

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Huge Anatomical Demonstration.

Dr. Cartwright, of New Orleans, amuses himself with the anatomical dissection of alligators, his object being, as he alleges, the demonstration of certain new physiological views that he entertains. On a recent occasion he cut up three of these monsters in the presence of a large number of scientific gentlemen, with the following results, according to the New Orleans papers:—"He divided the spinal marrow in three places—at the base of the neck, in the middle, and at the base of the back; nay, he divided the nerves emerging from the spine—and still, on irritating the nerve between the section and the extremity, he demonstrated the animal possessed a diffused sensibility, a capacity to recognize pain, and even an intelligent power to act against or attempt to escape the cause of the pain.—Cutting off the head of the animal, jobbing out the spinal marrow, dividing the nerves coming from them, and irritating them along their distal portions, they still retained this independent sensibility, and the mutilated limbs of the headless animal would make intelligent motions for getting rid of the local torture. These are curious and curious discoveries. Dr. Cartwright contends, against long odds, it is true, that in the lungs, not the heart, resides the motive power of the circulation; that literally, as Moses asserted, the blood is the life of the flesh, and the air the life of the blood. He affirms that after death, when the pulse has stopped, the heart is still, and the body is insensible to pain; by producing artificial respiration, by inflating the lungs, the blood can be started anew, its life revived, and the body resurrected absolutely from the cold abstractions of death. Both of his alligators had their windpipes tied, and one of them had his chest opened, with his heart, lungs, stomach, &c., exposed. In the course of two hours both animals were dead, pulseless, and quiet over flames of fire. Then, a bellows being inserted into the trachea, inflation was begun, and continued for some minutes. We saw the motionless heart throb, the blood beginning to flow from the lungs to that organ—the eyes of the alligator opened, and the hapless "victim" lived again! The alligator whose chest was exposed, had his carotid artery accidentally cut, thereby losing a considerable quantity of blood, and hence it was not made so briskly alive as the other, who retained all its vital fluid."

[The above reads very much like a "great fish story."

Floods of the Ohio.

We have received a letter from Joseph E. Holmes, superintendent of machinery at the Crystal Palace, wherein Mr. Ellett's views respecting his proposed mode of improving the navigation of the Ohio River, and our own opinions respecting them, as expressed on page 309, Vol. 8, Scientific American, are dissented from. He believes, as he is acquainted with the grounds on the head waters of the Ohio, the plan is impracticable but not impossible. "It is not," he says, "what is possible should be done, but what is politic." Of the policy spoken of, the people in that section of the country are the most interested, and no doubt the best judges. If any great work—no matter what its magnitude may be—can be demonstrated to produce beneficial and economical results, we like to advocate the measure, and the greater the work the more highly do we desire to see it executed. We like to hold up the accomplishment of great works to our people. If Mr. Ellett's data can be trusted, then the work can be done, and done to produce good results. We cannot contradict his data, and the only way to show the impracticability, is to point out the incorrectness of his calculations, statistics, &c.

Singular Nutriment of the "Digger Indians.

The "Columbia (California) Gazette" says that there are two considerable Indian villages in that vicinity at the present time, and the Indians, who looked as lean and gaunt as half-famished wolves during the past winter, now appear to be enjoying all the luxuries that an abundant supply of clover and an occasional supply of beef and bread can afford.

The hills in the vicinity are verdant with nice, tender clover, which is devoured by these poor savages with as much gusto as an epicure would devour the most dainty dish. They gather the clover in baskets and prepare it for use by heating large stones and placing a layer of clover well moistened between each layer of stones. It soon becomes ready for use, and each one of them will eat a supply of clover thus prepared, that would almost satisfy a horse.

Riot in New York.

A terrible riot occurred Wednesday night, the 22nd inst., at the residence of Dr. George A. Wheeler, in Seventeenth street, this city, caused by the finding of some human bones on the premises. A mob of 3,000 collected, armed with clubs, axes, and stones. Dr. Wheeler's store and dwelling were attacked, the inmates driven out, and the premises completely gutted. Nobody killed, though some police officers were injured.

