

GOLD IN A SICK WHALE.

AMBERGRIS AND A LATE THEORY AS TO ITS ORIGIN.

Said to be Produced by a Disease which is Like Appendicitis—The Substance is of Great Value—Its use in the Art of Making Delicate Perfumes.

Three sperm whale were companionably floating about in southern waters one sunshiny day not so very many years ago. Two were fine specimens of the genus Physeter. The third, however, though of the same species, was lank and scrawny, and lolled listlessly on the dark blue surface of the Gulf Stream, while its more rotund and sporting comrades slashed about vigorously and sent the limpid waters far above them, to fall in refreshing sprays. It was a mystery why any whale at that season should have presented an ill-fated condition, as the feeding grounds had been unusually well populated by the tentacled and foul-mouthed cuttlefish—Sepia octopodia—and no whale had need to go a single day with an empty stomach. Perhaps it the two well-conditioned animals had been less frolicsome and the third more aroused, they would have been on the alert for defence. As it was, a long narrow boat, pointed at both ends, bore down unobserved upon them, and the whaler sent with unerring aim their weapons straight into two bulky creatures. The scrawny whale escaped, though it made no motion to get away; but because it was evident there would be but little if any oil in the animal, and because the capture of the two splendid specimens had been more than was expected, it was left unmoored, still rocking lazily in the sea.

Next day, to the amazement of the whaler, the animal was seen in almost exactly the same spot, as though inviting death. "Well," called out the captain of the whaling fleet, who had been of the party of the day before, "if you wish to die you poor crazy lubber, you shall," and forthwith it, too, was disposed of, the easiest task, the men agreed, that they had had in many a day. But little more than two barrels of oil were found in the emaciated whale. Another and vastly more important discovery was the largest single lot of ambergris ever sold in this country. It was exchanged for a check signed by a well-known drug firm of this city, whose figures rounded close on to \$60,000. Never had so large a check been seen till then in the little Cape Cod fishing town, where it was divided among the whaler of the ship, as each man on a whaler receives a certain percentage of the proceeds of the voyage. The number of pounds found in this whale aggregated to over 150, valued at \$30 per ounce, the price paid for the best ambergris.

It would seem that the animal had sickened of a malady caused by the unnatural growth, and such was undoubtedly the case, and if its sufferings had not been brought to an end by the whaler, it would have lingered till the disease itself had finally caused death.

What is ambergris? In the "Arabian Nights" we are told of Eastern beauties whose cheeks were marked with moles like bits of ambergris, and in the story of the sixth voyage of "Sinbad the Sailor" we read in the description of the place where the voyagers were wrecked, "Here is also a fountain of pitch and bitumen that runs into the sea, which the fishes swallow and then vomit it up again, turned into ambergris." That unique author, Robert Boyle, considered it to be of vegetable production and similar to yellow amber; thus it received its name, amber-gris—gray amber.

This and other even more plausible theories are but indeed fallacies that puzzled savants have set forth when they were at a loss to account for its origin. It is now ascertained beyond a doubt to be generated by the large-headed sperm whale and is the result of a diseased state of the animal. The victim of this rare malady may possibly throw of the moribund substance, or finally die of the ailment. The disease is located in the intestinal canal, and some savants suppose it to be caused by a bilary irritation. After a deep study on the subject several modern scientists have agreed that the disorder is akin to that now fashionable human peril, appendicitis, intensified and prolonged in this great mammal, yet that dread ailment that has but lately been understood by the surgeons and medical men of the world.

It is known that the ambergris whale feeds upon the cuttlefish. This creature is armed in its head with a sharp-pointed curved black horn resembling a bird's beak, much like that of a parrot, only the lower mandible is the larger. This is found—as it is too indestructible to be digested—in many specimens of ambergris, and may oftentimes aid in establishing a seated disease. It may be considered, though, to be but the primary cause of irritation, as much of the finest ambergris is entirely free from the tough little horns. Such is the effect in the whale of the magnified illness which, when established in our own comparatively puny organism, causes an instant and fatal collapse unless quickly and heroically attacked by the skill of the surgeon. The habits of the great water mammals, however, tend to prolong life, and their resisting power against the insidious destroyer is eloquent of their tenacious hold on existence.

