

merely reined by a forefinger and thumb, taken at full gallop across a court yard, and then made to wheel round the post of a veranda with great speed, but at so equal a distance that the rider, with outstretched arm, all the while kept one finger rubbing the post. Then making a *demí volte* in the air, with the other arm outstretched in a like manner, he wheeled round with astonishing force in an opposite direction.—*Darwin's Researches.*

THE SIGNS OF OLD AGE IN THE HORSE.—The following symptoms are, we believe, infallible:—"The general indications of old age are various and distinct. The teeth of an old horse are yellow, and sometimes brownish. The gums are worn and sunk; and occasion a portion of the stumps of the teeth to appear long and naked. The bars of the mouth, which in youth were always fleshy, and formed a series of distinct ridges, are now lean, dry, and smooth, with little or no rising. The eye-pits, which in youth generally appear fleshy, plump, and smooth, are now sunk and hollow, and make the animal look lugubrious and ghastly. A horse which was formerly grey is now white; a horse which was formerly all black, is now probably grey over the eye-brows, or over a large proportion of the face; a horse, which was formerly black, but had a star or blaze fringed round with grey, is now grey or whitish over much of the face; and most horses, according to the variety of their colour or constitution, sooner or later become flea-bitten over most of their body except about the joints. All horses, when very old, sink more or less in the back; some, which are naturally long-backed, become so sunk that a saddle can hardly any longer be found to fit them; and most become so stiff in their joints as to trip and stumble upon even a smooth and almost level road. But long before a horse is transmuted into one of the mere animated skeletons which are sometimes seen to drag themselves along the streets of a market town, every respectable farmer will have repudiated the cruelty of fastening it under a harness."—*Bell's Weekly Messenger.*

HEMLOCK HEDGE OR SCREEN.—In the garden of J. W. Wheeler, Esq., of Hyde Park, we lately saw a beautiful hedge or screen, of hemlock, (*Abies Canadensis.*) We had not previously seen this material used for such a purpose, but in this instance it has answered admirably. Mr. W. informed us that it had received no particular pains in its management. The young trees were taken from the woods when from 6 to 8 inches high, and set where they now stand; since which no attention has been given except to keep them sheared in the proper form. It is five years since the screen was planted, and it is about three and a half feet high, perfectly even, and so dense as to be wholly impenetrable to sight from the ground to the top. We would not be understood to recommend hemlock as a live fence against cattle, and we are not certain that it would answer against sheep, as they might check its growth by browsing, especially in the winter or early in the spring, when, in consequence of the scarcity of green forage, they will eat hemlock freely. But for a screen, in pleasure grounds or gardens, we have seen nothing which surpassed the one alluded to.—*Albany Cultivator.*

USEFUL HINT ABOUT CHOLERA.—A writer in a weekly medical journal, who saw much of the cholera in 1832 and 1834, suggests a very simple, and, as he asserts, a very valuable prevention against the susceptibility of the disease.—The weakened state of the stomachs, he says, which predisposes to cholera, is so decidedly obviated by *eating freely of common salt* with our meals, that it is believed that three-fourths of the cases which would otherwise occur may be prevented by this simple addition to our food. The writer recommends for an adult a ninth of an ounce (about a small teaspoonful) three times a day, at breakfast, dinner, tea, or supper. It may be eaten with fish, animal food, poultry, game, bread, toast, or bread and butter. The same beneficial result is not obtained with salt meats, broths, soups, &c. in which salt is dissolved; because by the action of heat, or long admixture of the salt with other matters, a change is produced in its properties, and the preventative power, with reference to this particular use of it, destroyed.

REMEDY FOR CHOLERA.—The following valuable prescription for the effective cure of the cholera has been received from J. Brooker, Esq., H. B. M.'s Vice Consul at Constadt, Russia. "The principal part is to attack the disease the instant it is suspected, take a stimulating dram, with peppermint, and a few drops of turpentine, cover yourself up as warm as possible, to promote perspiration, apply hot substances, such as water, bran, salt, and clean sand to the limbs, and put a mustard poultice over the whole stomach. As soon as perspiration breaks out, and the beating of the pulse is restored, the complaint may be looked upon as conquered; if it is neglected till its last stage, recovery cannot be expected." By strictly attending to the above simple means, Mr. Brooker says that no person need fear fatal consequences.

SHOES MADE OF STRAW.—"It would seem, by the following extract from the Magazine of Science, that straw shoes (of rice straw,) are common in Japan. It would seem that the natives of most other countries are before our own in manufacturing from such substances.—"Platting of straws, grasses, and chips into hats, and different articles for wear, is far from being confined to Europe, or to civilised countries. The art is indeed found to obtain in different degrees of extent and excellence in nearly every part of the world. In the southern provinces of China, where, in summer, the population use no other head covering, and where the Mandarins wear these hats with tremendously wide brims, the quantity of straw platting is prodigious. In Japan, in proportion to the population, the consumption is almost equally great. 'When on a journey,' says Thunberg, 'all the Japanese wear a conical hat, made of a species of grass platting and tied with a string.' He also observed, that all the fishermen wear hats of the same material and shape. But in addition to this extensive use, the Japanese hardly ever wear any shoes or slippers but such as are made of platting straw. 'This,' remarks the same excellent traveller, 'is the most shabby and indifferent part of their dress, and yet in equal use with the high and the low, the rich and the poor. They are made of rice-straw platting, and by no means strong.'—They cost, however, a mere trifle; they are found exposed for sale in every town and in every village, and the pedestrian supplies himself with new shoes as he goes along, while the more provident man always carries two or three pair with him for use, throwing them away as they wear out. Old worn-out shoes of this description are found lying every where by the sides of the roads, especially near rivulets, where travellers, on changing their shoes, have an opportunity at the same time of washing their feet.' In very wet weather they use wooden clogs, which are attached to their straw-platted shoes by ties also made of straw-plat. People of very high rank sometimes wear slippers made of fine slips of rattan neatly platting."

ZOOLOGICAL CURIOSITY.—The *Press* gives the following account of a young orang outang, which has just arrived in France, and added to the collection in the Jardin des Plantes. The animal is only six months old, but presents in appearance the aspect of a serious and meditative child of three years of age. He makes none of those jerking movements or contortions of countenance, which are so characteristic of the "ape" species; nor is that absence of sustained attention, so common to monkeys in general, in any way remarkable. He is calm—nay, almost affectionate, and gives the keepers that pass by his cage the most hearty shake of the hand, with the same air of semi solemnity that would be assumed by an old Arab. His diet is very *recherche* consisting of chocolate, roast meat, wine, and even *liqueurs*. As he comes from a very hot climate, the greatest precautions are adopted for the exclusion of cold, and the little creature is, accordingly put to bed between a large cat and a very shaggy dog, all three animals being covered up with a thick mantle of wool. During the day the orang-outang is clothed in a red blouse, after the fashion of the "Greek" design of the curiains of the empire, and white pantaloons. The studies of zoologists can hardly fall to be greatly advanced by the presence of this animal in their menagerie.