## Animal Curiosities.

Trained Rats, Musical Mice and Intelligent Dogs and Spiders-Do Birds Poison Their Young?-A Nest Made of Steel.

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An intelligent hunting dog who had well, and in the course of a year had a litter of fine young puppies, all exstrayed away was found in New Hartford, Conn., recently, and the finder notified the dog's owner in Winsted. turning the dog, and while talking showed his joy.-Boston Heraid.

WELL-TRAINED RAT.

It is a well-known fact that rats and mice do not infest a house at the same time. Working upon this hint as to the nature of rodents, N. K. Laureson, of this place, has adopted a scheme by which he keeps himself rid of both This gift consists of a bird's nest con-This he accomplishes by capturing a young rat and training him to catch mice. This singular mouser, whose name, by the way, is Czar, is doubtless the most successful one on record. He has been taught to pounce upon a mouse on short order, without fear and without favor, and he shows no mercy. Of course, he can follow the mice into close quanters, and never has been known to lose his quarry Strange to relate, large rats have given the house the go-by also, seeming to understand that the place belongs to Czar, and that there must be no encroachment upon his prerogative.

very fond of his queer Laureson is pet, and has taught him many interesting tricks. Among others, he has trained him to handle a bow, and with a miniature violin Czar manages to scrape the strings in a way that is not Of course, it has been imunmusical. possible to teach him really to play a piece, but sitting upon his hind legs, grasped in his tiny with his fiddle claws, Czar produces a sort of halfscreeching sound that is altogether weird and fantastic. Laureson is himself a violinist of no mean order, and Czar likes nothing better than to sit on his master's knee and listen to his playing.—Philadelphia Times.

A BIRD'S INTELLIGENCE.

tree was started by a violent commotion that arose in the shrubbery hard by. Catbirds screamed, wrens scolded, and the robins shouted "Quick!" with all their might. A chipmunk was dragging a baby catbird by the leg from to be the deadly larkspur, a weed that its nest, and all the birds round about thad come to help make a row about including a Baltimore oriole. The screaming and the swish of wings as the birds darted about made the squirrel abandon its prey, and then the commotion subsided as quickly as it had risen. All the birds but the oriole ent about their business eisewhere. and, beyond the countenancing the edge of Arkansas, is a great hunter, The oriole had not said a word so far, hubbub by his presence, had had no and has a fine deerhound. Dan, of ped the baby cathird, cocked itself up- ago Mr. Meachamp was going squiron a limb and began to chatter in a defiant way, while the oriole sat not at home, he was compelled to recommend far away looking but doing nothing But in a few moments the squirleft its seat and ran out on the limb it had been sitting on until it had to use more care to keep its hold, and then the oriole's opportunity for a terrible assault had come. Flashing across the space, he struck the chipmunk in one eye with his sharp-pointed beak, and then, turning instantly, struck the other eye in like manner. Quivering with pain, the squirrel let go the limb and dropped to the ground, where it rolled and struggled about apparetly in the throes of death. The flew away to its favorite elm, where he sang in the most brilliant fashion. The lady put the squirrel out of its misery, and then saw that the oriole had destroyed both eyes.

QUEER FACTS ABOUT SPIDERS. My attention was called by a clerk in a drug store to a web which had been superbly decorated with flakes and scales of logwood. I thought at first that this beautiful passamenterie effect had been produced accidentally, but after watching for a few minutes I saw the spider descend into the box of logwood, affix a thread of silk to a flake of the dye, hoist it to the web above, and securely fasten it to one of the transverse strands. The glittering scales moved at the slightest jar, or when they were struck by a current of air, and were dazzling to the eye. This little decorative artist had indeed constructed a truly palatial residence.