As may be inferred by any intelligent man, the mob was composed of a low and brutally ignorant class. Our daily papers say they were mostly foreigners and Irish. Of this we know nothing, but that they were all savage ignoramuses we have not the least doubt. Not one of the mob who had his arm or leg broken, but would run or get carried to a doctor to get it set, and how could he do this unless he was acquainted with the anatomy of the human body?

IMPROVED MACHINE FOR DRESSING HEMP.

Figure 1.

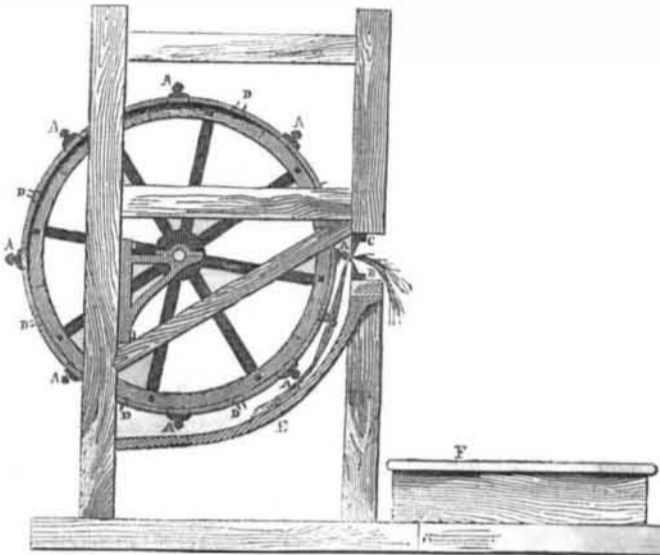
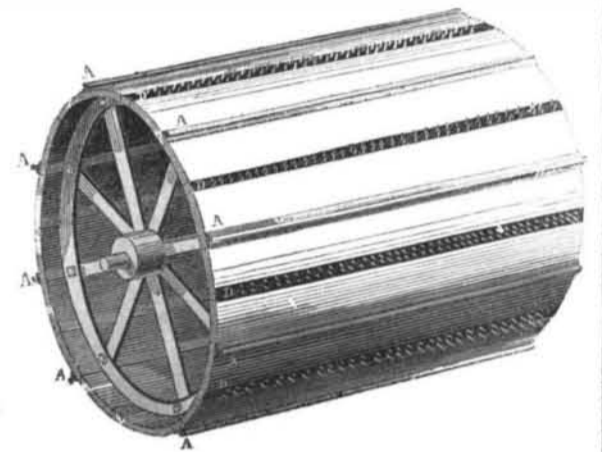


Figure 1 is a perspective view of the cylinder, which contains the heckler teeth or combs and beaters—detached from the frame in which it revolves, and figure 2 is an end elevation of the whole machine.

The object of the improvement is to furnish a machine, which shall admit of employing several workmen at the same time, and perform the work in a manner quite superior to the method heretofore used. In the accompanying engravings a strong frame is represented, to which the platform, F, is attached, upon which the workmen stand when attending to the machine; within suitable bearings in this frame, the cylinder revolves, being propelled by any power desired, at a moderate speed or motion, suitable for the performance of good work. This cylinder is constructed in the form and manner shown in perspective in figure 2, with horizontal beaters, A, and heckle teeth, D, set in its circum-

ference. The teeth are much shorter at the end of the cylinder to the right of the operator, and gradually increase in length as they approach the opposite end; B C are horizontal bars or guides for the hemp, set near the periphery of the cylinder and firmly attached to the frame of the machine; the opening between these bars is enlarged as they extend to the left of the end of the cylinder; the object of this is to form a convenient place for introduction of the hemp to the beaters and heckle teeth; E is an apron curved to fit the cylinder, and extending its whole length, and as far to the left of the cylinders as the bars, B and C, extend; it is stationary in the frame work of the machine, and serves to keep the several "hands" of hemp in contact with the teeth or combs and beaters. The hemp being previously prepared by rotting, breaking, &c., is subjected to the action of this machine by being introduced in what is

Figure 2.



called hands, to the left end of the guide bars B C, and carried by the attendants (from one to six of which may work to advantage) to the right end of the cylinder. It is stated that this simple and ingenious mode of dressing hemp, furnishes an article of much longer fibre than is obtained by any machine heretofore used. The hemp may be heckled by it to almost any degree of fineness required, or it may be very slightly dressed, as desired for the use to which it is to be applied. The expense of working and attending these machines is said to be comparatively small, and the amount of work performed by them most satisfactory—it is a very good invention.—James P. Arnold, of Louisville obtained a patent for this invention, Jan. 4, 1853. The claim may be found on page 142, Vol. 8, Scientific American. More information concerning rights, &c., may be obtained by letter addressed to the inventor.

