

ACUTE POISONING.

The Quick Use of Mustard and Water Has Saved Many a Life.

When a case of acute poisoning occurs it generally has one of three origins. The man has swallowed the poison by mistake for medicine; he has tried to commit suicide, or he has eaten something that for any reason or another is not fit for food. When we hear that a whole family or an entire community has suffered from poison the third reason will be the correct one. It may be that the food taken is inherently poisonous, as in the case of poisonous mushrooms, or it may be that food originally pure has suffered chemical changes because it has been kept too long or has not been properly cared for.

The symptoms of acute poisoning are generally so terrifying that the doctor is quickly summoned, and that is well for he will be needed.

In many cases it is not possible to tell at once just what kind of poison is causing the trouble, but it is certain that whatever it is it must be removed from the body as quickly as possible. There are two ways of removing poison quickly from the stomach—either by a stomach pump, which the doctor will bring and use, or by an emetic. The simple mustard and water emetic can do no harm, and you should give it while you are waiting for the doctor. Plain table mustard—a tablespoonful stirred in half a pint of slightly warm water and swallowed quickly—has saved many a life. Besides washing out the stomach, it has a slightly stimulating effect, which is an excellent thing, since acute poisoning is often followed by a dangerous collapse.

For that reason do everything you can to support the strength of a badly poisoned person. Even after the stomach has been emptied and the acute symptoms have subsided the danger of collapse may be very great. Warm blankets and hot water bottles are helpful, but it is not of much use to give stimulants by the mouth until the stomach has been emptied.

When the poison is a strong acid the stomach pump cannot be used, for fear of further injury to the already lacerated pullet, and the emema is the best treatment we can adopt, but in cases of food poisoning the tube is a valuable adjunct to the treatment. The collapse may be serious enough to require energetic treatment with stimulants, either by injecting strychnine or by giving brandy or coffee or both, either by mouth or by means of an enema, according to the condition of the patient.—Youth's Companion.

Black Ducks of India.

The black duck of India is a very graceful animal, weighing between thirty and fifty pounds. The bill of the male when full grown is a inky blackness on the back, while the belly is as white as snow, the contrast being very striking. The horns are black and spiral in shape and in length average about eighteen inches, although they have been known to reach twenty-six inches. The animals are usually found in herds and are difficult to approach on foot, as the ducks toss their heads in the air from time to time in a very graceful manner, and some of them are almost sure to detect any attempt at stalking.

How Fish Rise and Sink.

The air bladder of fishes is the provision within their bodies which enables them to rise or fall in the water. Near the bottom the weight of the superincumbent waters compresses the air bladder, and consequently the body of the fish shrinks until its bulk is equal with the water it displaces. In the middle and upper regions the bladder expands in proportion, so that the body of the fish is always equponderant with the water in which it floats. Thus, according to the dilation or contraction of the air bladder, the fish can regulate its depth in the water at pleasure.

A Local Magnate.

"Are you the postmaster?"
"Yes."
"Gimme two stamps."
"Here ye are. I also sell dry goods, groceries, hardware and coffins. Need anything of th' sort?"
"No. I'm just passing through here. Fact is, I'm on my way to the station now."
"That so? I operate th' only

back line in town. Sam, my driver, will take yer to the depo' for a quarter."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Men With Memories.

Seneca the Wise could repeat 2,000 words in the uninterrupted succession in which they were read to him. The greatest Roman orator before Cicero, Hortensius, could recite all the prices given at a public auction. Themistocles, who considered it a greater art to forget than to remember, learned the Persian language inside of a year.

FAMILY VACATIONS.

Temporary Separation Is Sometimes Good For the Home Circle.

"Every one can think of families in which nervous instability is exemplified in various forms by the different members," writes Percy Goldthwait Stiles in his book, "The Nervous System and Its Conservation."

"These are the families which are given to quarreling and recrimination at home, but unite with even greater pugnacity against the outsider who has incurred their displeasure. They make themselves miserable, but seem unable to help it. Where the taint is graver there is downright neurasthenia. From such stock come certain individuals with marked talent, but hampered by self-consciousness and excessive sensitiveness."

And further on he continues:

"The clash of antipathetic personalities is a most serious element among the causes of nerve fag. It is one which becomes steadily more potent for injury when a certain measure of fatigue has arrived, for added irritability means more and more grievous friction. It is a rare family in which the atmosphere is not improved by temporary separation of the house mates."

"The entertaining of visitors serves a good purpose when the guests absorb attention that otherwise would be bestowed exclusively upon members of the home circle and in a critical spirit. It is a lamentable fact that in most families there is more restraint in speech and more consideration in conduct when outsiders are present; this suggests another valuable service rendered by the company. Neurasthenia is, in a certain sense, a contagious disease. One case fully developed may give rise to others, though the secondary ones are ordinarily less severe."