Some spiders, unquestionably, affected by music to a marked degree. On one occasion I noticed a spider which had swung down from the ceiling of a church and hung suspended fust above the organist's hands. The organist informed me that he had repeatedly noticed that spiders were affected by music. Several days afterward, while seated at the organ, I observed the same spider. Several times I drove her away and enticed her back, by playing alternately soft andante and loud bravura selections. Prof. C. Reclain, during a concert at Leipsic, saw a spider descend from one of the chandeliers while a violin solo was being played; but as soon as the orchestra began to sound it quickly ran back .- Boston Herald.

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MUSICAL MICE. Mice seem to have a great fondness for all sorts of harmonic sounds, and have been known to come out of their holes and listen attentively to a boy whistling. Cows care nothing at all for music, nor, as far as can be learned. do asses. Elephants and horses, on the other hand, are in some degree conscious of its charms, and will often when marching in procession, accom modate their step to the beat of the music. A prisoner in the Bastile who played upon the bag-pipes succeeded in attracting the attention of a spider, which, after several months, became a regular attendant at his daily concents. But though music has no charm for the lion and tiger, it has been discovered by a naturalist who has been conducting some experiments in the London Zoological Gardens, that these animals are instantly and powerfully affected by the smell of lavender water. Under its influence they become as docile as lambs, forgetting even The effect is not unlike that exerted upon cats by catnip and mint.

A DOG'S INTELLIGENCE. A gentleman of Mount Lebanon, La. Kate. Something like a year ago last thrown into a vat filled with dye made about one-tenth of the people of his from red oke bark, which is possessed territory belong to that faith.

CALLING A DOG BY TELEPHONE. | of healing properties. The dog got

cept two of which were drowned. discovered A few days ago Kate what she evidently considered sure The New Hartford man called up the symptoms of mange in one of the owner by telephone to arrange for re- pups, so bidding it follow, she made a bee-line for the old tan-yard, followed asked the owner the dog's name. "Hold at some distance by the pups. Arrived him up to the telephone," was the reput against the dog's ear, and the own-er called "Dash!" The dog recognized nape of the neck and called by the formed the scene of her own ablution, The dog recognized nape of the neck and calmly gave it the voice and set up a barking which a good bath, in spite of its protesting yelps and struggles. As a reward for her foresight and maternal care, pup recovered, and is now as frisky and healthy as any mother could desire.—Philadelphia Times.

> BIRDS MAKE A NEST OF STEEL A curious gift has been made to the Natural History Museum of Soletta. structed entirely of steel. There are a great many watch-makers at Soletta, and in the vicinity of the workshops there are always the remains of the old springs of watches, which have been east aside. Last summer a watchmaker discovered this curious bird's nest, which had been built in a tree in his courtyard by a pair of water wagtails. It measures ten centimeters in circumference and is made solely of watch springs. When the birds had fledged their brood the watch-makers secured their unique nest, as an interesting proof of the intelligence of birds in adapting anything which comes within their reach .- London Daily News.

DO BIRDS POISON THEIR YOUNG

It has been claimed by observers of birds that some of the feathered tribe will feed their young if they are caged, and if they fail to release them after certain time, will bring them a poisoned weed to eat, that death may end their captivity. Last spring at a farm house, the children captured a nest of three young thrushes, and they were immediately caged and hung in a tree. The mother was soon about, calling her young, and in a little while brought them some worms. She continued feeding them regularly for sev-A lady who was one day watching a eral days without seeming to pay much pair of redstarts as they worked in a attention to persons about. But shortly after this came the tragic ending that demonstrated the theory relative to She brought them a sprig of birds. green one morning and disappeared. In less than an hour they all died. The sprig was examined, and proved will kill full-grown cattle. The limite creatures lay dead in the cage, victims of their mother's stern resolve that her offspring should die by her own act rather than live in captivity.

> A DOG'S SIXTH SENSE. A Homer, La., dispatch says: L. C. Meachamp, living about here on the The squirrel, having drop- which he is justly proud. A few days The hound whined and begged, but finding his master was obdurate, he at last lay quite peaceably before

his kennel all day. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, however, when Mrs. Meachamp was begin-ning to look for her husband's return, Dan became so unusually restless that she went out to see what was the matter. In spite of her repeated efforts she could do nothing to pacify him, and at last he broke the rope and bounded away over the fence and into the woods. He was gone probably half an hour, when he came running back, panting and almost breathless, with his master's hat in his mouth.

