

one notice the complete absence of meaning which the smooth sentences covered. This was the only paragraph which her memory brought away, but it was a fair sample, she stated, of the whole :

The ewe lamb or ewer lamb, commonly called the pitcher lamb, from the pitch with which the bird anoints its nest before the grub becomes the perfect worm !

We do not quite know why we are reminded of this incident on reading Mr. John Jacob Astor's *Journey in Other Worlds*, an extravaganza after the order of the romances of Jules Verne. It begins with the landing on the surface of the planet Jupiter of the Calisto a "space ship," containing Dr. Cortlandt, a distinguished scientist of the year 2000, and two friends named respectively Bearwarden and Ayrault. We are treated to a full description of the build and management of the Calisto and the little arrangements for the convenience of its occupants, such as an after-dinner chute for chicken bones and empty cans through its bottom valve (conceive the surprise of the dwellers in Mars or Uranus at the descent of these vestiges of civilization!), and champagne cocktails made by scientific process without human aid, which pop up from below on the pressure of a button. The "space ship" is driven by electricity and "apergy"—a principle which Mr. Astor may be said to have invented or developed, and which he works for all it is worth—and is built of glucinum. It moves at the rate of some millions of miles a day, and "apergy" is freely called upon to aid the steering apparatus. It is called upon for everything, in short, from an explanation of the miracles of the New Testament to the composition of the cocktails. We are not sure, by the way, that these beverages were made apergetically, but we presume they were. The journey to Jupiter and back, 280,000,000 miles, occupies six months. The travelers encounter spirits, comets, mammoths, milky ways, dragons, serpents, pterodactyls, and every other possible strange creature, but confront them all in safety. "Apergy" brings them through, as really it ought in common gratitude to its sponsor and inventor. Reading such sentences as these, what can one think but that it takes a very strong head indeed to bear safely an overdose of half-comprehended science :

The rabbits of Australia and the far more objectionable poisonous snakes in South America and India have been exterminated by the capture of a few dozen of the creatures in the infested districts, their inoculation with the virus similar to the murustiphi, tuberculosis, or any other contagious germ complaint to which the species treated was particularly susceptible, and the release of these individuals when the disease was seen to be taking hold. The rabbits and serpents released at once returned to their old haunts, carrying the plague far and wide. The unfortunate rabbits were greatly commiserated even by the *medicos* that wielded the death-dealing syringe; but, fortunately for themselves, they died easily. The reptiles, perhaps on account

of the wider distribution of the nerve centers, had more lingering *but not painful deaths* (!) often, while in *articulo mortis*, leaving the holes with which they seemed to connect their discomfort and making a final struggle along the ground only to die more quickly as a result of their exertions. We have applied this also to the potato bug, locust, and other insect pests, no victim being too small for the ubiquitous subtle germ, which, properly utilized, has become one of man's best friends.

We are all tired of being stuck in this cosmical speck, with its monotonous ocean, leaden sky, and single moon that is useless more than half the time.

Whether, when "apergy" is developed, gravitation is annulled or reversed, like the late attraction of a magnet when the current is changed, or whether it is merely overpowered, in which case your motion will be the resultant of the two, is an unsettled but not very important point.

Free to delve in the allurements and fascination of science, emancipated man goes on subduing nature as his Maker said he should, and turning her giant forces to his service in his constant struggle to use and become more like Him who gave the commandments and showed him how he should go.

On the whole we think we rather prefer the paragraph about the "pitcher lamb!"

## A JOURNEY IN OTHER WORLDS.\*

A FRIEND of ours in visiting an insane asylum was once privileged to look over a newspaper edited by the patients. She said the strangest point about the paper was the fact that on a cursory reading it seemed entirely rational and like other papers; only on further study did

\* A Journey in Other Worlds. By John Jacob Astor. D. Appleton & Co., \$1.50.