THE BLOOD CURE.

Patients Who Drink at the New York Slaughter-Houses.

[From the New York Herald.]

A visit to the slaughter-house at the foot of Thirty-fourth street was made by the writer. Passing through the long lines of beef, dressed and ready for the markets, to the center of the large building, the shambles are found. Great, sturdy men, with arms bare to the shoulder and dyed with blood, stood within a small inclosure, and hanging before them was a Texas steer, still warm and the blood dripping from the gash in his throat. The implements of slaughter lay about, and the light struggling through the windows overhead and reflected from the blood-soaked floor cast a reddish tint upon every thing. The steer was lowered to the floor, and, while the hide was being rapidly taken from his body, the writer turned to one of the attendants and said:

"Do people come here to drink blood?"

"Lord bless you, yes, lots of them! Have a glass?" and the gory Hercules stooped down for a small dipper that stood near by. The writer, begging to be excused, continued the conversation.

"What do they drink it for?"

"Well, for all kinds of things. It will cure almost anything, if you only think it will. Consumption most often, and weakness of all kinds. Thin people drink it to get fat, and fat people who think they're weak to get strong."

"Has it an unpleasant taste?"

"Oh, no; tastes something like warm milk," and here the man made a motion as if to get some, which the writer quickly checked.

"Can people come and drink a quantity of it the first time?"

"Very seldom. Most people are afraid of it at first, but they get to like it after a while. Ladies are the worst; they make awful faces the first few times, but they take to it at the end just as if it was lager."

"Do you have many ladies come for it?"

"Lots. Almost every day we have some, and it does them good, too. Why, there used to be a young lady come here every morning in her carriage. The first time she came she looked very bad. She was white and thin and did not get out of the carriage, because she was not able to, I suppose. Well, she made an awful fuss about it. I thought she was going to faint when she saw the glass full that was brought to her. 'Take it away,' she said, and so it was taken away. That day she managed to get down a teaspoonful of it after a terrible fuss. But she got to like it like all the rest, and it wasn't long before she could take a tumbler of it and smack her lips, too. She got fatter and fatter all the time, and now she does not come any more, and I suppose she is cured."

"Do they ever take the blood home with them?"

"Take it home? No, sir; they have got to drink it when it is fresh, or else it will get clotted, and they can't drink it at all. You see sometimes they will have to wait a few minutes until we kill a fresh steer. Just as soon as the throat is cut the blood spurts out, and we catch some of it in a glass, and then they must drink it right down."

"What is the social position of the patients?"

"Well, some are rich and some are poor, but they all meet on common ground when they come here. Of course we take more interest in women than we do in men; that's natural, you know, and then the women always seem more grateful when they are cured than men do. There was an old man who came here once, and he used to grumble if the blood was not just ready for him. We stood it as long as we could and then up and told him one morning that we did not run a bar. After that he was more easy, and took his blood as quiet as any one."

"It is said by some people, particularly some doctors, that the habit of drinking blood is a dangerous one, because a person engenders a passion for it stronger than even for liquor. The more they drink the more they want."

"I just tell you what it is, these doctors don't know anything about it. They don't want their patients to drink blood. Why, because they would get well then, and that would ruin their business. If people should stop eating meat we should have go out of the business, and if people would stop getting sick what would become of the doctors? See! Why, just go down to the markets, any of them, ask the butchers if they ever have consumption when they work around fresh meat. No, sir, they don't, and many a man has been cured by it and not know himself what cured him. As for the love of it, they all like it well enough after they get used to it, and I have heard of men who have drunk it regularly for years, but never heard there was anything queer about them."

The men about the slaughter-house speak not only of cases of consumption cured, but also of deformities and swellings made well. The case of a child, a little girl about 4 years of age, that was brought to the abattoir almost daily during the past summer, is a case in point. When she first appeared she was accompanied by her parents and was exceedingly thin and pale. She was affected, it was stated, with inflammatory rheumatism or something of that nature, and one of her legs was drawn out of shape. The little thing was indeed a sufferer, and was regarded with anxious eyes by the sturdy men. Her father had heard that the paunch of a steer placed around the diseased limb would have a beneficial effect, and had come to try the experiment upon his daughter. The butchers, strong in the belief of the efficacy of their pet theories, advised him by all means to do so, and offered to prepare the bath of entrails. When the next bullock had been killed and the hide cut open the stomach was taken out and the contents placed in a barrel or large tub. The little girl was now brought forward and prepared for a plunge into the horrible mass. Frightened almost to death she was at the terrible sight, to her, of slaughtered animals and bloodstained men; but, notwithstanding her screams and struggles, she was forced feet foremost into the still-warm entrails. The treatment was repeated from time to time during the summer with marked beneficial results. It is claimed now that the little girl has almost entirely recovered. Several cases of scrofulous patients cured are mentioned by the *habitues* of the market, and one or two cases of these were children.

A Crop of Centenarians.

