"Tell un a snake-story, doctor." The comand for this peculiar form of mental refreshment was manifested by the fifth officer of the good ship Chittagong, then steaming northward up the Red Sea at a speed which evoked the tepid ghost of a breeze out of the stagment stillness simmering over the guif, and sent Jebel Zagar slipping from bow to quarter in the brief interval between day and darkness. Reckembarrassed a salamander, we crowded, seven or eight of us, like true fatuous Britons, into a cabin ten feet by eight and a half, the bedroom, sittingroom, library, study, surgery, menawas addressed.

"Snake-story!" ejaculated the man of bee-board of his bunk. "What do you want a snake-story for? Isn't the natural life-history of any one of them? Why, you might chop out a wouldn't believe the extraordinary things that are simply commonplace, everyday facts about them. For instance, take the abnormal : tribution of the internal organs, asymmetrical enough almost to shake one's faith characteristic of the vertebrata, that lateral --- There, don't howl! I'm not tell you one of the queerest things queer enough to satisfy the fiver there, and true into the bargain .- Get off from the iid of the washstand for a moment, you two, while I chock these boxes off with my instruments-case, all snug. Mind none of you come to me to have your teeth out after we leave the Canal; I don't want to find my snake-cage playing Isaac and Joss all over the cabin, if it comes on to blow in the Mediterranean, and she rolls!"

A stivery slender Cingalese rat-snake, which had been nervously twining its sinuous length in and out between the speaker's accustomed hands and around his arms, was allowed to slide back into its prison of mahogany-protected glass and perforated zine; while the occasional hiss of a couple of sullen rockpythons lying in an open box at his feet was smothered by the interpositraveling-quarters. Possibly we all thence by the same tram-car to witfe.t a little more comfortable when they were thus packed up and put to She was an English girl, just arrived bed, in spite of our confidence in the with her father, an official high in the doctor's assurance that we were in no diplomatic service. Both eagerly and danger of attack by his weird pets. gratefully accepted the guidance and The medical officer of the Chittagong good offices of the courteous Portuguwas, as he himself expressed it, a con- eig, who spoke French fluently, and was, as ne miniscrited with a whose knowledge of the country made ground in fright and disgust and bebunacy for all reputiles and creeping him quite an old inhabitant by com- gan to nurse his hand. things, but hope essly "gone" over parison with themselves. With him snakes, which he caught or bought at they visited the Avenue of Palms in every practicable opportunity, and fed the Botanic Garden; with him they and fondled till he reached home, where | made the ascent of Santa Theresa and the surplus of his large private muse- climbed the Corcovada; with him they um ashore went in the form of dona- wandered at daybreak round the gorges tions or exchanges to every zoological of the Chinese View. The steam-launch collection in Europe.

ed between the shut-up washing-stand marvel the tact and intrepidity with and the chest of drawers, and so form- which their owner handled them. Then ing an additional settee, which light- a month later her fiance, also in the ened the cover of the former apparatus service of the Government, came out of one moiety of its disproportionate from Constantinople via Liston by the burden, half-a-dozen pipes contribut- Royal Mail, and they were married at ed their caloric to the already seeth- the Embassy. She with her husband ing atmosphere, unrelieved by the and father went to live at Petropolis; scoop-shaped wind-shoot which ang- he returned to his lonely quinta an I vihed vainly outside the open scuttle for varium on the island. Ah me! the Braany stray pulsation of the sultry night. | zilians have a proverb about the most Go.d-laced caps were tossed aside and dangerous snakes being cobras vestidas brass buttons loosed as the smokers y pentiadas—the serpents that wear recaxed their huddled-up limbs as far clothes and comb their hair; and they're as the narrow accommodation and not far wrong! scanty human anchorage would allow, while the doctor extended himself at full length high above us on the grass And in an endurance of heat and smoke which might have qualified for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade or earned the Victoria Cross, he spun the follow-

