

TRY TO DODGE DEATH

MANY SCHEMES TRIED TO ESCAPE THE DESTROYER.

Fear of Dissolution Leads Many Men to Strange Freaks and Unusual Ways of Living—Sometimes Hurries Them Into Their Graves.

A man who, while poor, is not more afraid to die than most people, often develops a haunting terror of death after he has made a big fortune and spends a life in trying to avoid the coming fate, frequently hurrying himself into a premature grave through sheer worry and fear. This passion has turned the brains of a good many wealthy people and made monomaniacs of them. They resort to the most childish expedients to keep death from their doors.

You remember Kipling's character who had his chair slung on ropes from a beam that the world might spin under him instead of carrying him along to grow older. There was an actual case very like this a few years ago, when John Islop, an Englishman, who made a huge fortune out of silver in Mexico, drove himself mad through worrying about his death.

After exhausting all the safeguards London could offer, he bought a small rocky island called Bireilly, on the west Irish coast, calling with him one faithful servant. Here, in feverish haste, he had four stone pillars raised and a small one-story cabin, with three rooms, rather like a houseboat, strung on chairs from iron girders that crossed the pillars and swung clear of the ground. Once inside this he shut himself up, with some books and a pet jackdaw for company, and never left his swinging house until his death.

The attendant, who lived in a small house close by, used to row to the mainland a mile and a half—when the weather permitted for provisions. The master spent his time reading and looking out over the Atlantic from the cabin windows. His brain had given way, of course, and he imagined his life stood still while the earth revolved under him. He had no relatives to insist on his entering a private asylum, and he died three years later in the cabin, worried out of life by the fear of death. His hair was snow-white, though he was only 43.

Another wealthy man, Jean Ingleant, though he had made a fortune by shrewd speculation, also gave way to the dread of death. He conceived the idea that all movement and effort wasted the tissues of the body, and this notion sunk so deeply into his mind that he went to bed in a quiet country house and hardly moved hand or foot for years; if he even stirred a finger he did it with dread, believing it used up his vitality and shortened his life by so much time. He spoke as little as possible, sometimes not opening his lips for days, and was fed by attendants with spoons. All his food consisted of "slops," to save him the fatal exertion of chewing, and his one amusement was being read to by the hour together, for he would not hold a book or turn the pages. Even the reading he did away with toward the close of his life, believing that listening shortened his existence.

One of the queerest cases was that of a Mrs. Holmes, a very wealthy widow, who had a terrible fear of germs and bacilli of all kinds. She had studied the subject deeply and it affected her reason, to all appearance. The dread of death seized her, and she was convinced she would die by some wasting disease inspired by microbes. Knowing that cold is fatal to the average germ, she had two rooms adjoining each other fitted as refrigerators and kept constantly at a temperature of about 30 degrees or just below freezing point. One would suppose this to be more trying than any quantity of microbes, but the owner was happy in her consciousness of freedom from germ diseases. Winter and summer the rooms were kept at the same point, and the adjoining rooms and hall were also kept cool that no current of warm air might bring bacilli in.

This lady lived clad in furs throughout the hottest days that blazed outside, and her attendants and servants were obliged to constantly disinfect themselves before entering her presence. They lived in a perpetual atmosphere of carbolic acid, and their mistress had to pay very high wages to induce any servants to stay with her.—London Answer.

Where People Live in Trees.

The delta of the Orinoco River in South America is for a considerable part of the year deep in water. Yet this tract is inhabited by the Warau tribe, who find it their only mode of escape from the terrible bites of the mosquito. The Waraus, therefore, make their habitations in the Ita Paim, which loves moisture and grows abundantly in this delta, connecting several of the trees together with cross-beams and laying planks upon them for the flooring. The natives of the Philippine Islands and Borneo sleep in trees. The spe men of India, the Vedas of Ceylon, and the Bakones of the Andaman Islands also live in trees. Some years ago, Dr. Moffat, the great missionary, while in South Africa, saw one tree in which there were no fewer than twenty colonial huts of a Kaffir tribe. A powerful chief had deprived them of all their cattle and weapons. By degrees the huts became so numerous and daring that the slight Kaffir huts were an insufficient protection during the night, and the half-starved people perforce took to the trees.

