

Curiosities of Science.

The following article is well worth the attention of our readers; it is part of an address by Prof. Mages before the Mechanical Institute of New York:

I mention these facts only in the hope of showing you, that there is a pleasure in studying the sciences, and when we come to Natural History, we shall find the study of that still more amusing. The animal and vegetable world are well worthy of observation. Probably you all know what is meant by a *cycloid*. If we make a spot on the periphery of a wheel traveling on a plane, the figure which the spot describes is a cycloid. Now there is no figure in which a body can be moved with so much velocity, and with such regularity of speed, not even the straight line.—Mathematicians discovered this not many years ago; but Nature's God invented it. When the eagle pounces upon his prey, he describes the figure of a cycloid.

A globe, placed in water, or air, in moving meets with resistance, and its velocity will be retarded. If you alter the globe to the form of an egg, there will be less resistance. And then there is a form called the solid of least resistance, which mathematicians studied for many years to discover; and when they had discovered it, they found they had the form of a fish's head. Nature had "rigged out" the fish into just such a figure.

The feathers of birds, and each particular part of them, are arranged in such an angle as to be most efficient in assisting flight. The human eye has a mirror on which objects are reflected, and a nerve by which these reflections are conveyed to the brain, and thus we are enabled to take an interest in the objects which pass before the eye. For, when the eye is too convex, we use one kind of glasses to correct the fault; and if it be not convex enough, or if we wish to look at objects at different distances, we use glasses of entirely another description.

But as birds cannot get spectacles, Providence has given them a method of supplying the deficiency. They have the power of contracting the eye, or making it more convex so as to see the specks which float in the atmosphere, and catch them for food; and also of flattening the eye, so as to see at a great distance, and observe whether any vulture or other enemy is threatening to destroy them. They also have a film, or coating, which can be suddenly thrown down over the eye to protect it; because at the velocity with which they fly, and with the delicate texture of their eye, the least speck of dust would act upon it as a pen knife thrust into the human eye. The film is to protect the eye, and the same thing exists to some extent, in the eye of the horse. The horse has a very large eye, very liable to take dust. This coating in the horse's eye is called the haw or third eyelid, and if you watch closely, you may see it descend and return with electric velocity. It clears away the dust, and protects the eye from injury. If the eye should catch cold, the haw hardens and projects, and ignorant persons cut it off, and thus destroy this safeguard.

You all know, if you take a pound of iron, and make of it a rod a foot long, what weight it will support; make it hollow, and it will support a weight many times greater than before. Nature seems to have taken advantage of this also, long before mathematicians had discovered it, and all the bones of animals are hollow.

The bones of birds are large, because they must be strong to move their large wings with sufficient velocity; but they must also be light, in order to float easily upon the air. Birds also illustrate another fact in natural philosophy. If you take a bag, make it air-tight, and put it under water, it will support a large weight, say an hundred pounds. But twist it, or diminish the air in it, and it will support no such weight. Now, a bird has such an air bag. When he wishes to descend, he compresses it at will, and falls rapidly; when he would rise, he increases it, and floats with ease. He also has the power of forcing air into the hollow part of his body, and thus to assist his flight. The same thing may be observed of fishes. They also have an air bag to enable them to rise or sink in the water till they find their temperature.

If they wish to rise, they increase it; if they wish to sink, they compress it; then diving, makes too strong an effort to compress it; then down he goes to the bottom, and there remains for the rest of his life. Flounders and some other fish, have no air bag, and so they are never found floating on the surface, but must always be caught at the bottom.

In this way are the principles of science applied to almost every thing. You wish to know how to pack the greatest amount of bulk in the smallest space. The form of cylinders leaves large spaces between them. Mathematicians labored hard for a long time to find what figure could be used so as to lose no space; and at last found, that it was the six sided figure, and also that a three-plane ending in a point, formed the strongest roof or door. The honey bee discovered the same things a good while ago. Honey comb is made up of six sided figures, and the roof is built with three-plane surfaces coming to a point.

