# Curiosities of Science.

TRRITABILITY OF A REPTILE HEART. Prof. Rutherford, of Kings College, England, is now lecturing on physiolo-gy. He narcotized a frog with opium, and then took out the heart and placed it on a glass plate in a little pool of sarum, just to keep the organ moist. Strange to say, it kept on pulsating pre-cisely as when in the body.

After watching the phenomenon awhile, he cut the throbbing heart transversely in two pieces, through the middle of the ventricles. The apex was quiescent, but the base continued pulsating as before. Why the death of one part and not the other? Dividing the contractile muscular fibres by which contractions were performed explains the rationale of the experiment in re-gard to the quict half of the heart.

# CHROMIC ACID.

As a disinfectant, this article is recommended on high chemical authority. It is also an antiseptic. It acts in that character by congulating protean com-pounds, a marvellous property, harden-ing animal tissues very quickly. Why would it not be a valuable arth-

cle in tanning? With ten times the congulating power of carbolic acid, especially with albumous solutions, it seems destined to be an agent of too much value to be overlooked in many arts.

## CLINICAL AUSCULATION.

Dr. Griffiths, of the Royal Irish College of Surgeons, proposes a common tuning fork for ascertaining the normal or abnormal condition of the viscera. It is a curious circumstance, quite new, that when the forks are vibrating, if applied to the chest or abdomen, a positive difference of sound is perceived between a diseased or a sound organ over which it is placed. Practice is required to fully appreciate this novel method of internal explorations.

# PUBLIC HEALTH.

At no period in the history of Engsee him badly !" land has so much scientific attention been given to public health and the means of promoting it as at present. Even government recognizes the duty of caring for the masses by giving the poor pure air for respiration, the first demand of their nature, and the next is wholesome food.

In most of the large towns, health officers are instructed to be vigilant. Common sewers give more trouble than very many ordinary nuisances, because there is generated within them the vilest Where they are imperfectly congases. structed, they become laboratories in which are manufactured the seeds of death. No vapors are so noxious, or so charged with poisons as escaping gas from sewers. Our cities should also be equally vigilant-life being a precious boon.

### INCREASE OF LUNACY.

Wherever the strife for position and wealth is most active, there men and women are prone to distraction. Wounded pride, disappointed expectations, religious exaltation, and a determination to rule or ruin, appertain to countries where civilization is most advanced, and the difficulty of procuring subsistence becomes difficult in consequence of a density of population. Everywhere in the oldest centres of refinement in Europe insanity is immensely on the increase. So it is in the old State; of this country. Massachusetts has already three large public insane institutions, Hospital at Somerville, besides several

# his home, and the following colloquy en-Morrow-Hollo, Jim, what have you

got there? Jim-One ob de celebrated Rocky Mountain cats, sah.

Mountain cats, sah. Morrow—A Rocky Mountain cat? Why, Jim, where did you get him, and what are you going to do with him? Jim—I golly, sah! Didn't you heah ob ds big bunch ob dem cats cum to town yesterday from Kalforny, sah? Best mousors in the wurl, sah, and dis is de biggest and bes' one ob de lot, sah. Dey are gwine to give me feah dollars for him at de Reed House, sah.

Morrow (recollecting the general "cus-sedness" of the family cat)-Jim, we want a good cat up home, and I guess I'll take this fellow, but-but-don't you plants from the broadcast sowing conthink four dollars is steep for a cat?

Jim-Why, all de res' sold for five dolars, sah.

This decided Morrow, so he paid the price asked, and told him to carry the Rocky Mountain cat" up to Mrs. Lowry. Jim had, however, very important business elsewhere, and he begged Morow to take the basket himself, which the latter consented to do. Arriving at home, he took the prize into the sittingroom, carefully closed the doors, slightly lifting the basket-covering, and smiling benevolently at Mrs. Lowry's apparent astonishment, remarked : "My dear, I've bought you a Rocky Mountain cat-the

# best mouser-" At this moment the cat jumped out of the basket and commenced rubbing himself against his master's legs. Morrow stopped short, while his wife broke out impatiently : "La me, Morrow ! Why, that's the same cat I gave Jim Stowart a dollar to drown not more than ten minutes ago.

What followed we know not, but a few minutes later the Hon. Morrow B. Lowry might have been noticed on the streets of Erie, armed with a walkingstick, and wondering "why a man can never find that nigger when he wants to

Homekeepers and Housekeepers. It is a well known-fact that many persons have very fine and orderly h but have, after all, no home, for

Home's not merely four square walls, though with pi-tures huns and gilded; Home is where affection calls, Filled with shrines the heart has builded.

A homekeeper is one who makes all the ways and convenience of the house conduce to the comforts of the inmates. She will allow the members of the household to build each a shrine, and will treat it as sacred, because it is a shrine to the one who has builded it. The daughter is not called an idle thing because she wishes to know her tune, and gaze wistfully toward the horizon ; nor is the son reproved if he shall slam around, and wish he was anywhere but

idling at home. Gradually the housede in Journal of Chemistry. keeper will quietly aid the first to search beauty this side the horizon, and for that boy will find a vent for his activity

without seeing he was gently led to it Each year over considerable portions of by an overseeing love. the country farmers are put to much an-A house that is blessed with a housenoyance and extra labor, and their stock keeper has an influence that even to considerable actual suffering on acstrangers feel. They receive that rest count of scarcity of water. Where water which comes from the "fitting of self to from the wells is difficult to obtain, a its sphere." The order of the house good cistern is perhaps the best way by may be mechanical like that of a loom which to obtain water. But many or a harp ; but, like these mechanical farmers in the West have small build-things, it conduces to results, and justi-

fies itself by tissues of more than silken be but of limited amount. To such we fineness, and music sweeter than that of recommend the digging of cisterns in and another is needed. Boston has one, the spheres. If there is a homekceper which to collect and hold water from the and then the richly endowed McLane the housework is not in utter confusion, the housework is not in utter confusion, earth's surface. In a very large num-if perchance one rises an hour too late, ber of eases sufficient fall can be found

# AGRICULTURAL.

ficient in nutrient matter, and therefore

it is a waste to feed them too early. The

corn plant, like all other vegetable struc-

Tau Levrin Conronat prosents the following inter-tring table of contents in February Dora, chapter H. with Hinerasien-oy Holm C. Week. Personage Dores, with Hinerasien-oy Matr E. G. Writh. Class of the Flower-by Miley Envect. Number Three-by A. H. Poe, Little & Valanting-by Oliver Thorne. Summer Dars at Kirkwood, chapter VII-by Emily Hittington-by Chas. & Horid. The Rivels, with full page littleration-by Chas. & Horid. The Rivels, with full page littleration-by Gones's Kingher From the Hitle follow and Private Queer's Kinghank is crowled with things to puzzle the minus of the bors and First or a monish to come. If you want a moralite for Thor E. Bonish to come. If you want a moralite for The Lev-ft Qonroat. Terms Stade a you. Joins K. Millers, Publisher, Chioogo, IU-CORN FODDER .- The opinion we have always held upon the question of the value of green corn fodder for milch cows has been that when raised from broadcast sowing it is nearly worthless, but when sown in hills or in drills, and cultivated with access of air and sunlight, it is of high value. During the present season we have made some experiments to test the correctness of these views. stalks were collected from a field where the seed was sown broadcast, and also

THE PRENCLOSEGAL JOURNAL has begun the year well. In no other periodical do we and human mainre so thereonghity treated. We always see something in it wild finstructs us, something which entertains and something amuning. It is a capital namity marg-time. In the Polynamy number we find limitariated arti-cles and assistance on the following: James Denoon Reymert, the eminent Norwego-American; How the Faculties Combine ! Protophasm. or the Mystery of Physical Life; Expression-its Anatomy and Philoso-phy : Compal Psychology; Joshua Watson, the Phi-lanthropic Courchman ! Follow your Ness, "er, How the Nose Indicate estarcies ! Rate Panamistic Causes and Cure; Great Criminals : Plain Pennmashing : Pro-damites found in the Bible, a new reading of Gene-sis; Governor Washburn, or Massenhastus ; A Marvei-jons Conjurer: Photies, eff., Price 30 conto, single field, and they were dried in a drying closet to expel the moisture. Both speci-mens were planted at the same time, the 6th of May, and it was found that the tained 92 per cent. of water, those from drills 83 per cent. Thus it was shown that the difference of solid matter in the two was relatively as 8 to 17 per cent. The solid matter was composed of starch, ous Conjurer; Pickies, etc. Price 30 a Nos.; \$3 a Fear. S. R. WELLS, New York.

LITERARY NOTICES.

gum, sugar, and woody fibre. There OUR IMPRUDENCE THE CAUSE OF was almost an entire absence of sugar and gum in the stalks from the broad-CONSUMPTION .- How many of us can date the cause of our last sickness to east sowing, while the stalks that had either a crowded room, and then coming grown under the influence of light and out in a cold air, or wearing damp air held these nutrient principles in con-siderable quantities. The stalks were clothes, causing a cough which settles upon the lungs, producing seated pains collected at the period of growth just bein the chest. Allen's Lung Balsam will fore the car begins to form, a period check the disease and restore health to when most farmers begin to cut the fod-

der for their cows. Our experiments upon corn fodder have afforded us imthe system, if only used in time. Remember and call at the Drug Store fer Allen's Lung Balsam. Every family portant information upon other points. should keep it at hand. Sold by all We find that the stalks out before they Druggists. reach a certain stage of growth are de

### Symptoms in Liver Complaint, and of some of the Diseases produced by it.

A sallow or yellow color of skin, or yellowtures, has but one object or aim in its ish brown spots on face and other parts of body; dullness and drowsiness with fregrowth, and that is to produce seed. It is engaged during its whole life in storquent headache; dizziness, bitter or bad taste in month, dryness of throat and internal heat; ng up large quantities of starch, which to be used when the pressing occasion palpitation, in many cases, a dry, teasing arrives, or the seed vessels mature, to cough, with sore throat; unsteady appetite, form by some subtle, mysterious changes, raising of food, choking sensation in throat ; the rich nutrient principles which are found in seeds. As soon as this struggle about stomsch and sides, pain in sides, back the rich nutrient principles which are or breast, and about shoulders; colic, pain is over, the corn plant, like animals, dies a natural death. It is not necessary for and soreness through bowels, with heat ; constipation alternating with frequent attacks of rost to strike it, it dies from simple exdiarthoea ; piles, flatulence, nervousness, cold-ness of extremities ; rush of blood to head, naustion. The proper time to cut and feed cornstalks is during the first four or with symptoms of apoplexy, numbress of limbs, especially at night; cold chills alternafive weeks which succed inflorescence, or, in other words, they should not be cut until the flower is fairly developed, and the car commences to form; and any ting with hot flashes, kidney and urinary diffi culties; temale weakness, dullness, low spirits, unsociability and gloomy forebodings. Only orn that is so planted that the car can few of above symptoms likely to be present at one time. Ali who use Dr. Pierce's Alt. Ext. not form and mature is practically worth-less for fodder. Farmers may learn from or Golden Medical Discovery for Liver Comhese facts that corn designed to be cut plaint and its complications are load in its for fodder should be planted at two or praise. Sold by all first-class Draggists. three periods during the season; some

fields quite early, others somewhat later, and still others as late as safe. In this THE CULTURE OF THE HAIR .- Just as sure y as a soli infested with Canadian thistles can e-made to produce fine crops of golden grain, way, when the hot, dry months of July the scalp now sparsely covered with harsn, dry unmanageable hair can be made prolific o and August are reached, and the pastures falter, a supply of fodder is secured at a silken tresses. All that is necessary to effect the charge in either case is the right kind of fertilizer. Leaving the agricultural chemisus to determine how the barren land shall be proper stage of growth to afford the argest amount of nutriment.-Dr. Nichto determine now the barrent hat a shart be made freithul, we positively assert that Lyon's Kathairon is unequaled as a fertilizer and beautifier of the hair. Twenty-live years of success is the basis of this unqualified state-ment. During that time it has been used by CISTERNS FOR SURFACE WATER .nany millions of both sexes, and the first in many minimus of both series, and the first n-stance it which it has failed to fulfill the ex-pectations of a rational purchaser has yet to be discovered. It will not cause hair to grow on a varialished gourd; but wherever the roots of the birsute fibers remain undisturbed it will cause them to put forth new shoots, and in all cases where the hair has become thin it wit increase its volume.

