

THE SALAMANDER.

AN ANIMAL THAT CAN LIVE ONLY IN FIRE

A simple circumstance in the economy of the salamander gave rise to the fable which, attributing to it the power of extinguishing flame, asserted that it was spontaneously generated from fire, and which further bestowed upon it a frame of ice, thus rendering it the chosen poetic emblem of constancy and unshrinkable courage.

"Near the torrid zone," says this marvelous piece of kingly declamation, "are worms, which in our tongue are called salamanders; these worms can only live in fire." The first opinion, however, was evidently the more prevalent one, and scarce a century has passed away since the little animal was very generally sold under the idea that the fiercest conflagration might be subdued by simply throwing it into the levouring element.

It is also asserted by Matthioli, the Italian author, and even by later writers, that the bite of a salamander is more poisonous than that of any viper; but M. de Maupertuis proved that its fragile teeth were incapable of penetrating the skins of any except the most tender animals, and that the bite is perfectly innocuous, as is also the flesh of the animal, which he caused a dog to eat.

The milk fluid which exudes from the pores of the sides and back is somewhat acrid, and causes, according to Lapeole, a burning sensation on the tongue. This substance, which was administered to several animals, occasioned the death of a small lizard which was compelled to swallow it. It is stated by the annotators to Curvier that this fluid may be shot out to the distance of several inches from its body, and, according to Gesner, it acts as a depilatory. No reliance, however, is to be placed in these statements.

A HISTORY OF CHURCH SEATS.—In the early days of the Anglo Saxon and some of the Norman churches, a stone bench, running around the interior of the church, except the east side, was the only sitting accommodation for its members and visitors.

Soon after the Norman conquest, wooden seats were introduced. In 1387 a decree was issued, in regard to the wrangling for seats so common, that none should call any seat in church his own, except noblemen and patrons, each entering and holding the one he first found.

MARRIAGE AND ITS EFFECT ON LONGEVITY.—A job to coax bachelors out of single blessedness, and to decrease the stock of old maids by an increased demand for wives, may be involved in some statements made by the London Review in regard to the relations existing between marriage and longevity. Old maids and bachelors it says, rarely attain to extreme old age, and then it tells of people living to extraordinary ages by wedling a dozen times or so, while Jacob Jax, of Bordeaux, died in 1872, at the age of 101 years, having had seventeen wives in the grave, and Margaret McDowell, a Scotch woman, died in 1765, at the age of 105, having wept at the untimely demise of thirteen men whose names she had borne in rotation.

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BALLOU'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

BALLOU'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.—There are many articles in the March number of BALLOU'S MAGAZINE which should be read.

To Kill Lice on Cattle.

To Kill Lice on Cattle.—A Scientific American correspondent advises the same method for killing lice on cattle that is employed by florists for exterminating bugs that infect plants.

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COFFEE AS A DISINFECTANT

ROASTED COFFEE

With cold water or sweet milk make a batter

M. E. BUCKLEY,

T. W. DICK, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

W. M. H. SCHILLER, Attorney at Law.

KICKING COWS.

The following suggestions may be valuable to our agricultural readers.

It not unfrequently happens that the very best milker in the dairy

is sent to the butcher on account of her vicious kicking or uneasy stepping

about while being milked. One can find such animals too troublesome,

and in despair of curing the animals prefer to get rid of them.

Some heifers are said to inherit the habit, but it is not

tender acquired through the bad treatment received at the hands of their

care takers. Prevention in this case is much better than cure, and a heifer

should become accustomed to being handled long before having her first

calf, and especially just before the event. Pet animals have no such fear

of the law of kindness is never more productive of good results than in the case of milk cows.

A rough, headstrong animal should never be employed in the care of dairy stock.

But, supposing the habit to be formed, how can it be cured?

A Vermont correspondent of the New York Tribune recommends bucking a sureting tight about the body just forward of the udder.

The principle probably is, that the animal used in kicking is so hampered that the animal finds it easier to stand still

The correspondent says it never failed with him. We saw the same thing in practice with a three-year-old heifer

that had just bought. With us it was not a success; far from it. The heifer was so terrified beyond measure at

unwonted pressure, and in her effort to free herself got cast, and cow, milk, pail and principle brought up in the general run.

A much better way and the one adopted with success in this instance, is to sit down as close to the cow as possible, with the knee

sing against her leg. In this position it is almost impossible for her to kick, and if she does she cannot hurt you.

Have little or nothing to say to her, and above all things do not yell out "So Boss!" every time she makes a step.

Pay close attention to business and milk as rapidly as possible. Talk and speak kindly in going into the stall, and never at any time let her get the idea that you have any fear of her.

Another correspondent of the same paper recommends building the cow up her stall in such a way that she cannot move in any direction, and pinning her right foot.

The probability is that a timid cow in such a piliory would be utterly ruined by her struggles to free herself, and even if she were kept quiet would hold up her milk.

The heroic (on the part of the man) treatment will be far the best in most cases.

THE following process, adopted by the farmers of Scotland to cure buttermilk is highly approved; Dr. Anderson

says, "I have eaten butter cured after this fashion that has been kept three years, and it was as sweet as first." Here is the method: Take

quarts of the best common salted butter, and mix with it one ounce of sea-salt; take one ounce of gunpowder, and mix with it one ounce of sugar, and one ounce of fine color, and never acquire a hardness nor tastes salty. It must be noted, however, that butter thus cured requires to stand three weeks or a month before it is used. If it becomes opened, the salts are not sufficiently blended with it, and sometimes the coarseness of the nitre will be perceived, which totally disappears afterwards.

COFFEE AS A DISINFECTANT

Roasted coffee, says the Homeopaths of the world, is one of the most powerful means not only of rendering animal and vegetable matter innocuous, but of destroying them. In proof of this, the statement is made that a room of decomposition had been kept for some time, was instantly deprived of its smell on an open coffee roaster being carried through the room, containing a pound of newly-roasted coffee; and in another room, the effluvia occasioned by the cleaning out of a cess-pool, so that sulphurated hydrogen and ammonia could be clearly detected, was entirely removed on the employment of three ounces of freshly burnt coffee. Refrigerators sometimes get rusty from flesh, fowl, or fish, which in them too long. No remedy so simple as burnt coffee for purifying receptacles can be employed.