If a flexible vessel be emptied of air, its sides will be almost crushed together by the pressure of the surrounding atmosphere. And if a tube partly filled with fluid, be emptied of air, the fluid will rise to the top. The bee understands this, and when he comes to the cup of the tall honey-suckle, and finds that he cannot reach the sweet matter at the bottom, he thrusts in his body, shuts up the flower,

and then exhales the air, and so possesses himself of the dust and honey of the flower. The feet of flies, and lizards are constructed on a similar principle, and they thus walk with ease on glass or ceiling. Their feet are so made as to create a vacuum beneath them, and so they have the pressure of the atmosphere, fifteen pounds to the square inch, to enable them to hold on. The cat has the same power to a less extent.

Plants require the sunlight, and some flowers turn themselves towards the sun, as it travels round from East to West.—The sunflower does this, and so does a field of clover. The facts, though we have not yet got at the reason of them, are still extremely interesting.

The Virginia creeper throws out tendrils in the form of a foot with five toes; each toe has a large number of hairs or spines, which entering the small opening of brick or lime, swell and hold on; but when decaying, they shrink and the plant falls off. The vanilla plant of the West Indies exhibits a similar construction, except that it winds itself around other objects.

The gastric juice is worthy of remark. It is a tasteless, colorless, odorless, limpid fluid like water, and is adapted, in different animals, to different purposes.—In the hyena and other carnivorous animals, it will dissolve dead flesh. The creatures then live upon other animals, and even bones are soluble in their gastric juice, while it will not dissolve vegetables at all. On the other hand, some animals live entirely on vegetables, and their gastric juice will not dissolve animal food.

Man cannot alter the nature of an animal by changing its food; it still belongs to the same family. In this particular, bees are better instructed. When they lose their queen bee—which is an entirely different animal from the working bee—if you present another to them within twenty-four hours, they will not accept of her or obey her. They prefer taking an ordinary gub, before it has become a flyer, and feeding it with a particular kind of food, and treating it in a particular way—and when it leaves the grub state it becomes a queen bee, and they always suffer themselves to be governed by her.

In some insect species the males have wings, while the females have none. This is the case with the glow worm; and the female has the property of emitting a phosphorescent light, and were it not for this, the glow worm would never find its mate.

TOUCHING STORY.—The following beautiful and touching story was related by Dr. Schnebly, of Maryland, at a meeting held in New York to hear the experience of twenty reformed drunkards:

A drunkard who had run through his property, returned one night to his unfurnished home. He entered his empty hall—anguish was gnawing at his heart-strings, and language is inadequate to express his agony as he entered his wife's apartment, and there beheld the victims of his appetite—his lovely wife and darling child. Mute and sullen, he stared himself without a word—he could not speak, he could not look upon them. The mother said to the little angel by her side, "Come, my child, it is time to go to bed," and that little babe, as was her wont, knelt by her mother's lap, & gaz ng wistfully into the face of her suffering parent, like a piece of chiselled statuary, slowly repeated her nightly orison; and when she had finished, the child (but four years of age) said to her mother,

"Dear mamma, may I not offer up one more prayer?"

"Yes, yes, my sweet pet, pray," and she lifted up her tiny hands, closed her eyes, and prayed—

"O, God! spare, oh, spare my dear papa!" That prayer was wailed with electric rapidity to the throne of God. It was heard on high—'twas heard on earth. The responsive "Amen" burst from that father's lips, and his heart of stone became a heart of flesh. Wife and child were both clasped to his bosom, and in presence he said,

"My child, you have saved your father from the grave of a drunkard."

Christianity above Controversy.—Those who really value Christianity, and believe in its importance, not only to the spiritual welfare of man, but the safety and prosperity of human society, rejoice that in its revelations and teachings there is so much which mounts above controversy, and stands on universal acknowledgment.—While many things about it are disputed, or are dark, they still plainly see its foundation, and its main pillars; and they behold in it a sacred structure rising up to the heavens. They wish its general principles, and all its great truths, to be spread over the whole earth; but those who do not value Christianity, nor believe in its importance to society or individuals, cavil about sects and schisms, and ring malicious changes upon the shallow and so often refuted objections founded on alleged variety of concordant creeds and clashing doctrines.—Hon. D. Webster.

NOTICE.

IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Letters of Administration have been granted to the subscribers on the Estate of Adam Wheeler, late of Jay township, Elk county, dec'd—therefore, all persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the subscribers, and those having demands will present them duly authenticated for settlement.

JOHN M'CRACKEN,
ISAAC D. PASCO,
Administrators,
Calodonis, Jan. 16, 1847.

DR. OSBORNE'S
INDIAN VEGETABLE RESTORATIVE
PILLS.

Prepared by Dr. George Bennett, of New York, and for sale by the annexed list of agents in Clearfield county.

Invisible Perspiration.

The preceding figure is given to represent the invisible perspiration. It is the great evacuation of the impurities of the body. It will be noticed that a thick cloudy mist issues from all parts of the surface, which indicates that the perspiration flows unimpededly when we are in health, but ceases when we are not so. Life cannot be sustained without it. It is thrown off from the blood and other juices of the body, and disposes by this means of nearly all the impurities within us. The language of the Scripture is "in the blood is life." If the blood ceases to circulate, it may be traced directly to the stopping of the *Invisible Perspiration*. Thus we see all that is necessary when the blood is stagnant or infected, is to open the pores, and it relieves itself from all its impurity instantly. Its own heat and vitality are sufficient, without one particle of medicine, except to open the pores to such internal remedies. Thus we see the folly of fastidious and unscientific physicians, who, however, direct their efforts to restore insensible perspiration.

To give some idea of the amount of the *Invisible Perspiration*, we will state that the learned Dr. Lewis, who has examined that five eighths of all we receive from the stomach passed off by this means. In other words, if we eat and drink eight pounds per day, we excrete five pounds of it by *Invisible perspiration*.

It is by stopping the pores that over-heated mankind, with rheumatism, colds, and consumptions, in general, die. It is the same with the diseases induced by a stopping of the *Invisible Perspiration*.

Let me ask now, every candid mind, what course seems the most reasonable to untie the pores after they are closed? Would you give a physic to untie the pores? Or would you apply something that would do this upon the surface, where the closing actually exists? And yet I know of no physician, who makes any explicit application to effect it. Under these circumstances I present to physicians and to all others, McAllister's *ALL-HEALING OINTMENT*, or *THE WORLD'S SALVE*. It has power to restore perspiration on the surface, where the pores are closed, and in short, upon any part of the body, which either diseased slightly or severely.

It has power to cause all external sores, scrofulous humors, skin diseases, poisonous wounds, to discharge their putrid matters, and then heal them.

It preserves and restores the surface from all derangements of its functions. The surface is the outlet of five-eighths of the late and used up matter within. It is pierced with millions of openings to relieve the interior. Stop up the pores and DEATH knocks at the door. It is rightly termed All-healing, for there is scarcely a disease, either of an internal nature, that will not be healed, if I have used it for the last fourteen years for all diseases of the chest, consumption, liver, involving the utmost danger and responsibility, and I declare before heaven and man, that not in one single case has it failed to benefit, when the patient was within the reach of mortal means.

I have had Ministers of the Gospel, Judges of the Bench, Aldermen, and Members of the House of Representatives, and MULTITUDES of the poor use it in every variety of way, and there has been but one voice, one united, universal voice, saying, "McAllister, your Ointment is a *WORLD'S SALVE*."

CONSUMPTION. It can hardly be credited that a salve can have any effect upon the lungs, seated as they are within the system. But if placed upon the chest, it penetrates directly to the lungs, separates the poisonous particles that are consuming them and expels them from the system. It is curing persons of consumption continually.

The Salve has cured persons of the Headache of 12 years standing, and who had it regularly every week, so that vomiting often took place.

COLD FLEET. Consumption, Liver Complaint, pain in the chest, or Rheumatism of the back, and of the arms, always accompanies cold feet. It is a sure sign of disease in the system to have cold feet.

This Ointment is the true remedy for SCROFULA, ERYSIPELAS, SALT RHEUM, LIVER COMPLAINT, SORE EYES, QUINCY, SORE THROAT, BRONCHITIS, BROKEN OR SORE BREAST, PILES, all chest diseases, such as ASTHMA, COUGHS, RHEUMATISM, SORE LEGS, CHAPPED HANDS, TENDON, CUTANEOUS ERUPTIONS, NERVOUS DISEASES, and of the SPINE.

