MONSTERS OF THE STAGE.

The Dragon of St. George and Some More Modern Beasts.

A new stage monster has appeared among the London music halls. It is a head, without any body, which yet moves about, eats and expresses various emotions. Its tissues are apparently of the same sort as those of the dragon in "Siegfried," and, like that beast, it moves by the agency of a man inside it. But if it does all with which it is credited it must be rather more elaborate in its mechanism than even that triumph of mythological zoology. For, in spite of its coarse and grotesque appearance, it can, it is said, express astonishment, anger, longing, sorrow and repose in a most convincing manner.

There has always been a surprising amount of mirth to be got out of animals and monsters thus controlled by human power within them. The fun probably lies in the lifelike action of a thing which looks so ludicrously unlifelike, or, sometimes, in the excessively human demeanor of an animal. At any rate, the device is an extremely old one for simple amusement, without thought of instruction or art, and it is still a favorite.

For even the hobby-horse is not forgotten, in spite of the wail of 300 years ago that it was. The hobby-horse, one of the simplest of the human beasts, has always been also one of the most amusing. A frame in something like the shape of a horse was fastened around the body of the supposed rider. The rider's legs were the only ones that there were for the use of the rider and the horse together, a trifling pair in the place of six. Sometimes there were two others for show, though not for use, a pair of boots being hung upon the sides of the horse to simulate the legs of the rider. The real legs of the rider, which had to supply all the locomotion, were hidden by the trappings of the horse, except sometimes when the plunging and rearing of the unruly beat made them visible for a moment. But such an incident did not detract from the humor of the situation. And in spite of the economy of legs the hobby-horse and its rider could do most of the things that a real horse and rider could do, and some things that they could not. They could race and tilt and prance and parade, and there was no end to the fun that could be got out of them when the rider was clever and could make it appear that he was having a desperate struggle for the control of his steed. The hobby-horse, as has been said, was popular in the old time, but even yet he reappears now and then on the stage or in the circus ring, and always receives warm applause.

The hobby-horse found its most legitimate use in the morris dance, in the old celebrations of May Day. Another beast of the old time was the dragon which performed in the drama of St. George, usually in the Christmas holidays. The play was given by little bands of the country people, who went from house to house, acting it at each one and collecting in payment any little presents of money or of meat and drink that might be offered to them. The dragon had a fierce head fitted upon the head of the man, and it dragged a long tail behind. It walked upon its hind legs, which were the legs of a man, and its forelegs were the arms of a man. Impersonated by a man with any little sense of humor, or even by one without it, this dragon must have been funny enough. An old picture shows the monster, with its horrid yard-long skin, its long, scaly body and tall, a pair of trousers, baggy not only at the knees, but the whole length, and a cotton umbrella clutched in its claw.

The outfit of this dragon shows that he could not have lived in the earliest times of the hobby-horse, if anybody knows when those times were. And, to get right down to the memory of living men, there was that merry creature, the heifer in "Evangeline." She is doubtless the most famous modern instance of her kind. It took two men to compose her, one for the forelegs and one for the hind legs. The dancing that she did showed that she belonged more to the minstrel stage than to the farmyard, and the two men who bore her ungainly form on their shoulders when she first pranced into the range of vision of an astounded public have both risen since to be star actors.

The elephant has been rather a favorite animal for this sort of representation of late. Miss Lillian Russell rode on one when she appeared in "An American Beauty," but the most lifelike was that which De Wolf Hopper introduced in "Wang." This was really such a good imitation of an elephant that many persons thought that it was a real one till it sucked up a huge glass of beer through its trunk, and even then some, who did not happen to know how an elephant drinks, were not sure.

All these animals have been inspired, so to speak, by men, but an exceedingly funny act was performed some years ago—and perhaps is performed still—by an animal disguised as another animal. The scene was a bull fight. The chief actor in it, who impersonated the bull, was a Danish boarhound, and he was assisted by a child who played the matador. The dog was covered all over with a cloth suit representing the hide of a bull, with horns affixed to its head, and he was trained to lie down at the proper time when he was supposed to be killed. The fun of the act was the diminutive bull-like appearance of the animal and his purely big dog-like actions.

It would be hard to find anything funnier of this sort than the "Blondin donkey," which was exhibited in two or three of the music halls in New York a few weeks ago. Its interior workings consist of one man, who must have lengthened his arms with pieces of wood to make them as long as his legs, that the animal might be of the same hight before and behind. The beast got its title from its walking of the tight rope, which was really a board, but that was only a small part of its performance. Its struggles with its supposed master, the human air of wariness and suspicion with which it sidled about the stage, watching for an opening, like a prize fighter, were indescribably funny.

And now here are two illusions that can be done by the amateur in any parlor entertainment, they are so simple. Neither of them is absolutely new. One of them is the dwarf. He is made by dressing the upper half of a man like a whole man. He stands behind a table, which has a covering reaching to the floor in front, so as to hide his legs and feet. His hands are stuck into boots, which rest on the table. False arms and hands are built on a stick which is fastened across the shoulders. The head is, of course, the real head. The dwarf cannot do much with his hands, but he can talk, sing, dance and perhaps walk a little way, if he is careful about it.

The other illusion is not that of an animal or of a human being; it is something much more solmn and dignified. The title is "The Rival Spirits." By a dim light and to slow music a coffin is disclosed, or it is brought in by bearers, if convenient, and set down before the audience. In a moment a white, ghostly form rears itself behind the coffin and seems to be gazing down intently upon the lid. Then it drops down again and vanishes. The next instant a black form rises on the side of the coffin next to the audience and looks and vanishes in its turn. Then the two spirits appear at the same time, and the minute that they see each other there is a terrific fight. They hammer and maul and butt each other, they hide behind the coffin and spring upon each other, till at last they rear themselves, one at a time, high up, in a final effort, and sink exhausted on the lid.

The coffin is, of course, only a frame covered with black cloth, and the spirits are draped sticks managed by a man who lies within, with his arms through slits in the sides. The black spirit should be on the side next the audience, so that its draperies may be indistinguishable in the dim light from the coffin and the black sleeve of the operator. This trick has always been found successful in sending all sorts of cold shivers through the audience at first and then banishing them with laughter. But it should not be attempted in the presence of nervous people.—New York Tribune.

Robert Fulton's Torpedoes.

Before re turned his attention to navigation by steam, Robert Fulton invented a marine torpedo which he endeavored to dispose of to the United States Government. Succeeding in interesting James Madison, then Secretary of State, in the matter, he obtained a small appropriation from the Government for the purpose of conducting some public experiments. In the summer of 1806 he invited the high dignitaries and a number of prominent citizens of New York to Governor's Island to see the torpedoes and machinery with which his experiments were to be made. While he was lecturing on his blank torpedoes, which were large empty copper cylinders, his numerous auditors crowded around him. After a while he turned to a copper case of the same description, which was placed under the gateway of old Castle William, and to which was attached a clock-work lock.

Drawing out a peg, Fulton set the clock in motion, and then he said in solemn tones to his attentive audience: "Gentlemen, this is a charged torpedo, with which, precisely in its present state, I mean to blow up a vessel; it contains 170 pounds of gunpowder, and if I were to suffer the clockwork to run fifteen minutes I have no doubt that it would blow this fortification to atoms."

The circle of humanity which had closed around the inventor began to spread out and grow thinner, and before five of the fifteen minutes had passed there were but two or three persons remaining under the gateway. Some, indeed, lost no time in getting at the greatest possible distance from the torpedo, and they did not again appear on the ground until they were assured that the engine of destruction was safely lodged in the magazine, whence it had been taken. The local historian of that period remarks:

"The conduct of Mr. Fulton's auditors was not very extraordinary or unnatural; but his own composure indicated the confidence with which he handled these terrible instruments of destruction and the reliance he had on the accuracy of the performance of his machinery. The apprehensions of his friends surprised and amused him, and he took occasion to remark how true it was that fear frequently arose from ignorance."

A Diamond-Tooth Joke.