You can't go in for out-of-the-way kind of "critturs" like these all your life without meeting with some adventures more or less strange in connection with them. I have run across a few in my time, as you know by the fang-marks and scars on my arms and neck; but I don't think anything that has ever occurred within my experience of things snaky-and I was born and brought up amongst them and have been in pretty blose companionship with them all my days-nothing, I say, that I have known of them in their casual relations with human leings and remance and mysticism than the event I am going to relate. by virtue of the following and sitting down in the saloon after a broken glass still in her unconscious ed may sometimes gain 15 to 20 ounces locks of the hair of his two dead won't wou don't wish it! Vu.gar couple of hours' deep draught of the hand, and her dress stained and splash a day.

sensationalism carries the day versus the magic and mystery of Nature; so here's your snake-story. I played but a very subordinate part in it, little more than that of a spectator; but, as in the scene whence all our troubles date, the leading dramatis personce were a woman and a serpant.

Nearly twenty years ago there lived for a time in the neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro a certain naturalist, whose avowed speciality was ophiology, more particularly the study of venomous species, with that most futile and ing little of a temperature which might fascinating quest which has exercised the mind of man from prehistoric ages to the present day, and which is as vain and as engrossing now as in the beginning—the search for an antidote to the poison. He was comparatively a young man, certainly on the right side of forty, unmarried, and possessed gerie, and general "den" of the ship's of wherewithal to ensure the timely doctor, to whom the above invocation appearance of the daily bread independently of labor with hand or brain even in that ruinous part of the world; not a native Brazilian, but a Portuguese, medicine in a tone of cynical disgust, who, after studying in the medical as he sat swinging his legs over the schools of Paris and Vienna, had left and read, and wrote, analysed, and dis- brief consultation between them. him. Poor fellow!

He fell in I ve. How often those four ness the saturnalia in the city far below. It's all told in a very few words. a sharp plunge-only a scratch in the bore them over to Paqueta, where they The serpents' cages being safely fix- shuddered at the snakes, and saw with

I'm not going to indulge in any psychological speculations as to his mental and moral struggles, his battles and mat which served him for bed-c.othes. doubts and resolves. That such a mind as his would suffer acutely, and that it might be torn and tossed in a fearful conflict, there can be no doubt. But whether he formed any deliberate plan of action, or whether he simply allowed himself to become the prey of circumstances in what followed, none can know. All that is certain is that 'a short time after the wedding-a few weeks or months, I don't know how long-he set out on a snaking expedition among the Orgao Mountains, put into a tall Venetian glass, for she had sleep on the hurricane-deck skylights. in an appearance at Petropolic, and was a dazed remembrance of having read | -Good-night. a'l! greeted with effusive welcome by his or heard that large quantities of spirit late acquaintances in their new home. were given to keep up the circulation About this period I came round from of people serpent-bitten. She was just the Pacific coast in a steamer which on the point of holding the vessel to her was a day or so overdue when we got husband's lips, when their guest sped into Rio, having been detained by a back into the veranda with two small has been more replete with glamour pampero which blew heavily north of boxes in his hand. In a perfect fury of of weighing yourself in the morning the Plate. The pratique boat brought excitement he dashed the glass aside and again in the evening? It is one Though I stuck to my original position beseeching me to come immediately to ed in her grasp. for all that remember—that the ani- Petropolis to see a gentleman suffertraordinary in their structure and ing to ponder over a certain mystificators or passive properties. Just ing on the first stage of the journey, lost!"