Accomplished Apes.

At the foot of Mount Kowang, in north Manchuria, live strange animals called traunanbankau, says a bulletin of the Japan society. They are larger than ordinary apes and have very strong, sharp claws, by which they are able to dig spacious caverns on the rocky sides of the hills.

They work very hard all spring and summer in storing up sufficient food for the winter, when they close the entrance to their living quarters and pass the time in hibernation.

They carry things while standing, after the fashion of human beings. Wrestling and singing are their chief pastimes.

A Dit Mixed.

One day a new pupil in a music settlement school came home and asked:

"Mother, how many carrots are there in a bushel? Teacher wants to know."

"What?" answered the mother. "What has that to do with music?"

"I don't know," replied the child. The next day the mother went to the music school to inquire what kind of music her child was being taught.

The teacher laughed and said: "Well, that is hardly correct, madam. What we asked your child was how many beats there were in a measure."

How Thackeray Regarded Scott.

Though Thackeray thought Scott greater than Scott, yet for the latter he felt much admiration and even reverence. When a popular novelist one day justified himself for something he had written by urging that Scott had written it also Thackeray replied: "I do not think that it becomes either you or me to speak of Sir Walter Scott as if we were his equals. Such men as you or I should take off our hats at the very mention of his name."—Some Aspects of Thackeray, Louis Melville.

FAT MEN OF GENIUS.

Hugo, Dumas, Rossini and Balzac Were Big of Brain and Body.

It is frequently averred that fat is deadening to the brain and consequently a foe to intellectual activity. But is this so? Some of the greatest men the world has ever known were pump even to obesity. Napoleon was decidedly rotund. Dr. Johnson was fleshy even to flabbiness. So was his biographical shadow, Boswell.

The world and an overcoat, it is said, could hardly contain the glory of Victor Hugo's frame. And the embonpoint of the author of "Les Miserables" was most richly deserved, for his favorite dish was a conglomeration of veal cutlets, lima beans and oil, roast beef and tomato sauce, omelets, milk and vinegar, mustard and cheese, which he swallowed rapidly and in immense quantities, washing down the whole with huge drafts of coffee.

Rossini, the celebrated Italian composer of operatic music, had not been able to see his feet for six years ere his death. He has been described as a "hippopotamus in trousers," and yet his enormous bulk did not prevent him giving to the musical world such operatic treasures as "The Barber of Seville," "William Tell" and "La Gazza Ladra."

Jules Gabriel Janin, eminent as a French dramatic critic and a most prolific writer, would have broken down any twentieth century sofa on which he might have happened to sit. Then, take the passionate Alexandre Dumas, author of "The Three Musketeers," "Monte Cristo" and a host of other famous works. He could eat three beefsteaks where any other man ate one.

The most fertile of all French romancers, Balzac, is said to have looked more like a hoghead than a man. Three ordinary persons stretching hands could hardly reach round his waist.—London Tit-Bits.

A Curious Doct.

According to a Chinese legend, there lived in Canton 200 years before Christ an artist named Lam Kao Pong, who won an immortal reputation owing to the fact that he was able to fashion out of a bean pod a boat, complete with rudder, sails, mast and all other necessary appurtenances. Moreover, on the exterior of the boat were engraved various maxims by Confucius. For this masterpiece, it is said, the Emperor Tai Fou paid him 1,000 taels.

No Change.

The dinner was very bad. "Another new cook, eh?" said Mr. Dawson. "It is strange what a time we have with cooks. The Dixons have no such trouble. Dixon was telling me only yesterday that they have had the same cook for ten years."

"Yes, dear," said Mrs. Dawson sweetly, "and did he tell you who she is?"

"No. Who is she?"

"His wife."—New York Times.

Following a Custom.

An American traveler in Russia unearthed a relic of Catherine the Great, which amusingly illustrates the conservatism of the Russians. One day in crossing a bridge she noticed that the half dozen wooden images upon pedestals which ornamented it were weather worn. "The statues must be repainted," she said. The next day a painter was set to work, and every year afterward while the empress lived she gave orders to have them repainted. At her death it had become an established annual custom, and today the poor statues, covered with more than a hundred coats of vermilion paint, have no resemblance to anything but ungainly blocks of wood.

Deborah Was a Fighter.

Deborah Sampson was a young woman of Plymouth, Mass., who served with distinction during the Revolutionary war. She enlisted at the age of eighteen under the name of Robert Shurtcliffe. The military records show that the young private had a splendid army career. No hardship of battle was too trying for Deborah. She soon won the confidence of the officers and was not infrequently called upon to perform the most dangerous enterprise. She was twice wounded. Toward the end of the war her sex was discovered, and she was given an honorable discharge from service. Later she received a pension and a grant of land.

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