

AGES OF CREDULITY.

Superstitions Regarding Remedies For Disease on the Lower East Side In New York-Prescriptions of the Old Time Apothecaries.

An east sider in lower New York suf fering from acute rheumatism was taken to the Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital wearing a pair of eels, long defunct and dried, by way of garters. He showed much distress when they were removed by the nurse, being firmly convinced they would cure his rheumatism in time.

The laugh of science to the contrary notwithstanding, medical delusions in surprising number still survive from the ages of faith. Any physician who practices among the poor and ignorant can testify to this, and it is in particular the staff and students of an institution like the Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital, which receives its patients largely from the lower east side, a quarter teeming with variety, who are made to appreciate most fully the extent of superstition regarding remedies for disease.

Italian immigrants are peculiarly interesting in this respect. They frequently attribute stomach trouble to cat's hairs supposed to have been swallowed and persist in eating eggshells to cure it. They also eat snails as a remedy for consumption, though here they are supported by a highly respectable authority-that of "The Accomplished Physician," published in 1656, which declares that snail water, "owing to the cool, clammy and glutinous substance of the snail," is particularly grateful to the consumptive. These Italians use castor oil whenever their feelings become at all excited, either by joy or sorrow, burn rolls of waxed paper in their ears to cure the earache and willingly go through the even more heroic treatment of lighting fires on their bare stomachs when they have dyspepsia.

The trouble with these people is merely that they have not advanced with the times, but are still holding beliefs which are held by the most intelligent and best educated men of a few centuries ago. An apothecary's shop in Queen Elizabeth's time was stocked with things that strike moderns as singular enough, considered as medicine. These were crabs' claws, foxes' lungs, stags' bearts, boars' tusks, sea horses' teeth, elks' hoofs, precious stones in powder, flying fish, tortoises, alligators, dried toads, worms, scorpions and even human mummies. These latter were quite popular as a remedy for epilepsy, vertigo and palsy, besides being sup- recommended that the first anemone posed to heal wounds and morti Mummy cost 5s. 4d. a pound

The use of herbs and plants as medicines, of course, agrees with modern practice; but the old physicians made the mistake of considering them as possessing semi-magical properties. It was believed that they were the dwelling places of good and evil spirits which worked their good and evil wills upon those who touched them. The old rhyme says:

Trefoil, vervain, John's wort, dill Hinders witches of their will.

And these four plants had extraordinary reputations in the middle ages for both natural and supernatural powers. The trefoil is common in the United States today, especially in the south, and has certain legitimate medical properties. The vervain is allied to our native verbena and was anciently believed to be effective against all poisons and the venom of serpents, as well as against bewitched drinks and the like. It was also efficacious for witchcraft. Anne Bodenham, the celebrated witch of Salisbury, used to send her pupils into the fields to gather vervain and dill. The sun worshipers of Persia always carried vervain when they approached their altars. They gathered it when there was neither sun not moon and poured a libation of honey upon the earth in reparatiion for their robbery. St. John's wort was called "Fuga demonium" in the old days because it routed evil spirits. It was a common ingredient of magical concoctions and is still gathered with much

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ceremony by the peasantry of France and Germany when St. John's day (June 24) comes around.

Solomon's seal was another of the wonder working plants, said to be the herb which Solomon used to cure epi lepsy by placing it in a ring applied to the nostrils of the patient, from which circumstance arose the popularity of the magical ring or seal that figures in so many eastern tales. Curious stories are told of the man-

drake, a scion of the potato family, the fruit of which used to be called the "love apple" (a name later applied to the tomato), no doubt because to eat of it generously produced temporary insanity. It was much used in love philters to awaken the tender passion, and the most efficacious specimens were obtained from the vicinity of gibbets, where evil doers swung by the neck. There was but one way to gather the mandrake, under pain of death for mistake, since the belief was that it groaned aloud when pulled from the ground and that whoever heard the sound fell dead on the spot. The custom was to fasten a dog by the tail to the plant and beat him until in his struggles he tore up the mandrake by the roots. The person superintending the operation had his ears stopped with pitch and so escaped, but the dog, for which the same precaution was not taken, heard the groan and died.

Extraordinary cures were accomplished by some familiar flowers in the olden times. The anemone was thought by the ancients to be an emblem of disease, and Pliny says that physicians

Faubles Great Clothing House.