Here is an anecdote about a Brooklyn dentist that has recently caused a smile or two in drawing-room and club circles not far from the Hights. A wealthy man upon whom nature has bestowed a rugged and serious countenance to mask a joking disposition called at the office of the dentist aforesaid in actual distress over a broken front tooth. "Can naything be done to remedy this defect?" he asked eagerly.

Upon examination the dental artist found that one of two very large and prominent upper teeth had been damaged beyond rpeair. "It must come out," he said curtly.

"No, no, you must build it up," exclaimed the visitor. "I can't spare that tooth. Its removal would make my mouth look like an open porthole."

"Oh, well, I can replace it," complacently answered the dentist. "The old one must certainly come out, but I will put in a new one that will make you look better than ever before. It will be firm and regular, and much handsomer than the old one."

"Ah!" muttered the wealthy man. "That's what I want. Make it as attractive as possible."

"Yes, indeed, I will," said the dentist enthusiastically. "You shall have a tooth that will be perfect in form, white, pearly and glistening——"

"Say, doctor," interrupted the visitor with mock gravity, "couldn't you set a large diamond in the middle of it?"

"Oh, no, I wouldn't do that," replied the dentist hastily, but in sober earnest. "Of course I know that you can well afford it, but it would look—well, just a trifle too conspicuous, don't you know."—New York Times.

She Never Forgave Him.

"I know what I am talking about," remarked a member of Congress, "when I say that a Congressman has trouble of his own. It's a fine thing to be a statesman and show up in the national parade of greatness at the Capital, but there's a good deal more to it than that. And one of the things that is hardest to bear is what they say about us. Why, a lady can't come up here and ask to see a member that there aren't a half-dozen people to wink and shake the head, and a lot more of the same to make him wish all the women were in hades. Of course, there is some ground among us for remarks, just as there is among preachers and doctors, and hod-carriers and everybody else human, and I know a woman or two who find their chief delight in trying to involve Congressmen and other officials in any kind of a flirtation that comes handy. They are pretty and persuasive, and before a man knows what he is about he is down in the Senate restaurant paying for a lunch and listening to some kind of a tale of woe.

"But they miss it now and then, and I am glad to note an instance which occurred only a day or two ago. A member from a Northern State had been invited to call at the lady's hotel the next day, and she had asked him to let her know if he would come. He wrote, saying among other things: 'To-morrow, madam, I hope to see the loveliest woman in the world.' Naturally she was pleased, and told all the people around the hotel about it. The next day he did not appear, and the next she saw him at the Capitol, and asked him what he meant by treating her so.

"'What did I do?' he asked, innocently.

"'You said you were coming to see me,' she said, blushing at the remembrance of his words.

"'I think not.'

"'Indeed you did,' she insisted. 'You said you would see the loveliest woman in the world,' and she blushed again.

"'Oh, I beg pardon,' he said, smiling. 'I meant my wife. She just arrived yesterday.'"—Washington Star.

PITHY PARAGRAPHS.

Wayward Watson—Wot did the doctor tell you to do for your cold?

Perry Patettic—He says I'd orto take a right good sweat. I guess I'll set down an' think about work.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"This extravagance," said her husband gravely to himself, "requires a check."

After thinking the matter over he wrote a check and said nothing to her about it.—New York Journal.

Stuttering Lover — M-m-mildred, is th-th-there any obstacle that st-st-st-st-stands b-b-b-b-between us?

Demure Maiden—Nothing, Harold, but the impediment in your speech.—Chicago Tribune.

He—I see that they have suspended a New York hospital physician for kissing a pretty nurse.

She—Yes. It seems that he only kissed her once.—Detroit Free Press.

Customer—He's a promising young fellow.

The Tailor—Yes, so he is. He has given me a thousand evidences of it.—Up to Date.

He—I fear your love for me is growing cold.

She—Well, why not try a sealskin sack, and see if that would warm it any?—Yonkers Statesman.

She—Did you see papa?

He—Just saw him. He was very busy for about a minute.—Detroit Free Press.

"I see that there is a movement on foot to force the resignation of Dr. Bookman, the President of the Allround University."

"Why?"

"He's opposed to football."—Puck.