Gardening in Africa.

The main trouble in a British West African diet is a lack of fresh green food. So wrote the late Mary H. Kingsley, the African explorer, in climate, and she proceeded to mention some of the difficulties in the way of supplying that deficiency. Gardening in West Africa is nervous work. I have worked in gardens there, and know that even lifting a kale-pot is not there, as it is here, a trifling act—because under the kale-pots you have there a chance of finding divers things that, if in sprouts on a shelf of the British Museum reptile gallery, would give pleasure, but there, close to coiled snakes and not bedded in corked down, are merely exciting and unpleasant. Still, if the snakes go in the other

SEEK IMPURE MEATS.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTS CATTLE AT CHICAGO YARDS.

Bees, Hogs, Sheep and Calves Are Searched for Disease—Rigid Post and Ante-Mortem Examination of Each Animal by Lynx-Eyed Officials.

Few people have even the least knowledge of the great work done by the national government in inspecting the killing of cattle, hogs and sheep at the Chicago stock yards. This inspection is being carried on in the stock yards of forty-eight other cities in the United States, but it is operated on a far greater scale in Chicago than at any other point. Such a sharp watch for diseased and objectionable animals is maintained that it is practically an impossibility for unit meat, designed for interstate or export shipment, to leave the inspected slaughter-houses at the yards. Every animal killed receives two or three inspections and when a diseased one is found the carcass is guarded as carefully as a box of jewelry until it is completely destroyed, as far as edible purposes are concerned.

Two kinds of inspection are given every beef, hog or sheep that goes out of the yards as being fit to eat. These examinations are antemortem and post-mortem. Sometimes the first one alone is sufficient to bar out animals and they never get as far as the slaughtering pens. The antemortem inspection, of course, takes place "on the hoof" and is conducted just before the animals are driven onto the scales to be weighed for purchase by the packer from the stockman. The inspector examines each animal as it is driven forward toward the platform of the scales. Any animal that is evidently affected with disease or is emaciated is ordered cut out. The packer, of course, declines to buy an animal which the inspector has

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

A sheep which bears on its skin plain evidence of "sheep scab," a hog with large, red cholera spots on his hide, a steer with external tumors, sores or abscesses, or any animal which exhibits the ordinary indications of illness, such as inability to walk, etc., will be cut out. The law requires that the refused animal must be killed and turned into soap fat and fertilizer.

The number of animals cut out at the antemortem examination varies so greatly that the inspectors decline to strike an average on the number excluded per day. Thousands may be passed without one being refused, but in the next hundred 10 per cent or more may be condemned. As a matter of fact, however, many of the diseased animals pass this first inspection without exciting the suspicion on the part of the inspectors, for they bear no exterior evidence whatever of the fact that they are suffering from a dangerous illness.

Passing this first inspection successfully, the animals are weighed and sent to the slaughter-houses of the company purchasing them. Hogs receive by far the most careful inspection. Two inspectors watch the passing of the slaughtered hogs, while but one examines cattle, and there is also but one for sheep and calves. The hogs are given the stricter examination because of their greater liability to disease and the greater danger to be found in the incipient stages of hog diseases, and it, of course, goes without saying that early stages of disease in any animals are more difficult to detect than those more advanced.

After going through the first operations at the slaughter-house the hog is strung up by the heels with hundreds of others and passes forward in a line that seems endless. The device by which the animals are strung up is fitted with a small wheel which rolls along a single track. Not far from the point where the hogs are first strung up and only a few feet from the line of moving carcasses sits the first of the hog inspectors. As each hog passes in front of him a workman with two flashes of a knife removes the entire viscera from the already partially opened body of the hog and throws them on a platform at the side of the raised chair in which the inspector is sitting. Just above the head of the inspector and a little to the rear is an electric lamp, which throws a brilliant stream of light down on the platform.

