

THE FORCEPS CRAB.

The strange looking creature represented in the accompanying engraving, says Wood's "Natural History," is a good swimmer. It roams the ocean as freely as a bird roams the air, shooting through the waves with arrowy swiftness in chase of prey, gliding easily along just below the surface, hanging suspended in the water while reposing, or occasionally lying across some floating seaweed.

The chief peculiarity of the forceps crab is the structure from which its name is derived, the wonderful length of the first pair of limbs, and the attenuated forceps with which they are armed. Though not possessing the formidable power with which some crabs are armed, the forceps crab is yet a terrible enemy to the inhabitants of the sea, for it can dart out its long claws with a rapidity that almost eludes the eye, and grasp its prey with unerring aim.

No one who has not watched the crabs in their full vigor while enjoying their freedom, can form any conception of the many uses to which the claws are put. Their bony armor, with its powerful joints, appears to preclude all delicacy of touch or range of distinction, and yet the claws are to the crab what the proboscis is to the elephant. With these apparently inadequate members the crab can pick up the smallest object with perfection and precision, can tear in pieces the toughest animal substances, or crack the skull of other crustaceans as a parrot cracks a nut in his beak. It can direct them to almost every part of his body, can snap with them like the quick sharp bite of a wolf, or can strike with their edges as a boxer strikes with his fists. As may be seen, by reference to the engraving the paddle legs are broad and well developed, so as to insure speed, the front of the carapace is sharply and deeply serrated, and the sides are drawn out into long pointed spines. It is a native of the West Indian seas, and is represented about the size of an ordinary specimen.

THE CAPE BUFFALO.

The Cape buffalo is a formidable animal, a little larger than an ordinary ox, but possessed of much greater strength. It is morose, lowering, and ill-tempered; terrible in outward aspect and a dangerous neighbor. It has an unpleasant habit of remaining quietly in its lair until the unsuspecting traveler passes close to its place of concealment, when it leaps suddenly upon him, filled with rage.

When it has succeeded in its attack it first tosses the unhappy victim in the air, then kneels upon his body in order to crush the life out of him, then butts at the corpse until it has given vent to its insane fury, and ends by licking the mangled limbs until it strips off the flesh with its rough tongue. Sometimes the animal is so recklessly furious in its unreasoning anger that it actually blinds itself by its heedless rush through formidable thorn bushes, which are so common in Southern Africa.

Although frequently found in large herds on the plains, the buffalo is principally a resident of the bush; here he follows the paths of the elephant or rhinoceros, or makes a road for himself. During the evening, night, and early morning he roams about the open country and gorges, but when the sun has risen high, or if he has cause for alarm, the glens and coverts are sought, and amidst their shady branches he enjoys repose.

The flesh of the Cape buffalo is not in great request even among the Kaffirs, who are in no wise particular as to their diet. The hide, however, is exceedingly valuable, being used for the manufacture of sundry leathern implements where great strength is required without much flexibility.

A Canine Mind-Reader.

A very pretty illustration of that unconscious suggestion upon which the successes of "mind-reading," so called, have been based, is furnished by the performances

of a clever dog belonging to the well known spectroscopist and astronomer, Dr. Huggins. This dog, a mastiff of noble proportions, to whom had been given the name of Kepler, possessed many rare gifts, which had secured for him the admiration and regard of a large number of scientific acquaintances; and among these was one which he was always ready to exercise for the entertainment of visitors. At the close of luncheon or dinner, says a writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, Kepler used to march gravely and sedately into the room, and set himself down at his master's feet. Dr. Huggins

The instant the last bark was given he transferred his attention to the cake. Dr. Huggins was perfectly unconscious of suggesting the proper answer to the dog, but it is beyond all question that he did so. The wonderful fact is that Kepler had acquired the habit of reading in his master's eye or countenance some indication that was not known to Dr. Huggins himself. The case was one of the class which is distinguished by physiologists as that of expectant attention.

Dr. Huggins was himself engaged in working out mentally the various stages of his arithmetical processes as he propounded the numbers to Kepler, and being, therefore, aware of what the answer should be, expected the dog to cease barking when that number was reached, and that expectation suggested to his own brain the unconscious signal which was caught by the quick eye of the dog.

