STORKS EATING YOUNG RABBITS.

Our engraving represents a hungry stork making his breakfast off of an unfortunate young rabbit. It is not often that the bird captures such large prey, but probably, while searching the thick grass with its bill partly open, as is its curious habit, it encountered the rabbit and pounced upon without stopping to consider the difference between young rabbits and field mice. The latter, together with snakes, toads, frogs, and large insects, constitute the stork's ordinary food. The unhappy victim is not gorged instantly, but is carried off to the margin of some pond where its captor shakes it and beats it with its bill until it is reduced to a proper condition for easy swallowing. Then the meal is dispatched in a gulp or two, and the bird, which possesses an enormous appetite, resumes its hunting. The stork's favorite food is eels, which it captures with great dexterity. No spear in common use for taking that fish can more effectually secure it between its barbs than can the stork's mandibles. A small eel, despite its lightning movements, has no chance of escaping when once aroused from its lurking place by a stork.

In Europe the stork attaches itself to man and his habitations, building huge nests on tops of houses, and tamely walking round the streets. It especially parades about fish markets, where it finds no lack of subsistence in the offal.

CHEAP FUEL.

The recent rise in coal has caused considerable excitement among steam users, and the old question comes up again, "What can we use to reduce the price of fuel?" The *American Manufacturer* says: Coal screenings are becoming more in use, and with a small mixture of bituminous coal can now be burnt without using a blast under boilers set with the Jarvis furnace. For years attempts have been made to utilize immense fields of peat in the New England and Middle States. To do this it was necessary to carefully cut it in squares and dry it. Machinery was invented to do this, but the cost of cutting and drying was so large, especially the long time required in drying, that at the present time the matter has been generally abandoned. Recent experiments have been made with fresh dug peat wet from the meadow, without even cutting in squares or drying, and it has been found that with a small mixture of coal screenings or soft coal this can be used under boilers set with the Jarvis patent furnace without using a blast. It makes an immense heat with very little smoke. Before, in burning dry peat it was found that the gases would fill up the flues, but in the Jarvis furnaces these are fully utilized by the hot air supplied on the top of the fires, and the flame varies from white to a clear green colour.

SWISS PATENTS.—The *Public Ledger* says in an article upon the subject of patents in Switzerland, that public sentiment in Switzerland is beginning to look with favor upon patent laws, and a loss of a good deal of their watch-making trade, mainly because a Swiss inventor could not be protected, has caused a considerable feeling on the subject. Federal Councillor Droz has prepared a bill for a patent law, which has been published in the Swiss journals, and is thus presented to the people. Patents of importation will be granted to inventors living abroad only on the principle of reciprocity. The maximum duration of a patent is to be 15 years. An application fee of 30 francs will be charged, and an annual fee of 30 francs each for the second and third years. Every subsequent year a surcharge will be levied at the rate of 20 francs more than the amount paid in the preceding year. If the inventor refuses to admit the use of his invention by voluntary agreement, the question may be submitted to the Federal Tribunal. The Federal Patent Office may, under certain conditions and circumstances, declare a patent void or withdraw it. The Patent Office is to be composed of three permanent members, elected by the Federal Council for six years, and several examiners. The Patent Office must transmit the appeal of an applicant who gives serious reasons for impugning the decision by which his invention was refused a patent, to a court composed of at least three examiners, among whom must be none who made the first examinations. The applicant may appeal from this court to the Federal Tribunal, which, hearing fresh experts chosen from Switzerland and abroad, gives the final judgment. No additional fee is charged for an appeal against a first decision. The judgment of the Federal Tribunal is always accompanied with the costs of the appeal.