

## The King of Siam and His Family.

This Ruler of a Strange Country Proposes to Make a Visit to the United States.

**K**ING LEOPOLD of Belgium is not the only royal personage who is contemplating a visit to this country. It is on the cards that the King of Siam and his family are to journey to the United States some time in the near future. If the ruler of this strange country does pay us a visit it will be with all the accessories of Oriental splendor. We do not have to go back many years to find Siam almost, if not quite, as exclusive to European influences as China is to-day.

One of the most remarkable illustrations of the changes which are taking place in the Orient is furnished by the Crown Prince of Siam, who is now a student at Oxford University and



**THE QUEEN OF SIAM IN NATIVE COSTUME** about to publish a book on the war of the Polish succession. Phya Charoon Raja Maitri, who is coming here as first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Siam to the United States in order to pave the way for his royal master's visit, has had a career probably more remarkable than any of the other diplomats in Washington. Co-in of his King as he is, he has



**THE KING OF SIAM IN ROYAL ATTIRE.**  
—From Harper's Weekly.

Phya Charoon is about thirty-seven years old. Like most Siamese he is below medium size, according to our standards, but is of fine physique, deep chested, muscular and straight. He will be a particularly gorgeous Minister. In Siam his collection of jewelry is no finer than that of many other men of high rank, but Siam has been amassing gems for many generations. He has emeralds, rubies, pearls and sapphires sewed into some of his ceremonial costumes. Besides these he has his more personal jewelry; diamonds, pearls, in rings, pins, belts and pendants. With all his decorations on, chief among them blazing the blue-white diamonds of the Order



**THE SIAMESE KING'S EIGHTEEN CHILDREN, BY HIS VARIOUS WIVES.**  
—From Harper's Weekly.

of the White Elephant and the prismatic goodness of the Chinese Crown is literally a dazzling center of radiance. His home in Bangkok is a spacious palace by the river side, filled with retainers and slaves, who serve him, his several wives and their numerous children. The carvings and bronzes and other works of art would furnish a museum. He has a separate slave for each detail of service especially trained and the bearer of the betel-nut box would never be expected to carry the parasol, or the steersman of the ceremonial boat to tend a door. Not always has Phya Charoon lived thus. Siam is the home of the most rigid Buddhism, and the envoy is a pious Buddhist. By the precepts of that religion as practiced in Siam, every nobleman must serve in the priesthood a certain time. The King himself has been a priest. Phya Charoon spent his allotted time as a novice in one of the monasteries, where he became so imbued with the religion that he donned the yellow robe of the mendicant, renounced his riches and begged his food from door to door.

After completing his priesthood he studied diplomacy, and then traveled. He speaks English. It is not likely that he will bring any of his wives with him.

**Shaving in Public.**  
The most public barber shop in New York has just been started in a room in the Grand Central Station which opens into the main passageway from the elevated railroad platform to the main waiting room. It is a small, shallow room, and the side toward the passageway is almost entirely glass. The chairs are within five or six feet of the passersby and every expression on the faces of the men in them can be seen plainly. Thousands of people pass this glass-fronted barber shop every day and since the barbers have begun work not a few of these people have stopped to stare at the men being shaved as if they had never seen a barber shop before.—New York Sun.

Of the 1577 towns in New England 101 manage their schools under the district system, eighty-one of them being in Connecticut.

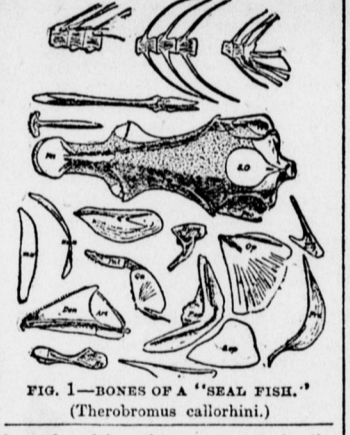
## Curiosities of Ichthyology.

By Charles Minor Blackford, Jr., M. D.

