

FROM WHITE TO BLACK.

Dr. Collignon's Observations on Change of Color in Negroes. Some very interesting experiments have been made by Dr. Collignon of Paris with the view of ascertaining the causes which bring about a change of color in negroes. It has long been known that members of the colored race grow black as they grow old, but apparently no one before Dr. Collignon thought it worth while to find out the exact tint of their color when they are born and the successive changes which it undergoes before they reach maturity. He has devoted considerable time to this study, and the results obtained by him are of interest to all anthropologists.

In order to find out the successive tints the doctor used Broca's chromatic gamut. This is a small card on which are depicted in 34 small squares the varying shades of color from the palest cream to the deepest black. With this card as his guide the doctor began his studies on a little Sudanese, who was recently born in the Champ de Mars in Paris. The birth took place ten minutes after 10 o'clock in the morning, and ten minutes later the doctor noted the fact that "the baby was more rosy than No. 24 of Broca, with a background of scattered pigments which were already beginning to hide the tint, and which gave the child the aspect of a pale lilac."

Ten days later the infant bore a tint extremely like that of powdered cocoon, and Dr. Collignon registered this tint as No. 29 of Broca. The feet and the hands, however, had remained red, as well as the upper part of the arms. Gradually they, too, began to change, and in a few weeks they were of a chamois color, which imperceptibly deepened into a chocolate similar to that of the rest of the body.

The slowness of the metamorphosis is supposed to be due to the fact that the sun in Paris is not as bright as it is in the baby's ancestral home—namely, Sudan. The sun, however, is evidently not the most potent factor in such cases. If it were, how can we explain the fact that at Bordeaux recently a young Sudanese changed from white to black within the space of two hours, and that at Marseilles the same phenomenon actually occurred within the space of five minutes!

Dr. Collignon says that he witnessed these phenomena, but does not attempt to account for them.

Another curious fact about the Champ de Mars baby is that at birth its hair was unusually long, flue, wavy and not at all woolly, after the usual fashion of the negroes' hair. In view of this fact, which has now been recorded for the first time, certain famous anthropologists claim that the common ancestor of Europeans and of Hottentots cannot have had woolly hair. "If this be true," says Fernand Honoré, "we cannot be descended from a negro, and the only hope that remains to us is that our ancestor was a monkey whose genealogical tree we have not yet discovered."

Commenting on Dr. Collignon's experiments, the same writer says: "The doctor has the good sense not to attach too much importance to this matter. Who can say that a future Toussaint l'Ouverture will not undertake the task of discoloring his people and will adopt for this purpose the dusky children in dark chambers! This would surely be a new emancipation. Until it takes place philosophers may well spend some time in studying this subject, for surely there are few which are more worthy of study."

—New York Herald.

GRASSHOPPERS AND KNIVES.

They Played a Leading Part in a Kansas Political Campaign.

An alleged action of the congress of 1873 resulted in the triumph of the first Democratic ticket ever elected in Sumner county, Kan., and, strange to say, it was not the demoralization of silver that did it either. It was the following year that the grasshoppers struck Kansas and ripened the body politic for a revolt. At that time there was in Sumner county a man named Carter, a free fellow who was able to see a day or two into the future. He conceived the idea that it would be a good time to put up a Democratic ticket. He went around to see "the boys" with a plan of campaign, and they gazed at him for thinking that a Democratic ticket could be elected. To show his faith in the success of his proposition he volunteered to become a candidate for register of deeds himself. James T. Herrick had been settled at Wellington with one secondhand statute book, and hung out a shingle announcing the fact that he was an attorney at law. In order to get acquainted with the pioneers he consented to run for the office of probate judge. At that time J. Wade McDonald, now of California, was a young lawyer, and he agreed to run for county attorney. In this way a full ticket was made up and duly nominated.

Carter, having proposed the whole thing, was made the standard bearer of the campaign. He was to make the issue and fight for it, while the others pursued a "still hunt." The first thing Carter did was to fix up a covered wagon and throw into it a few quilts, a frying pan, some flour, bacon and coffee. In this manner he went around to advertise school-house meetings. While the crowd gathered, he cooked a pancake or two for supper, made some black coffee, and after washing his frying pan he would address the meeting, and then crawl into his wagon to sleep. Carter in his speeches drew a terrible picture of the conditions brought about by the grasshoppers, and then sailed into the extravagance of the Republican congress.

"Gentlemen," he would say when he had the audience properly worked up, "while we are starving out here in this bleak prairie, this congress that I speak about has made an appropriation of \$10,000 to buy pocket-knives for themselves." The pocket-knife outrage was the trump card of Mr. Carter, and he played it for all that it was worth. It was said afterward by the Republicans, when it was eternally too late, that no such appropriation had ever been made in congress, but it was another case of locking the stable door after the horse was gone. The time for the Republicans to refute the charges was during the campaign, but they failed to do so. Carter carried the whole ticket to success, with himself at the head of it.—Kansas City Times

How to Find Out.

Fill a bottle or common glass with urine and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is evidence of kidney trouble. Two frequent desires to urinate or pain in the back, is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

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First Chappie—I wonder now, Chollie, how the donkey ever came to be used as the emblem of stupidity! Second Chappie (with a yawn)—Don't know, I'm sure, dear boy. Must have been before our day.—Brooklyn Life.

The Cruel Knife!

The alarming increase in the number of deaths which occur as the result of a surgical operation is attracting general attention, and a strong sentiment against such methods of treatment is fast developing among the most intelligent classes. It seems that in almost every case for which the doctors' treatment is unsuccessful, the learned physicians decide at once that an operation must be performed, and the keen blade of the surgeon is recklessly resorted to. Doctors are human, and of course are liable to make mistakes, but their mistakes are too fatal to be indulged in promiscuously, and so many lives are sacrificed in this manner, it is but natural for the public to believe that half the operations are unnecessary, besides being a fearful risk to human life, even if successful.

It is a positive fact, however, that all operations are not necessary, and that a majority of them are absolutely unnecessary without the slightest chance of success. The doctors have never been able to cure a blood disease, and a surgical operation is their only method of treating deep-seated cases, such as cancer and scrofulous affections. From the great danger, an operation never did and never will cure cancer, as the disease never fails to return. Cancer is in the blood, and common sense teaches anyone that no disease can be taught from the blood.



Here is a case where the pain inflicted on a six-year-old boy was especially cruel, and after undergoing the tortures produced by the surgeon's knife he rapidly grew worse. Mr. J. M. Murdoch, the father of the boy, residing at 279 Snodgrass street, Dallas, Texas, writes: "When my son, Will, was six years old, a small sore appeared on his lip, which did not yield to the usual treatment, but before long began to grow. It gave him a great deal of pain, and continued to spread. He was treated by several good doctors, who said he had cancer, and advised that an operation was necessary."

"After much reluctance, we consented, and they cut down to the jaw bone, which they scraped. The operation was a severe one, but I thought it was the only hope for my boy. Before a great while the cancer returned, and began to grow rapidly. We gave him many remedies without relief, and finally upon the advice of a friend, decided to try S.S.S. (Swift's Specific), and with the second bottle he began to improve. After twenty bottles had been taken, the cancer disappeared entirely and he was cured. The cure was a permanent one, for he is now seven years old, and has never had a sign of the dreadful disease to return."

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