

Miscellaneous.

EAST INDIAN JUGGLERY.—Madame Pfeiffer, in her "Second Journey Round the World," gives the following description of certain unexplainable feats of jugglery witnessed by her while sojourning through the East Indies: "At the close of the entertainment, the performance of Hercules was really curious in its way. He appeared with nothing on but a pair of drawers, and a cord was passed around his neck, and with this his hands and arms were firmly tied behind him that he could not make the smallest movement. He came to us to have the knots examined, and then he crept under a high covered basket, beneath which various garments were placed; and after the lapse of a few minutes, the basket was lifted up, and the Hercules made his appearance completely clothed in them. Then he crept again under the basket and came out without them, but holding the cord fast in his hands, &c. All this would, of course, have been nothing in a theatre, where assistance might have been given him, but this was in a meadow, where no assistance was possible.—One of the gentlemen present offered him twenty-five rupees for his mystery, but he declined the offer."

THE PAVEMENT OF LONDON.—The pavement of London is one of the greatest marvels of our time. It covers nearly three thousand acres, two-thirds thereof consist of what may be called mosaic work, done in plain style, and the other third of smooth flagging, a series of works that far transcend in quantity as it excels in quality, the Appian way, which was the wonder of Ancient Rome, and which would cut but a poor figure as contrasted with one of our commonest streets. The ancient consular way was but fifteen feet in the main, and was filled with blocks all shapes and sizes, jointed together, and planed only on the surface; the length of its devious course, from north to south of Italy was under 300 miles. The paved streets of London number over 5000, and exceed 2000 miles in length.

TEACHING THE EYE.—The great majority of mankind do not and cannot see one fraction of what they were intended to see. The proverb that "None are so blind as those who will not see," is as true of physical as of moral vision. By neglect and carelessness we have made ourselves unable to discern hundreds of things which are before us to be seen. Thomas Carlyle has summed this up in one pregnant sentence:—"The eye sees what it brings the power to see." How true is this! The sailor on the look out can see a slip where the landsman sees nothing; the Esquimaux can distinguish a white fox amidst the white snow; the American backwoodsman will fire a rifle ball so as to strike a nut out of the mouth of a squirrel without hurting it; the Red Indian Boys hold their hands up as marks to each other, certain that the mercurial arrow will be shot between the spread out fingers; the astronomer can see a star in the sky, where to others the blue expanse is unbroken; the shepherd can distinguish the face of every sheep in his flock; the mosaic worker can detect distinctions of color where others see none; and multitudes of additional examples might be given of what education does for the eye.

SNAKE STORY.—An East India correspondent of a French paper states, that a box-constrictor having seized the child of a settler, named Morgan, the father, aided by two large and ferocious dogs, rushed to its rescue. The snake showed fight, and seized the dogs and father in its coils, without losing its hold of the child; but Morgan luckily gave the monster a severe cut, with a sharp yataghan, which nearly severed its body near the tail. This seemed to deprive the box of his constricting or crushing power. His folds loosened so that the man, the child, and one dog escaped: the other dog the snake had seized with his fangs and still held him fast. Morgan at once attacked the disabled reptile, and soon severed his head from his body; but the jaws still remained closed on the poor dog. With some difficulty they were opened, and the victim was released; but the brave fellow died the next day, and so did the child. Morgan and the surviving dog were not much injured.

A NEW DIAMOND.—Two French chemists, Messrs Wohler and Deville, have succeeded in crystallizing the well known substance boron, which has hitherto been known only as a greenish brown powder, or in combination with an acid, and they submitted specimens of the crystals to the Academy of Sciences a few days ago. These crystals possess a brittancy and refractive power when working equals but the diamond, and they rival that in hardness, being capable of scratching corundum, which, next to the diamond, is the hardest substance known. The specimens yet obtained are very small, and have a shade of red or yellow, but the color is believed to be accidental, and they hope that further experiments will enable them to procure it colorless. Boron agrees with silicon in some of its properties, and is considered as intermediate between it and carbon. This discovery may soon put us in possession of a fictitious diamond which the most experienced eye will be unable to distinguish from the genuine.

DEATH OF THE HEROINE OF MATAGORDA.—The Scotsman records the death of Mrs. Reston, better known as "the heroine of Matagorda," who died in the Glasgow Town's Hospital on Wednesday forenoon. She was with her husband, a sergeant in the 94th, when the French bombarded Matagorda, in 1810. During the bombardment she actively assisted the surgeon in relieving the wounded, and tore up her own linen and the linen of her husband to provide bandages. During the hottest of the fire, a drummer boy was directed to go for water for use in the hospital, and Mrs. Reston, seeing that the poor lad feared to face the tremendous shower of shot and shell, took the bucket from him, and ran to the well herself. While there, the rope for drawing the water gave way, but nothing daunted, Mrs. Reston engaged assistance, and succeeded in accomplishing her errand. When Mrs. Reston returned to this country, she was received into the Town's Hospital, in a state of desolation, on the death of her husband. A public subscription was, however, set on foot, and a fund raised for her, by which the latter part of her life was rendered comfortable. Although she was thus enabled to support herself, she had become so accustomed to live in the hospital that she resolved to remain, and pay a fair amount for her board. Of course her wish was gratified, and after independently paying her way, she had a yearly surplus, which she regularly applied to charitable and benevolent purposes.