first paragraph which caught my eye the recumbent form, and drawing as I unfolded the Jornal do Commercio forth a lancet from a case of surgical was a brief announcement of the death instruments, he lightly scarified the of the savant whom I so desired to skin of the hand in the neighbourhood meet. He had been bitten, so the ac- of the scarce-visible bite. Then from count stated, by a curucucu, one of the the other box he took a tiny glass tubworst of Brazilian serpents, two days | ule, fine almost as a hair, but containhour, on the very date which the letter | Steadying himself by a fierce repressive spot for which I was then bound:

conducted without delay, by a messeng- of glutinous liquid out of the tube on er who had been sent to meet me, to to the point of the knife, and rubbed the bedside of the patient, an English- it into the bleeding scratches. A momman, evidently of good position, but ent later his patient uttered a cry of personally unknown to me. friends, it seemed, had become aware ly upwards for one moment. that I was expected to come to Rio at the time when the accident happened, By the lurid flash of that one swift and-misled by sundry current fables involuntary glance she read revealed as to my knowledge of miraculous cures in the figure kneeling at her feet her for serpent-bites-had instantly de- lover and her husband's murderer. spatched the urgent appeal which I had Without a word, without a thought, received on my tardy arrival. It is impelled only by a blind protective inneedless to say that the primary issue stinct, she stooped and, with a wild of the man's life or death was long thrust, pushed his head away as he since decided; the native physicians at- hung over the poisoned hand. Never tached to the imperial court had done heeding him further as he reeled to his everything for him that skill and sci- feet and, clasping his throat with both ence rendered possible, and all question hands, staggered out into the air, she of specific treatment had been at an caught up the rapidly 'discolouring end for thirty-six hours or more. But limb and sucked the wound in despera-Europe to take up his abode in tropical he was still very ill, and by no means tion to drain the veins of the death allands in order to facilitate his special out of danger of the secondary com- ready creeping through them. That pursuit. Lacerda with his perman- plications-not seldom fatal in them- terrible cry had brought some of the story of a snake erough for you-the ganate of potash theory had not arisen selves-which may follow a venomous slaves into the veranda, and by this in Rio at that time; Halfourd's experi- inoculation-shock, gangrens, blood- time her father had reached her side. ments with ammonia on the thana- poisoning, and other disastrous conse- Medical aid was summoned, and stimutophidia of Australia, and those of quences. The bitten hand, the whole lants were poured down the sufferer's half-inch slice from this beast any- Fayrer in India, were too remotely Ori- arm, and even that side of the chest, throat, pending the arrival of the phywhere you like 'twixt stem and stern, ental to impress a South American were terrible swollen, and the constiand find more wonders and marve's in public; and a taste for the collection tutional symptoms severe; but there every side, and was enough to account of living serpents and an investigation were certain appearances and pheno- for all. it, and real ones too, than you will get of their manners and customs were apt mena in the case which I could not re-In all the penny-horrible snake-yarns to be regarded as a curious phase of concile with any past experience of ever invented. But the fact is, people mental aberration in those days by these matters, though the Brazilian a clump of bamboo in the garden, Missouri River was so low at Jefferson will swallow any amount of nonsense of Rio do Lorrison," as the inhabitants doctors, not being specialists in this dead, The splintered glass which her of Rio de Janeiro jocularly style them- form of injury, had perceived nothing hand had mechanically retained had about snake-charming and fights with selves. Perhaps it was a consciousness anomalous in them. And so it came serpents forty yards long, when they of this which led our ophilogist to be- about that on my mentioning these distake himself and his reptiles to a pic- crepancies to the sufferer's charming turesque nook on the island of Paqueta, wife and his father-in-law, the obvious one of the largest of the three hundred air of mystery and reserve which had and sixty-five which dot the glorious manifested itself all through their agbay. Here he established his vivarium onized anxiety was resolved, after a sected; attended by his black servants, their confiding to me the secret of this in very cool and comfortable quarters, hideous affair. No wonder that they in what is regarded as universally and varying the routine of his life by were almost beside themselves with snake-hunting excursions into the in- grief and horror and the conscious naterior, or holidaying trips to the city, cessity of suppression and concealment fifteen miles off; for his devotion to You have guessed, of course, who the going to lecture! Don't light up till work by no means precluded his en- patient was—the newly-made Benedict. I've stowed these reptiles away, for joyment of social pleasures. With the As I have intimated, the naturalist they can't stand smoke, and then I'll entree into the best native and foreign had been received by them with open society, he would run over at frequent arms, for no suspicion of the emotion intervales in his little steam-launch entertained by him had crossed their about serpents that ever came to my and put up for a week or so at the minds. Unaffectedly desirous to repay knowledge-outside themselves, that is; Estrangeiros or Carson's, while he the recent civilities at Tijuca, they had ed in the amusement of the gaiety- exerted themselves to the utmost to loving town. Let me say at once that render his visit a pleasant and mem-I firm y believe him to have been an orable one; indeed, so fervid was the honest enthusiastic student of his warmth of their hospitality that they sujbect, an earnest laborer in the had even done their best to procure vineyard of science, and one who must live serpents for him. In this endeavhave left his name written in golden or, however, they had been successfu! characters upon the history of re- only to a very limited extent, since the search, but for the tragedy in which he slaves who were sent out to scour the and all that should have made his forest-clothed hills for bixos brought fame were lost. It was my great wish in but one specimen uninjured among to meet him in person; for our common many dead, and that one proved to be craze had a ready knit a bond of union of no great scientific interest, though and had led to correspondence between a pretty and harmless little creature us; but I never saw him, though I a bright grass-green whip-snake. Its stood by his dishonored grave before recipient taking it out of the glass jar the earth had dain many hours upon in which its captors had imprisoned it as coolly and quietly as though it had been a yard of inanimate ribbon opwords preface the chapter which is the ened its long arrow-shaped jaws to de beginning of the end of this tale! He monstrate the absence of fangs in its fell in love, miserably, hopelessly, yet mouth and then proposed that his host hopeful against hope. He met her dur- ess should herself retain it as a pet ing Carnival, whilst staying at the showing her how to handle it so as to mountain hotel at Tijuca! They met avoid exciting its anger. This she acat dinner, they met in the sala, they complished-most women can manipulmet by the Cascades; they went down ate a snake far better than a man-to tion of the shutter which secured their in the same diligence to Boa Vista, and her half-terrified delight; and present ly her husband who had been abjectly afraid of the reptile at first, growing bolder by the contagion of her temer