There is no medicine now known so good.

BURNS. It is the best thing in the world for Burns. Read the directions around the box.

WORMS. It will drive every variety of them away. Read the directions around the box. There is probably no medicine on the face of the earth that cures so many and so various affections as this.

COLD SORES. That some sores are an outlet to the impurities of the system, is because they cannot pass off through the natural channel of the *Invisible Perspiration*. If such sores are healed up, the impurities must have some other outlet, or it will endanger the life. This Salve will always provide for such emergencies.

RHEUMATISM. It removes almost immediately the inflammation and swelling when the pain of course ceases.

SCALD HEAD. We have cured cases that actually defoliated the scalp, as well as the ability of fifteen or twenty doctors. One man told us he had spent \$500 on his children without any benefit, when a few boxes of the ointment cured them.

CORNS. Occasional use of the ointment will always keep them from growing. People need not be troubled with them if they will use it.

As A FAMILY MEDICINE, no man can measure its value.

JAMES McALLISTER, & Co., Sole proprietor. Price 25 cents per box.

CAUTION. "No Ointment will be genuine unless the names of James McAllister or James McAllister & Co. are written with a pen upon EVERY LABEL." PRICE 25 CENTS PER BOX.

E. & W. F. IRWIN, Agents for Clearfield county, Clearfield, Dec. 25, 1846.—1y.

IT IS WRITTEN

IN THE BOOK OF NATURE AND OF COMMON SENSE; that the natural vegetable productions of every country are, if properly applied amply sufficient for the cure of every malady incident to each peculiar climate.

Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills,
OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HEALTH

These extraordinary Pills are composed of plants which grow spontaneously on our own soil, and are, therefore better adapted to our constitution than Medicines concocted from foreign drugs, however well they may be compounded; and as WRIGHT'S INDIAN VEGETABLE PILLS are founded upon the principle that the human body is in truth

SUBJECT TO BUT ONE DISEASE,
namely, corrupt humors, and that said Medicine cures this disease—

NATURAL PRINCIPLES,
by cleansing and purifying the body, it will be manifest that, if the constitution be not entirely exhausted, a perseverance in their use, according to directions, is absolutely certain to drive disease of every name from the body.

When we wish to restore a swamp or morass to fertility, we drain it of the superabundant water. In like manner, if we wish to restore the body to health, we must cleanse it of impurities.

WRIGHT'S INDIAN VEGETABLE PILLS will be found one of the best, if not the very best medicine in the world for carrying out this

GRAND PURIFYING PRINCIPLE,
because they expel from the body all morbid and corrupt humor, the cause of the disease, in an easy and Natural Manner; and while they every day GIVE EASE AND PLEASURE, disease of every name is rapidly driven from the body.

Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills
Can be had genuine of the following highly respectable storekeepers in Clearfield County.

Richard Shaw, Clearfield;
Daniel Barrett, Curwinstville;
David Irwin, Luthersburg, Elk County.
Cobb & Gallagher, Ridgeway;
George Heis, St. Marys, Centre County.
Brockerhoff & Irwin, Bellefonte;
J & J Potter, Potlers Mills;
Adam Fisher, Centreville;
O P Duntan, Aronsburg;
Samuel Lipton, Milesburg;
Henry Adams, Walkersville;
Wm Murray, Pine Grove Mills;
George Jack, Boalsburg;
H L Musser, Manheim;
Irvin & Whitaker, Coverley Hall;
Duncan & Hays, Spring Mills;
F Bukhardt, Rabersburg;
Jacob Homan, Centreville.

BEWARE OF CONTEMPTIBLE.—The public are cautioned against the many spurious medicines which in order to deceive, are called by names similar to Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills.

The only original and genuine Indian Vegetable Pills have the signature of Wm. Wright written with a pen on the top label of each box. None other is genuine, and to counteract this forgery, the Offices devoted exclusively to the sale of WRIGHT'S INDIAN VEGETABLE PILLS of the North American College of Health, No. 288 Greenwich Street, New York, No. 198 Tremont street, Boston; and PRINCIPAL OFFICE, No. 169 Race Street, Philadelphia.