The instance is strictly analogous to the well known case in which a button, suspended from a thread and held by a finger near to the rim of a glass, strikes the hour of the day as it swings, and then stops—that is, provided the person who holds the button himself knows the hour! The explanation of this occurrence is that the hand which holds the button trembles in consequence of its constrained position, and in that way sets the button swinging, and as the attention of the experimenter is fixed upon the oscillation, in the expectation that a definite number of strokes upon the glass will occur, his own brain-convolutions take care that the movements of the finger shall be in accordance with that expectation.

The mathematical training of poor Kepler has, unfortunately, come to an untimely end. The

interesting arithmetician died of an attack of typhus fever, to the great sorrow of his large circle of friends, at the beginning of last year, and he now sleeps under the shadow of the telescopes at Tulse Hill. The memory of his high attainments and of the distinguished success with which he upheld the reputation of his name, however, remains.

A Plea for the Crow.

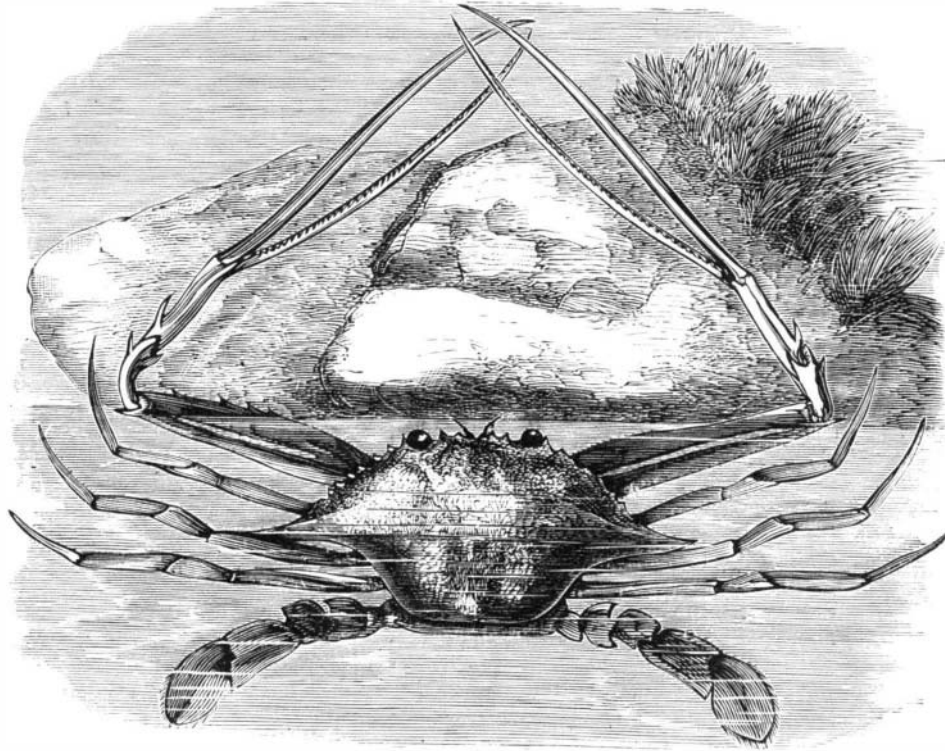
A writer in the *Madras (India) Times* takes up the cudgel in behalf of crows. He thinks they are abused birds, and that they do a great deal more good than harm everywhere. Because they feed on dead animals he has heard the crows spoken of cynically as the carrion bird.

Then the writer concludes that when men express this disgust at them, they must forget their own partiality for stale venison or other strongly flavored game, old Stilton cheese, oysters that are eaten alive when eaten raw, and many other so-called delicacies. An animal will kill and eat to satisfy hunger. A man will eat merely for the pleasure of eating. A man will have a dozen kidneys for one breakfast; he will boil fish alive that it may retain its color; he will have it even cut up alive that its flavor may not be lost; he will have a calf killed in its infancy so that sweetbread may form a tasty diet on his table; he will have a dozen or more animals slain for one meal; even women draped in lace and tulle, looking more like angels or fairies than mortals, will just "try a little" *paté de fois gras* for their supper, never giving a thought to the cruel means by which the favorite luxury is obtained. Therefore, taking all things into consideration, the writer thinks that man is little better than the crows in the manner of satisfying hunger.