**T**HE study of ichthyology is attended with greater practical difficulties than is that of any other branch of natural history, and on account of this it is far behind its sister sciences in the degree of completeness to which it has attained. Land animals may be tracked to their most secret lairs, patient research will reveal the most

cunningly hidden nests, but it is impossible to pass beneath the waves to watch the habits of "all that dwell therein." "The way of a fish in the sea" is almost as much a mystery now as in the days of Solomon, and what is known but shows the extent of the unknown.

Suppose that a visitor from some other planet were to come on an exploring expedition to our earth, but that his vessel could come no nearer than several miles, while our atmosphere was opaque to his vision and unfitted for his respiration. Under such circumstances his position would not be unlike our own in regard to the sea, and it may be perceived that in either case the knowledge to be gained must be scant and fragmentary. The astral explorer might capture a few of the lowest animals in his nets and dredges; he would probably obtain some worms, but he would be unlikely to take a bird, quadruped, man or any other thing that has the power of locomotion. For the same reasons the investigation of the sea has been slow and unsatisfactory, and but little has been made out of even the commonest fishes. Many species and some genera are known by single specimens, and in several instances these have



**FIG. 1—BONES OF A "SEAL FISH."**  
(Therobromus callorhini.)

been found by what appears to be the purest chance. Quite a number of rare specimens have been obtained from the stomachs of other aquatic animals. The greater number of fishes are carnivorous and most of them are voracious feeders, greedily swallowing anything of a suitable size that presents itself. A shark's stomach sometimes contains a remarkable assortment of objects, and sometimes rarities are discovered, for sharks are more intent on the quantity than the quality of their food. There is a genus of fish called the Tarletonbeana, in honor of Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, a distinguished ichthyologist, but of it only three specimens are known to exist. Of these, one was taken from the stomach of an Albatross off the coast of California, one came from a Sebastodes miniatus, and the third was blown on board of a boat during a storm.

A still stranger example is that of the "seal fish." In making some investigations into the life of the fur seal a few years ago, it was necessary to determine the character of the food on which it subsists. To do this, the stomachs of numbers of seals were opened and their contents examined, and in them the remains of a new kind of fish were found to very common. Nothing but the bones (Fig. 1) have been found, but these in such numbers as to show that there must be vast quantities of these little fish, although up to the present time no one has seen one in life. The sea is the great home of aquatic life, but the fresh waters well repay research. The "lung fishes," that can breathe atmospheric air, and thus avoid polluted waters, or the mud fishes, that are captured by digging them up, are interesting variations from the general rule, but the subterranean species are most wonderful. The blind fishes found in our great limestone caverns and those from the ditches of the rice-fields are fam-

iliar, but the secrets of "the waters under the earth," are not yet made plain. A few years since a station was established by the United States

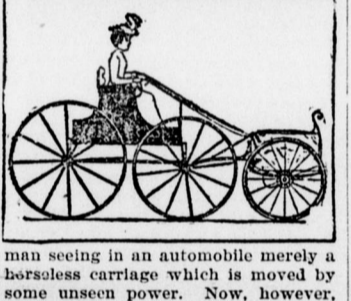


**FIG. 2—TYPHLOMOLGE RATHBUNI.**  
(Drawn from life.)

Fish Commission at San Marcos, Texas. An artesian well was bored, and a flow of 1200 gallons of water per minute obtained at a depth of 188 feet. The boring was through almost solid limestone, the "log" of the well showing that one tunnel some two feet in diameter was pierced, but the flow has brought up numbers of living organisms, all new to science. So far four species of shrimps and a salamander have been described, but these have been abundant. Dr. James E. Benedict, of the Smithsonian Institution, described and named the shrimps, and Dr. L. Steiner, of the same establishment, did the same for the salamander. He gave it the name of Typhlomolge Rathbuni, in honor of Mr. Richard Rathbun, the assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The accompanying illustration gives an accurate conception of this strange animal. Its head is large and prolonged forward into a flattened snout in which is the mouth. The eyes are covered by the skin and are visible only as two black specks. Behind the head the external gills form festoons about the neck, their vivid scarlet making a sharp contrast with the dingy white skin. The four legs are in two pairs, the anterior ones having four fingers, or toes and the posterior ones having five. It terminates in a flattened, eel-like tail.—Scientific American.

