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MUNN \& COMPANY, Editors and Proprietors.
publisiee weekly at
NO. 37 PARK ROW (PARE BUILDING), NEW YORK
o. d. Munn, S. II. Wales. A. E. beach

VOL. XIX., No. 12 ...[New Series.]....7boenty-third Year
NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1868.


## hippophagy.

The New York Medical Journal, for August contains a long article which takes strong ground in favor of the intròduction of hippophagy among the civilized races of Europe and America. The name, which is probably supposed to confer dignity upon the subject, means the practice of eating horseflesh. The first argument adduced in its favor is the humanity of the practice. . The poor old skeletons of horses, which are seen dragging themselves and fish, fruit, or oyster wagpainfully labor, early and late, seem to have been specially painfully labor, early and late, seem to have been specially
made to supply each others necessities, and to mutually alleviate each others' woes. The latter by eating, and the former by being eaten,will thus fulfill the end which kind Providence foreordained for them, and which nothing but silly prejudice and religious bigotry lave hitherto prevented. It is not pretended that anything but old horses can be afforded for food, and it is only such that it would be humane to est. It is urged, that in refusing to eat horseflesh, the civilized races are an exception to the rest of mankind. We freely acknowledge that the civilized races do not eat many things that are edge that the civilized races do not eat many things that are
considered efcellent diet in many parts of the world. Rats, considered efcellent diet in many parts of the world. Rats,
dogs, insects, and the bodies of men themselves are to be dogs, insects, and the bodies of men themselves are to be
found upon the well-furnished tables of people in various parts found upon the well-furnished tables of people in various parts
of the globe. Neither are such people so nice in their disof the globe. Neither are such people so nice in their dis-
tinctions about the parts of animals which are fit to be eaten, as their more civilized brethren. They avoid the extraordinary waste of food attendant upon the practice of dressing the bodies of animals in vogue among us. It is with feelings of envy that we read of an African native devouring the warm, raw entrails of recently slaughtered beeves,and we are almost inclined to urge upon the soft-hearted hippophagist who so ably sets forth his views in the New York Medical Journal that it would be a good thing to call the attention of poor women to this cheap (and save for vulgar prejudice) good, wholesome, and even palatable diet.
It is stated that the advent of Christianity put an end to the use of horsefiesh as food in ancient Germany, and in othe parts of the world, where it had been in use among the pagans for "sacred feasts, and for pagan altars;" and that it was the love of Christianity that put a stop to the practice in Iceland. We feel sorry that Christianity, which we have been hitherto disposed to regard as the great regenerating element in this otherwise benighted world,should have so afflicted old horses, depriving them of the blessing of being knocked on the head as soon as their strength began to decline, to re appear upon the tables of the poor in all the different forms of roast, and boiled, and hashed, and warmed over, which it is so delightful and appetizing to think of. It is within the limits of reason to suppose that colts, sometimes deformed from birth, might be killed, at an early period of life, when their flesh would be almost equal to veal, and the suffering poor might then be admitted to the luxury of colts foot jel lies, and cutlets. Boiled colt's head seems a good dish fo lies, and cutlets. Boiled colt's head seems a good dish for
the poor, and the broth would be of service in case of sick the p nes.
The Cossacks eat horse, and even drink the blood of the animal. If they can do this, the custom is, of course to be recommended to the civilized poor, and doubtless a good drink of horse blood would enable many a miserable seamstress to accomplish one shirt per diem more than she could without, and it would certainly be better than the blood of "John Barleycorn," which is now too often indulged in, and is also more expensive.
It is admitted, that its taste is peculiar, and that it is apt to be tough ; but then the appetites of the poorer classes are known to be excellent, and their teeth are generally'good because they don't eat many sweetmeats. So these objections are of no account.

The horse is subject to glanders, which is communicable to man, and is a most horrible, loathsome, and fatal disease. To aid to have experimented upon the meat of horses which had the disease, that it is not communicable after the flesh is boiled. Now what poor woman can be so blinded by prejudice as to refuse horsefiesh after that. It reminds us of the old lady who advised her son to always eat his chestnuts "biled," because "biled worms were never known to hurt anybody." Who knows but glanders and poll evil may not yet be discovered by some savant to impart rich and peculiar flavors to the flesh of old horses ; or that coup, made from the spavined shinbones of these animals, may not prove a specific for the scrofulous taints engendered by filth and darkS
Surely the civilized world ought to hail the resumption of hippophagy, and erect monuments to the humane individuals who have leen instrumental in reviving the practice. We think it would be well, also, to give some attention to cats and dogs. They are easily raised, and can also be killed at an age when their lives have become a burden, and would no doubt furnish good food for paupers. The Government should immediately provide for the supply of such meat to the pris ons and almshouses, and it might not be inexpedient to serv it out in rations to the army and navy; thus lessening th public expenditures and aiding in the payment of the nation al debt. Let us hope, friends of humanity! A ne
dawning. Let not our prejudices obstruct its advent.