New Things Arriving Daily IN Men's Wear for

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lish scientific circles by the recent commu-nication from Capts. Boyd Alexander and nication from Capts. Boyd Alexander and G. B. Gosling, who are making a tour of exploration through the Congo, that the party has secured a specimen of the okapi. The avimal was secured in the district of Angu on the River Welle by the captains' Portuguese collector. The latter made several attempts to obtain the animal by means of the rifle, but it was too wary and nimble. At last the Portuguese resorted to the native trapping methods, by dig-ging a pit in which a specimen ultimately fell. Capt. G. B. Gosling has also gather-ed some definite data concerning the some-what speculative nature and habits of the okapi. He states that it is generally found singly and sometimes in pairs, but accord-ing to the Mombatti hunters, groups of three have been seen on rare occasions. He HAR ARACES three have been seen on rare occasions. He also remarks that the okapi frequents baunts where there is a small stream of haunts where there is a small stream of water surrounded with muddy and swam-py ground. In such regions there thrives a certain plant with a very large leaf, growing on a single stalk, and which in-variably attains a height of some ten feet. This leaf constitutes the favorite food of the creature, and Capt. Goaling ventures to suggest that the animal is only to be found in those districts where this plant exists. The creature feeds and provis around through the swamps during the night, since it is never observed in the daytime. It has, however, heen seen feed-ing by the natives up to as late as 8 o'clock in the morning, but very rarely. During the day the animal lurks in the fastnesses and seclusion of the forest, venturing 分 1 and seclusion of the forest, venturing abroad in search of food at dusk. Capt. Gosling on three occasions observed the an-imal busily feeding, and was able to ap-公 proach quite close to it without frighten-ing it away, so that he was able to follow its movements and habits among the 1 公 swamps with perfect ease. Capt. Gosling is the first white man to see the okapi alive and it is anticipated as the result of his close observations, that he will be able to contribute extensively to our meager knowledge of the animal. On these occa-介 sions at first it could bardly be discerned, so carefully was it concealed in the swamp vegetation. The animal is possessed of re-markably acute hearing, and on this ac-count the Mombatti natives class it among the bush-buck, the local name of which in "bungana." Owing to the extreme wariness, even the natives, who are born hunt-ers, very rarely succeed in running it to earth, the most successful methods of se-ですべていていてい curing it being by means of the pit trap-ping. The dead specimen that has been procured will probably be forwarded to one of the English museums, since it is stated to be in excellent condition.—Scientific American. Worse Than Childlessness. There are parts of the world where girl babies are drowned like superfluous kit-tens, and others in which it is not uncommon for the daughters in the large families of the poor to be sold by their parents into lives of prostitution.

The Capture of a Live Okapi.

Great interest has been aroused in Eug-

On the other hand, the pages of history are filled with examples of the devoted lives of childless men and women who have worked unselfishly for the good of their kind. Bachelors and virgins have been the saints of the world, and the childless are the philanthropists, the founders of colleges, hospitals, art collections and libraries, the philosophers, the great writ-ers, leaders and thinkers of the race. Plato, Joan of Arc, Savonarola, George Washing-ton, David Hume, Looke, Spinoza, Thom-

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nized staple of commerce, but, being so hung around the neck. The juice of the expensive, an artificial substitute was invented which is described by Crollius power of hardening steel until no met in his "Royal Chemist" as calling for all could resist it. The peony was used	, 2	volume could be written on the indebted- ness of the world to childless men and wo- men. The pattern of civic virtue with twelve unkempt children and a jaded, care-	DR. J. JONES
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must needs, therefore, include pow- dered precious stones. "Gascon's pow- las, and in the Tyrol today elder bush- las, and in the Tyrol today elder bush-	Fauble Stores for the com-	Bears the Signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER.	railroad ties, and chemical wood. IF YOU WANT TO BUY
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bloodstones stopped bleeding, the onyx forks in this house. They leakWo- prevented epilepsy, the topaz cured in man's Home Companion.	a we and an in our branch being a set	No 1 No 5 No 3 No 6 No 4 No 2 a.m.ip.m.ib.m.iLve. Ar.ip.70.jp.m.is.m.	also for sale a large collection of real and imita- tion shell pins, combs and ornaments and will be able to supply you with all kinds of toilet articles
fiammation, the opal strengthened weak eyes, and the emerald prevented foolishness and aided the memory. Con- "I'll never ask another woman to	the area properly president of give any and any and any and any and	+7 10 6 40 +2 45 BELLEFONTE. 9 40 5 15 9 40 7 21 6 51 2 6	including creams, powders, tollet waters, en- racts and all of Hudnut's preparations. 50-25
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