"Two is Company, Three is Not."

JUST YOU AND I.

You need no one to tell you how to buy nor how to sell. If I paid someone a percentage for every dollar you spend with me, it would cost me money directly, and you indirectly. I do business on a principle, which, if you will call and investigate, you will find it to your own self-interest to deal with me. There are two sides to every question. Good goods on mine; cash on yours.

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No Percentage Pharmacy,
200 K STREET,
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MEETING NOTICES.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ISAAC Davis Lodge of Perfection, No. 4, A. and A. S. R., at the Masonic Temple, corner Sixth and K streets, THIS (Monday) EVENING, February 21, 1898, at 7:30 o'clock. Election of officers. A full attendance is requested. It M. J. CURTIS Secretary.

MEMBERS OF COURT CAPITAL, No. 6, F. of A., are requested to attend regular meeting on MONDAY, February 21st, at 8 o'clock p. m., on the occasion of the official visit of Grand Senior Woodward J. W. Hughes. J. ALEXANDER, Chief Ranger. Phil Hirsch, Rec. Sec. It

N. D. G. W.—REGULAR MEETING OF Califia Parlor, No. 22, at Grangers' Hall, MONDAY EVENING, February 21st, at 7:30 o'clock. EMMA GETT, President. Mary L. Woods, R. S. It

LILY OF THE VALLEY LODGE, D. OF H., will meet THIS EVENING. LUCY JENNIS, Chief of Honor. Mrs. R. A. May, Recorder. It

FIRST ELECTRO-MEDICAL SOCIETY of Sacramento meets FRIDAYS at 1614 G street. Applications for membership received or any information concerning the society given by Professor James H. Burden, President, 817½ K street.

DENTISTRY.

DR. R. L. WAIT'S OFFICE, 705 J ST., over Christianson & Co.'s market. Painless extraction of teeth by use of a new anesthetic. Examination and consultation free. Hours—8:30 a. m. to 7 p. m. Tel., office, 933 red; res. 841 black.

DR. W. A. ROOT, DENTIST—CAPITAL telephone, 297; Sunset telephone, No. 901 red. 814 K street.

DR. W. O. GIRARDY, DENTIST—Office and residence, 922 Fifth street. Capital 'phone 457; next to Sacramento Bank.

F. F. TEBBETS, —DENTIST— 914 Sixth street, between I and J, west side, opposite Congregational Church.

DR. A. J. THOMAS, —DENTIST— Successor to H. H. Pierson, 511½ J st. Hours, 9 to 5.

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WE CARRY A COMPLETE LINE OF optical goods; eyes tested free by a competent graduated optician. KLUNE & FLOBERG, dealers in jewelry and precious stones.

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SPEEDY CURE TREATMENT for torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin and scalp diseases with loss of hair.—Warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, gentle applications of CUTICURA (ointment), and full doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, greatest of blood purifiers and humor cures

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WANTED—AN ACTIVE YOUNG MAN as dishwasher in a restaurant; must have experience and be able to give good local references as to honesty and sobriety. Address No. 234, this office. It

WANTED—TRAVELING SALESMAN, educated, ambitious; $50 per month at first; will raise as merit; permanent position. 1841 Wabash avenue, Chicago, Ill. fe6-4tSu

WANTED—5 MEN, $20 MONTH; 3 girls, country, $15. GRANT McKAY, 921 Sixth street. Sunset 'phone, red 541.

WANTED—COMPANION FOR THREE months' camping trip. Address V. S., this office. fe19-3t*

JAPANESE DOMESTIC AND RANCH hands furnished on short notice at Japanese Inf. Agency, 817 Sixth street.

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MAN AND WIFE WOULD LIKE TO hire out to party or company going to Klondike; both are strong and able to work. Address 'D. O. F.," this office.

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Wm. S. Howe, Notary Public. S. Luke Howe HOWE & HOWE, —Attorneys-at-Law— Sutter building, No. 426½ J street.

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J. J. Henderson, W. F. Renfro, J. O. Prewett. PREWETT, RENFRO & HENDERSON, —Lawyers— Office, 628½ J street. Sun. Tel., white 181.

J. Frank Brown. Arthur E. Miller. MILLER & BROWN, Attorneys-at-Law. 405½ J street. Telephones, Capital 314, Sunset, 744 red.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, —Attorney-at-Law— Rooms 26, 27 and 28, third floor, Stoll Building, southwest corner Fifth and K.

A. P. CATLIN, Attorney and Counselor-at-Law, Northeast corner Third and J. Eugene Aram. A. L. Hart.

HART & ARAM, ATTORNEYS-AT-Law. Office, Fifth and J streets, rooms 12, 13 and 14, Sutter Building.

WILLIAM A. GETT, JR., —Attorney-at-Law— Sutter Building, southwest corner of Fifth and J. Telephone No. 359.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

W. W. MACFARLANE, M. D.—OFFICE, Fourth and K; residence 716 19th st.

DR. W. H. BALDWIN, OFFICE, 1029 2d st. Hours—10 to 12, 2 to 4, and 7 to 8. 'Phones, red 963. Cap. 59. Residence 1100 H street. 'Phone, black, 431; Cap. 88.

DR. P. R. WATTS, 1006 Eighth Street—Office hours, 10 to 11 a. m., 2 to 4 and 7 to 8 p. m. Sundays, 1 to 2 p. m.

REMOVED—DR. McGAVREN HAS REMOVED to Sutter Building, Fifth and J.

DR. MARY M. CRONEMILLER—628½ J st.; 9 to 10 a. m., 1 to 3:30 and 7 to 7:30 p. m., tel., office, 473; res., 406. Sunset, 182.

REMOVED—DR. HART HAS REMOVED to Sutter Building, Fifth and J streets.

DR. SIMMONS, JR.—HOURS 11 TO 12 a. m., 4 to 5 p. m., 7:30 evenings. Telephones—Office, Sunset red, 891. Capital, 240. House—Capital, 128.

DR. WIARD HAS CHANGED HIS RESIDENCE from 1730 N street to Twenty-second and T. Office at Eighth and J sts.

DR. FAY, 627½ J; TEL. SUN. RED, 934; 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 4, 7 to 8 p. m. Res. 1726 G. Tel. Cap. 309. Sunset, blue, 31.

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TO LET—TWO ROOMS FOR HOUSEkeeping, furnished; also, suite of two furnished front rooms with board or without. 721 H street.

HOUSE OF 5 ROOMS AND BATH; Newly whitened; good location. Inquire at 517 Ninth street. fe20-5t*

FOR SALE OR TO LET—AT BLUE CANyon, Placer County, the Blue Canyon Hotel and cottages. Apply to E. TWADDLES, 2513 N street, Sacramento, Cal.

A GOOD CHANCE FOR A LIVE MAN to rent a saloon and summer resort; good location. For particulars Address H. FALK, Angel's Camp. fe19-4t*

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609½ I ST—FRONT SUITE FURNISHED housekeeping, also suites and single rooms.

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922 F ST.—BAKERY TO LET OR BUILDing for sale. Inquire 600 Tenth street.

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1609 ELEVENTH ST.—LOWER FLAT four rooms. Apply next door.

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1108 FOURTH ST.—NICELY FURNISHed rooms; suites or single; $1 and up.

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TO LET—$18—808 E STREET, NEW 5-room cottage, with modern improvements. Apply 914 Ninth street.

GENERAL NOTICES.

GERMANIA BUILDING AND LOAN Association—The monthly installments and interest are due and payable TODAY (Monday), February 21, 1898. The Secretary will be ready to receive the same at 1011 Fourth street, from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m., and in the evening from 7 to 8. J. HAHN, President. H. J. Goethe, Secretary. 1t

THERE WILL BE A SOCIAL DANCE given by the Western Star Frauen Verein at Foresters' Hall on WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 2d. Tickets 25 cents each. fe20-26-m1

O. H. CONAWAY, SUCCESSOR Andrea Cycling Company. Electrical work and bicycle repairing; the only house to give trading stamps on electrical supplies. All work guaranteed. 1003 K st.

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