DEER HUNTING.—The Indians of Sierra Valley, says the Marysville Herald, resort to various stratagems to circumvent the deer. The animals have been hunted so much that they take flight at the appearance of the hunter, seldom allowing him to come within half a mile. The Indians clothe themselves in deer skins, with the horns on, and gradually work towards the herd, like a straggling animal, feeding leisurely along. After getting within gun or bow shot, the hunter pretty generally secures his prey.

Another plan.—They set the wood on fire on one side of the valley, which drives the game to the other side, where the bark ropes are stretched along the brow of the hill, with here and there gateways open to let the deer pass through. The Indians lie concealed near the passage, and shoot the deer as they edge along the rope to find the end. They will not attempt to jump over unless hurried. In this way they entrap their prey. This information will not be new to mountaineers, though it may be to others.

AMONG THE BAY.—If casually strolling in the Champs Elysees, Paris, you see a plain gentleman driving his own carriage, with a couple of servants in green livery sitting behind him in the dicky, ten to one but it is the Emperor Louis Napoleon, or, is an elegant but plain open landau observed sweeping along with four horses, a couple of outriders, and second equipage of the same style following, there goes her Majesty on an airing. But mark, what state parade is this coming steadily down the hill!—Two hussars trot en avant, with pistols at full cock; two others, at an interval, succeed with drawn swords; at each door of the stately glass carriage there are two more of the dazzling

gards, and behind, close up a double line, each of four sabres, sabretashes, &c. What magnitude have we here? That nurse in her picturesque Bargundy cap supplies the information graphically—it is the Infant Prince Imperial, of the 1st regiment of the Grenadier Guards.

GOOD SKATING.—The Lock Haven (Pa.) Democrat says that two students, from Lewisburg, took a trip to their home, in Clinton county, a few days ago, which they reach by skating on the canal, a distance of sixty miles, in six hours.

THE VALUE OF HORSES.—Bell's Life says 231 thoroughbred yearlings have been sold under the hammer this year, raising 24,302l. The average of the present year is about 105 gs. on 231 sales, whereas the average in 1855 was 117 gs. on 200 sales, and 137 gs. on 182 in 1854.

OBITUARY.

The late Francis Cannon, Esquire, Surgeon, Royal Navy, who died at his residence in Peterboro', on the 12th Inst. at the advanced age of 84 years, was born in the County Down, Ireland. At an early age he studied for the Medical Profession. In 1783 he entered the Navy as Assistant Surgeon of His then Majesty's Ship *St. Albans*. In 1794 he was appointed Surgeon, in which capacity he was ordered to repair on board the *Queen*, and was at the action under Lord Howe, against the French Fleet, on the first of June, when six sail of the line were captured, and one sunk. Also, in 1795, in the same ship, under Admiral Lord Boscawen, when three sail of the line were taken, on the 23rd of June, of that year. For these services Surgeon Cannon received the War Medal and two clasps. He subsequently served in the *Grampus*, *Baycourt*, *Experiment*, *Tonase*, *Pandour*, and *Mars*, which ship he left in February, 1805. He served in other ships until 1807, when he was appointed to the *Proserpine*, and, in 1809, when off the coast of France, was unfortunately taken prisoner, and remained as such until 1814. After the Peace he served some time on the Jamaica Station; and, in 1818, was Surgeon of the ship that conveyed the Duke of Richmond to Quebec, as Governor General of the Canadas. In 1825 he again came out to this country in Medical charge of one of the Transports which brought out the immigrants under the superintendance of the late Hon. Peter Robinson. Having gone home, he returned to Canada in 1828 with his family, then consisting of his wife and seven daughters, and settled in Orombeo, where he resided until a few years ago, when he came to live on his property in Peterboro'.

As a husband, a father, a friend or acquaintance, in every position in life, Doctor Cannon was respected and esteemed by all who had the pleasure to know him. Without any severe illness he gradually sunk under the weight of age, and died with that perfect resignation and pious submission which had marked the later days of his many years. He leaves a widow, three daughters, and a grandson to deplore his loss.

At Tours, in France, in the 68th year of his age, after a lingering illness, Col. James Humphreys Wood, of the Royal Artillery, eldest son of the late Samuel Wood, Esq., of Nunlands, Berwickshire, and only brother of the Revd. S. S. Wood, Rector of St. James, Three Rivers.—Col. Wood obtained his commission in the Artillery in 1805, and the same year he was ordered to Canada, where he was stationed for six years. Soon after his return home in 1812, he exchanged into a Company that was serving in the Peninsula. He was engaged for the first time at Vittoria, was actively employed during the siege of St. Sebastian, and was present in all the conflicts of any moment that took place from that period to the final battle of Tolouse. He then embarked a second time for Canada with the expedition from Bourdeaux, where he remained two years. Subsequently he served in Ireland, Scotland, the Ionian Islands, and Bermuda. At a later period he had the command of the Artillery at the Cape, and afterwards in Scotland, which last command, in consequence of broken health about six years ago he was compelled to resign, and reluctantly to retire from the active employments of military life, to which he had been so long and so warmly attached.