Jacob M. Jacobs, of Oswego, rounded off his century last Wednesday, and walked about the house, read his newspaper, and smoked his pipe like any brisk collegian of 20. He entered the navy in 1810, fought under the heroic Lawrence, and saw service on Lake Ontario in 1814; and for many, many years he has smoked a very, very old pipe. Very hale and hearty is this old man whom neither gunpowder nor tobacco has had power to kill. On his birthday he shook hands with 300 friends without feeling fatigued. Nay, more, he sat and listened to odes composed by his granddaughters, and was quite fresh the next morning. These tough old fellows in Northern New York die hard.—*New York Tribune.*

Here she is. All the way from Georgia, gentlemen, Mrs. Elizabeth Wheatley, aged 104 years. She reads without glasses, and walks visiting a quarter of a mile and returns the same day. She was married in her 16th year, and has raised three sets of children, eleven in all, five of whom are living, the oldest a daughter of 87 years of age. She has raised three pairs of twins of her own, and two sets of grandchildren. Never did a day's washing, nor made a pot of soap, has cooked but few meals, and milked a cow a few times. Her hair is black—she has been a widow over fifty years, converses fluently, and is anxious to move to Texas. —*Chicago Times.*

On Saturday a week ago Mrs. Margaret Gray, the oldest person in all this section of the State, having arrived at the wonderful age of 116 years, died at her home in Cabarrus county, N. C. She was the daughter of Michael Garner (familiarly known as old Mike Garner), who is said to have been the wealthiest man who ever lived in Cabarrus county. Mrs. Gray was the wife of Beverly Gray, and was the mother of sixteen children. Having been born in Cabarrus in 1751, and raised in Rocky river neighborhood, she has spent her entire life in the county, and, it is said, never for once crossed the line.—*Charlotte (N. C.) Observer.*

A Remarkable Dog.

"Old Frank" is a hunting dog that used to hang around the newspaper offices of St. Joseph, Mo. Mr. Joseph Crane took "Old Frank" to his house. Mr. Crane had an old hen, with seven or eight chickens that had been hatched out a couple of weeks. For some cause the unnatural mother deserted her offspring, and for nearly a day they wandered around unprotected. The dog noticed the helpless condition of the young brood, and he immediately took them under his wing; and he has since continued to care for them in the most affectionate manner, leading them around in the daytime and curling himself around them at night. The chickens are doing well, and seem perfectly contented with their new protector.

History in Our Common Schools.

Our attention has recently been called to a History of the United States for the use of schools, by Prof. J. C. Ridpath, which is not only the best we have ever seen, but embraces features of rare value never before incorporated into any history. It is written in a style of great elegance, but simple and easy of comprehension; systematically arranged in a connected narrative; elegantly and intelligently illustrated with chronological charts, progressive maps, typographical diagrams, portraits and cuts; fresh, philosophical and readable.

It is as much unlike an ordinary school history as the beautiful periods of Irving are unlike the turgid nonsense of Tupper; and it so adroitly weaves the inspiring story of the country into the web and woof of its material facts as to impress the lessons of history upon the mind with indelible force. It is fact dressed in elegant periods, noble diction, impressive characterizations, and illuminated by appropriate incident and beautiful pictures. The publishers (Jones Brothers & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio) have made the most elegant and attractive school-book now before the public.

Dickens' Little Folks.

Nothing has given the writings of Charles Dickens so strong a hold upon the hearts of parents as the well-known excellence of his portrayal of children and their interests. These delineations, having received the approval of readers of mature age, the different child characters have been detached from the large mass of matter with which they were originally connected, and presented in the author's own language to a new class of readers, to whom the little volumes will be as attractive as the larger originals have proven to the general public. A series of twelve volumes has been prepared, presenting among others the following characters: "Smike," from Nicholas Nickleby; "Little Nell," from The Old Curiosity Shop; "The Child Wife," from David Copperfield; "The Boy Joe," from Pickwick Papers, etc., etc. A new edition of the first volume of the series, "Little Paul," from Dombey and Son, has just been issued, illustrated by Darley, and attractively bound. The other volumes will shortly follow. Sent post-paid for $1.00; or any volume will be sent with a year's subscription to the New York *Tribune* (weekly) for $2.00; or any two volumes with a year's subscription to the *Independent* for $3.00.

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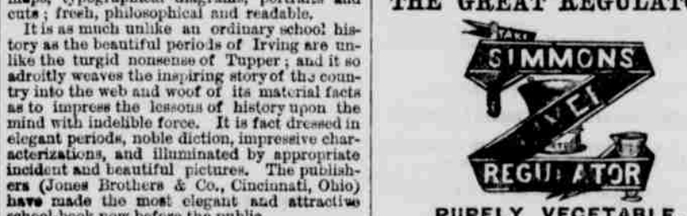

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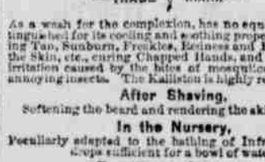

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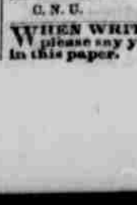

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