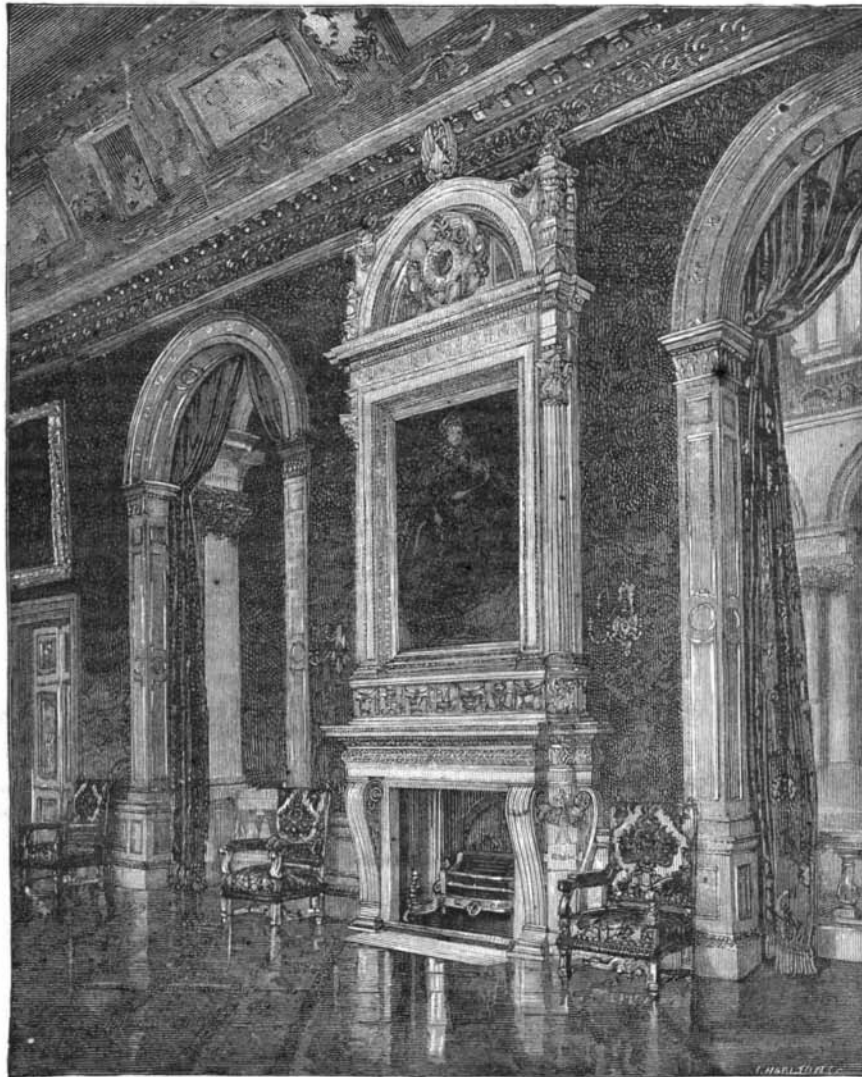


A SUMPTUOUS MANTEL.

To design a mantel for a room of such height as the one shown in the accompanying illustration, so that it shall not be dwarfed and petty in appearance in comparison with the other features of so noble an apartment, and yet not be given an obviously undue importance, is a work which calls for very careful judgment, as well as an educated taste. The manner in which the artist has in this case dealt with the difficulty is not only extremely satisfactory for just such a room as that here shown, but it will be at once suggestive of many ways in which a similar method of treatment can be adopted for smaller and less richly decorated apartments. In place of the elaborate carving and large proportions of what here forms the framework of a picture, the mantel with its open fireplace constituting the base, and all according with the sumptuous character of its surroundings, a smaller and more simple style of room would call for mouldings corresponding with those of the framework of the doors and windows, and with a degree of ornamentation proportioned to that expended upon other features of the apartment.



MANTEL ADAPTED TO A NOBLE APARTMENT.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

A young female hippopotamus was placed on exhibition at the Central Park Menagerie last week. From Saturday, October 16, when it reached this port on the steamer Eider, until the following Wednesday it remained boxed up without room enough to turn round. Placed in the lion house, near where its tank was being built, it watched the men at work and marked the progress of construction with evident interest; for having once before lived in a tank—at the Handels menagerie of Carl Hagenbeck, the animal dealer of Hamburg—it seemed to understand what was going on.

These three times a day it is fed, and without taking the trouble to rise to its feet, opens its mouth like a young bird and receives its food. Three or four quarts of oats or cut feed, washed down with a few gallons of clear water, constitute a meal with the hippopotamus, and when it is over a nap follows, and then the eyes of the great beast are fixed once more on the workmen putting the finishing touches on its tank. The specimen weighs about 1,500 pounds, is dark on the back and pinkish-white about the shoulders, and may be considered at the present time rare, because the recent troubles in North Africa, where these animals abound, has rendered it impossible to get hippopotami.

This one was captured in the Nile waters when but a mere infant, some three years ago. It was so small then that it was carried some distance in a man's arms, and was brought to Cairo on a camel's back. When lying down out of the water with its chubby legs curled under it and the huge folds of flesh hanging in festoons on either side of its back, it looks not unlike a prize hog. It is said to be unusually good natured for a hippopotamus, wagging its six inch bristling tail when approached, and, though of a most forbidding aspect, is harmless.

