

THE DREAD OF RABIES.

Out of All Proportion to the Frequency of the Disease.

Few accidents are more terrifying to the sufferer than to be bitten by a dog supposed to be mad, and there are few conditions in which prompt and intelligent action on the part of the bystanders is more desirable.

Although nearly all warm blooded animals are susceptible to rabies, it is most commonly seen in dogs. There are two forms—the "furious" and the "dumb." In the furious type after a period of melancholy or depression the animal becomes restless and irritable, with a tendency to run away and snap at everything in sight, finally becoming subdued and sullen and dying of paralysis and exhaustion. In dumb rabies the stage of irritability is absent. The dog prowls about in a listless way, with his head down and lower jaw dropped. At the same time there is difficulty in swallowing.

It is often impossible to tell from a dog's actions whether it is rabid or not. But if instead of killing the animal as quickly as possible, as is often unwisely done, the owner captures it and keeps it for a few days under lock and key the question answers itself. A rabid dog always dies in from four to eight days, so that if the animal recovers the bitten persons may be sure that they are not going to develop hydrophobia.

In any suspicious case the wound should immediately be squeezed under hot water and if deep be incised freely, so that cauterization with either a hot iron or with strong nitric acid (not with lunar caustic) may be thoroughly done. At the same time the dog should be kept under observation, or if already killed the head and neck should be packed in ice and preserved for medical examination.

Even if it seems certain that the animal was rabid the patient should not despair, for it is estimated that only 15 per cent of those bitten by rabid animals actually develop the disease, and if the Pasteur preventive inoculations are promptly begun recovery is almost certain.

The popular dread of rabies is out of all proportion to the relative frequency of the disease, and the length to which it may go is shown by the instances in which people have developed and even died of false hydrophobia, a nervous condition due to fright and simulating to some extent the real malady. — Youth's Companion.

BURNING THE YULE LOG.

A Survival From the Adoration Once Offered to the Sun.

In some parts of Germany the Yule log is placed on the hearth on Christmas eve and if possible kept burning for two or three days. Then a piece of it is laid aside for the purpose of lighting the next year's log and of guarding the household from harm. Pieces of fir wood charred but not quite burned out in the Christmas fire are also placed under the family bed in some German villages to avert the dreaded lightning stroke, which appears in this relation to be the type of fire in its evil aspect, in contradistinction from the solar orb, the representative of beneficent light and warmth. The custom of burning a Yule log for three days and nights in each homestead is almost certainly a survival from the adoration once offered to the sun at the winter solstice.

Three centuries after the Christian era sun worship was still maintained in Brittany, and in Normandy not more than 100 years ago the household fire was extinguished on Dec. 24 and the Christmas log was ignited by the aid of a flame procured from the lamp burning in the neighboring church. This fact affords a curious instance of the probable transference of respect and reverence from the sacred fire of a purely heathen creed to the ecclesiastical lights of Catholicism. When the pagan rites for procuring unsmothered fire were forbidden or fell into desuetude the ideas to which they owed their origin and development, instead of perishing, continued to exist more or less perfectly by attaching themselves to usages and ceremonies having no direct association with them.

Colds and Cologne.

Grip and colds, according to a French physician, will yield if met at the very beginning with a copious supply of the best cologne. Pour the cologne into a handkerchief rolled to a funnel and inhale the fumes steadily every two or three minutes. After a burning sensation has been experienced one may wait ten or fifteen minutes before taking another sniff. If the bad symptoms have not subsided after twelve hours of this remedy it shows that the malady was too far under way.

Closer to Nature.

We get closer to nature, when we are creating, whether in art, in literature, in invention or in working at new and progressive ideas. We can feel our mind reach out into infinity and grasp and bring back something fresh, new, something never seen on this earth before.—Success Magazine.

Stood by His Theory.

Thales, the ancient philosopher, declared that there was no difference between life and death. "Why, then," cried one of those to whom the remark was made, "don't you put an end to your life?" "Because," was the reply, "there is no difference."

A Test of Courage.