## the progress of chemical science.

Until a very recent period the science of chemistry was made up almost exclusively of facts. The classified results of elaborate and accurate experiments; the relations which ex ist between the elements of matter and the properties no only of the elements themselves, but of the complex substan ces formed by their combination; the effects of the physica forces upon combination generalized and reduced to a system, so far as the knowledge of these subjects would admit, constituted the text of the able and numerous treatises that had been written upon the subject. The science has begun to as sume a new aspect. The speculative minds have been engaged in framing hypotheses to account for the manifesta tions of the laws which govern combination. Not content with this they have extended their speculations to the nature of matter itself, and theories which embrace the ultimate form and condition of matter, as well as the forms recognized or recognizable by the senses, are boldly put forth and stoutly maintained.
The objection to such speculations is that noimportant pur pose is subserved by them, while their tendency is to compli cate nomenclature and occupy the minds of men with theories which assume to account for facts rather than with investiga. tion and study of facts themselves. It is not sufficient for the establiehment of an hypothesis that it accounts for a fact. Be cause a man might ride in railroad cars from New York to Philadelphia it is not to be inferred that he did ride by that conveyance. There is the possibility that he rode in his car riage or took passage by water. Speculating as to how he made the passage would amount to nothing toward ascer taining the fact, except to guide research into the channel of possibilities.
Now if speculation in physical science were confined simply to indicating the possibilities in the discovery of new facts, we should not say a word against it. That is its true sphere But when it passes that limit and usurps the place of fact it self it is to be deprecated.
The aim of the modern speculations in the science of chemstry seems to be the demonstration of matter as it exists in its ultimate condition. If this were possible, and a knowl dge of matter in that state could be of any service, there would be no objection to them. The old atomic theory never was fully accepted by physicists, and was only accepted at all as an hypothesis, which accounted for certain facts in chemical combination. It was never of any real value, never aided in any important discovery, and we are confident that as it hashaditsday so the new and more ambitious hypotinese will have theirs. We even doubt that many of these will sat isfy the minds of thinkers as well as that did.
The chemist never deals with matter in its ultimate condi tion. It is with masses that he as well as all others must be content to experiment. The laws which matter obeys in it combinations he may discover, but the essential nature of matter itself is not physical study; it is metaphysical, and is an ignis fatuus that will ever elude pursuit.
The atomechanics of Hinrichs, the rational cosmology o Hickok, and the speculations of Sir Benjamin Brodie, are al o be classed in the category of speculative philosophy. They are attempts to get back of matter into a field which the human mind ean never explore, and like all such speculations we believe them calculated to obstruct progress rather than to confer any solid benefit upon science.

