

AN ELEPHANT'S DEATH.

Dom Pedro? No Longer an Inmate of the Zoological Garden in Philadelphia.

Caused by Inflammatory Rheumatism. The Remains Undergoing Dissection in the Veterinary Department.

Philadelphia Press.

Last Friday night, shortly after dark, elephant Dom Pedro, the most incorporeal and for that reason the most distinguished animal in the zoo, gave up the ghost. He was but thirteen years of age. The last four of these cycles were exceedingly stormy. His end, however, was peaceful, but to the very last he retained perversely of will and refused to be taken to his captivity.

The consequence of his untimely taking, yesterday was a red letter day in the history of the veterinary department of the university. Dom Pedro's carcass on the cold cement floor of the dissecting-room, and Dr. Huldikoper, the dean of the department, has not been happier in the installation of the department in its present quarters. During "Dom's" months' illness from inflammatory rheumatism the doctor has faithfully pre- pared for him, with the understanding that if the brute should die he should have been delight of dissecting the remains for the purpose of enriching science.

Dr. Huldikoper is now teaching anatomy to a group of highly understood. So at once is that of the whole animal kingdom, with a striking exception, one of which is the elephant. No satisfactory work on the subject exists, and Dr. Huldikoper proposes to supply the omissions so far as he is able from a thorough study of Dom Pedro. It was with this feeling of responsibility that the doctor has worked on his subject ever since it was made known to him on Saturday morning, and has not forgotten to take his meals.

SEPARATING THE VARIOUS ORGANS. Saturday was spent in carefully removing the side, which is to be stuffed, and also covering the head, and yesterday morning the doctor with half a dozen of his assistant students began the task of separating the various organs for future study. When they had finished the fragments occupied half a dozen large heaps, the place looked as if it had been the scene of a large railroad accident.

The animal lay on its right side, and the dissection accomplished was the severing of the left front and hind legs. Then muscles on the left side were cut and the ribs, each a great deal lighter than the largest bone in a man's body, were carefully heaped one by one on a table. Then came the removal of the lungs, which occupied nearly two hours. They were so heavy that it took the strength of three men to place them on an adjacent table. After this, fully separate long tissue after tissue, the organs were taken out and stretched on a canvas-covered slab, when several photographs of them were taken. Each organ was then carefully separated from the others and the work will continue through the week. No attempt was made to weigh any of them.

From a superficial examination Dr. Huldikoper made several important discoveries, one of which was the presence of "nerves," the existence of which had been denied. The head was not examined daily. Dr. Huldikoper's investigations, so far as his students are concerned, are more for the purpose of comparison in the anatomy of the horse. In addition to a careful study of each organ a great deal of attention will be paid to the muscular arrangement of the animal. The side of the right side will be taken apart inch by inch and all the phenomena scientifically noted.

Dr. Chapman, professor of physiology, on hand yesterday watching a student sawing the heavy skull apart. The skull is to be preserved for future study. Chapman yesterday, "that there are two brains larger than the human in one of these is the whale's, which weighs four pounds, normally, and the elephant's, which weighs from eight to ten pounds. The human brain's weight is about three pounds." Dr. Chapman also pointed out the fact that there is an air chamber five inches deep in the elephant's head surrounding the brain cavity and directly beneath the skull. In the providence of nature the object of this is to make the ponderous head of lighter weight, so that it may be carried easily by its owner.

HISTORY OF THE ELEPHANT. Dom Pedro has been in the zoo ten years. Superintendent Brown said yesterday that he purchased Dom Pedro and in New York in 1876, and the day he died of the distinguished animal. The head of the animal was making its rounds in the garden. The employees immediately dubbed him Dom Pedro. From the day of arrival he was intractable. He never fell in love with any of his keepers and it is said never even manifested the slightest show of gratitude to the boys and girls who fed him peanuts in the quarter. He took every thing he could get and always seemed angry when the supply ceased.

Four years ago he broke one of his legs' collar-bone and several ribs, and Brown thought it was time to call a veterinarian. Once before he would have had his keeper but for the interference of another elephant. Superintendent Brown fastened his hands to his forelegs and has kept him carefully confined ever since. He bore his confinement stoically, although one of his keepers thought he saw the semblance of a tear in his eye (he says it was the eye) when the other two elephants were taken out for their daily bath last summer.

Early in June he developed a case of rheumatism, a bodily ail to which elephants are especially liable. He has been worse all the fall, and the last of his sickness he was unable to stand on his feet. His proud spirit never yielded, however. His death was painful. It came when the rheumatism had reached the heart. It has been very difficult to administer his medicine to him. Long since the use was adopted of a scooped-out apple with the remedy and feeding it with a dozen or more apples. The dodge worked for a while, but "Dom's" soon found it out, and that it was no longer a rich success. The apple thereafter was carefully examined, and the deceptive one always was given.

"What we shall miss him," said Superintendent Brown yesterday, "we shall not ever miss him; for he was the nearest I think we ever had in the place. There is no crapse on the door of the electric house, I assure you." Dom was about seven feet six inches high and weighed about eight hundred pounds. For the past two years, however, he has been too ugly to allow entrance to be made.

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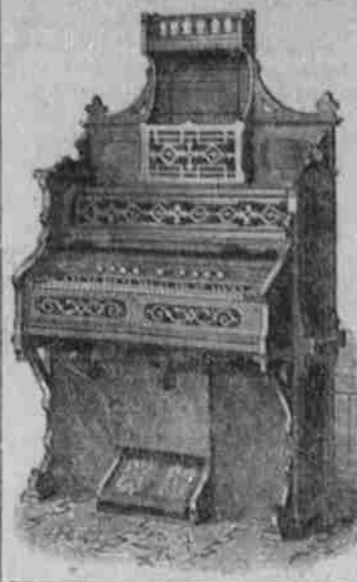
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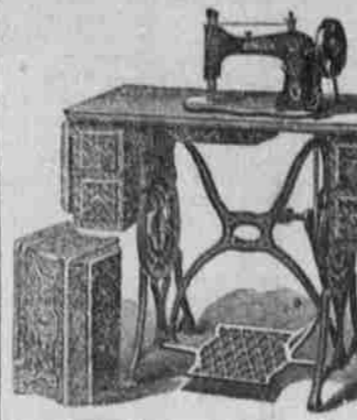


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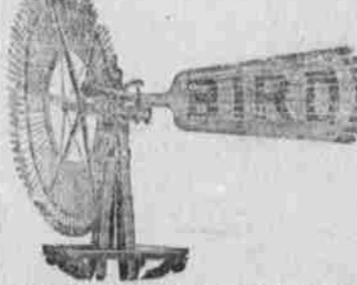
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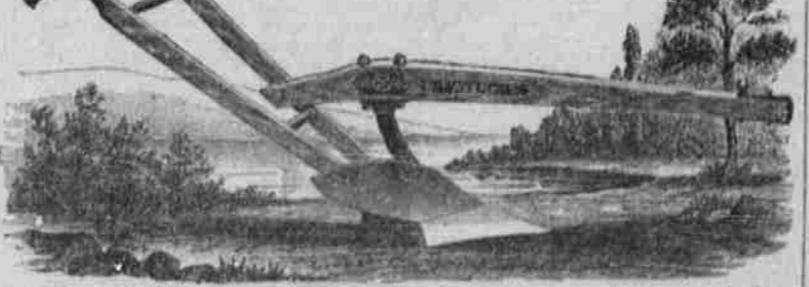
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