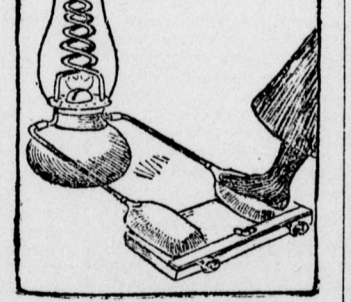
**Automobile to Drive With Reins.**  
While there are several kinds of automobiles it is only an expert who can distinguish them, the ordinary lay-



man seeing in an automobile merely a horseless carriage which is moved by some unseen power. Now, however, an automobile has been invented in Massachusetts which differs widely from those in use at present. It consists of an ordinary four-wheeled carriage, in front of which is a traction motor. The latter is mounted on separate wheels and is connected by couplings with the axle of the carriage. It is also provided with reins, by means of which it can be guided and controlled.

As the accompanying picture shows, this motor is driven very much in the same manner as a horse, and for this reason it is claimed that it will commend itself specially to women. The reins are so adapted that when either L pulled the motor is at once guided to that side and when both are pulled a brake is set in motion. This arrangement is certainly more simple and artistic than the ordinary method of guiding and controlling an automobile, but whether it will work in practice remains to be seen.—Chicago Record-Herald.

**New Use For the Lamp.**  
Hot water bags have grown to be a positive necessity in the household of late years, one great advantage of this being that they retain the warmth for an extended period of time. But the heat will eventually diminish beyond the point, where the water bag is useful, when the water must be renewed. As this cannot always be done conveniently it has occurred to Samuel A. Gotcher that the water might be constantly maintained at the required temperature by an arrangement attached to an ordinary lamp. He has applied the thought in the manner shown, simply connecting two bags with a coil of pipe in conjunction with the flame. As the latter can be readily regulated it is easy to vary the temperature to suit requirements. The



**WATER HEATER FOR THE FEET.**

inventor does not confine himself to the use of the heater for indoor purposes, but applies the same principle to the heating of foot-warmers in carriages and sleighs, obtaining the heat from a lantern carried on the dashboard for lighting the roadway.

## DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON

SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

**Subject: The Sweet Influences—We Are Affected For Good or Evil By Forces That We Seldom Recognize—Importance of Good Actions.**

(Copyright, 1901.)  
WASHINGTON, D. C.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage demonstrates that we are affected by forces that we seldom recognize and enlarges upon human accountability. The text is Job xxxvii, 31, "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades?"

What is the meaning of that question which God put to Job? Have we all our lives been reading it, and are most of us ignorant of its beauty and posing and practical suggestiveness? A meaningless passage of Scripture many thought it to be, but the telescopes were busy age after age, and astronomical observations kept on questioning the skies until the meaning of my text comes out lustroously. The Pleiades is a constellation of seven stars appearing to the naked eye, but scientific instruments reveal more than 400 properly belonging to the group. Alcyon is the name of the brightest star of that group called the Pleiades. A Russian astronomer observed that Alcyon is the centre of gravitation of our solar system. Hugh Macmillan says that the sun and its planets wheel around that centre at the rate of 422,000 miles a day in an orbit which will take 19,000,000 years to complete. The Pleiades appear in the spring-time and are associated with flowers and genial warmth and good weather. The migration of the Mediterranean was from May to November, the rising and the setting of the Pleiades. The priests of Belus noticed that rising and setting 2000 years before Christ.

Now, the glorious meaning of my text is plain as well as radiant. To give Job the beautiful grace of humility God asked him, "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades?" Have you any power over the laws of gravitation? Can you modify or change an influence wielded by a star more than 400,000 miles away? Can you control the winds of the spring-time? Can you call out the flowers? How little you know compared with omniscience? How little you can do compared with omnipotence!