Each time as the entrails are thrown down the inspector glances down at them. One glance is sufficient. Long long practice at postmortem and familiarity with normal viscera enable the inspector to tell quicker than the wink of an eye if anything is the matter with the hog whose vital organs

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

By distilling fresh herring and oily pine wood in an iron retort, and then condensing the products in a Liebig condenser, William C. Day reports, in the American Chemical Journal, that he has produced an artificial asphalt closely resembling the natural product. This experiment is regarded as confirmatory of the opinion that asphalt and petroleum are the products of a natural distillation by which the remains of early forms of animal and vegetable life have been transformed in the heated crust of the earth.

Bret Hart's "outcast in gray," the coyote, is described by Prof. C. F. Holder as a species of wolf which is virtually a wild dog. Domestic dogs, he says, although they will kill the male coyote, will often refuse to injure the female. Prof. Holder defends the coyote against those who would exterminate him, on the ground that he is the only effective enemy of the jack-rabbit and the ground squirrel, which cause so much damage in California.

A coyote in a camp after chickens yelps so fast that he creates the impression that a whole pack is abroad. Naturalists have generally accepted the opinion that ants are not able to perceive any sounds that are audible to human ears. Prof. Weld, of the Iowa State University, controverts this opinion. He describes in Science careful experiments made by him with four species of American ants, from which he deduces the conclusion that these species, at least, are able to perceive sounds, but whether they do it by means of organs of hearing, or through the sense of touch being excited by atmospheric vibrations, he is unable to say with certainty. He inclines to the opinion that they do really hear, as some individuals showed a perception of the direction of the sound, such as that of a shrill whistle, and others, which were not disturbed when violently shaken in their glass prisons, seemed to be "driven nearly frantic by shrill sounds."

Boats for Arctic Travel.

Boats described as steel rains are now in use in ice-locked Russian harbors and rivers and have proved that they can force their way through thick ice, even with 72 degrees of frost. The harbor of Vladivostok, till of late hermetically sealed for four or five months, has since 1893 been kept accessible through the winter; the Finnish port of Hangö is now open to commerce throughout the year. And last winter a similar steam ram kept up connection with the Ural railway through the ice of the Volga at Saratoff. It is proposed now to keep open the front of St. Petersburg with the communication of boats to winter connection sea and to force a winter connection through the ice of the Yenisei. Admiral Makarof, addressing the Russian Geographical Society, insists that still more powerful boats of this kind might safely be counted on to cope with polar ice, such as Nansen had to deal with, and to cut a passage to the north pole.—Chambers' Journal.

Spain's Underground River.

The Guadiana, a Spanish river, after flowing for thirty miles overhead, vanishes underground, and for the next thirty miles pursues its course as an underground river, only appearing at intervals in the shape of lakelets, the ogos or eyes of the Guadiana as they are called. This is the largest underground river which has been fully traced. People are always disappointed in a circus.

SEEK IMPURE MEATS.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTS CATTLE AT CHICAGO YARDS.

Bees, Hogs, Sheep and Calves Are Searched for Disease—Rigid Post and Ante-Mortem Examination of Each Animal by Lynx-Eyed Officials.

Few people have even the least knowledge of the great work done by the national government in inspecting the killing of cattle, hogs and sheep at the Chicago stock yards. This inspection is being carried on in the stock yards of forty-eight other cities in the United States, but it is operated on a far greater scale in Chicago than at any other point. Such a sharp watch for diseased and objectionable animals is maintained that it is practically an impossibility for unit meat, designed for interstate or export shipment, to leave the inspected slaughter-houses at the yards. Every animal killed receives two or three inspections and when a diseased one is found the carcass is guarded as carefully as a box of jewelry until it is completely destroyed, as far as edible purposes are concerned.

Two kinds of inspection are given every beef, hog or sheep that goes out of the yards as being fit to eat. These examinations are antemortem and post-mortem. Sometimes the first one alone is sufficient to bar out animals and they never get as far as the slaughtering pens. The antemortem inspection, of course, takes place "on the hoof" and is conducted just before the animals are driven onto the scales to be weighed for purchase by the packer from the stockman. The inspector examines each animal as it is driven forward toward the platform of the scales. Any animal that is evidently affected with disease or is emaciated is ordered cut out. The packer, of course, declines to buy an animal which the inspector has

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

A sheep which bears on its skin plain evidence of "sheep scab," a hog with large, red cholera spots on his hide, a steer with external tumors, sores or abscesses, or any animal which exhibits the ordinary indications of illness, such as inability to walk, etc., will be cut out. The law requires that the refused animal must be killed and turned into soap fat and fertilizer.