Mrs. Meachamp became at once alarmed, and, calling her son, they set out to find Meachamp, the dog all the time bounding in front and leading the way. At last they came upon Mr. Meachamp lying helpless in the woods. where at precisely 5 o'clock he had fallen in a little ditch, and broken a small bone in his leg. knowledge of the accident at the very moment of its occurence seems almost incredible, but the truth is beyond dis-

A MONKEY'S LOVE.

There was, until very recently, in one of the many city establishments in which small animals and birds are sold, a pair of monkeys of remarkable intelligence, says the N. Y. World. From their prison stage and cage they entertained large audiences of spectators as acrobats. The endearing affection which they cherished for each other was an example for some domestic circles of to-day. Their consideration one for the other was most pronounced, while a tender care, regard

and constancy was strikingly shown.

A short time since I paid another visit to the place. A customer entered. His object was the purchase of one only of the pair whose winning ways had endeared them to the hearts of the many who knew and loved them. The desired one of the two was chosen, chained and paid for by the purchaser. I would have eagerly given ten times the price paid could I have arrested that sale and separation. Language could but feebly express the scane which followed. I watched the features which were but a moment before radiant with joyous contentmenty electrically changing to despair, more and more pronounced as the barter and sale was being consummated which would forever separate them. I could not at the last observe the conduct of the one purchased, it having been removed under cover, but the emotional demonstrations by the remaining one were touching to a painful degree. Even the strong iron bars which framed the cage were taxed

by the animal's furious efforts. Three days subsequent to this my interest in behalf of the deserted one prompted me to again visit the place. The swinging "trapeze," which had contributed so abundantly to the enjoyment of the little couple, remained motionless. Food and fruits of delicate and tempting flavor were untouched but crouched in a corner of the cage was the emaciated form of the little mourner almost lifeless crushed by the burden of

despair.

LONDON is to have another Oriental visitor, the Nizam of Hyderabad. He rules 15,000,000 subjects and 100,000 square miles of territory. His Highness, Asaf Jah, is a man of small statowns a fine Newfoundland dog called ure, very reserved, but most hospitable to all Europeans who visit Hyderabad. spring Kate was very badly afflicted He entertained the late Duke of Clarence with great magnificence six years with mange, and her master had her ence with great magnificence six years taken to the neighboring tanyard and ago. He is a strict Monammedan, and

WORLD'S DIAMONDS.

Ten Tons Have Been Added to Human Wealth In the Last Quarter Century.

There are perhaps 8,000 dealers in diamonds in the world, who carry in their stock stones worth, perhaps, \$350,000,000, according to the Jewelers' Review.

It is estimated that during the last twenty-five years the American people have paid duty on at least \$180,000,000 worth of diamonds and other precious stones. In 1893 alone they imported \$15,-203,563 worth, but in 1894 there was a falling off, owing to hard times, and the total was only \$4,856,985.

This does not include uncut diamonds, of which we imported more than \$1,000,-000 worth in 1892, \$800,000 worth in 1893, and \$566,267 worth in 1894. During the last twenty-two years we have imported \$7,087,817 worth of uncut diamonds. In 1880 we imported only \$129,000 worth of uncut diamonds, and in 1889 only \$250,-000 worth. The large increass of late has been due to the fact that a number of American jewelers have opened diamend cutting establishments. There are now fifteen establishments in the United States which employ from one to

wen ty men. There are 4,000 manufacturers in Europe and about 200 in the United States, who employ between 7,000 and 8,000 persons as cutters and polishers. Perhaps 28,000 people are employed in the diamond mines throughout the world. We read that in past centuries 60,000 people were working in some single Indian mines at one time, and perhaps that statement is not exaggerated, since by the aid of modern machinery one miner can now accomplish as much as twenty who used the primitive methods. The total value of all the diamonds in the