It is probable that Job had been tempted to arrogance by his vast attainments. He was a metallurgist, a zoologist, a poet, and shows by his writings he had knowledge of hunting, of music, of husbandry, of medicine, of mining, of astronomy and perhaps was so far ahead of the scholars and scientists of his time that he may have been somewhat puffed up; hence this interrogation of my text. And there is nothing that so soon takes down human pride as an interrogation point rightly thrust. Christ used it mightily. Paul mounted the pulpit of his great arguments with such a battery. Men of the world understand it. Demosthenes began his speech to the crown and Cicero his oration against Catiline and Lord Chatham his most famous orations with the question, "The empire of ignorance is so much vaster than the empire of knowledge that after the most learned and elaborate disquisition upon any subject of sociology or theology the plainest man may ask a question that will make the wisest speechless. After the profoundest assault upon Christianity the humblest disciple may make an inquiry that would silence a Voltaire."

Called upon, as we all are at times, to defend our holy religion, instead of arguing the question, "The empire of ignorance is so much vaster than the empire of knowledge that after the most learned and elaborate disquisition upon any subject of sociology or theology the plainest man may ask a question that will make the wisest speechless. After the profoundest assault upon Christianity the humblest disciple may make an inquiry that would silence a Voltaire."

How did it happen that our religion furnished the theme for the greatest poem ever written, "Paradise Lost," and to the painters their greatest themes in the "Adoration of the Magi," "The Transfiguration," "The Last Supper," "The Crucifixion," "The Entombment," "The Last Judgment," and that all the schools of painting put forth their utmost genius in presenting "The Madonna?" Why was it that William Shakespeare after amazing the world as he will amaze the centuries with the splendor and power of "The Merchant of Venice," and "Coriolanus," and "Richard III," and "King Lear," and "Othello," and "Macbeth," and "Hamlet" wrote with his own hand his last will and testament, beginning with the words, "In the name of God, amen! I, William Shakespeare, of Stratford-on-Avon, in the County of Warwick, in perfect health and memory (God be praised!) do make and ordain this my last will and testament, wherein the only merits of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, shall be made partaker of life everlasting and my body to the earth whereof it is made?" Had Shakespeare lost his reason when he wrote his faith in Christ and the great atonement? Put your antagonism to a few questions like that, and you will find him excusing himself for an engagement he must meet immediately.

These words also recognize far-reaching influences. Job probably had no adequate idea of the distance of the world's centres from our world, but he knew them to be far off, and we, who have had the advantage of modern sidereal investigation, ought to be still more impressed than was Job with the question of the text, as it puts before us the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of miles distant have a grip on our world. There are sweet influences which hold us from afar. There may have been in our ancestral line perhaps 2000 years ago some consecrated man or woman who has held over all the generations since an influence for good which we have no power to realize, and we in turn by our virtue or vice may influence those who shall live 200 years from now. Moral gravitation is as powerful as material gravitation, and as my text teaches and science confirms the Pleiades, which are millions of miles from our earth, influence the earth we ought to be impressed with how we may be influenced by others far away back and how we may influence others far down the future. That rill away up among the Alleghanies, so thin you think it will hardly find its way down the rocks, becomes the mighty Ohio, rolling into the Mississippi and rolling into the sea. That word yet uttered, that deed yet done may augment itself as the veils go by until rivers cease to roll and the ocean itself shall be dried up in the burning of the world. Paul, who was all the

time saying important things, said nothing more startlingly suggestive than he declared, "None of us liveth to himself." Wouldst thou, O man, have an eternity of flight?

As Job could not bind the sweet influences of the Seven Stars, as they were called, so we cannot arrest or turn aside the good projects for which we are influenced were started centuries before our cradle was rocked and will reign centuries after our graves are dug. Oh, it is a tremendous thing to live! God help us to live aright.

Astronomers can only locate the Pleiades. They will not reach as their observatories on a clear night and aim their revealing instrument toward the part in the heavens where those seven stars have their habitude, and they will point to the constellation Aurus, and you can see for yourself. But it is impossible to point to influences far back that have affected our character and will affect our destiny. We know the influences near by—paternal, maternal, conjugal—but by the time we have gone back two generations, or, at most, three, our investigations falter and fail. Through the modern, interesting habit of searching back to find the ancestral tree we may find a long list of names, but they are only names. The consecration or abandonment of some one 200 years ago was not recorded. It would not be so important if you and I, by our good or bad behavior, blessed or blasted by those immediately around us, but our goodness or our badness will radiate as the strongest ray of Alcyon—yes, across the eternity. Under this consideration, what do you think of those who give themselves up to frivolity or idleness and throw away fifty years of their existence as though they were shales or pebbles or pods instead of embryo eternities?