## nITROUS OXIDE AS AN ANESTHETIC

The great blessings which have resulted from the use o anesthetics can not be over-estimated. Those who have never
witnessed a severe surgical operation, unaccompanied by their dministration, and also contrasted it with one in which their aluable aid was resorted to, must utterly fail to realize the mount of suffering which has been spared the afflicted by these agents. Previous to their introduction nothing could be more horrible, to one not steeled by long practice, than a capital operation. The most agonizing tears and shrieks were wrung from the stoutest and bravest men, while the vain struggles and cries of children, helpless in the arms of power-
$f_{\text {ainting, which often resulted from sheer pain, a blessed re- }}$ ief. Those who are unconversant with the art of surgery, generally suppose that the amputation of a limb is one of the severest of operations. Having read of the bravery of men who could sit and smoke a cigar during an amputation, they fancy that such manifestations as we have described are to be attributed to weakness of resolution, to an enfeebled and shat ered nervous system. But every surgeon knows better. There are operations that are as much more terrible than am putation of the leg, as that operation is more terrible than the extraction of a tooth ; many of which are only rendered possible by the use of anesthetics. Operations that were once the dread of the surgeon, as well as the patient, in which the deviation of a hair's breadth, in the direction of the knife, might invade vital parts, requiring perfect steadiness, both in the operator and the subject, are now successfully performed, the patient quietly sleeping during the otherwise ong minutes of anguish, the very shock of which formerly ften caused death.
Notwithstanding all that we have said, the use of anesthet ics is attended with some risks, and it is just that the public at large should know this fact and fully appreciate it. More especially is it important, that the different substances used for this purpose,and their peculiar merits and demerits should be well underatood.
In the use of chloroform, most of the deaths which have occurred have been in brief and minor operations. As a re sult of this fact, there seems to be an increased tendency to substitute the protoxide of nitrogen (laughing gas) in such operations. It has the advantage of leing more rapid in it action, ivs effects cease sooner, and no nausea or depression result from it, unless the gas should be improperly prepared Experiments have satisfactorily shown, however, that this gent cannot be used successfully for long and tedious opera tions-that its action is very irregular-that neither in its chemical constitution or its physiological action does it much, if at all, resemble the true anesthetics; for, while with them, though every other element may be excluded, carbon must always be present, and the condition of the blood, heart, lungs, and other viscera, after death from it, is dissimilar from the condition after death from them. These objections are aite sufficient, without taking into account the many incon veniences of its preparation, preservation, and transportation oo prevent its ever being employed in the actual practice o surgery. Caution is needed, both in its manufacture and ad ministrat'on,as by carelessness the noxiousdeutoxide of nitro gen may easily be generated, and if the gas is not properly ested, and its impurities carefully removed, serious results may follow.
Mr. Colton, who is now in London, produces an autograph croll of twenty-seven thousand persons who have inhaled hegasin America for extraction of teeth and for minor sur gicai operations, with the most satisfactory results; pain having been annihilated, and the unconsciousness having passed away within one or two minutes, leaving only agreeable recollections. Some of the entries on the scroll are amusing y characteristic. Many of the patients " have had a high old time;" some "would have teeth pulled that way all day long." Here and there comes a bit of poetry, effusive and grateful but not destined to immortality. Curter entries of "delight ul dreams" are abundant. One gentleman, who came six housand miles, thinks the journey not too long for the re sult.
It has, notwithstanding, its rivals. The chloride of carbon he chloride of olefiant gas, and the bromide of ethyl have been proved to be safe, pleasant, and efficient anesthetics. Even the common coal gas has been stated to be a useful anesthetic, and one which. in an emergency, might be used to advantage. Though chloroform and ether still remain as much in favor as ever for capital operations, for dentists' use and minor operations the above mentioned anesthetics are be coming quite popular, as substitutes for laughing gas.

## SMALL POTATOES."

There has been a tendency in all ages, and among a races of men, to attach to certain expressions a pregnan meaning, differing entirely from the literal signification of the phrase, but which, in its figurative or "slang" sense, is exceedingly forcible. Tiue expression, " It will do to tie to," grew out of the practice of fastening horses to small trees in unsettled portions of the country, and it has come to be applied to individuals as expressing all those qualities of honor, truth, and stability, which render men worthy of con fidence. In the same way has the expression "small pota-
toes come to mean defective morals, want of talent, and toes come to mean defective morals, want of talent, and general instability of character.
The world is full of grumblers, who declaim against the fickleness of fortune, the favoritism shown in the advance ment of men to places of honor and profit, the neglect of merit, and the injustice of Providence. Envious of the socailed good luck of others, instead of setting themselves steadily and persistently to bettering their condition, they steadiva and persistently to bettering their condition, they
cultivate a morbid feeling of disgust at their lot and their work, and become mere time-servers. In other words, they are, and will always remain, small potatoes, of the meanes sort. Grumbling of this kind is one of the principal charac teristics of the human small potato. A man may possess mind, education, and other qualifications for high station, but if he does not possess his soul in patience, and do what his hands find to do with his might, biding quietly the time and opportunity for improving his condition, he is small potatoes notwithstanding. When the basket is shaken-a it is sure to be-no matter how many smaller potatoes may have obscured his merit, it will finally be discovered, and if really great, it will be all the more prized, because it has lain so long unnoticed.