world undoubtedly exceeds \$1,000,000,000. During the last quarter century ten tons of diamonds, selling for more than \$800,000,000 uncut, and \$600,000,000 after cutting, have been added to the world's wealth-an amount more than twice as great as the value of diamonds known to exist before. This vast value is in the most concentrated portable, and ornamental form, and more convertile than anything except gold and silver. Its accumulation has built up cities like Kimberley, maintained important industries in Amsterdam and other centers.

SOCIETY A CORRUPTION.

The Professional Society Woman a Parasite

Upon the World's Heart-Growth. Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney in discussing society, with her girl friends, in December Ladies' Home Journal, has this stinging charge to make against modern Society, as it is spelled with a capital S: "Society as a pursuit, an end, is a thing without a soul. The home-spirit, from the sharing of which between home and home it grew, has departed out of it. It is dead. It is a corruption. A professional society woman is a parasite upon the world's heart-growth; helping, as a microbe of disease to eat out its vitality. There is a terrible reaction in the influence of what we make society to be, without its true heart and center. It is to blame for the many confused problems of our time; it is responsible for the frantic turning of the world upside down. Conventionalities, false effort and restriction crowd in upon and choke out our most beautiful and sacred realities. True homes become more and more scarce. Society women abandon them; they make of them mere arrival and departure stations in the rush of a whirling round. Women who who will not maintain the modern artificial conditions, are discouraged and prepelled from any home-making at all. They are forced, through the very need of their natures, to oatside work and interest for fellowship; and so there is a great deal attempted, from strong desire for the best, that is yet, in its turn, untrue, one-sided; adding a fresh derangement to our perplexed systems and theories-our transitional social and political economies."

A Brief Story.

The following brief but significant piece of news tells an ominous story: Manchester, N. H., Aug. 24. - Owing to serious financial complications the Manchester Telegram has been forced to suspend publication.

A few years ago the Manchester Telegram was one of the most widely circulated of weekly family papers in New England. Under the stress of nearly three years of acute financial depression. affecting newspapers, perhaps, more seriously than any other business, the paper has at last been forced to suspend. It has required the best and keenest busithe leading newspapers of the country anywhere near the domain of prosperity.

The Manchester Telegram is not the once prosperous newspaper that has been obliged to suspend. Within the month past others have gone the same way; and people conversant with the newspaper business can foresee more suspensions. Such misfortunes are always deplorable, but in times like the present they appear inevitable. Concerns not founded on financial stability of the bed rock character are certain to go to the wall. Pick out a business bereft of sensible, conservative business management, and you can look upon an enterprise that is doomed, in these times. A newspaper is a business enterprise, and unless its nap. affairs are handled with skill and ability, backed by ample capital, judiciously employed, its days will be found num-Recklessness, improvidence and unreliability in management can end in only one way-disaster. That is true in good times, and doubly true in a depressed period. There are numerous newspaper hulks floating about, like direlicts on the sea, and it is pretty evident that they are unable to withstand the storm.

Not in Stock.

It was in a little New Hampshire village among the mountains, where the country store served as post-office, circulating library, shoe store, and everything else combined, that a Boston lady, glancing over the books, inquired:
"Have you Browning?" "No," said gaid the attendant, somewhat regretfully, and not just knowing what kind of an article Browning might be, "we have not." Then, more brightly: "We have blacking, and blueing, and have a man who does whiting. We occasionally do pinking. Would any of these do?"-Exchange.

And Still They Wonder. Little Girl (looking over the advertising page)-Mamma, why do all these board-

ing houses object to children? Fond Mother-I'm sure I don't know. Go and see what baby is crying about, and tell Johnny to stop throwing things at people in the street, and make George and Kate stop fighting, and tell Dick if he doesn't stop blowing that tin trumpet I'll take it away from him.

