

while a perpendicular incision, two centimetres long, is made in his forehead. The priest proceeds to raise slightly the epidermis with an instrument, and introduces beneath a small portion of a thread detached from the "holy stole." If the "relic" were lost, the operation would lose its efficacy. Therefore, to avoid accident, the forehead is bandaged, and must be kept thus for nine days.

Throughout this *neuvaine*—nine days of prayer—certain fixed rules of life must be carefully observed. The patient must sleep in white sheets, must drink from a glass, be careful not to lower the head to drink from fountains or rivers, drink only certain wines, and eat only certain foods, must wash the hands and face with fresh linen; it is not advisable to comb the hair. Above all, the patient must recite each day five "Paters" and five "Aves," with some such invocation as the following:—"St. Hubert, qui guérissez de la rage et délivrez les possédés, priez pour nous, afin que je sois préservé de ce mal."

On the tenth day the bandages may be removed, but only by a priest, who forthwith burns them, and distributes the ashes in water. In some cases a patient is only prescribed the *neuvaine*, his case not being considered sufficiently severe to need inoculation with St. Hubert's "holy stole." But the patient is very seriously urged to be careful always to observe the Fête of St. Hubert, which falls on November 3rd. Formerly the Fête of St. Hubert was a great day in the Ardennes Forest. The Abbey of St. Hubert was the *rendezvous* of all the hunters, hounds, and horses for miles round; for the animals attended Mass with their masters.

Very early on the morning of November 3rd, the trumpets sounded the *veille*; and immediately hunters, and foresters and keepers, and fair Dianas in suitable toilettes, and even poachers accompanied by their horses and dogs, put themselves *en route* to attend the Mass of St. Hubert or the Mass of Dogs, as it has been called. It was usual for this procession to be headed by the oldest gentleman, mounted on the oldest horse, followed by the oldest hound, and accompanied by his oldest follower.

They entered the Abbey, which would be appropriately decorated, in similar order. There all ranged before a representation of St. Hubert, full Mass commenced. Nothing was omitted from the liturgy, not even the collection of alms. This over the Chaplain or Priest mounted the pulpit, and gave a discourse suited to the occasion.

The worshippers prayed not only for themselves, but also for their dumb companions. They prayed heaven to guard their dogs from disease, bites of serpents and wild boars, the stings of poisonous plants, and above all that they might be preserved from madness or hydrophobia.

There is a record that the late Leopold I., King of the Belgians, who had erected in the Abbey an ornate tomb in honour of the Saint, attended on more than one occasion this remarkable Mass of St. Hubert.

For more reasons than one we may well regret that this curious custom has become obsolete. As a priest justly remarked: "If it is not an abuse of prayer to ask God to preserve men from plague and pestilence, it cannot be wrong to pray that His animals may be protected from *la rage*, or madness." There is sufficient justification for such prayer in the Bible, both in the Old Testament and the New.

MILLCENT HARRINGTON.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

BOUDOIR TABLETS.

A VERY ingenious and tasteful invention has been submitted to us in the form of some scented tablets manufactured by Messrs. Oudin & Cie., of 45, Rathbone Place, London, W. They are used by applying a portion of the tablet to the hands night and morning, and rubbing this in for some minutes, after which the hands are washed with a little warm water, and without any soap. A good foam is rapidly formed, which is rinsed off, and then the hands are dried with a soft towel. The effects are certainly most excellent; a dainty and most fragrant odour is imparted to the hands, and they are also rendered white and soft, while the skin is strengthened and rendered less liable to become cracked or chapped. The preparation should therefore become popular amongst medical men and Nurses, as well as with the public.

USEFUL COSTUMES.

WE have received from Messrs. Frank Murgatroyd & Co. samples of their materials for wraps and costumes in many patterns, designs, and sizes. These, both in material and style, compare most favourably with the same class of goods sold by many other firms. A special advantage of these dresses over the ready-made goods of other manufacturers, is that they are lined throughout, and yet are extraordinarily cheap. We are informed that wraps and cloaks can be made to measurements sent by customers at a distance, each figure being carefully studied, and that a perfect fit is guaranteed. Coats of good material are obtainable at prices ranging from 17s. 6d.; ulsters from 18s. 6d. to £2 18s.; Inverness capes from 13s. 6d. to £2; and golf capes from 10s. 6d. to £1 15s. One of the best models is that of a gown of fashionable cut, which consists of bodice, skirt, and cape, all of which are lined throughout, and the price of which complete is 15s. 6d. Other patterns of the same model vary in prices ranging from 19s. 6d. to £3 4s. Messrs. Frank Murgatroyd & Co. have also submitted to us samples of some of their new materials for costumes, which we can cordially recommend. Heather cloth is a new material of soft and finely woven texture, suggesting faint traces of red and purple shades beneath a surface colour of grey, brown, or blue. This material, which is forty-two inches in width, costs but 1s. 3d. per yard. Sedan cloth is another noteworthy novelty, and seems an excellent material for winter cloaks or dresses; it is fifty-two inches wide, and costs only 1s. 3d. per yard. Riding

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