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PUBLISHERS.

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Struck a Whale.

A Netherland steamer, from Antwerp to New York, on the second day out slighted a whale floating on the water directly in the vessel's course. No attempt was made to avoid the animal, as the natural impression was that it would get out of the way of its own accord. It declined to move, however, being fast asleep most likely, and the steamer's sharp iron bow struck full and fair about midway of its length. There was a perceptible shock to the vessel and an immediate checking of her progress. Passengers and deckhands ran forward to see what was the cause of the trouble, and found that the whale was fully eighty feet long, had been cut half way in two, and lay dead and fast, caught on the bows. It was necessary to stop the ship and back off to disengage the carcass, which, when freed, drifted astern. None of the officers of the ship had ever witnessed a similar occurrence, although it is by no means an unheard of one. Ships have struck sleeping whales before, and on several occasions have suffered damage from the collision.

Caught in a Blizzard.

A party of army officers who arrived at Bismarck, from Fort Yates, on the 7th, gives a description of the most thrilling ride in the history of that country. They were seventy hours in a blizzard in coming from Fort Lincoln, a distance of sixty miles, or over an hour to a mile. Their vehicle was an ambulance and was drawn by four mules. The night the blizzard was at its height, they were compelled to shovel and plough their way through snowdrifts from six to ten feet deep, and the continual use of the goading-sticks was necessary to keep the exhausted animals on the walk. The officers state that for a time the blizzard hid the mules from view and that but for the instinct of the animals they would have been lost and frozen to death. At one point they passed an Indian camp, but the Indians would not give them shelter as their su-

perstition taught them that this would be fatal to them. They arrived at Fort Lincoln without covering to their ambulance, this protection having been blown away by the first night's wind, and within thirty minutes from their arrival one of the animals dropped dead. It was a fight for life, and they describe the trip as a most horrible experience, in comparison with which a march against an opposing army would be a pleasant pastime.

Kerosene v. Diphtheria.

Diphtheria has unusually prevalent in Connecticut the past year, and the state board of health has been trying to learn the reason. There has been no general epidemic, but the disease has been epidemic in Stamford, New Canada, Greenwich, Meriden and some other places. But the only report that the board has received that has the merit of any discovery respecting this disease has been a verbal and informal one from Meriden, which will be amplified with a formal and detailed statement. It will be quite likely to attract the attention of all physicians. There have been a good many cases in Meriden, and some of them could not be traced to any of the causes, such as uncleanliness and filth presence, to which the disease is ascribed. It was noticed that not a single fatal case occurred in the town in any house where gas or candles were used. In every case the family in which it appeared were in the habit of using kerosene oil exclusively. Inquiries made elsewhere showed the same results. In one case in Meriden the kerosene lamps were removed and candles substituted for light, and there was immediate improvement in the patient. But by accident a night or two later a kerosene lamp was brought into the sick chamber and left burning all night. The patient next day grew worse and died. A very careful inquiry based on this discovery will be made. It may be nothing more than a coincidence, but already it has been learned that persons stricken with diphtheria in the vicinity of kerosene oil refineries

rarely recover. The state board of health is inclined to the opinion that a very important discovery may have been made in the etiology of this scourge.

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(o)

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