To the conservative whale fisher of New Bedford or Provincetown, the discovery of ambergris is as unexpected and as longed for as the sheeny splendor of the pearl that gladdens the pearl fisher. Almost awe-stricken are the sailors when the cry "ambergris" is uttered. This is the happy event of a lifetime. The substance is carefully taken from the bowels of the whale and is packed in casks if it is in liquid form, or in sacks if it is dry enough.

It is then brought direct to Boston, where it is appraised by the head of the largest wholesale drug firm in the city. This young man has no envious task before him in ascertaining the value of the article. He has to examine the tawny mass, which is sometimes in a rank liquid state, sometimes of the consistency of soft putty, and again a chalklike substance. That which is more like putty usually is to be relied on for making the best market ambergris, and gradually, as it dries, the only curing process it undergoes, the unwholesome dark shade turns to a soft squirrel gray. The substance lightens in weight, developing a fascinating odor almost indescribable, like the blending of new-mown hay, the damp woody fragrance of a fern copse, and the faintest possible perfume of the violet.

And to what use is ambergris put? It is an indispensable article with fine perfumers, as it is used to give permanency and lasting qualities to very fleeting scents. It is a curious fact that the keynote or basis of "nosegays" or "bouquets," as handkerchief odors are called, is not, as one might suppose, the attar of garden flowers, neither the penetrating balsams. These are indispensable, but are not the groundwork. That basis is always one of the four animal odors, i. e., ambergris; musk, obtained from small musk deer of Asia; civet, from the civet cat of India, and castor, a secretion of the castor leaver, and now obsolete in the perfume trade. The pure and separate tincture of any one of these odors is too intense and powerful to be tolerated. Like all substances of these kinds, it must undergo a slow decomposition, till the remainders possess very little volatility. Even then they contain a virtue which clings pertinaciously to woven fabrics, and not being soluble in weak alkaline lyes, is still to be detected in the material, after passing through the severest lavatory ordeal. They are, therefore, of great value to the perfumer, and are the foundation in almost every formula.

The essence of ambergris is obtained by mixing three ounces of it with one gallon of pure alcohol and not until after a month is it ready for use. This, however, is only kept for mixing, and is far too strong. Only when it has entered in minute proportions into the "bouquets" does it produce those agreeable and characteristic perfume, the effect of which upon the nerves and sensitive nose is much like the happy sensation produced by harmonious musical chords on the delicate ear or the perfect blending of colors to the educated eye.

As ambergris is the most costly of animal perfumes, the bouquets containing it are of the most expensive kinds. It is used more in France than in this country, civet being extensively used for a retainer in American-made perfumes. Most of the ambergris is shipped, therefore, to France, where it finds a ready demand.

I was led with impressiveness one day of late into an underground vault in a large wholesale drug house of this city. Triple locks and bolts on several doors must be loosed before my guide, who was the head of the firm, could admit me. It was a tiny room, hardly more than a closet, and was made brilliant by a single gas jet. There was no costly setting for this precious substance uneven pieces of all forms and sizes lay about on the rough pine shelves. They, for the most part, looked like lumps of dried clay, and a casual observer would never stoop to pick them up. Some loosely collected in a wooden box looked like lumps of brown earth or wood mould.

These specimens were of inferior quality and would not bring more than \$5 an ounce, but their odor was quite nauseating. The ambergris of more value was of a yellowish dull amber color—which probably gave it originally its name—and was in strata, as it had accumulated, during its morbid growth, these definite layers. But the larger part of the collection was of that beautiful squirrel gray—a hue that is a mark of great value—and of a smooth, even grain, with streaks of black and yellow, its cut surface presenting a waxy appearance. On thrusting a hot needle into the mass a peculiarly fragrant odor is emitted. A piece shown no larger than the top of a child's head and of an excellent quality has a value of \$2,500, and in its bright gray sediments could be seen deeply imbedded the curious beaks of the cuttlefish, though many specimens were seemingly entirely free from them. In the closeness of the little apartment, the sweet penetrating perfume became oppressive, and acted on the senses with the effect of a narcotic, causing a languid sensation to steal over one.