I suppose one of the greatest surprises of the next world will be to see what wide, far-reaching influence for good or evil we have all exerted. I am speaking of ourselves, who are only ordinary people. But who can fully appreciate the far-reaching good done by men of wealth in Great Britain for the working classes—Mr. Lister, of Bradford; Edward Akroyd, of Halifax; Thomas Sikes, of Huddersfield; Joseph Wentworth, and Josiah Mason, and Sir Titus Salt? This last great soul, with his vast wealth, provided 736 houses at cheap rent for 3000 working people, and chapel and cricket ground and croquet lawn and concert hall and savings bank, where they might deposit sweat as well as tears, and life insurance for those who looked further ahead, and bathhouses and parks and museums and lecture halls with philosophical apparatus, the generous example of those men of a previous generation being copied in Canada and the United States, making life, which would otherwise be a prolonged drudgery, an inspiration and a joy.

If something appeals against us, they say, "Wait till I hear the other side." If disaster shall befall you, know from whom would come the first condolence. Family friends, church friends, business friends, lifelong friends. In our heart of hearts we cherish them. When the heirs of a vast estate in England wished to establish a fund to properly worth \$100,000,000 they offered a reward of \$500 for the recovery of an old Bible, the family record of which contained the evidence requisite. But any Bible, new or old, can help us to a wiser inheritance than the one spoken of, one that never fades away.

The sweet influences of the heavenly world, which many wise men thought for a long while was Alcyon, the centre of the constellation of the Pleiades—world of our future, world of our present, world of chorus and illumination; world of reunion; world where we shall be everlastingly complete; world where our old faculties will be intensified and quickened and new faculties implanted; world of high association with Christ, through whose grace we got there in all, and apostles and poets, Habakkuk, and St. John of Patmos, and Edward Young, his "Night Thoughts" turned into eternal day; and Horatius Bonar of modern hymnology, and Hannah More, who radiated from Christ are the sweetest. Born an Asiatic villager, in a mechanic's home, living more among hammers and saws and planes than among books, yet at twelve years of age confounding robed ecclesiastics and starting out a mission under which those born without optic nerve took in the clear daylight and those afflicted with unresponsive tympanum were made to hear and those almost doubled up with deformities were straightened into graceful poise through leprosy became rubeant and the widow's only son exchanged the bier on which he lay lifeless for the arms of his overjoyed mother and pronouncing nine benedictions on the Mount of Beatitudes and doing deeds and speaking words which are filling the centuries with sweet influences.

Christ started every ambulance, kindled every electric ray, spread every soft hospital pillow and introduced all the alleviations and pacifications and rescues and mercies of all time.

He was the loveliest being that ever trod our earth—more beauty in His eyes, more tenderness in His manner, more gentleness in His footsteps, more music in His voice, more dignity in His brow, more gracefulness in the locks that rolled upon His shoulders, more compassion in His soul. Sweet influences of the Holy Ghost, with all His transforming and comforting and emancipating power. When that power is fully felt there will be no more sins to pardon, and no more errors to correct, and no more sorrows to comfort, and no more bondage to break. But as the old-time ship captains watched the rising of the Pleiades for safe navigation and set sail in Mediterranean waters, but were sure to get back into port before the constellation Orion came into sight—the season of cyclone and hurricane—so there is a time to sail for heaven, and that is while the sweet influences are upon us and before the storms overtake and delay. Open all your soul to the light and warmth and comfort and inspiration of that gospel which has already peopled heaven with millions of the ransomed and is helping other millions to that glorious destination. Do not postpone the things of God and eternity until the storms of life swoop and the agitation of a great future are upon us. Do not dare wait until Orion takes the place of the Pleiades. Weigh anchor now and with chart unrolled and pilot on board head for the seasons and rapids that await all souls forgiven as "And the sun, no candle, neither light nor the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever."