

As an experiment, after a hen had sat on dummy eggs, Mr. Romanes introduced four young ferrets to her nest. The growl of the ferrets instead of the chirp to which she had been accustomed apparently puzzled the old hen; but she clung to them, and after the manner of her kind sought to make them follow her—unsuccessfully, of course.

A TRAIN on a Western railroad several years ago met with a terrible accident miles from any station. Among the passengers was a young telegrapher. His ready mind took in the situation, and climbing the nearest pole it was an easy task to cut the wire, and using the two ends as a key send a message for help. To receive the reply was a more difficult task. Here again the young man's invention stood in good stead, and spurred him on to an exhibition of nerve that is rarely met with. Admonishing the distant operator to send slowly, he placed the cut ends of the wire upon his tongue, and by the strength of each shock to that delicate member made out the letters until the message was complete. That young man's sense of taste was destroyed, and returned only in a weakened degree after two or three years.

THE excavation of the St. Gothard Tunnel cost many lives. On coming out of the tunnel the men described the sensation as being like a sudden plunge into icy cold water. The hot, humid air affected the digestive organs very much, and produced intestinal worms, which caused the deaths of a great number of workmen. Horses were similarly affected, and died rapidly. Several eminent doctors who studied these peculiarities pronounced them as being due to the want of aeration and the poisonous gases evolved from the blasting operations. And they reported that during the working hours the men were always in a high state of fever, which was succeeded, when the work was done for the day, by cold shivers and collapse. With these experiences to guide them, the engineers of the Simplon have necessarily made the question of ventilation one of serious and anxious study.