New Blasting Invention.

A correspondent who is well qualified to judge of such matters, sends us an account of a new invention for blasting rocks. He writes after an examination of the process:—"The apparatus is the invention of Mr. A. Stickney, of Norwich, Vt. It is a platinum tube about ten inches in length, with holes in its side. Connected with this is an iron tube of any required length. This is the apparatus, and now for the operation. A hole is drilled in the rock to any length; this tube is filled with charcoal and ignited in the platinum, and inserted in the drill hole. A blacksmith's bellows is applied to the upper end of the tube, and the most intense heat is forced through the small holes upon the sides of the rock, scaling it off in fine powder at a rapid rate. When the heat is sufficient, the tube is withdrawn, and water poured in, which enlarges the hole at the bottom. The effect of powder upon a rock when confined in such a way must be tremendous. The experiment has been tried with the most perfect success."—[Boston Transcript.

[To us it appears as if the above invention was both slow and expensive, and not so good for the purpose as the one described by us about two years ago, whereby the bore was enlarged at the bottom by the use of chloric acid. Practice, however, is the proof of the system.

New Mode of Constructing Flat-bottomed Boats.

An improvement in the mode of constructing canal boats, barges, and other flat-bottomed vessels, has been made by John McCausland, of Rondout, N. Y. Curved timbers, or knees have heretofore been in use, and these timbers are attached to the timbers which

form the keel; from thence they are curved upward and form the sides of the vessel. Mr. McC. dispenses with the knees altogether, and also with the use of any heavy timbers in the keel of the boat, but in the place of these he uses cross-tied plank, and gives strength to them at the sides, by means of stays which are constructed at less expense, and, at the same time, give lightness and the requisite strength, to the vessel. The inventor has taken measures to secure a patent.

Sun Stroke.

Exposure to the mid-day sun, during the last few days, has caused a large number of deaths. In this city, from Tuesday morning till Wednesday evening, last week, sixteen persons, principally laboring men, died from this cause alone. The following directions for treating these cases, is said to possess much efficacy, and until the attendance of a physician is procured, it may be useful to try it; it is to be applied early to be of any use:

"Place the patient in a cool and airy situation, with his head and shoulders elevated, and while one is removing his cravat, unbuttoning his shirt collar, and removing or loosening whatever else that may be tight about his person, dash suddenly cold water on the head. This may be done with a pitcher, or any suitable vessel, held at some little distance above the head, pouring out upon it a large and steady stream.

Mustard plasters may also be used over the upper part of the feet, and on the wrists.—But continue the water, and the patient must be saved. It is hardly possible to speak too highly of the beneficial influences of cold water in the treatment of *coup de soleil*. Ma-

ny violent cases of this, and also of apoplexy, have been most successfully cured by it.

Special Manure for Grapes.

The wine Committee, at the exhibition of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, reported that of two specimens of wine, one from grapes to which a special manuring of potash had been given, the wine from the manure grapes was "bright, clear, and mellow, like an old wine." The other was declared to be less matured in all its qualities, nor was it clear. The grapes themselves, from the two portions of ground, were also presented to the committee. "Both were delicious and well ripened, but it was considered that those from the manured land were sweeter, and that the pulp was softer."

To keep Tires tight on Wheels.

A correspondent of the "Southern Planter" gives the following method for keeping tires tight on wheels:—"Before putting on the tires, fill the fellos with linseed oil, which is done by heating the oil in a trough to a boiling heat, and keeping the wheel, with a stick through the hub, in the oil for an hour. The wheel is turned round until every felloe is kept in the oil one hour.

An injunction was granted against the Second Avenue Railroad in this city, but it has been quashed, and the construction of it will now proceed.

The steam propeller "Challenge" running on Lake Michigan, exploded her boiler on the 22nd inst., killing five of the crew, and severely wounding a number of others. It was her first trip.