The qualifications for high and responsible positions are ar various as the positions themselves; and a man may ofter, possess brilliant talents, and yet lack some apparently minor but all essential endowment or acquirement without which, a particular place must be forever inaccessible to him. It may be accuracy, it may be a reputation for probity, tried and tested by service in other subordinate but responsible positions, or judgment matured by experience; whatever it is it must be acquired before he can reasonably expect corresponding promotion. If a young man feels that he possesses the necessary ability for success in learned professions, yet lacks the courage to endure the self-denial which is usually to be expected at the outset of a career in any of them, he is small potatoes, and will probably go through life with the feeling that he might have made some noise in the world had not cruel destiny been so unfavorable to his youthful ashad not cruel destiny been so unfavorable to his youthful as-
pirations. So if a young man lacks courage to live within pirations. So if a young man lacks courage to live within
his income, and allows himself to become a slave to debt, he his income, and allows himself to become a slave to debt, he
is small potatoes, and the chances are much against his ever being anything else. As a straw at the source of a river may change its current, so a sing!e act at the outset of business life may direct its entire course. Only the greatest minds can reclaim a misdirected life, and secure success in spite of the lost opportunities, and accumulated difficulties resulting from it.

We do not believe that men often fail to reach their proper level ; and it is fair to inftr, that, when a person is found at level; and it is fair to inftr, that, when a person is found at
mature years occupying a very inferior position, that there mature years occupying a very inferior position, that there
was something about him that made him small potatoes. The exceptions to this, if there are any, only prove the rule; and it may be said to be as certain as any principle in business can be, that, in any profession, good ability, close application, and patient courageous effort, during the day of small things, will ultimately be rewarded by success.

## IMPROVEMENT IN WATER WHEELS.

It is rare that it feds to our lot to notice a patent so simple and so obviously ureful that it can be fully described without engravings. In this case, however, we are enabled to do this, as the improvement does not relate to the general structure of water wheels, but only to the prevention of the oxidization of iron wheels, without reference to their form, oxidization of iron wheels, without reference to their form,
and also to the reduction of the friction of the water upnn and also to the reduction of the friction of the water upnn
the working parts of such wheels. The improvement is the the working parts of such whtels. The improvement is the
invention of Mr. James P. Collins, of Troy, N. Y., and consists in enameling all portions of any water wheel exposed to the action or force of the water with some suitable material. or combination of materials, thereby giving a smooth and glazed surface, over which the water flows with greatly diminished friction, of course adding proportionally to the efficiency of the wheel. It is obvious, also, that all chemical action of the water must be entirely prevented by such a coating. The patent upon this improvement does not limit the inventor to any particular silicious substance or combinathe inventor to any particular silicious substance or combina-
tion of substances, and he is at liberty to use any materials for the purpose above described that he may find upon exfor the purpose above described that he may find upon ex-
periment to be useful. The inventor does not intend to conperiment to be useful. The inventor does not intend to con-
fine the apolication of this improvement to the wheels of his own manufacture, but will dispose of rights to manufacturers of water wheels throughout the United States. All applications should be made to J. P. Collins, Troy, N. Y.

## The New English Ironclad.

The shipwights at Chatham dockyard, England, commenced laying the blocks and ways for the new armor-clad turret ship Glatton. An exchange says,
"The drawings and plans received at Chatham dockyard from the Admiralty, show the Glaiton to be a vessel of 2700 from the Admiralty, show the Glatton to be a vessel of 2700
tuns burden, with a length of 245 feet, and a breadth of beam tuns burden, with a length of 245 feet, and a breadth of beam
of 49 feet. It is, however, in her armor plating that she will surpass in defensive powers every ship yet constructed; it being intended to plate her with armor 12 inches in thickneqs along her most exposed parts, while on her turrets the Glatton will carry armor 14 inches in thickness, laid on a 10 -inch backing of teak, with the usual inner "skin" plating. Unbacking of teak, with the usual inner skin plating. Untopgallast forecastle一the single turret of the Glatton can be directed towards every point of the compass. Her offensive will, at the same time, be on a par with her defensive powers, it being intended to arm her with a couple of 25 -tun gunsit being intended to arm her with a couple of 25 -tun guns-
the most formidable armament yet given to a vessel of war.