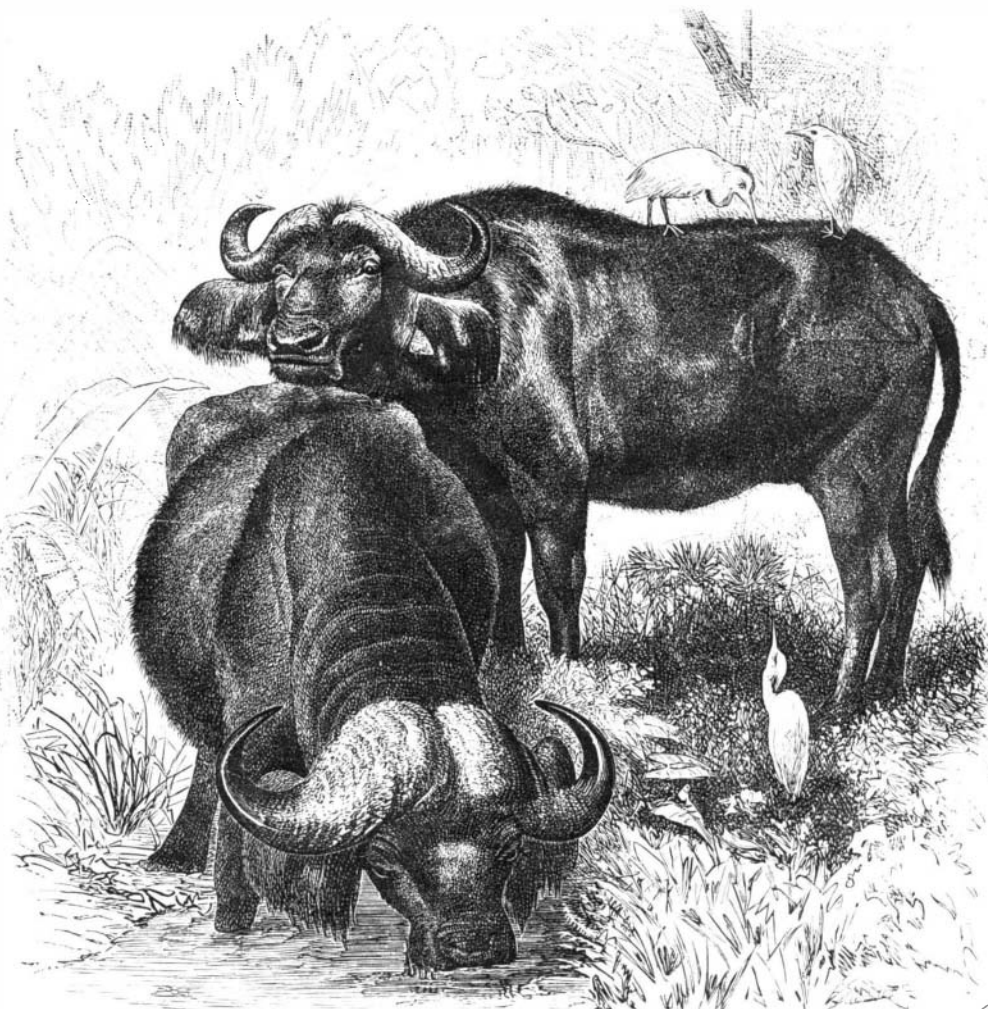
Tapeworm in Cucumbers.

The dietetic reputation of cucumbers is bad enough already, but it is likely to become worse, now that

Dr. Leidy, of Philadelphia, has discovered that they are liable to be infested with tapeworm. At the Academy of Science, Philadelphia, he exhibited a tapeworm taken from inside of a large cucumber. It is said to have had all the characteristics of a true tapeworm, but of an unknown species, the peculiarity being that the ovaries, containing the eggs, are confined to the anterior extremity of the segment.



FORCEPS SWIMMING CRAB.—(Lupa forceps.)



CAPE BUFFALO.—(Bubalus Caffer.)

more consideration, and sometimes hesitated in making up his mind as to where his barks ought finally to stop. Still, in the end, his decision was always right. The reward for each correct answer was a piece of cake, which was held before him during the exercise; but until the solution was arrived at Kepler never moved his eye from his master's face.