NEW GOODS.

LEONARD & MOORE
ARE now receiving and opening at their old stand in the borough of Clearfield, a fresh and well assorted stock of

Fall and Winter Goods,

Consisting of cloths, cassimeres, satinets, well assorted; cashmeres, alpacas, merinos, mouss de laines, bombazines, cap and bonnet ribbons, ladies and gentlemen's gloves, hosiery, bonnets that can't be beat, shawls of every variety, handkerchiefs, prints of all descriptions, muslins of every quality, sole leather, sheet iron, cast-steel, tinware, hardware, groceries, bats, ladies and gents shoes, hats and caps, &c. &c.

All of the above stock of goods will be sold low for CASH, and exchanged for COUNTRY PRODUCE.

The highest prices given for FURS and SKINS, FLAX, CLOVER and TIMOTHY SEED, GRAIN, BEES WAX, HOME MADE FLANNEL, &c. &c.

Nov. 27, 1846.

WAR! WAR!!

Not with Mexico but with the old Tyrant

RHEUMATISM.

DR. WM. P. HILLS, feeling much sympathy for those afflicted with Rheumatism, takes this method of inviting them to call at his office and get cured.—This method is almost new, and very simple, but will positively effect a cure on the most scientific principles. Rheumatism has long been a desideratum with physicians, and it is only of late that the true principle of cure has been discovered.

He would state, to all concerned, that he has already performed a number of cures, and can confidently assert that his is the only true method.

TRY IT AND SEE.
Clearfield Nov. 3, 1846.

NOTICE.

LETTERS of Administration having been granted to the subscriber on the Estate of Lewis W. Smith, late of the borough of Clearfield, dec'd,—all persons having claims or demands against the estate are requested to make the same known to me without delay, and all persons owing the said estate are required to come forward and make settlement in like manner.

Ferdinand P. HURXTHAL,
Administrator,
Clearfield, 22d Feb, 1847.

DR. E. GREEN'S
RED & BROWN PILLS.

THE demand for the above medicine in the last 2 or 3 years, is deemed a sufficient apology for placing it now fully before the people; and the diseases for which it is applicable have become so prevalent in this country that a remedy entitled to confidence, is a great desideratum.

The diseases I allude to are Hepatitis, (Liver Inflammation,) Dyspepsia, and female complaints in general.

The above pills will be kept constantly for sale by

Richard Shaw, Clearfield,
Bigler & Co., Bell township,
Graham & Wright, Bradford
Oct. 20, 1846.

TAKE NOTICE.

LETTERS of Administration having been granted to us on the estate of George Shaffer, late of Brady township, Clearfield county, dec'd, all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the said deceased are requested to make known the same without delay, and all persons indebted are requested to come forward and make payment.

JACOB SHAFER,
GEO. SHAFER,
Administrators.
Brady tp. 17th Feb. 1847.

BRANDRETH PILLS.

JUST received a fresh supply of Brandreth's justly celebrated pills with directions for use. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by E. & W. F. Irwin, who are the only authorized agents in the borough of Clearfield.
Nov. 27, 1846.

Meeting of County Comm'rs.

PERSONS having business to transact with the board of Commissioners of Clearfield county, will take notice that said board will be in session on Monday the 3d day of May next.

ATTESTED,
H. P. THOMPSON, Clk.
March 6, 1847.

TINWARE.

A general assortment of Tinware will be constantly kept on hand, of the best quality, well made.

KRATZER & BARRETT'S,
July 29.

TO MILL OWNERS.

THE attention of mill owners and others is respectfully invited to *Bryce's Patent Water-wheel,* (made of cast iron,) which has been recently introduced into this county. The subscriber feels confident that they are superior to any other wheel now in use in this country, and he desires all persons interested to see them in operation and judge for themselves. He would refer to the following gentlemen who have them in their mills, viz:—James Shaffer, John Miller, Jacob Coleman, and James Mix, on the Sinnemahoning; E. & W. F. Irwin, Clearfield; Levi Louz, Frenchville; and Wm. Irwin, Curwinstville.

A. COWLES.
Clearfield, Jan. 16, 1847.
BLANKS for sale at this office.