

TO ELLA.

BY SALLIE M. BRYAN.

I dreamed of thee last night, and so my heart Goes wand'ring back into the summers gone...

Each starry tie Amid the roses would linger then, Learning the winds the poetry we loved!

'Tis well when these mirages of the heart Fade ere we gain their light—since fade they must!

For which the earth—the heaven—gives no relief— But—ears and tears and tears! Oh, some have knelt—

I tell thee—but 'tis vain—thou hast not learned The utter desolation of the heart For which the earth—the heaven—gives no relief—

ABOUT SNAKES.

What is a snake? It is that flesh-eating, cold-blooded member of the reptile tribe which runs without legs, swims without fins, sleeps with its eyes open and breathes with one lung.

So much for the general features of all the snake tribe. The poisonous ones, of which there are about one hundred kinds, and the non-poisonous, of which there are about four hundred, differ very decidedly in several respects.

Having no teeth for chewing or biting off portions of their food, serpents are obliged to swallow it whole, though it may be twice or thrice their own bulk.

quick was this act that the eye could not follow the rapid windings of his body. When the goat no longer gave signs of life, he unwound himself and let it fall dead from his embrace.

After performing such a feat as this, the halves of the jaws do not regain their position for sometime, and the serpent becomes languid and helpless, in which state it is easily captured or killed.

If a boa six inches thick can swallow a goat, it is not difficult to believe that one twice the size can do the same to a man.

The most appropriate place for the teeth of any creature would seem to be in the mouth, but there is a South African serpent that has them in its stomach.

We now come to the poisonous serpents. In these, the body, directly behind the head, diminishes somewhat, forming a sort of neck, which is not the case with the non-venomous ones.

The most poisonous serpents known are the Rattlesnake, the Water Moccasin, the Dart Serpent, which, gathering into a coil, throws itself upon its prey a distance of several yards,

The speed with which snake poison acts depends upon the place struck by the fangs. If a vein receives the blow the action is very rapid, for the venom operates only on the blood, decomposing it, and making it "clot" in the veins and arteries.

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the flesh from its bones, and devours it with many grunts of satisfaction! The usefulness of pigs as snake exterminators is so well known, that in the West and South, when a field or farm becomes infested with dangerous reptiles, a sow and her litter are turned into it.

If the body of the animal bitten be warm, the poison is swifter in its action than if the reverse be the case, and a bite in a warm climate is more dangerous than in a cool one.

Of the cases in which men have been fatally bitten, the following are on record, showing the time elapsing before death: A snake-charmer of Madras, who, while in a state of intoxication, foolishly played with a cobra just caught, the fangs of which had not been extracted, was struck by it in the chin, and was a corpse in two hours.

In cases of fatal snake-bites, the body swells, the tongue becomes highly inflamed, the flesh around the wound rapidly mortifies, and the entire skin becomes of a greenish-yellow tint.

The effects of snake-poison on plants, says Dr. Gilman, is somewhat like that upon animals. He inoculated several small but vigorous plants with it, and next day they were dead and withered, looking as if struck by lightning.

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Potent, however, as this venom is, it may be swallowed without fear. Tozzi, assistant of Mangili, an Italian naturalist, swallowed all the poison obtainable from four large vipers, without receiving any injury.

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like a gorged leech! But their principal remedy is a very cruel one. When one of their number is supposed to be dangerously bitten, a cut is made into the breast of a live chicken, and the raw flesh applied to the serpent wound.

The snake charmers of the East claim to have great power over serpents, but it is now certain that the reptiles exhibited, and seemingly drawn from their hiding-places, are trained ones, with their fangs extracted as already explained.

There is a belief current that snakes do not die before sundown. This is a loose statement of a remarkable fact, to wit, that the action of the muscles in all reptiles lasts for a considerable period after death.

Snakes have some curious preferences and dislikes. The rattlesnake will not cross a rope of horsehair, with which hunters surround their camps to protect them from the incursions of these reptiles.

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In many parts of the world the snake is made quite useful. Leather is made of the skin, oil of the fat, and guitar strings of the tendons of the South American boa. The flesh, too, is

eaten. It is found to resemble veal very much in color and flavor. Dr. Livingstone tells of the natives of Africa carrying home on their shoulders, as they would heavy logs, portions of the huge snake called the tari.

The snake has many enemies. The peccary of South America, the ichneumon, the birds of the hawk species, the pig, as already mentioned, the deer, the ants of Brazil, all are its foes, and we have even known a cat to have earned quite a well-merited reputation as a destroyer of serpents.

The black snake is an unforgiving enemy of the rattlesnake, and the conflicts between them are very frequent, the former in most cases being the victor; he vanquishes his foe by pressing him to death in his coils, before the deadly blow with the fangs can be struck.

We find the following communication in the Oshkosh Weekly Democrat of the 14th ult. It was written for that paper by Mr. S. T. Bell, a well-known bookseller of that place.

OSHKOSH, May 13, 1869. Mr. Editor.—Well, the world was as usual. Yesterday morning our citizens awoke from a very sound and refreshing sleep, but with the corners of their mouths considerably drawn.

ON WHAT TRUE LOVE DEPENDS.

BY AUGUSTA HERBERT.

True and earnest love depends not, after all, so much on what is loved, as on what loves.

To satisfy yourself, look about you upon the circle of your own acquaintance. Don't you see that the noblest natures love best? It does not matter what sort of beings their friends or relatives are; they stick to them through thick and thin, in the true spirit of One who "sticketh closer than a brother."

If a woman of large and unselfish nature is bound to a man, of nature wide as a knife's edge and round as the tines of a fork, she never thinks of repudiating him. No, indeed,—while all the world despises him, she resolutely shuts her eyes to his faults, and by her ingenuity in forming excuses for "Pa" succeeds in deceiving herself, if she does not anybody else, as to his real character.

Perhaps all this is well; but, surely, it seems hard that men and women who don't know how to value the priceless treasures they have gained, and who are utterly unworthy of possessing them, should own so much, while others, fitted in every way to appreciate and return such wealth of love, to be, indeed, "congenial spirits," go unknown, and unloved, through life.

HOW TO GAIN UNANIMITY IN JURIES. Let the jury, says PUNCH, consist exclusively of ladies! As it is proverbial that women never do disagree, there would not be the slightest difficulty in securing always an unanimous verdict.