

ECCENTRICITIES OF THE FLESH.

The experience of medical men leads them to know that we are by no means all constituted alike with respect to these things which we should avoid. Experience is a guide to most men in such matters. There are some people, however, who are so peculiarly constituted, that matters the most harmless to the mass of mankind act upon them in the most distressing manner. For instance, some persons cannot eat a lobster salad without its having a very serious effect upon their complexion. We know a lady who once indulged at supper time in a salad of this kind, and upon her return to the hall-room, her face and neck immediately became covered with spots, obliging her to retire. Cockles and shrimps have a like effect upon persons thus peculiarly constituted. A medical friend tells us that eating veal gives a lady of his acquaintance the nettle-rash, and that orange peel has produced great nervous excitement. Flies again, give rise in some people to what is termed "formication," or a sensation like the tickling movement of ants upon the palate. The most extraordinary example of the adverse influence of a common article of food upon the human stomach is related by a surgeon of one of our public hospitals. He says that a patient of his cannot touch rice without the most extreme discomfort. On one occasion, when at a dinner party, he felt the symptoms of rice poisoning come on, and was, as usual, obliged to retire from the table, though he had not partaken of any dish ostensibly containing any rice. It appeared, on investigation, that some white soup, with which he had commenced his dinner, had been thickened with ground rice. In another case, similar symptoms having come on after a gentleman had partaken of bottled beer, this apparently extraordinary fact was explained by the presence in the bottle of a few grains of rice, which had been placed there to excite a secondary fermentation. But what is this case to the perverse stomach of a gentleman in a case cited by Dr. Prout, who was poisoned by eating a mutton chop? The most digestible of all flesh to the ordinary mortal was to him most positively as poisonous as though he had eaten lead. It was at first imagined by his physician that his dislike to this food arose from mere fancy, and in order to test him, mutton, disguised, was served to him as other flesh meat, but always with the same result, violent vomiting and diarrhea. Indeed, the effect upon him was so great that had he been kept on a mutton diet, Dr. Prout believed he would have died.

Some persons cannot touch honey without the very alarming symptoms appearing of swelling of the tongue, frothing of the mouth and blueness of the fingers. Mustard applied to some eccentric skins will produce violent twitchings of the muscles of the face, arms and legs.

Many persons, we know, cannot remain in a room where there is a cheese; and we are told of an eccentric constitution that could not sit at a table where there was a cooked hare, or, again, rebel in the most violent manner against some stomachs. The sense of touch, too, is very eccentric in some individuals, and the handling of a russet apple, is intolerable in a gentleman we have heard of; and the mere passing of the hand along the bristles of a brush, produces the most exquisite nervous distress in a lady of our acquaintance.

The emanations arising from vegetable sources, have a very marked effect upon some people. Indeed, there is a disease known as the hay asthma, which, at the hay harvest, periodically affects many persons who reside anywhere near hay fields when they are being mowed. The reason is well known. Floating particles of the seed are always set free at such a time, and, striking against the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and throat of the individual liable to this affection, produce spasmodic action of the throat, which is not only very distressing, but dangerous.

The late Luke of Richmond was very liable to the hay asthma, and during the hay-making season he always retired to Brighton, the downs near which place protected him from the danger of hay-making. The direction of the wind is of importance in this affection, inasmuch as when it blows from the quarter where hay-making operations are going on, the sufferer feels the distressing inflammation with increased violence; when, however, the wind blows in the contrary direction, he is exempt from its influence. Ipecacuanha, again, is most obnoxious to many individuals, producing vomiting and diarrhea. The mere removal of a stopper from a bottle containing this drug, will produce in some persons an instantaneous effect, although far removed from the object itself. Persons thus affected by this emanation have been known to be seized with spasms in consequence, although removed by a couple of floors from the cause.