Some artists are so poor that they cannot even draw a check.

Missing Links

Gossip From Every Land Summarized for Busy Readers.

SANDWICH is one of the few English towns in which the curfew is still The custom was very nearly ended recently, as the people objected to the ringer's ringing the bell at o'clock in the morning, too.

AS THE port of Cronstadt is to be closed to merchant vessels, the port of St. Petersburg will be excavated to the ing a Hungarian cap and poncho, he depth of the canal leading into it, 32 feet, and enlarged so as to hold at ing his sword. On one side is a group least 24 large steamers at a time. IT IS proposed to supply London

with sea water for bathing by pumping the water from the Channel near Brighton, and conveying it to a large reservoir on Epsom Downs, from which it will flow down hill to London. TELEGRAM postcards have been

sent for some years past in Paris by pneumatic tube. It is now proposed to use the pneumatic system to convey letters from the postoffices to the railroad stations. The plant will cost \$170,-TWO Russian battleships, the Rurik

and Dimitri Donskoi, on their way to the Mediterranean put into Portsmouth harbor recently, being the first Russian vessels to whom the privilege had been allowed in over a quarter of a century. PURE glucinum has been obtained

from the emerald by M. Lebeau by heating the emerald in the electric furnace until the silicon is volatilized, when the residue is confined with hydrofiuoric acid, and, after a series of purifications, gives glucinum. ENGLISH ships will be attracted to

Siberian ports now that Capt. Wiggins has shown that it is possible, by the decision of the Russian Government, to allow foreign merchandise to be imported into Siberia by the Arctic route for some years to come at least.

THE houtest mines in the world are the Comstock. On the lower levels the heat is so great that the men cannot work over ten or fifteen minutes at a originals time. Every known means of mitigating the heat has been tried in vain. Ice melts before it reaches the bottom of the shafts.

AN EPHEMERAL journal is La Teta Cortada ("The Cut Cloth"), a Spanish illustrated comic weekly, printed on cloth the size of a handkerchief, and sold for 5 cents. After it when the ink washes out and only a handkerchief remains.

ABOUT 25 years ago an English syndicate offered the Transvaal Government \$800,000 for the exclusive right to all the mineral resources of that country, and the Government came that the gold product of the region staring in surprise at the headlight this year will be \$50,000,000.

THE Father of the Church of Scot-Glasgow, has just attained the age of a victim to its curiosity are not un Dr. Smith well remembers the sula and Waterloo campaigns.

GLUCINUM, or beryllium, the metal found in beryl and emerald, is ceasing to be a chemical rarity, and promises to come into practical use before long. It is lighter and stronger than aluminum, but its chief value lies in its electrical conductivity, being as high as that of silver. Its value now is \$17 88

A TURKISH outrage has been committed at Bielitz, in Austrian Silesia. Kiamil Pasha, the new vali of Smyrna, having forbidden the use of woolen breeches in his vilayet, has suddenly cut off the chief market of the Bielitz manufacturers, who are left with large stocks of unsaleable garments on hand, and see no way to avoid ruin but

the repeal of the order. ADMIRAL LORD CLARENCE PAGET, uncle of Lieut.-Col. Paget, who married Mrs. Paran Stevens' daughter, and of Mr. Almeric Paget, who recently married Miss Pauline Whitney, is now 84 years old, and has written his memoirs, which will be ness and editorial management to keep published soon. He served in the Crimean war, and was Secretary to the Admiralty under Lord Palmeston.

BY INJECTING microbe poisons into animals, especially the pyocyanaceous bacillus peculiar to old sores, MM. Charrin and Galy have made them produce offspring deficient in some part-earless, tailless, footless, or with deformed feet, like club feet. The inference is that human beings afflicted with transmissible bacterial diseases assume a great responsibility at marriage.