> he flung the poor whip-snake on the "Do not be alarmed!" said the guest, with a smile; "it is perfectly harmless The snake's teeth cannot hurt you as much as the beak of yonder love-bird! Suddenly he seized the bitten hand and bent over it as though to inspect t closely; bent lower and lower, while stifled silence fell on the group lower and longer till every heart throbed audibly in the pausing moments. Then he slowly raised his head and lifted up a white ghastly face, the face f one changed by death.

ity, took it gingerly in his fingers-

with the usual result. It bit him with

angle between the forefinger an

thumb, just enough to draw blood; but

"Senhor," he gasped, with scarce artculate utterance, "I have been deceivpoison proved by a hundred experim- arly shaped spoon, and some shells cov- wheat this season and so'd it at a rate nothing now, in a few minutes the pois- striking, and so to collect the fluid eion will have taken possession of your ected from their glands. And with this

ing else!" His speech cleared, and the blood flushed back to his lips again as the | B'ess me, there goes six bells! Who words poured forth in a mad torrent, didn't some of you bring me up with and he rushed into the house where his a round turn before? We shall have preparations had been deposited. The the quartermaster upon us presently victim half incredulous, yet scared out to order the light out .- Fiver if you of his senses, placed himself in a frame- mean to keep the middle watch with work chair and lay back on its fold your eyes open, you'd better turn in of jaguar-skin. His wife, with despe- for an hour all standing or you'll be rate calmi took a flask of Italia from found on the wheel-gratings aft dreamthe sideboard and poured its contents ing of snake-bites .- I'm going up to

never-sating beauties of the bay, the ed by the spirit. Down he knelt by before, and had died in less than an ing a glistening streak of fluid. in my pocket bore, and at the very effort, and evincing a quietude and deliberation as unnatural as his previous As soon as I reached Petropolis, I was frenzy, he gently blew the minute drop His agony, and the operator glanced swift-

In that one moment she learned all

Outside in the glory of the sunshine stood the Portuguese, leaning against struck him in the neck as she pushed him aside from his lethal work, penetrating his cartoid artery, and he had bled to death in a few moments. suppose some influence in high places and a sufficiency of milreis notes arranged what little was left between him and the concerns of the world. Anyhow, he was huddled into the ground the same night, and next day the Jornal do Commercio informed its readers that he had been killed by a curucucu.

