

THE CAROLINA CLAY-EATERS.

A Physician's Analysis Shows that the Clay Contains Arsenic.

[From the Philadelphia Times.]

It has been a matter of speculation for years as to why the "poor white trash" of Central North Carolina ate the clay that is found in that part of the country. It remained for a Philadelphia physician to solve the mystery. A short time ago Dr. Frank H. Getchell, of 1432 Spruce street, went on a gunning expedition to North Carolina. His quest for game led him into the wild country back of Salisbury, which is inhabited, for the most part, by a miserable race of beings with only just enough energy to eke out a wretched existence. These creatures are nearly all veritable living skeletons, and, with few exceptions, are addicted to the habit of clay-eating.

While shooting wild turkey and other game in this wild region, Dr. Getchell made an incidental study of this peculiar habit of vice among the inhabitants. It is a mountainous country, and in the spring little rivulets start out from the caps of snow on the mountain, and, as the days grow warmer, the little rivulets become torrents, and great wash-outs are made along the mountain-side.

The soil is of a heavy, clayey nature, but there are strata of clay that is heavier than the rest, and when the water rushes down this clay is formed into little pellets, and rolls and accumulates in heaps in the valley. These little pellets and rolls are what the clay-eaters devour with as much avidity as a toper swallows a glass of whisky.

"Among the poor people of this section," said Dr. Getchell, "the habit of eating clay is almost universal. Even little toddlers are confirmed in the habit, and the appetite seems to increase with time. While investigating the matter, I entered a cabin occupied by one of these poor families, and saw a little chap tied by the ankle to the leg of a table, on which was placed a big dish of bread and meat and potatoes within easy reach. The child was kicking and crying, and I asked his mother why she had tied him up. She replied that she wanted him to eat some food before he went out to the clay and he refused to do so. The woman confessed that she ate the clay herself, but explained that the child's health demanded that it eat some substantial food before eating any earth. Almost every one I met in this section was addicted to this habit. They were all very thin, but their flesh seemed to be puffed out. This was particularly noticeable about the eyes, which had a sort of reddish hue.

"All of the clay-eaters were excessively lazy and indolent, and all of these conditions combined led me to the conclusion that there must be some sedative or stimulating qualities, or both, in the clay, and I determined to find out whether there was or not. I consequently brought a lot of the clay home with me, and Prof. Tiernan and myself made an analysis of the stuff and discovered that, instead of clay-eaters, the inhabitants of Central North Carolina should more properly be called arsenic-eaters. All of this clay contains arsenic, but exactly in what proportion we have not yet discovered. Arsenic-eating is common in many parts of the world. It acts as a sedative and also as a stimulant. The mountaineers of Styria, Austria, are habitual arsenic-eaters. They give as their reason for eating it that they are better able to climb the mountains after eating the poison, and their explanation is a perfectly reasonable one, as arsenic acts as a sedative to the heart's action. The habit is also prevalent in the Tyrol and in the Alps.

"It is also said that the peasant girls of Switzerland and parts of Germany and in Scandinavia eat arsenic to give luster to their eyes and color to their cheeks, but this is a matter I have not investigated. It has been shown that arsenic or arsenical fumes are a sure cure for intermittent fever. The inhabitants of a section of Cornwall, England, at one time all suffered with this type of fever, but when the copper works were established there the fever disappeared. This was accounted for by the arsenical fumes created in the treatment of copper. As to whether arsenic-eating shortens life I am not yet prepared to say, but I intend investigating the matter thoroughly."

Fight with a Grizzly.

While two telegraph-repairers were carrying on their work in the Selkirk Mountains, one of them was attacked by a grizzly bear, which caught him by the calf of the leg as he was drinking from a stream. The bear endeavored to carry him into the cave, but he placed his arms around a tree and belabored for his companion, who came close to the bear and emptied seven Winchester balls into him. Seeing the seven balls did not make him relinquish his hold, he caught the ferocious animal by the ears and tried to haul him off. This caused the animal to move a little, thus enabling the friend to pull his companion's rifle from under the bear's head. He then commenced pouring his friend's seven bullets into the bear's head, and had fired the last shot when the bear rolled over. The trouble then was to get the jaws open to release his hold. This was done by inserting the barrel of one of the rifles and prying it open.—Winnipeg Sun.

Was on Another 'Lay.'

A correspondent writes: "I send you a little poem called 'The Lay of the Lark.' If accepted, let me know." Rejected, with thanks. If you will send a few specimens of the lay of the hen we will accept.—Burlington Free Press.

The Search for Wilkes Booth.

