

to outrun the best horse in a fair race. The people frequently take them when young, as they are easily domesticated, and make very interesting and amusing pets.

Among the smaller birds, two are more noticeable than any others, and for widely different characteristics. The painted bunting (*P. ciris*), for its brilliant colors, and the lark sparrow (*P. anthinus*), for its sweet though harsh song; the one being found in the timber tracts of the river bottoms, the other being common nearly everywhere, going in flocks of a dozen or more, and, when singing, mingle their song with a peculiar harsh, rasping note thrown in with every three or four, which makes the whole song highly amusing and interesting. These are but four out of many to be found here, but as yet they are all that I have had time to secure and positively identify. There are quantities of small birds, wrens, vireos, flycatchers, etc., which, although I have seen, have not had the time to collect. At my earliest opportunity, however, I shall do my best to make a careful investigation, and write you the results.

CHEVREUL AT 101 YEARS.

Mr. Chevreul has just entered upon his hundred and second year. Mr. Nadar on this occasion has taken an instantaneous photograph of the illustrious savant, which we here give an exact reproduction of. The venerable dean of students has not changed physiognomy since his centenary. The imposing national fete which was celebrated last year was a bath of youth for him. Always just as vigorous, sprightly, and cheerful, Mr. Chevreul imperturbably continues to devote himself to his multiple labors and to fulfill his official functions. The day of the one hundred and first anniversary of his birth, he presided at a session of the Agricultural Society, and was present the next day at the weekly reunion of the Academy of Sciences, receiving with joy and serenity the congratulations of his colleagues, and shaking hands with everybody. The Anjou Wine Society afterward sent its congratulations to him, and he addressed to the delegates a charming little speech full of wit and humor. Telegrams and letters of congratulation poured into his dwelling all day long, while at the same time all the rooms of his house were converted into conservatories.

In the evening, Mr. Chevreul's old domestic asked him with solicitude whether he did not feel fatigued by the day's labor, and advised him to spare himself, on account of his great age. "In fact," answered Mr. Chevreul, "I am beginning to get a little old, and shall take some precautions." There is a charming irony against old age in this reply, and a promise of a renewed longevity which we hope may be realized. Everything gives us a guarantee of it, and we may, without fear, offer ourselves the luxury of a prophecy, based upon a certainty, that in a year science will have to congratulate Mr. Chevreul on his triumphant entrance upon his hundred and third year.

The venerable patriarch has often been asked what secret he has used to reach his hundred years without infirmities and without a particle of change in his great intelligence. "I do not drink wine," answers he, imperturbably. This is a witty, evasive reply. We must seek for the cause of this happy longevity in a severe moral and intellectual hygiene. We address our respectful felicitations to the illustrious savant, and our wishes for his good health. His long life so fruitful, his green old age so active, is an eloquent lesson for

youth. It proves that the best means to live and become old is to work constantly and much.—*Paris Illustré*.

The Significance of Left-handedness.

An editorial writer in *La Normandie Medicale* has taken the trouble to summarize and compare certain observations on this subject, and he thinks that it is not wholly elucidated by M. Galippe's generalization that we are right-handed by atavism and left-handed by morbid heredity. He implies also that it is not altogether to faulty education that left-handedness is to be attributed, and suggests that it might be useful to seek for a solution of the problem in comparative anatomy and pathology, by endeavoring to ascertain if the lower animals do not show a predominance of one side over the other. The writer first considers M. Debierre's investigations by comparative measurements

many epileptics are left-handed, and figures are given showing that 4.13 per cent of insane men and 4.27 per cent of insane women are left-handed, but these percentages do not seem to vary strikingly from those found among healthy persons. Among criminals, however, according to Marro, the proportion of the left-handed is much greater—13.9 per cent in men and 22.7 per cent in women. Anomalies in general are said to affect the left half of the body more frequently than the right, and the experience of dentists is brought forward by M. Galippe as showing a very common exemplification of the fact, dental caries being declared to be oftener met with on the left side than on the right, as well as the non-appearance of the wisdom teeth or the occurrence of derangement of the health at the time of their appearance. Moreover, it is alleged that the teeth of the right side are generally somewhat larger and harder than those of the left side. On the other hand, irregularity of the canines is set down as more common on the right side. The left half of the jaw itself is said to be somewhat less developed than its fellow, as a rule.

It is evident from the facts brought out in these various inquiries that the question of the cause or causes of left-handedness is not a simple one, and it may be said, in particular, that the occasional coincidence of a predominant right arm and a more highly developed left leg, and *vice versa*, seems to vitiate the theory that refers the preponderance of one side to an encephalic inequality.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

What the Morphine Habit Will Do.

The ingenuity of morphine victims to hide their vice has never been better illustrated than in the case of a young girl at a fashionable young ladies' boarding school near Philadelphia, as told by a contemporary.

The disclosure came about accidentally. When the young student returned to the school this fall, she had periods of deep despondency, and often asked the privilege of going to the room in the seminary set apart as a hospital. There she would lie for a day at a time, only rousing herself when any one approached the table, on which stood an ink bottle and a stylographic pen. The nurse having occasion to send a message to the doctor attempted to write with this pen, the young girl at that time being asleep. The pen not only refused to write, but the practiced eye of the nurse instantly recognized in the point the puncturing needle of a hypodermic syringe. This led to an examination of the ink bottle. It was a four ounce bottle, but there

was no ink in it. It was painted black on the outside, and contained Magendie's solution of morphia, enough for 128 one-half grain doses, or sufficient to last until the Christmas holidays. The principal of the school was summoned immediately, and the sleeping girl's arm bared. It was punctured from the shoulder almost to the hand, and the livid blue marks confirmed the suspicion, which was changed to absolute certainty by the small abscess which had begun to form in the forearm just above the wrist. The habit had been formed about two months only, and there is a possibility that a cure can be effected.

THE carriage which was made by the United States government especially for the use of Lafayette during his visit to this country in 1824 is owned in Chicago. It is a quaint old ark, hung on big springs and wide straps, and from his lofty seat the old Frenchman used to descend to the ground by steps with many foldings.



MR. CHEVREUL AT 101 YEARS OF AGE.

of the bones of the right and left limbs in infants. These measurements show a slight excess in the average length of the left os brachii, but, curiously enough, in that of the right radius and femur; and there are persons, who, being right-handed, have the left lower limb somewhat more developed than the right, and those also who, being left-handed, have the right lower limb predominating over the left. But all these differences in the length of the bones are inconsideable, and in M. Debierre's opinion they are not original, but created by habit, so that our primordial type was that of ambidexterity, and it is only by education that we become right-handed or left-handed.

M. Galippe considers left-handed persons as in a certain sense degenerate, and he seems to regard left-handedness, as well as squinting, mother's marks, supplementary fingers, hare-lip, prognathism, and other like blemishes, as implying a disposition to physical, moral, or intellectual deficiency. It is stated that