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Toule, possessing, also, the peculiar merit of acting as a powerful agent in relieving Congestion or Inflam-mation of the Idver, and all the Visceral Organs. FOR FEMALE COMPLAINTS, in young o

id, married or single, at the dawn of womanhood or at me turn of life, these Tonic Bitters have no equal. For Inflammatory and Chronic Rheuma-tism and Gout, Dyspepsia or Indigestion, Billions, Remittent and Intermittent Fevers. Diseases of the Blood, Liver, Rid-neys and Bladder, these Bitters have been most more sful. Such Diseases are caused by Vitlated Blood, which is generally product d by derangement of the Digestive Organs.

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tems, are the off-prings of Dynapsia. They invigente the Stomach and stimulate the torpid Liver and Dowsis, which renoer them of unequalication efficacy in cleansing the blood of all imparities, ac-

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urs, and the health of the system will follow. Pin, Tape, and other Worms, tarking in the Pin, Tape, and other Worms, infing in the system of so many thousands, fare effectually destroyed and removed. Says a distinguished physiologist, there is survey an individual upon the face of the earth whose body is exempt from the presence of worms. It is not upon the healthy elements of the body that worms crist, but upon the diseased humors and slimy deresits that breed these living monsters of disease. No System of Medicine, no writigings, no anthesimilates will free the system from worms like these Bitters.

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private asylums, are cited in proof of Servants are not expected to perform near the farm buildings, for the purpose, this opinion. The State of New York miracles, and keep confee and toast hot The water from the vinter rains and for insanity. and fresh for an hour. Breakfast, such melted snow from a helf acre of land for insanity.

LUMINOSITY OF THE SEA. Prof. Panceri, of Naples, after a long

series of experiments on the phosphores-ence of the sea, is satisfied he has solved that difficult problem. Heretofore the theory of that aquatic

fire which gives waves in a dark night the appearance of liquid fire, was an animation from phosphoric matter in the bodies of very small aquatic mites, so incalculably numerous their combined luminous points gave a volume of brightness on agitating the water. But Prof. Panceri says it is not living organized forms that produce the phenomenon, but the dead matter or desquamations of the surface of their tiny bodies, absorbing solar light, which is given out when put in undulatory motion. There is an analogy in this, found in decayed wood and putrescent fish, which become wonderfully phosphorescent in a moist atmosphere.

# NICKEL PLATING.

Quite a new art has been introduced to the world of manufactures by Mr. Isaac Adams, of Boston. Although an art, it belongs to science, and is, therefore, of interest to chemists. Plating keeps the house, only that in it life with nickel is accomplished by elec- be lived with love and truthfulness. trolysis. The process is simple, but unfortunately being patented, the price of a right to use it is too expensive to be extensively employed.

A NEW FOSSIL BIRD.

Prof. O. C. Marsh, of California, has discovered the skeleton of a biped in the upper cretaceous formation of Western Kansas, that was five feet high. It must have been extinct many ages.