Courage consists not in blindly overlooking danger, but in meeting it with the eyes open.—Richter.

Tell a man that he is brave and you help him to become so.—Carlyle.

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MASON BROS.

THE HERCULES BEETLE.

This South American Giant is the Great Bug in the World.

To the Hercules beetle, a giant insect, which is found in vast numbers in the island of Dominica, as well as in the island of St. Vincent, of the British West Indies, the distinction of being the largest in the world. In appearance this insect is anything but prepossessing, looking as if it belonged to the ranks of the imagination.

It is a common trait of travelers to make little of what is seen in foreign lands, especially the little West Indian islands, and to declare that similar things are of greater size or better quality in "God's country." When they cross the Hercules beetle, however, they are obliged to acknowledge themselves beaten.

Although so formidable in appearance, this insect is perfectly harmless. It lives in the heavy forests and on the sweetish sap or gum of the trees. The larva, or grub, is four inches long and as thick as a man's thumb and looks like a white maggot. It is considered a delicacy by the native negroes and who roast it in hot ashes and eat it tastes like roasted nuts.

Clumsy in appearance, the Hercules beetle possesses great powers of flight and in the outlying villages is uncommon for one of these large insects to enter the native homes, attracted thereto by the light. The variable result is a prompt extinguishing of the candle by the wind of the beetle's buzzing wings, accompanied by screams from the inmates of the house, who imagine a jinn or evil spirit, has invaded their dwelling.

A popular belief among the natives is that the Hercules beetle climbs the limbs of trees by grasping between the two hornlike appendages and flying round and round. The manifest impossibility, as the insect has but little power in the lower members, the upper one is lined with a soft, velvety hair, which when rubbed off at once by any friction.

TABLECLOTHS.

The "Doubblers" and the "Boiler Olden Times."

In the twelfth century the tablecloths were very large and were laid on the table double, and for long time they were called "doubblers" for that reason. The cloth was placed so as to touch the floor on one side of the table at which the guest sat. Then all the cloth that was folded so that it just covered the table.

Charles V. had sixty-seven tablecloths which were from fifteen to twenty yards long and two yards wide. He had one cloth which was two yards long, and that had the arms of France embroidered on it. All of these were fringed.

In the sixteenth century double or double cloths, were replaced by tablecloths, one of which was laid and was laid just as we lay one today.

The other, which was put on the table was large and of beautiful linen. It was skillfully folded in a way that, as a book of the time says, "it resembled a winding sheet, gently ruffled by a little breeze among very many bubbles."

It must have required much care to make dishes, plates, sauce dishes and glasses stand in the midst of this undulating and among those "bubbles" and folds.

However, the fashion had a short existence, as it is apt to be with impractical fashions, and the latter part of the century the cloth, laid flat and touching on all sides of the table, came into vogue.

Not the Same Bill.

After much persuasion Sir John Lubbock allowed himself to be put forward some years ago as a Conservative candidate for parliament from Lincolnshire. He confessed he knew nothing about politics, but entered the campaign as a rare sport. One day he addressed a meeting of electors in a village in the Isle of Axholme, when he had finished somebody else's speech he turned to his hearers to fire questions at him. Presently there came the question, "What do you think of Sir John Lubbock's liquor bill?" For a moment Sir John was nonplussed, but in a moment, pulling himself together, he replied, "I cannot answer for Wilfrid Lawson's liquor bill, but I know that last year my own bill deceived eight too big!"

The Holly.

The holly in Germany is called Christdorn, or Christ's thorn, the end being that it was of this plant that the crown of thorns was made. In France the honor is assigned to the hawthorn, which is there called the ble thorn. In Spain the legend assigns the honor to the bramble. As the Scotch legend makes the crown consist of thistle blades, while in the lore of England the climbing rose is said to have been the plant selected by the persecutors.

Enthusiasm.

Nothing else is so contagious as enthusiasm. It is the real ally of the lute of Orpheus. It moves the churls brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victory without it.—Lytton.

If we had no feelings ourselves should not take so much pleasure in finding out those of others.—Lytton.