Care, skilful surgery, and a grand constitution pulled the patient out of the fire, and he ultimately recovered perfectly as far as his general health was concerned, though he never fully regained the use of his hand and arm. front steps of the court houses, and There could be no doubt as to what had it is said that Kentucky is the only happened; but I believe that no one but | State in the Union where the custom the wife, her father, and myself ever prevails. shared with the victim the true explanation. The Brazilian doctors had naturally accepted without cavil the statement that the hand which by the time they examined it had undergone such disfiguration as to mask any origina! fang-wounds, had been bitten by a venomous serpent which had escaped unidentified-for the little Philodryas viridissimus, the lithe green snake, had made good its exit in the confusion and was seen no more. The description given of it, however, was unmistakable, and could not possibly and blueberries. e confounded with that of any poisonous snake; it is a species which lives chiefly in trees and bushes, feeding on izards and leaf-frogs, and is very comon more than one subsequent occasion out a moment's hesitation by all those turing. who had been brought in contact with the reptile in question—a creature absolutely destitute of fangs or poisonags, and possessing less power of inflicting injury than a mouse. It may be that the whole train of events, seemngly fortuitous, was the result of a aleful forethought, and design on the art of the unhappy man. More proably, as it appears to me, he was innocent of any purpose until struck by the diabolical idea that the harmless scratch might be converted into death-dealing catastrophe by the means which his pursuit of scienti i investigations had placed at his disposal—an idea perhaps actually engendered by the fright and unreasoning fears of his lupe. But howsoever the horrible intent may have originated, it is certain that the matter contained in the tubule was the venom of one of the great viperine serpents which abound in the tropical parts of South America, most kely a rattlesnake. His collection at Paqueta included a large number of hese crotalines, which I believe to be he most virulent serpents on earth: and that he stored the poison for experimental uses was proved by the circumstance that a considerable quantity ed! The serpent is venomous, and in of it was found amongst his drugs and an hour you will have succumbed to chemicals in dried scales and on blotits tite un'ess vigorous measures are ting-paper and sugar, as well as in Second National Ban't of Colfax, Wash, taken. I have the antidote, a counter- glass tubes. I discovered also a peculi- has raised an immense quantity of ents upon myself. Submit yourself to ered with vegetable parchment which equalling \$31.20 an acre, while the land me, and I will save you. Quick! there had been prepared to receive the bites itself could not have been sold at any is no time to be lost. Though you feel of the enraged reptiles, teased into time these past three years at \$10 an system, and it will be too late. Lie deadly virus he was deliberately and down on the floor of the veranda in | murderously infecting the lifeblood of stantly-do what I tell you-do noth- the man whose salt he had eaten when the love for which his soulg was stained betraved him.

THE END.

A DAY'S VARIANCE IN WEIGHT.

Have you ever tried this experiment me a letter dated two days previously, with st th violence that it was shatter- of the best ways, so doctors say, of found while ploughing carrots on his finding whether your health is good land, nine miles from rendleton, last "Drink, and you are a dead man!" or not. If you are thoroughly well year, a gold looket which had been mas themselves are much more ex- ing from snake-bite; so, without wait- he shrieked vehemently. "I say, do no- there should not be a difference of more used as a watch charm. It contained he shrieked vehemently." I say or three ounces either way thing but what I command, or I am than two or three ounces either way two locks of hair. He told many people habits than the theatreas accessories that the summons and its details, powerless for your rescue. On the floor or you are less much as night on the had found. Finally, not of any drama or mere nursan interest at once embarked in the mississippi —quick, quick on the floor, or you are as much as eight ounces you should many days ago, James Linsey recalled wherein they have been unwilling act- river-boat sort of craft then just start-Like one possessed he caught the Eng- gain or loss of a pound indicates you James Hackett, had lost such a charm. think of the remarkable mechanism of deterring my long-looked-for visit to their lower jaw, for example, and their Paqueta—where I could see the very lishman in his arms and threw him are on the verge of serious illness. Hackett was sought out and he recovities their loands while loands whi facial bones, undergoing at each meal house as the steamer glided by-till my out of the chair upon the tourse, does not apply to one ered the locket which he had lost they make a spontaneous distocation return. I had furnished myself with the poor girl, frozen with the by virtue of the loose ligamentous at- the newspapers to while away the time; by motionless as a statue, with the valescents who have been much reduc-

TEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

veighborly Interest in His Doings-Matters of Moment and flirth Gathered from His Daily Record.

Polk county, Ia., has paid off all its

There is a white sparrow in Lafayette, Ind.

Wildcats have attacked persons in various parts of Monroe county, Ky., within the last few weeks.

Part of the tombstone over his mother's grave fell on a little child in a Jackson, Tenn., cemetery and broke his leg. In the Portland district of Michi-

gan fruit growers have found it difficult to get baskets enough in which to ship their large crops of plums this An Iowa husband and wife were admitted to an insane asylum at Mount

Pleasant at the same time. It was the first case of the kind in the history of the asylum. One of the cheerful prevaricators of Danville, Ky., says that a scheme has been proposed there for a cocking main

arranged on the plan of the Futurity running race. During a part of last month the City, Mo., that it was said that people might walk across it without wetting

their feet. Two Anarchists under arrest Portland, Or., so annoyed their cell mates by efforts to propogate their doctrines among them that the other prisoners petitioned the jailor for re-

Fishers for salmon in the Yaquina Bay, Or., are advised in these days to take whale hooks along, as the cetaceans are so plentiful that it is difficult to get the salmon without encountering them.

In Kentucky the names of persons wanted in court are cried from the

With cruel neglect of their own statesmen the authorities of the Kansas University dismissed all the natural history classes on circus day recently to enable the students to study the animals.

People of South Norridgewock, Me., might be forgiven if they got their dates mixed just now, for in one day there recently a resident picked strawberries, and raspberries, blackberries

Especially good sugar is being manufactured this season from beets at Grand Island, Neb., the beets testing mon in that region. I may add that as high as 18 per cent. sugar, according to reports sent out at the a similar specimen was recognized with- close of the first week of manufac-

A Lawrence, Kan, man, writing from New York, to the Lawrence Journal, says, "The greatest thing I saw here was a former student of the music department of Kansas University playing a hand organ in Central

Honey dripping down a lightning rod is the latest novelty reported from Independence, Mo; The rod is on the spire of the Court House and passes through a big brass ball into which bees have made their way and where they have hived.

Charity is to profit from profanity in Owingsville, Ky, where a society has been formed whose members, with the intention of checking their profane tendencies, covenant to pay into the treasury five cents for every oath uttered by them.

One man with money enough to buy his mortuary monument ahead of time, who is not ashamed of his vocation is John Hyman of Loogootee, Ind. who has had carved in stone a barre! with a keg on top of it, the barrel inscribed, "A Cooper by Trade."

President Alfred Coolidge of the

After spending a good deal of time at a fire one evening, the youthful son of a physician of North Yakima, Wash., found himself the next morning almost strangling. Doctors, hurriedly called took from his throat several cinders, and by means of an emetic got some larger cinders out of his

Bishop Vincent made something of departure for a Methodist when, at the Michigan conference at Kalamazoo, he expressed disapproval of the old-time revivalist and revival. He also said that he had no sympathy with preachers who couldn't play a game of baseball or ride a bicycle, and added that some Christians thought they were plous when they were only billous.

The possible benefit of neighborhood gossip has had an illustration in Oregon, where a bit of it which was started in circulation a year ago in June bore we come fruit last week. S. B. Neil