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln was a military crime. While actually in command of the national forces, he was killed in a city which was his headquarters, strongly fortified and garrisoned, with a military governor, and a provost marshal whose patrols were abroad night and day arresting all persons found violating the "rules of war." Not only was the murdered commander-in-chief, to use the words of the Constitution, "in actual service in time of war," but it was a time of "public danger," in which the assassins were constitutionally excluded from any right to a trial in the civil courts. Peace had not then been conquered; there was a powerful enemy in arms, to whom "aid and comfort" could be given; the leader of the rebellion was still at large; many loyal men were becoming disheartened by the descriptions and by the prolonged expenditure of blood and treasure; and there are good reasons for believing that many enemies of the Union, having traversed all the stages of crime, confidently hoped by this assassination to inaugurate anarchy at the North, and thus to prepare the way for a dictator.

Before the martyr-President had ceased to live, Secretary Stanton directed a search for the recognized assassin, and an investigation into the circumstances connected with the perpetration of the bloody deed. The next day, in a letter to the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, Mr. Stanton said: "The murderer of the President has been discovered and evidence obtained that these horrible crimes were committed in execution of a conspiracy deliberately planned and set on foot by rebels, under pretense of avenging the South and aiding the rebel cause." Subsequently the Secretary of War announced, in an official bulletin, that all persons who had harbored or secreted Booth, Atzerodt, or Herold, or who had aided or assisted their escape, should be "subject to trial before a military commission, and the punishment is death." The bulletin concluded by saying: "Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers! All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own innocence charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night nor day till it is accomplished."

Secretary Stanton faithfully performed his share of this work, and he was ably seconded by the Provost Marshal of the War Department, Col. L. C. Baker. The discovery by Fouche of the celebrated French conspiracy, headed by Pichergu, for the assassination of the first Emperor Napoleon, has been regarded as the greatest triumph of detective-police skill on record; but it is eclipsed by Col. Baker's report of his operations. It was not long after the commission of the great crime before he was thoroughly conversant with the associations and habits of the chief actor's acquaintances in Washington, Baltimore, Montreal, and other cities. Some were promptly arrested, a careful espionage was established over others, confidential agents were sent out far and wide, some of them in disguise, the magnetic telegraph and the photographer's camera were called into the service for the transmission of intelligence and for the multiplication of portraits for identification, and it was not long before the proofs of a conspiracy were overwhelming.

The Megaphone.

This instrument, used on shipboard, is a machine for magnifying sound. It is constructed of two cone-shaped tubes, eight feet long and three in diameter at the large end, which diminish to an apex in the form of rubber tubes small enough to place in the ear. Between these tubes are two smaller ones, constructed in the same manner, but not more than half the diameter. By placing the rubber tubes in the ear and speaking through the smaller cones the person can hear and be heard at a long distance, and it thus aids mariners in listening for the sound of breakers or carrying on conversation with persons on shore or other vessels at a distance.

Dr. FITCH, of Honolulu, believes that leprosy is not communicable from person to person, except by heredity, and that it is really a fourth stage of syphilis, or a form of scrofula subsequent to syphilis occurring in persons of a broken-down constitution.—Dr. Foote's Health Monthly.

THERE is a New England Judge named Eck, who is reported as originating some very funny sayings. He doubtless presides over the court of Eck-witty.

A LITTLE praise is good for a shy temper; it teaches us to rely on the kindness of others.—Landon.

A Gentle Stimulus
Is imparted to the kidneys and bladder by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which is most useful in overcoming torpidity of these organs. Besides infusing more activity into them, this excellent tonic endows them with additional vigor, and enables them the better to undergo the wear and tear of the discharging function imposed upon them by nature. Moreover, as they are the channel for the escape of certain impurities from the blood, increases their usefulness, by strengthening and healthfully stimulating them. In certain morbid conditions of these important organs they fall into a sluggish state, which is the usual precursor of disease. What, then, can be of greater service than a medicine which impels them to greater activity when slothful? No maladies are more perilous than those which affect the kidneys, and a medicine which averts the peril should be highly esteemed.

At a stand still—the Pen-nut business.—New York News.

In the Hospitals.

Baltimore and Philadelphia hospital physicians are prescribing the new proprietary medicine, Red Star Cough Cure. It contains neither morphia, opium, nor any other injurious ingredients. The price is only 25 cents.

Strange Ways of the Modern Young Man.

"It seems to me that the young men nowadays have some queer ways about them," remarked old Mrs. Pipkin, as she divested herself of her wrappings after a trip down town.

"Why so, mother?" asked her son.

"Why, in the street car to-day there were two young fellows, and one said to the other: 'Where's your overcoat?' 'In soak,' replied the other one; 'Where's yours?' 'Same place,' was the answer, 'mine has been in soak all summer.' Now when I was a young woman the men used to put their overcoats in a trunk with camphor and things to keep away the moths, but I suppose the latest style is to put them in soak. I'd think it would take all the shape out of them."—Pittsburg Chronicle.