Naturalists are not yet agreed just how long a hippopotamus can remain under water. Usually the time is from half a minute, as is the case with that seen at the Park, up to 2½ minutes. But instances are recorded where they remained under water much longer than this. Here is a remarkable case:

In 1872, the hippopotamus in the London Zoological Gardens gave birth to a very robust specimen, which a few hours later was able to walk and swim. The mother, before docile and good natured, became fierce and intractable. She growled and showed her teeth whenever her keeper approached, and at times evinced the same hostility to her offspring.

The second morning after its birth the infant could not be found. At first it was thought to be in the tank, and the keepers waited in vain for it to appear.

cidental, it is rather curious that they do not occur among the larger of the cat tribe, for that a black tiger would be a great prize, no such specimen having ever been known.

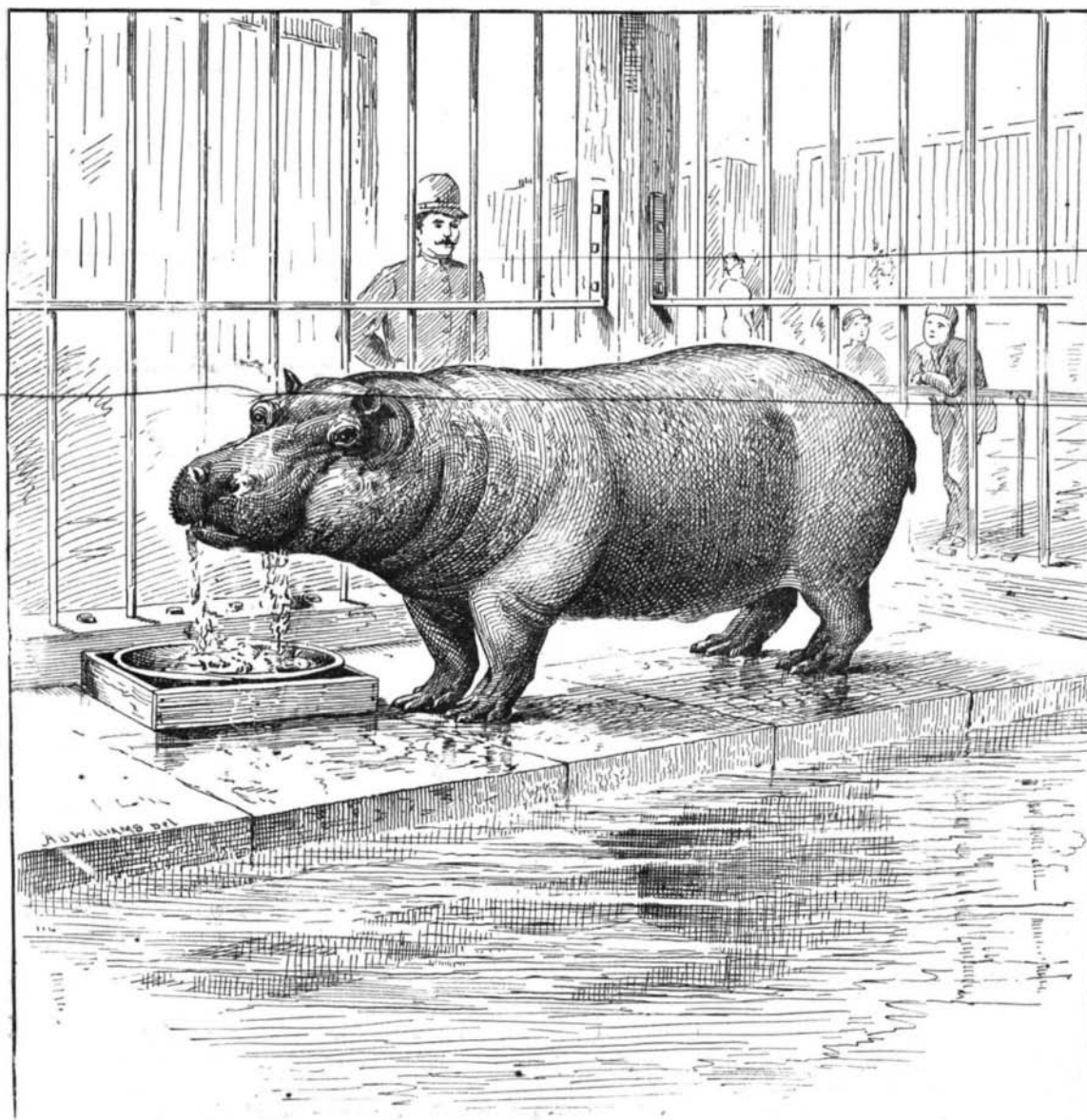
The panther, unlike the tiger, may be said to be untamable and treacherous. By nature he is vicious, and though he be reared from a cub in captivity, is not to be trusted. He may be docile for months, and then fall upon his keeper and tear him to pieces. He will even at times suddenly attack his cage mate of the same species, kill him, and eat his fill of the victim.

The newly arrived hyenas are from South Africa, and a rare variety; the common being spotted instead of striped. They have bristling manes, which rise when they are vexed, and their coats are much finer than those of the spotted.

Feed Water Pipes Should Have Valves.

Power says: Care should be taken in making boiler connections to have some means of cutting off the steam or water in case of breakage. Connections that are not thus protected are always a source of danger, and among the worst is the water grate. If one of these burst there is no means of shutting off the water, and the boiler will soon be blown empty. But there are other places where a neglect to provide a valve is the result of pure carelessness. It is not uncommon to find the feed pipe connected without a valve between the check and the boiler. Then, if any accident happens to the latter, there is no way of getting at it while steam is on.

The oleomargarine law went into effect Nov. 1. All of it and of butterine now sold must pay a tax of two cents a pound, and be plainly designated to distinguish it from butter.



THE NEW HIPPOPOTAMUS AT CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK.