

RABIES OR HYDROPHOBIA.

A Frothy Subject Scientifically Considered—Peccolities of a Horrible Disease.

Dr. Guy-Raoul, of Paris, has written a clever pamphlet on rabies. We learn from this pamphlet that the attention of the French Government was attracted by this subject in 1850, and a permanent committee under the celebrated Dr. Tardieu was appointed to report.

In 1860 it was found that 239 cases of rabies had come to the knowledge of the committee, and that of 228 cases 188 had been caused by the bite of the dog, 20 by that of the wolf, 13 by the cat, and 1 by the fox. As regards the season of the year at which the madness occurs, it was found that in taking 181 cases that 66 dogs went mad in June, July and August, 44 in March, April and May, 40 in December, January and February, and 31 in September, October and November.

Of the 108 persons badly bitten, 112 only got the rabies, forty per cent. escaped contagion. Dr. Raoul attributes their escape to the probability of their having been bitten by dogs who had not gone mad spontaneously, but by dogs to whom the disease had been transmitted forcibly. Would it not be more rational to suppose that the virus had been wiped from the tooth in their passage through the garments of the victims?

Out of 147 cases it was remarked that 26 were attacked with the hydrophobia within a month after they were bitten, 33 within a three, 19 within six months, and 9 within a year.

Dr. Guy-Raoul believes a cure hopeless after the mad dog is once declared, and the only preventive is immediate cauterization with an iron at a white heat. On this head between the years 1852 and 1858, 64 cases had a fatal termination where cauterization was not resorted to, 37 where it was performed to late, and 14 where it was insufficient.

The tabular statement certainly proves the efficiency of thorough cauterization, if we are to gather from it that tardy cauterization saved 27, and insufficient cauterization 59 persons during the period mentioned.

To prevent dogs from going mad is of course better than curing a bite, and the doctor conceives that the only way of preventing accidents, which are of too frequent occurrence, is not to allow the rabies to declare itself.

The symptoms of the disease are not difficult to distinguish. The premonitory symptoms are indicated in the animal by a change of character; he becomes restless and sad, and tries to hide himself, he will lie for hours in one position, with his head between his fore legs and pressed against his chest, and will gather his litter under his belly.

A professor Hirtwig has observed that nearly all dogs attacked exhibit a tendency to escape from their homes, generally on the third day of the disease, and the most of them return after an absence of twenty-four hours. It has also been remarked that mad dogs prefer to bite other dogs or cats rather than large animals.

In cases where doubt has existed as to dog suffering from rabies it has sufficed to bring another dog into his presence to decide the matter immediately.

Dr. Guy Raoul makes the curious statement that the sight of a dog will not only bring on the disease in another dog, but will produce the same effect on the horse, the ox and the sheep.

What peculiarity there can be in the canine race to induce incipient madness to declare itself in other animals the doctor does not attempt to explain.

In the case of the ox and the sheep accustomed to be driven by dogs, it may be accounted for by fear or anger, but horses and dogs generally live on familiar terms.

It has been remarked that a sick dog, that shut up and kept perfectly quiet, will die of hydrophobia without showing any signs of violence. But we hope no one will ever attempt this assertion.

President Madison's Wife.

At dinner Mrs. Madison always took the head of the table, Mr. Madison the middle, and one of his secretaries the bottom. Her memory was so good that she never forgot a name, and would address each of her guests, though just introduced with twenty others, as if she had known them for years.

She was a magnificent looking woman in the drawing-room. Her stately and Juno-like figure towered above the rest of the ladies. When she found a timid young girl, she would attend to her most assiduously, conduct her to the piano, and remain with her till she came more at ease.

At one of her receptions, a tall dashing youth, fresh from the backwoods, made his appearance and took his stand against the partition wall. He stood in that position like a fixture for half an hour, and finally ventured to take a cup of coffee, which it was then the custom to hand around.

Mrs. Madison's keen eye had noticed his embarrassment, and she wished to relieve it. She walked up and addressed him. The poor youth, astonished, dropped the saucer on the floor, and unconsciously thrust the cup into his breeches pocket.

"The crowd is so great," remarked the gentlemanly, "that no one can avoid being jostled. The servant will bring you another cup of coffee. Pray, how did you leave your excellent mother? I had once the honor of knowing her, but I have not seen her for some years."

Thus she continued, till the poor youth felt as though he were in the company of an old acquaintance. He took care secretly and soon to dislodge the protuberance in his pocket.

HEARD FROM.—Dan Pratt says Don Chandler, the Senator from Michigan, has been heard from, and he thus announces the intelligence: Senator Puttyface, the great Michigan gentleman who went to Europe in such magnificence, and then disappeared mysteriously from human vision, has been heard from. He is sitting for his bust at Rome.

"Cunatored urns, or animated bust," revive the drooping glories of departed spirits? How natural it is for the famous statesman to have an animated bust in Rome. Has he not had a hundred in Washington? He could have filled Corcoran's new gallery with them.

The artist ought not to work in marble, but give us a head of brass, with a pedestal of pan copper taken from the protected mines of Michigan for the profit of which the great statesman makes up pay tribute. And then it will be like the motten calf worshipped of old.

A VERY SLOW PROCESSION.—When the city of Lawrence, Kansas, was first laid out, the sidewalks were quite narrow, and the citizens, with their New England taste, and for the sake of the shade, planted trees along the borders.

In process of time, convinced of the imprudence of this arrangement, the authorities widened the walks, but did not remove the trees, so that they occupied a row in the middle. Now it so happened that an individual who had remained out until a late hour, and unbent so freely that in attempting to return home he lurched to and fro like a ship in a gale.

He was brought up standing by one of the trees, which he mistook for a wayfarer, when he thus expressed himself: "Hick! Bog pardon sir, (hic) where you, sir, another (hic) time!" But he soon ran against another supposed individual, when the same apology was repeated, and ere long another. He then betook himself to the fence, and supported himself by holding on to the top rail.

In this position he was overtaken by an acquaintance, who inquired what he was standing there for at such a time of night. "Hick! I was waiting," said he, "for that damned procession to pass."

A GENEROUS LANDLORD.—"Excuse me for troubling you," said a gentleman one day to a noted philanthropist, "but there is in your neighborhood a poor woman in the last extremity of misery. If she has not the necessary sum to pay her rent to-day, she will be turned into the street. The sum needed is twelve dollars." The philanthropist took the needed sum from his pocket, and asked the woman's address. "You can give it to me," he replied, taking the money and putting it in his pocket. "I am her landlord. Here is the receipt for the rent. How joyful she will be when you give it to her."

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