The number of animals cut out at the antemortem examination varies so greatly that the inspectors decline to strike an average on the number excluded per day. Thousands may be passed without one being refused, but in the next hundred 10 per cent or more may be condemned. As a matter of fact, however, many of the diseased animals pass this first inspection without exciting the suspicion on the part of the inspectors, for they bear no exterior evidence whatever of the fact that they are suffering from a dangerous illness.

Passing this first inspection successfully, the animals are weighed and sent to the slaughter-houses of the company purchasing them. Hogs receive by far the most careful inspection. Two inspectors watch the passing of the slaughtered hogs, while but one examines cattle, and there is also but one for sheep and calves. The hogs are given the stricter examination because of their greater liability to disease and the greater danger to be found in the incipient stages of hog diseases, and it, of course, goes without saying that early stages of disease in any animals are more difficult to detect than those more advanced.

After going through the first operations at the slaughter-house the hog is strung up by the heels with hundreds of others and passes forward in a line that seems endless. The device by which the animals are strung up is fitted with a small wheel which rolls along a single track. Not far from the point where the hogs are first strung up and only a few feet from the line of moving carcasses sits the first of the hog inspectors. As each hog passes in front of him a workman with two flashes of a knife removes the entire viscera from the already partially opened body of the hog and throws them on a platform at the side of the raised chair in which the inspector is sitting. Just above the head of the inspector and a little to the rear is an electric lamp, which throws a brilliant stream of light down on the platform.

Each time as the entrails are thrown down the inspector glances down at them. One glance is sufficient. Long long practice at postmortem and familiarity with normal viscera enable the inspector to tell quicker than the wink of an eye if anything is the matter with the hog whose vital organs

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

By distilling fresh herring and oily pine wood in an iron retort, and then condensing the products in a Liebig condenser, William C. Day reports, in the American Chemical Journal, that he has produced an artificial asphalt closely resembling the natural product. This experiment is regarded as confirmatory of the opinion that asphalt and petroleum are the products of a natural distillation by which the remains of early forms of animal and vegetable life have been transformed in the heated crust of the earth.

Bret Hart's "outcast in gray," the coyote, is described by Prof. C. F. Holder as a species of wolf which is virtually a wild dog. Domestic dogs, he says, although they will kill the male coyote, will often refuse to injure the female. Prof. Holder defends the coyote against those who would exterminate him, on the ground that he is the only effective enemy of the jack-rabbit and the ground squirrel, which cause so much damage in California.

A coyote in a camp after chickens yelps so fast that he creates the impression that a whole pack is abroad. Naturalists have generally accepted the opinion that ants are not able to perceive any sounds that are audible to human ears. Prof. Weld, of the Iowa State University, controverts this opinion. He describes in Science careful experiments made by him with four species of American ants, from which he deduces the conclusion that these species, at least, are able to perceive sounds, but whether they do it by means of organs of hearing, or through the sense of touch being excited by atmospheric vibrations, he is unable to say with certainty. He inclines to the opinion that they do really hear, as some individuals showed a perception of the direction of the sound, such as that of a shrill whistle, and others, which were not disturbed when violently shaken in their glass prisons, seemed to be "driven nearly frantic by shrill sounds."

Boats for Arctic Travel.

Boats described as steel rains are now in use in ice-locked Russian harbors and rivers and have proved that they can force their way through thick ice, even with 72 degrees of frost. The harbor of Vladivostok, till of late hermetically sealed for four or five months, has since 1893 been kept accessible through the winter; the Finnish port of Hangö is now open to commerce throughout the year. And last winter a similar steam ram kept up connection with the Ural railway through the ice of the Volga at Saratoff. It is proposed now to keep open the front of St. Petersburg with the communication of boats to winter connection sea and to force a winter connection through the ice of the Yenisei. Admiral Makarof, addressing the Russian Geographical Society, insists that still more powerful boats of this kind might safely be counted on to cope with polar ice, such as Nansen had to deal with, and to cut a passage to the north pole.—Chambers' Journal.