A WORD of kindness is seldom spoken in vain—it is a seed which even dropped by chance springs up a flower.

Young and middle-aged men suffering from nervous debility and kindred affections, as loss of memory and hypochondria, should inclose 10 cents in stamps for large illustrated treatise suggesting sure means of cure. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

"ALL's well that ends swell," said the surgeon as he plunged his scalpel into the abscess.—St. Paul Herald.

THOSE who take Dr. Jones' Red Clover Tonic never have dyspepsia, costiveness, bad breath, piles, pimples, ague and malaria, poor appetite, low spirits, headache, or kidney troubles. Price 50 cents.

A THIEVES' dictionary has just been published. It is a work of abstract knowledge.—St. Paul Herald.

FOR throat and lung troubles, the most reliable remedy is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

It must be a poor singer who can't make his "board" from the "timbre" of his voice.—Musical Herald.

THE most scientific compound for the cure of coughs, colds, and all throat and lung troubles is Dr. Bigelow's Positive Cure. It is pleasant, prompt, and safe. 50 cents and \$1.

He is only a success at boating whose life is oar.—St. Paul Herald.

PHYSICIANS indorse Hall's Hair Renewer. Its use is always attended with good results.

A DRY spell—S-a-h-a-r-a. Spellbound—The Dictionary.—Puck.

The Great German Physician.

The remarkable phase in the practice of Dr. Peter W. Schmidt (frequently called Dr. Pete) is, he never asked one to describe their disease but tells each one their trouble without asking a question. His success is phenomenal. His practice enormous. He is sought after by hundreds wherever he goes, because he cures when every other physician and remedy have failed. He has allowed his great medicines, Golden Seal Bitters and Lung Food for Consumption, to be offered to the suffering, and we assert without fear of successful contradiction that there is no disease they will not cure. Thousands of bottles have been sold. Thousands of broken-down and discouraged invalids saved. Send to Golden Seal Bitters Company, Holland City, Mich., for Facts for the Million! Free.

A Remedy for Lung Diseases.

Dr. Robert Newton, late President of the Eclectic College, of the city of New York, and formerly of Cincinnati, Ohio, used Dr. Wm. HALL'S BALM very extensively in his practice, as many of his patients, now living, and restored to health by the use of this invaluable medicine, can amply testify. He always said that so good a remedy ought to be prescribed freely by every physician as a sovereign remedy in all cases of lung diseases. It cures consumption, and has no equal for all pectoral complaints.

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Language fails to express the good results I have experienced with Athlophoros. My head was drawn over my left shoulder with rheumatism, but half a bottle made me as good as new. A. B. Baker, 365 West Harrison street, Chicago, Ill.

Lyon's Patent Metallic Heel Stiffeners keep my boots and shoes from running over. Sold by shoe and hardware dealers.

Afflicted with Sore Eyes, use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it, 25c.

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WHEN people are compelled to use snuff they are certainly put to a pinch.—Baltimore Every Saturday.

If you are bilious, take Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets," the original "Little Liver Pills." Of all druggists.

WATERING the stock of a leather-making company is a new form of hide-draught.—Pittsburgh Telegraph.

DR. WALKER'S VINEGAR BITTERS—a medicine that expels disease without weakening the patient, exhilarates the spirits without the aid of alcoholic poison—cures every phase and consequence of indigestion, restores the shattered nerves, regulates the bowels and the liver, and imparts to the constitution new strength and elasticity. Let the sick rejoice!

CINCINNATI pork men believe the pen is mightier than the sword.—St. Paul Herald.

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HOTT & GATES, Proprietors.

I have been bothered with catarrh for about twenty years. I could not tell how many different remedies I have tried, and none seemed to reach my case like Ely's Cream Balm. I had lost my smell entirely for the last fifteen years, and I had almost lost my hearing. My eyes were getting so dim I had to get some one to thread my needle. Now I have my hearing as well as I ever had, and I can see to thread as fine a needle as ever I did, and my smell is partly restored, and it seems to be improving all the time. I think there is nothing like Ely's Cream Balm for Catarrh.—Mrs. E. E. Grimes, 67 Valley street, Rendell, Perry Co., Ohio.

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It is Dangerous to tamper with irritating liquids and exciting snuffs. Use Ely's Cream Balm, which is safe and pleasant and is easily applied with the finger. It cures the worst case of Catarrh, Cold in the Head and Hay Fever, giving relief from the first application. All druggists have it. Price 50 cents. By mail 60 cents. Ely Bros., Owego, N. Y.

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