and becoming knots and bows. She goes to concerts, parties, suppers, lectures and matinees, and she doesn't go alone. She carries a dainty parasol, and wears killing bonnets, and has live poets and philosophers in her train. In fact, the modern old maid is as good as the modern young maid; she has sense and conversation, as well as dimples and curves, and she has a bank book and dividend. And the men like her—and why not?—*Exchange.*

"DROPPED DEAD."

The Fate that Overtook "Little Mac" and Five Other Governors.

Appropos of the sudden death of Gen. Geo. B. McClellan, we note that the New York Sun, points out the singular fact that Governor DeWitt Clinton, Governor Silas Wright, Governor William L. Marcy, Governor and Chief Justice Sanford E. Church, and Governor E. E. Fenton, all of New York state, dropped dead of heart disease, and under quite identical circumstances—each of them dying while reading a letter except Marcy, who was perusing Cowper's poems!

Hold your hand against the ribs on your left side, front,—the regular, steady beating of this great "force pump" of the system, run by an unknown and mysterious engineer, is awful in its impressiveness!

Few persons like to count their own pulse-beats, and fewer persons still enjoy marking the "thub-thub" of their own heart.

"What if it should skip a beat?" As a matter of fact the heart is the least susceptible to primary disease of any of our vital organs. It is, however, very much injured by certain long-continued congestions of the vital organs, like the kidneys, liver and stomach. Moreover, blood filled with uric acid produces a rheumatic tendency, and is very injurious to healthful heart action,—it often proves fatal, and, of course, the uric acid comes from impaired kidney action.

Roberts, the great English authority, says that heart disease is chiefly secondary to some more fatal malady in the blood or other vital organs. That is, it is not the original source of the fatal malady.

The work of the heart is to force blood into every part of the system. If the organs are sound it is an easy task. If they are at all diseased, it is a very, very hard task. Take as an illustration: The kidneys are very subject to congestion and yet, being deficient in the nerves of sensation, this congested condition is not indicated by pain. It may exist for years, unknown even to physicians, and if it does not result in complete destruction of the kidneys, the extra work which is forced upon the heart weakens it every year, and—"myriads" sudden death claims another victim!

This is the true history of "heart disease,"—so called, which in reality is chiefly a secondary effect of Bright's disease of the kidneys, and indicates the universal need of that renowned specific Warner's safe cure.

B. F. Lafrabee, Esq., of Boston, who was by it so wonderfully cured of Bright's disease, in 1879, says that with its disappearance went the distressing heart disorder, which he then discovered was only secondary to the renal trouble.

There is a general impression that the medical profession is not at fault if it frankly admits that heart disease is the cause of death. In other words, a cure of heart disease is not expected of them!

There may be no help for a broken-down, worn-out, apoplectic heart, but there is a help for the kidney disorder which in most cases is responsible for the heart trouble, and if its use put money and fame into the treasury of the profession instead of into the hands of an independent investigator, every graduated doctor in the world would exclaim of it, as one, nobler and less prejudiced than his fellows once exclaimed: "It is God-send to humanity!"

What therefore must be the public estimate of that bigotry and want of frankness which forbids in such cases (because forsooth it is a proprietary article), the use of the one effective remedial agency of the age.

"Heart disease," indeed! Why not call such things by their right names? Why not?

"Dead without a moment's warning." This likewise is an untruth! Warnings are given by the thousand. Physicians are "not surprised." They "expect it!" They know what the end will be, but the victim?—"oh, no, he mustn't be told, you know, it would only frighten him, for there is no help, you know, for it!"

The fate that attended "Little Mac" and the five governors is not a royal and exclusive one—it threatens every one who fails to heed the warnings of nature as set forth above.

Let's see: Are liquors sold at the drug stores by the drachm?

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