Spain's Underground River.

The Guadiana, a Spanish river, after flowing for thirty miles overhead, vanishes underground, and for the next thirty miles pursues its course as an underground river, only appearing at intervals in the shape of lakelets, the ogos or eyes of the Guadiana as they are called. This is the largest underground river which has been fully traced. People are always disappointed in a circus.

SEEK IMPURE MEATS.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTS CATTLE AT CHICAGO YARDS.

Bees, Hogs, Sheep and Calves Are Searched for Disease—Rigid Post and Ante-Mortem Examination of Each Animal by Lynx-Eyed Officials.

Few people have even the least knowledge of the great work done by the national government in inspecting the killing of cattle, hogs and sheep at the Chicago stock yards. This inspection is being carried on in the stock yards of forty-eight other cities in the United States, but it is operated on a far greater scale in Chicago than at any other point. Such a sharp watch for diseased and objectionable animals is maintained that it is practically an impossibility for unit meat, designed for interstate or export shipment, to leave the inspected slaughter-houses at the yards. Every animal killed receives two or three inspections and when a diseased one is found the carcass is guarded as carefully as a box of jewelry until it is completely destroyed, as far as edible purposes are concerned.

Two kinds of inspection are given every beef, hog or sheep that goes out of the yards as being fit to eat. These examinations are antemortem and post-mortem. Sometimes the first one alone is sufficient to bar out animals and they never get as far as the slaughtering pens. The antemortem inspection, of course, takes place "on the hoof" and is conducted just before the animals are driven onto the scales to be weighed for purchase by the packer from the stockman. The inspector examines each animal as it is driven forward toward the platform of the scales. Any animal that is evidently affected with disease or is emaciated is ordered cut out. The packer, of course, declines to buy an animal which the inspector has

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

A sheep which bears on its skin plain evidence of "sheep scab," a hog with large, red cholera spots on his hide, a steer with external tumors, sores or abscesses, or any animal which exhibits the ordinary indications of illness, such as inability to walk, etc., will be cut out. The law requires that the refused animal must be killed and turned into soap fat and fertilizer.

The number of animals cut out at the antemortem examination varies so greatly that the inspectors decline to strike an average on the number excluded per day. Thousands may be passed without one being refused, but in the next hundred 10 per cent or more may be condemned. As a matter of fact, however, many of the diseased animals pass this first inspection without exciting the suspicion on the part of the inspectors, for they bear no exterior evidence whatever of the fact that they are suffering from a dangerous illness.

Passing this first inspection successfully, the animals are weighed and sent to the slaughter-houses of the company purchasing them. Hogs receive by far the most careful inspection. Two inspectors watch the passing of the slaughtered hogs, while but one examines cattle, and there is also but one for sheep and calves. The hogs are given the stricter examination because of their greater liability to disease and the greater danger to be found in the incipient stages of hog diseases, and it, of course, goes without saying that early stages of disease in any animals are more difficult to detect than those more advanced.

After going through the first operations at the slaughter-house the hog is strung up by the heels with hundreds of others and passes forward in a line that seems endless. The device by which the animals are strung up is fitted with a small wheel which rolls along a single track. Not far from the point where the hogs are first strung up and only a few feet from the line of moving carcasses sits the first of the hog inspectors. As each hog passes in front of him a workman with two flashes of a knife removes the entire viscera from the already partially opened body of the hog and throws them on a platform at the side of the raised chair in which the inspector is sitting. Just above the head of the inspector and a little to the rear is an electric lamp, which throws a brilliant stream of light down on the platform.