NEW RICHMOND STREET METHODIST CHURCH.

Rev. A. P. Chambers, M. D., the Popular Pastor of the New Richmond Street Methodist Church, Toronto, Testifies Straight in Favour of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder.

Heaps of good things are being said of the Rev. A. P. Chambers, M. D., for his straight talk for secularized schools. Quite aside from the merits of the question, the vigorous and able manner in which Mr. Chambers handled the subject has been universally admired. In the same frank and straightforward manner this gentleman, whom The New Richmond Street Methodist Church has requested shall remain their pastor for another term, talks of the help that comes to those who use Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. Mr. Chambers knows, from experience in his own family, and he says so over his signature, how helpful this remedy is for cold in the head and catarrh. In hay fever it will give perfect relief in ten minutes. Price 60 cents.

GOATS IN BAGGAGE CARS.

Good Reasons why They do not Commonly Travel in That Way.

Six years ago the baggage department of the Northern Pacific road issued an order that no goats should be transported in baggage cars. A peculiar incident brought about the general order. A goat had been placed in a baggage car that was bound for the Pacific coast. During the trip the animal had eaten the leather straps that held the brass checks to the trunks. When Portland was reached the checks were all on the floor of the car, and there was no way of identifying the trunks. It took nearly three months to straighten out the tangle and the general order was issued.

The rule has never been disobeyed until the last few weeks. C. E. Stone, city ticket agent of the Northern Pacific ticket office in St. Paul, generally makes contracts with travelling shrews that pass over the road. He has an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company, recently, with bloodhounds and a donkey, that was locked in trunks along the road. Among the proprietors of the show was a small wagon in which were seated two goats that were used to give a street parade. Contrary to orders Agent Stone took the goats and had them put in a baggage car with the bloodhounds and the donkey. In the same car were two bicycles belonging to a man and his wife. During the night the goats dined on vegetable wind-pudding, for they ate up the pneumatic tires of the bicycles and chewed the cork handles of the bicycles for a dessert.

The owners of the bicycles filed a claim with the company. The claim was referred to the baggage department. When it reached Agent Stone there was a copy of the prohibitory order attached to it, with instructions that the one who was responsible for the violation of the rules should pay the claims of \$60. Agent Stone will "dig up" a portion of his monthly stipend to settle with the claimants.—Minneapolis Times.

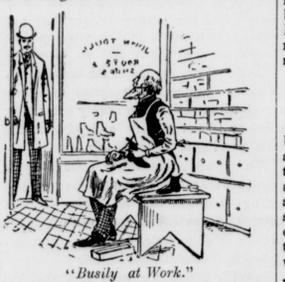
HALE AND HEARTY AT 70.

WHAT "FATHER" TOULL THINKS OF A POPULAR REMEDY.

Suffered for Twenty Years From Heart Trouble—His Doctor Said He Might Drop Dead at Any Moment—Tells How He Overcame the Trouble.

From the Ingersoll Chronicle.

That a sound mind in a sound body is one of the best and greatest gifts of a kind Providence no one will deny. Mankind in all ages have sought to obtain the elixir of life, hunted for some means of prolonging health, vigor and vitality—have in fact hoped that they might find



"Busily at Work."