The ordinary spasmodic asthma arises from causes just as local. It often happens that patients so afflicted cannot pass certain limits without bridging on a spasm. The distance of a length of street will often give a man perfect exemption from his dire trouble or precipitate him into it. As a rule, persons who are liable to seizure in the pure atmosphere of the country, obtain great relief by a residence in towns; often, too, in the most disagreeable, and, to persons in health, most unhealthy portions of them. In this distressing complaint, it may be truly said that "what is one man's meat, is another man's poison."—Cassell's Magazine.

INHUMAN TREATMENT OF A HORSE.

[From the Worcester (Mass.) Spy, Feb. 24.] The much talked of long race from Boston to Worcester, between the horses "Empire State" of this city, and the "Ivanhoe" of Boston, came off on Saturday, and as the result shows, was one of the most extraordinary and cruel that has ever taken place in this country. The terms of the match were to trot from Mill dam, Boston, to Worcester, for \$500 each, each horse to carry 150 pounds, eight or wheels, rain or shine, play or pay. Owing to the bad condition of the road at the Mill Dam, the start was effected from the Charles River Hotel in Brighton. Both horses were attached to sleighs. "Empire State" was driven by George R. Wesson and accompanied by William

A. Eager, his backer, both of this city. The word was given to go at 10:45 o'clock, and both started off at a moderate gait, with "Empire State" leading. From Brighton to Watertown the road was bad, the sleighing having worn away to bare ground, and progress was necessarily much impeded. At Watertown the sleighing became good and "Empire State" was still leading about 15 rods, under a strong and steady pull. He then commenced the long and powerful stroke for which he is noted, and trotted with clock-like precision up hill and down, drawing his heavy load behind him with apparent ease, and trotted so well within himself that he was allowed to go as he pleased until Northboro was reached at 12:37. The distance thus far traveled was 28 miles, and the time one hour and 51 minutes, nearly four minutes to the mile. The rest of seven minutes was here taken, and gruel, wine, water and hay offered the horse, but he refused, and was with difficulty kept from running away. Once more given his head he seemed to be possessed, and trotted mile after mile at a three-minute gait, and all the time within himself and under a steady pull. This he kept up until he reached Long Pond, where he stopped trotting and walked into the city, arriving at Washington Square at 1:19 o'clock, having come the last 10 miles in 35 minutes, and the whole distance, 38 miles, in two hours and 32 minutes, which is a little less than a mile in four minutes for the whole distance.

Soon after his arrival the horse became sick, and although every effort was made to save him, the over-driving had killed him, and he died at midnight of spasmodic cholera. "Ivanhoe," his competitor, was last seen at Watertown, but arrived at Northboro long after the winner had left, and finding it no use to follow, his driver wisely withdrew from the race and put up the horse.

"Empire State," the winner, was one-fourth thorough bred, 16 hands one inch high, weighed 1,050 pounds, 10 years old, and a light bay color. He was raised in Kentucky, and at one time was owned by Dan Mace, and called the "John horse." His temper was not of the best, and it is said that he could not be used for anything but racing purposes. This most noted and fatal race is without a parallel for speed, powers of endurance and thorough gameness, and is fully as extraordinary a feat as that of trotting 30 miles in an hour. Humane and sensible men will wish it to remain without a parallel.

THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC.—In urging the claims of the Musical Association to the support of the public, we can do no better service to the society than giving the following quotation from a little volume written by Rev. Dr. Blackie, entitled "Counsel and cheer for the Battle of Life."

"The restorative power of music being so great, it is just what might be expected that in our great centres of industry, where toil is heaviest and most exhausting, musical entertainments should hold a very prominent place among popular recreations. There seems to be something in its sweet strains, peculiarly adapted to repair some part at least of the exhaustion caused by close application to work or business. It is peculiarly an evening enjoyment, not only because in the early part of the day most persons are otherwise engaged, but because it is naturally adapted to follow labor rather than contribute strength. It is a touching thing, as one walks along a street in a large town at an evening, and passing a house where the piano or the organ, with the accompaniment of the human voice, is sending forth its eloquence, to find a wayfarer or two lingering at the corner and at that unwilling to lose the chance that has come in their way, of gratifying the hunger for music which a long day's work has whetted into unusual keenness."

"It will be a happy day, not only when, by musical instruction becoming universal in schools, the taste for music shall be more highly and more generally cultivated, and the power of producing it more widely diffused, but when its whole surroundings shall in every case be in harmony with itself, when full scope shall be given it for producing its proper effect, and when it shall be gratefully recognized everywhere as one of the means provided by Divine Wisdom for recruiting exhausted energies, and keeping up a buoyant youthful feeling through the hardest struggles of life."—E.

CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATE.—The military affairs of the Department of the Plate, are about to undergo a complete change. Orders have been received to abandon Forts C. F. Smiths, Phil. Kearney and Reno, in what is known as the Powder River country. General John E. Smith, Col. of the 27th Infantry, now in command of the Mountain District, headquarters at Fort Phil. Kearney, will take command of Fort Russell. The 27th and 17th Infantry, now in that upper country, will be garrisoned at Forts Russell, Sidney, Sedgwick, North Platte, McPherson and old Kearney, which will, no doubt, be in a district with General Smith in command. The 20th Infantry and 2nd Cavalry will go west, and with the 36th Infantry will garrison those posts west of here. There will be two new Forts built. One at the crossing of the North Platte, to be called Ieno, and the other in the Seventh Cavalry country. General Stevenson will command one and General Potter will most likely command the other. General Gibbon will remove his headquarters to Fort Bridger, which will be the headquarters of the district, embracing all these Forts, and Camp Douglas, with the General in command. General Auger with his staff remain in command of the Department.—Cheyenne Leader.

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As may be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans Times of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have borne off the highest premium in the stove line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with Buck's "Brilliant," away ahead of the heap.

The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over the day preceding. The utmost good humor seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old P. R. principle of "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the contest appeared on the judges' stand, Saunders, particularly, glowing with confidence and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the engineers had not been changed.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lighted up. Norton's Furnace, run by Mr. E. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave vapor immediately after. In four minutes, excited as they were (as we might say rounding the quarter stretch), "Cotton Plant" popped in bread; all followed suit as quickly as though fore depended on the issue, but Buck's Brilliant had started fire with bread already in the stove. Then came the tug, the cooks' countenances glowed like the stoves, a perpetual snapping opening and shutting doors resounded over the arena. Stoves were pelted, coaxed and pelted as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of winning, and the crowd uttered comments from time to time. Mr. Perry's efforts seemed to be the greatest favored. At ten minutes past one "Cotton Plant" threw open its throttle valves and announced that it wanted no more fuel. All the others "what up" and "keeping dark." As the time for the bread to be baked approached, excitement had increased to a baking heat, both within and without the arena. At last Perry's Furnace followed suit, in 42:15; Cotton Plant, in 43; then Charter Oak, in 44; then Good Samaritan, 44:30; and lastly Buck's Brilliant, in 45. The grand result of the trial was as follows: Norton's Furnace, E. Wood Perry, bread weighed 1 lb 3 oz; burned fuel 7 1/2 lbs; Charter Oak, Rice, Bros. & Co., bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6 1/2 lbs; Good Samaritan, bread weighed 7 lbs 5 oz; burned fuel, 7 1/2 pounds; Cotton Plant, Lewis & Navin, bread weighed 7 lbs 1 oz; burned fuel 7 1/2 lbs; Buck's Brilliant, Buck & Wright, bread weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 7 lbs.

At the conclusion of the trial, the bread was taken charge of by the Awarding Committee and locked up for an hour, at the expiration of which it was all eaten by the crowd in accordance with their duty, and the gold medal awarded for best wood stove to Buck & Wright, of St. Louis, honorable mention being made of the Peckers, Campman & Co.—New Orleans Times, Jan. 15, 1896 & 17-1m & w-1

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