Each time as the entrails are thrown down the inspector glances down at them. One glance is sufficient. Long long practice at postmortem and familiarity with normal viscera enable the inspector to tell quicker than the wink of an eye if anything is the matter with the hog whose vital organs

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

By distilling fresh herring and oily pine wood in an iron retort, and then condensing the products in a Liebig condenser, William C. Day reports, in the American Chemical Journal, that he has produced an artificial asphalt closely resembling the natural product. This experiment is regarded as confirmatory of the opinion that asphalt and petroleum are the products of a natural distillation by which the remains of early forms of animal and vegetable life have been transformed in the heated crust of the earth.

Bret Hart's "outcast in gray," the coyote, is described by Prof. C. F. Holder as a species of wolf which is virtually a wild dog. Domestic dogs, he says, although they will kill the male coyote, will often refuse to injure the female. Prof. Holder defends the coyote against those who would exterminate him, on the ground that he is the only effective enemy of the jack-rabbit and the ground squirrel, which cause so much damage in California.

A coyote in a camp after chickens yelps so fast that he creates the impression that a whole pack is abroad. Naturalists have generally accepted the opinion that ants are not able to perceive any sounds that are audible to human ears. Prof. Weld, of the Iowa State University, controverts this opinion. He describes in Science careful experiments made by him with four species of American ants, from which he deduces the conclusion that these species, at least, are able to perceive sounds, but whether they do it by means of organs of hearing, or through the sense of touch being excited by atmospheric vibrations, he is unable to say with certainty. He inclines to the opinion that they do really hear, as some individuals showed a perception of the direction of the sound, such as that of a shrill whistle, and others, which were not disturbed when violently shaken in their glass prisons, seemed to be "driven nearly frantic by shrill sounds."

Boats for Arctic Travel.

Boats described as steel rains are now in use in ice-locked Russian harbors and rivers and have proved that they can force their way through thick ice, even with 72 degrees of frost. The harbor of Vladivostok, till of late hermetically sealed for four or five months, has since 1893 been kept accessible through the winter; the Finnish port of Hangö is now open to commerce throughout the year. And last winter a similar steam ram kept up connection with the Ural railway through the ice of the Volga at Saratoff. It is proposed now to keep open the front of St. Petersburg with the communication of boats to winter connection sea and to force a winter connection through the ice of the Yenisei. Admiral Makarof, addressing the Russian Geographical Society, insists that still more powerful boats of this kind might safely be counted on to cope with polar ice, such as Nansen had to deal with, and to cut a passage to the north pole.—Chambers' Journal.

Spain's Underground River.

The Guadiana, a Spanish river, after flowing for thirty miles overhead, vanishes underground, and for the next thirty miles pursues its course as an underground river, only appearing at intervals in the shape of lakelets, the ogos or eyes of the Guadiana as they are called. This is the largest underground river which has been fully traced. People are always disappointed in a circus.

SEEK IMPURE MEATS.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTS CATTLE AT CHICAGO YARDS.

Bees, Hogs, Sheep and Calves Are Searched for Disease—Rigid Post and Ante-Mortem Examination of Each Animal by Lynx-Eyed Officials.

Few people have even the least knowledge of the great work done by the national government in inspecting the killing of cattle, hogs and sheep at the Chicago stock yards. This inspection is being carried on in the stock yards of forty-eight other cities in the United States, but it is operated on a far greater scale in Chicago than at any other point. Such a sharp watch for diseased and objectionable animals is maintained that it is practically an impossibility for unit meat, designed for interstate or export shipment, to leave the inspected slaughter-houses at the yards. Every animal killed receives two or three inspections and when a diseased one is found the carcass is guarded as carefully as a box of jewelry until it is completely destroyed, as far as edible purposes are concerned.

Two kinds of inspection are given every beef, hog or sheep that goes out of the yards as being fit to eat. These examinations are antemortem and post-mortem. Sometimes the first one alone is sufficient to bar out animals and they never get as far as the slaughtering pens. The antemortem inspection, of course, takes place "on the hoof" and is conducted just before the animals are driven onto the scales to be weighed for purchase by the packer from the stockman. The inspector examines each animal as it is driven forward toward the platform of the scales. Any animal that is evidently affected with disease or is emaciated is ordered cut out. The packer, of course, declines to buy an animal which the inspector has

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

A sheep which bears on its skin plain evidence of "sheep scab," a hog with large, red cholera spots on his hide, a steer with external tumors, sores or abscesses, or any animal which exhibits the ordinary indications of illness, such as inability to walk, etc., will be cut out. The law requires that the refused animal must be killed and turned into soap fat and fertilizer.