the boot and shoe shop of Mr. John Toull, King street west, and on entering the building the reporter found "Father Toull," as he is familiarly known in town, busily at work on a pair of shoes for one of his many customers, at the same time humming over to himself the tune of a cherished hymn for by the way, in his younger days Mr. Toull was considered a good local preacher among the Methodists of this section and frequently filled the pulpits of some of our local churches in the pastor's absence, and he still loves to sing, preach or expostulate on some scripture theme or favorite hymn. The reporter was cordially received, and on making known his business, the old man's countenance brightened and his eyes sparkled with delight. It was interesting to note the fervency with which he volunteered, as he said for the sake of humanity to tell what he could of his case, and we will let it be told in his own words. He said:—"For twenty years I was subject to heart trouble and could get no relief, although I had tried almost everything that kind friends recommended to me. My family physician would sometimes give me some medicine that would help me for a short time, but without permanent benefit. He told me I might drop dead at any moment, and I tell you I expected to do so on many occasions. I had heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills when they first came out but I had used so many remedies that I just about lost faith in everything of that kind, and had become resigned to my fate. However I came in contact with so many that had used Pink Pills, and who assured me that they had been benefited by their use, that at last I decided to give them a trial also, and several years ago I commenced taking them. I continued their use until I had taken eight boxes, and I am now happy to say that I have never had a symptom of the disease since, and I am convinced that by the blessing of God, Pink Pills cured me. I might also say that last fall I was attacked with rheumatism, which became so bad that I could scarcely walk from my work to the house, and for a long time I could not get out to church. I tried a number

of things recommended to me, but received no good from their use, so I said to myself one day, Pink Pills did me so much good before for my heart trouble, I'll try them again, so I gave them another fair trial, with the result that the rheumatism has all gone out of my bones, and I have not been troubled a bit with it since. Everyone, said the old man, as he waxed warm over the thought of his happy experience, who knows old Father Toull, knows that what he tells is the truth." After thanking Mr. Toull for his kindness and courtesy, the reporter left the shop with the same opinion as to the truth of his statements, and impressed with the belief that from his rugged, hearty appearance and cheerful disposition, the old gentleman is still good for many years of a healthful, contented life.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are the greatest blood builder and nerve restorer known to medical science, and cure when all other remedies fail. If not kept by your dealer they will be sent post paid on receipt of 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by addressing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y. Get the genuine; imitations and substitutes are worthless—perhaps dangerous.

Life in New York.

What seems to be a book of interest to many classes is one entitled "Darkness and Daylight in New York," which is now offered by subscription in St. John. The writers who have contributed to it are Helen Campbell, the philanthropist, Col. Thos. W. Knox, journalist, T. O. Byrnes, until recently chief of the New York detective force, and Rev. Lyman Abbott. The story is one of personal experiences among the lights and shades of the great city, in the carrying out of the rescue work. There is much in it to impress and startle the reader, and one can draw many lessons from the stories which seem stronger than fiction. The book abounds with anecdotes and incidents, full of pathos, but there is also much to edify the reader in the lighter vein of humor. It is, in fact, a picture of real life, with its varying lights and shades, and has received strong endorsements from prominent clergymen and others in America and in England. One great feature of the book is the clear and copious way in which it is illustrated. There are 252 excellent engravings, from photographs taken from life specially for this book, and they are all the work of superior artists. The book has 740 royal octavo pages, and is bound in various styles. The cheapest in plain cloth and with text illustration is \$2.50; a better style in extra cloth with complete illustration is \$3.00, while the library style is \$4. Further particulars may be learned by addressing F. Harrison, Post Office, North End.

One Source Of Pain and Suffering Under Human Control.

An eminent specialist in studying profoundly the construction of the kidneys and their diseases, as well as the diseases of the bladder and urinary passages, has recognized the fact that in order to treat kidney and bladder diseases successfully a remedy must be prepared especially for these organs, and one rich in healing powers. After much research a remedy was found, which proved a surprise even to the manufacturer. After having been used in general practice by several physicians, with grand results, it was placed on the market, and is known as South American Kidney Cure. It never fails to give relief in six hours in all derangements of the kidneys or bladder, Bright's disease, diabetes, inflammation or ulceration of the kidneys, neuralgia, consumption, hemorrhage and catarrh of the kidneys, inflammation of the bladder, etc. At druggists.

Proposed Baby Market.

A French writer, M. Louis de Gramont, seriously proposes the establishment of a baby market in Paris. How many people are there, he asks, who lament the fact that they have no children in their homes; and, on the other hand, how many people are there who, having children, find the struggle with adversity too difficult, and cannot get food for those children? Let them sell their children, he says, and all will be well.

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