## What Breaks Down Young Men,

It is a commonly received notion that hard study is the unhealthy element of college life. But from tables of the mortality of Harvard University, collected 1y Professor Pierce from the last triennial catalogue, it is clearly demonstrated that the excess of deaths for the first ten years after graduation is found in that portion of each class inferior in schol. arship. Every one who has seen the curriculum knows that where Æschylus and political economy injures one, late hours and rum punches use up a dozen; and that the two little fingers are heavier than the loins of Euclid. Dissipation is a swift and sure destroyer, and every young man who follows it is, as the early flower, exposed to untimely frost. Those who have been inveigled in the path of vice are named "Le gion," for they are many-enough to convince every novitiate that he has no security that he shall escape a similar fate. A few hours of sleep each night, high living, and plenty of A few hours of sleep each nigbt, high living, and plenty of
"smpashes," make war uponevery function of the human body. Empashes," make war upon every function of the human body.
The brains, the heart, the lungs, the liver, the spine, the The brains, the heart, the lungs, the liver, the spine, the
limbs, the bones, the flesh, every part and faculty, are overlimbs, the bones, the flesh, every part and faculty, are over-
tasked, worn, and weakened, by the terrific energy of pastasked, worn, and weakened, by the terrific energy of pas-
sion loosed from restraint, until, like a dilapidated mansion, the "earthly house of this tabernacle" falls into ruinous decay. Fast young man, right about!

Singular Optical Effect of Certain Sounds.
A correspondent from Michigan writes, that whenever he hears sounds of a certain bell in his neighborhood, he experitnces a sensation of flashes of light, or, rather, shadows, flashes of light upening of the sounds, gine are doubtles lashes of hight upon the eye. The phenomena are doubtless more liable to such reflex effects than any other, often being affected $b \nabla$ disturbances in remote organs, as, for instance, the stomach. Instances are on record where sight was so depraved by disordered digestion, that apparitions of people, distant places, etc., were seen by the patient, these symptoms entirely dieappearing upon the removal of the disturbing cause.

Japanese Paper.-The Japanese manufacture and use paper to as great an extent as perhaps any other nation. There are very few of their industrial operations that do not involve the use of this material. Both for ornamental and useful purposes it seems to be the sine qua non. Fans, lanterns, umbrellas, pocket handkerchiefs, cloaks, and windows are made of it. The paper strings and hats lately introduced into this country have been in use for centucies in Japan.

## OFFICIAL REPORI' OF

## Patents and Clams

Issued by the United States Patent Office.
FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 1, 1868. Reported offctally ror the Scientific American.
Patents are granted for seventeen years, the following


 In addtion

CPI Pamphletscontaining the Patent Lavos and full particulars of the mode
of apply $n g$ for Letters Patent, spec $f y$ ing $s: z e$ of model requred, and much other informationuse ful to Inventors, may be had gratts by addressing

81,572.-Flfxible Pipe-joint Coupling.-Squire AinsI worth, Pittsburg, Pa. Pincetion, consisting of a conical recess in the end of

dercribed.
2d. In combination with the foregoing, the spring.hinged coupling nut
it constructed substantially in the manner described, for tue purpose spec
 burg, Pa.
1 cuall a railr and chair, composed of a bed plate, A, and movable clamp


tor the purpose set forth. 81,575 .-Machine making Barrels.-Saxton J. Ar-

 81,576. Non-Corrosive Valve Seat.-E. H. Ashcroft. Bos









 purpo se set torth.
81,580 . W WLL Tube.-David Baker, Boston, Mass. IClinm, 1 st, The double strainer. D, witiln ntervening filtering material, ar-
ranged ato




 Lhe parposes bereln set forth. David Baker, Boston, Mass.

 81,583.-Mop Wringer.-Myron J. Barcalo, Mount Morris

 81,584.-LA
August 0,1968 .



deecribed, for toe purpose specined.

 ied. 588 - Refrigerator,-Edwin D. Brainard, Albany, N.Y.


















 mi,594. ${ }^{\text {mandit. }}$ Hand Spinning Machine.-J. W. Burkhart, Came-



1, claim-Animal Trap.-Alexander Campbell, Oxford, Ind.




cifed 98. - Base Ball Tally-Board.-Thomas L. Canary,



 I clam the combination, with blat tianar beacers D, of the arm. B, pro-
nded woth the scrapers, o b, substatially as and for the purpose described. 81,600.-KoLLINu-MILL.-Joseph L. U'hapman, Philadelphia,



 81,602.-Locomotine Spark Arbester.-Ira Choate, Exe-
 ceribe rite coupling, c B, cord or band, a, and guldes, c c, substantially as

81,603.-Velocipede.-Andrew Christian, New York city.


 81,605.-Distilling Apparatus for Spirits.-J. C. Cook-







81,608.-Machine for Grinding Metal Articles.-J. P.