The number of animals cut out at the antemortem examination varies so greatly that the inspectors decline to strike an average on the number excluded per day. Thousands may be passed without one being refused, but in the next hundred 10 per cent or more may be condemned. As a matter of fact, however, many of the diseased animals pass this first inspection without exciting the suspicion on the part of the inspectors, for they bear no exterior evidence whatever of the fact that they are suffering from a dangerous illness.

Passing this first inspection successfully, the animals are weighed and sent to the slaughter-houses of the company purchasing them. Hogs receive by far the most careful inspection. Two inspectors watch the passing of the slaughtered hogs, while but one examines cattle, and there is also but one for sheep and calves. The hogs are given the stricter examination because of their greater liability to disease and the greater danger to be found in the incipient stages of hog diseases, and it, of course, goes without saying that early stages of disease in any animals are more difficult to detect than those more advanced.

After going through the first operations at the slaughter-house the hog is strung up by the heels with hundreds of others and passes forward in a line that seems endless. The device by which the animals are strung up is fitted with a small wheel which rolls along a single track. Not far from the point where the hogs are first strung up and only a few feet from the line of moving carcasses sits the first of the hog inspectors. As each hog passes in front of him a workman with two flashes of a knife removes the entire viscera from the already partially opened body of the hog and throws them on a platform at the side of the raised chair in which the inspector is sitting. Just above the head of the inspector and a little to the rear is an electric lamp, which throws a brilliant stream of light down on the platform.

Each time as the entrails are thrown down the inspector glances down at them. One glance is sufficient. Long long practice at postmortem and familiarity with normal viscera enable the inspector to tell quicker than the wink of an eye if anything is the matter with the hog whose vital organs

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

By distilling fresh herring and oily pine wood in an iron retort, and then condensing the products in a Liebig condenser, William C. Day reports, in the American Chemical Journal, that he has produced an artificial asphalt closely resembling the natural product. This experiment is regarded as confirmatory of the opinion that asphalt and petroleum are the products of a natural distillation by which the remains of early forms of animal and vegetable life have been transformed in the heated crust of the earth.

Bret Hart's "outcast in gray," the coyote, is described by Prof. C. F. Holder as a species of wolf which is virtually a wild dog. Domestic dogs, he says, although they will kill the male coyote, will often refuse to injure the female. Prof. Holder defends the coyote against those who would exterminate him, on the ground that he is the only effective enemy of the jack-rabbit and the ground squirrel, which cause so much damage in California.

A coyote in a camp after chickens yelps so fast that he creates the impression that a whole pack is abroad. Naturalists have generally accepted the opinion that ants are not able to perceive any sounds that are audible to human ears. Prof. Weld, of the Iowa State University, controverts this opinion. He describes in Science careful experiments made by him with four species of American ants, from which he deduces the conclusion that these species, at least, are able to perceive sounds, but whether they do it by means of organs of hearing, or through the sense of touch being excited by atmospheric vibrations, he is unable to say with certainty. He inclines to the opinion that they do really hear, as some individuals showed a perception of the direction of the sound, such as that of a shrill whistle, and others, which were not disturbed when violently shaken in their glass prisons, seemed to be "driven nearly frantic by shrill sounds."

Boats for Arctic Travel.

Boats described as steel rains are now in use in ice-locked Russian harbors and rivers and have proved that they can force their way through thick ice, even with 72 degrees of frost. The harbor of Vladivostok, till of late hermetically sealed for four or five months, has since 1893 been kept accessible through the winter; the Finnish port of Hangö is now open to commerce throughout the year. And last winter a similar steam ram kept up connection with the Ural railway through the ice of the Volga at Saratoff. It is proposed now to keep open the front of St. Petersburg with the communication of boats to winter connection sea and to force a winter connection through the ice of the Yenisei. Admiral Makarof, addressing the Russian Geographical Society, insists that still more powerful boats of this kind might safely be counted on to cope with polar ice, such as Nansen had to deal with, and to cut a passage to the north pole.—Chambers' Journal.

Spain's Underground River.

The Guadiana, a Spanish river, after flowing for thirty miles overhead, vanishes underground, and for the next thirty miles pursues its course as an underground river, only appearing at intervals in the shape of lakelets, the ogos or eyes of the Guadiana as they are called. This is the largest underground river which has been fully traced. People are always disappointed in a circus.

SEEK IMPURE MEATS.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTS CATTLE AT CHICAGO YARDS.

Bees, Hogs, Sheep and Calves Are Searched for Disease—Rigid Post and Ante-Mortem Examination of Each Animal by Lynx-Eyed Officials.

Few people have even the least knowledge of the great work done by the national government in inspecting the killing of cattle, hogs and sheep at the Chicago stock yards. This inspection is being carried on in the stock yards of forty-eight other cities in the United States, but it is operated on a far greater scale in Chicago than at any other point. Such a sharp watch for diseased and objectionable animals is maintained that it is practically an impossibility for unit meat, designed for interstate or export shipment, to leave the inspected slaughter-houses at the yards. Every animal killed receives two or three inspections and when a diseased one is found the carcass is guarded as carefully as a box of jewelry until it is completely destroyed, as far as edible purposes are concerned.

Two kinds of inspection are given every beef, hog or sheep that goes out of the yards as being fit to eat. These examinations are antemortem and post-mortem. Sometimes the first one alone is sufficient to bar out animals and they never get as far as the slaughtering pens. The antemortem inspection, of course, takes place "on the hoof" and is conducted just before the animals are driven onto the scales to be weighed for purchase by the packer from the stockman. The inspector examines each animal as it is driven forward toward the platform of the scales. Any animal that is evidently affected with disease or is emaciated is ordered cut out. The packer, of course, declines to buy an animal which the inspector has

declined to pass, and the loss falls on the stockman. But after this antemortem inspection the animals become the property of the packer and all losses through ultimate condemnation of the stock must, of course, fall upon him.

A sheep which bears on its skin plain evidence of "sheep scab," a hog with large, red cholera spots on his hide, a steer with external tumors, sores or abscesses, or any animal which exhibits the ordinary indications of illness, such as inability to walk, etc., will be cut out. The law requires that the refused animal must be killed and turned into soap fat and fertilizer.

The number of animals cut out at the antemortem examination varies so greatly that the inspectors decline to strike an average on the number excluded per day. Thousands may be passed without one being refused, but in the next hundred 10 per cent or more may be condemned. As a matter of fact, however, many of the diseased animals pass this first inspection without exciting the suspicion on the part of the inspectors, for they bear no exterior evidence whatever of the fact that they are suffering from a dangerous illness.

Passing this first inspection successfully, the animals are weighed and sent to the slaughter-houses of the company purchasing them. Hogs receive by far the most careful inspection. Two inspectors watch the passing of the slaughtered hogs, while but one examines cattle, and there is also but one for sheep and calves. The hogs are given the stricter examination because of their greater liability to disease and the greater danger to be found in the incipient stages of hog diseases, and it, of course, goes without saying that early stages of disease in any animals are more difficult to detect than those more advanced.

After going through the first operations at the slaughter-house the hog is strung up by the heels with hundreds of others and passes forward in a line that seems endless. The device by which the animals are strung up is fitted with a small wheel which rolls along a single track. Not far from the point where the hogs are first strung up and only a few feet from the line of moving carcasses sits the first of the hog inspectors. As each hog passes in front of him a workman with two flashes of a knife removes the entire viscera from the already partially opened body of the hog and throws them on a platform at the side of the raised chair in which the inspector is sitting. Just above the head of the inspector and a little to the rear is an electric lamp, which throws a brilliant stream of light down on the platform.

Each time as the entrails are thrown down the inspector glances down at them. One glance is sufficient. Long long practice at postmortem and familiarity with normal viscera enable the inspector to tell quicker than the wink of an eye if anything is the matter with the hog whose vital organs