## A Rocky Mountain Cat.

score of years, completely enveloped everything in the vicinity. Almost im-Jim Stewart, sometimes called the mediately after the falling of the thun-"Commodore," is the most noted darkey derbolt, people were seen making their way to the railroad station. Hastily in Erie. He is a good-natured, shrewd sort of a fellow, somewhat addicted to donning our hat, we rushed to the de doing business now and then on the pot to find that the lightning had shat-Jeremy Diddler style, as the following tered the telegraph apparatus and entirely broke the connection. Miss Ellen Babcock (a pupil of Mr. Dicker, the incident will testify: Living near the residence of the Hon. Morrow C. Lowry, operator) was sitting at the table, facing he was frequently employed by the lat-ter to do odd jobs around the house and the instrument, in the act of receiving a in the garden. One day Mrs. Lowry message, when the crash came; and, concluded that the peccadilloes of a although completely stunned, she escaped uninjured. One-half of the sheet of pafamily, were such 'as demanded the in-fliction of capital punishment, and Jim thoroughly scorched. The presumption was called upon to play the part of exc- is that the bolt struck first a telegraph cutioner. After a long chase the victim pole at the corner of Railroad and Buena was captured and put in a basket, over Vista avenue, which is bent from its was captured and put in a basket, over which an old shawl was fastened. The position and shattered at its top, thrownext move was how to dispose of the ing splinters a distance of fifty yards, prisoner. Mrs. Lowry suggested drown- and then branching off, sought the operating rooms at A. A. Cohen's residence ing, but Jim, with tears in his eyes, protested that he could no more drown the cat than he could drown himself; that Mr. Cohen's house the batteries were were he to do so, his conscience, acting shattered, as well as a library in the on a naturally tender heart, would trou- room where the children were at play. ble him so much at nights that he was sure that he would never sleep a wink thereafter. Not wishing to ruin Jim's peace of mind, Mrs. Lowry compromised the matter by giving him a dollar, and the dispose of it any way the matter by giving him a dollar, and the dollar by the hightning made its way the dispose of the dollar by the dispose of the dollar by the matter by giving him a donar, and directing him to dispose of it any way he pleased, so that she should never see it again. Putting the dollar in his pock-et and the basket under his arm, Jim started down town. He had not gone out of sight of the house when he met Morrow walking along leisurely toward front of their various localities.

peace, and not in a flurry of excuses for not having a moal that it was impossible A party of wits once stopped at a tav-

to furnish without inconvenience and discord in the kitchen for the wholeday. When the feast was over, one of PTI. the members called to the hostess. "An-It is foolish to attempt to keep a restaugelique," he said, "Iam going to give rant with only the arrangement suited you a lesson in astronomy. Have you not heard of the great Platonic year, to a small family. The peace of many a family is des,

Lightning Freaks.

when everything must return to its former condition ? Know, then, that in troyed by attempting impossibilities. The breakfast of the late riser need not sixteen thousand years we shall be here have an added tirade against servants. again, on the same day and at the same Realizing that the guest regrets his tar-Will you give us credit till then ? our. diness, she lets the cold breakfast suffice, The hostess, however, had her reply. "I am perfectly willing," she retorted, "but but does what she can by word, look, and act to make the best of what cannot it is just sixteen thousand years since be helped, and really so calls out the you were here before, and you left withgratitude of the late riser, and ever after out paying ; settle the old score, and I that breakfast is a bright and pleasant will trust you on the new." memory ; for he feared he was a nuisance, yet without direct word he felt We translate the following notice from that his act did not discommode the arthe Cincinnati Volksblatt, edited by Fredrangement of the house. His best thought was called out, and that house

crick Hassurek: "THE NEW YORK EVENING MAIL has will stand to him in after life as a home, commenced the issue of a weekly edifor "there is where the heart can bloom." tion, to which we desire to call the at-Housekeeping can be done by any enertention of such of our readers as wish to getic woman. Homekeeping requires that the woman's heart and wisdom be subscribe for a first-class literary and political newspaper. THE MAIL is one of those New York papers which every greater than her house, and that she keeps the house, only that in it life can educated man will read with pleasure, and which may be safely admitted to the most refined family circles. There is not a heavy line in it. Gossipy in the best sense of the word, it is always in-An Almeda, California, paper, of the

30th ult., thus describes a recent thunder storm there : "Suddenly ceasing, apparently to take breath, darkness came over us again, and in an instant a terdence equal to that of the best of the rific crash was heard, and before we old New York dailies. Such a paper is could turn our eyes to the street a stream an honor to journalism, and we reccom of light, such as we have not seen for a mend it once more to our readers.

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yet harmless restorative, dyspepsia, bilious complaints, and all diseases of the stomach, liver, howels and nevves, encounter an irresistible antidote.

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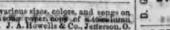


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