IN THIBET the letter carriers make very long journeys on foot, and within a time which allows them only the briefest intervals for an occasional To insure themselves against oversleeping, therefore, they tie a piece of joss-stick to one of their thumbs, light it and lie down to rest. When the stick burns down to the flesh the pain awakens them and they resume their journey.

ANTI-TOXIN shortens the time needed for the retention of the tube in the larynx in cases of croup and diphtheria, according to Dr. Bokai, of Buda-Pesth. In 215 successful cases where he used a tube without antitoxin the average period of intubation was 79 hours, while the average duration of 45 successful cases with antitoxin was 61 hours, being a reduction of eighteen hours.

RICE-THROWING broke up a wedding feast at Preston, England, recently. The party was leaving the house in a carriage when the ricethrower frightened the houses, who ran away. The best man was pitched out, landing on his head, which was badly cut. The carriage was stopped by the horses running against a wall, when the bride was taken out with a bruised leg and very much shocked.

A LARGE number of unpublished letters from literary and musical celebrities was found recently among the papers left by Mr. George Thompson, an Edinburgh lawyer The letters are being published in the Glasgow Evening News. The first batch contains letters from Jean Armour, the wife of Robert Burns, and from the poet's brother Letters from Dickens, Scott, Byron, Tom Moore, Beethoven, Hadyn, and Weber are to follow.

QUEEN VICTORIA had ten animals on exhibition at the Birmingham Agricultural Society's show this year. For

BURE OF TO ALOW DIVLY BED

prize, it being the best specimen of the breed competing. For a Devon steer, too, her Majesty won a first award, and for her herd of Herefords second-class one. The Prince of Wales carried off only one prize, a second for Southdown sheep.

GARIBALDI'S monument in Milan looks better than was expected. Wearsits on a magnificent horse, unsheathof Revolution, leaning on a lion; on the other is Liberty sheathing her sword and standing on the prostrate tiger Tyranny. The inscription is: "A Giuseppe Garibaldi, Milano."

PATENTED artificial skin is now produced in Germany. It is made by removing the outer and inner mucous membranes of the intestines of animals and partly digesting them in a pepsin The fibers are then treated solution. with tannin and gallic acid, the result being a tissue which can be applied to wounds like a natural skin, and is entirely absorbed in the process

REGULUS is outdone by a man from Ceylon, who is now performing at the London Alhambra. Besides climbing with bare feet a ladder whose rungs are sharp sword edges, and lying on a bed of nail points with four men seated upon him, he curls himself up in a barrel, through whose inner sides nails project, and is rolled about the stage at a rapid rate. The exhibition, however, is described as being curious rather than interesting to the specta-

FOR \$10,000 France has obtained from the Shah of Persia the right to ter he had got out of quarantine. excavate for antiquities in his kingdom, to the exclusion of all other Europeans. Objects of gold and silver and jewelry found will belong to the Persian Government, but France can buy half of them at a valuation, and will have a first refusal of the other half. It will have the right to take casts of all sculpture and inscriptions and the absolute ownership of half the

ACETYLINE gas is believed to have one of the most abominable odors devised by chemistry, a fact urged in its favor, as it can be detected at once when it escapes. M. Moissan, who discovered it, says, however, that the pure gas made from crystallized carbide of calcium has an agreeable etheric odor, which he has inhaled in small quantihas been read it can be put in water, ties without inconvenience. When the carbide is obtained with impure coal and lime it may contain sulphides and phosphides of calcium, and in that case the stench is nauseous.

THREE deer jumped on the railway track a few hundred yards or so ahead of a locomotive near Trout Lake, very near selling it. It is estimated Mich., a few days ago, and remained until they were struck by the pilot and tossed from the track. Intances of a single deer being thus attracted land, Rev. Dr. Smith, of Cathcart, by a locomotive headlight and falling 92 years. He has been minister of common in Michigan, Maine, and other Cathcart Parish since 1828, his jubilee regions where deer abound; but for a eing celebrated seventeen years ago. trio of the animais to be hypnotized in

THAT tuberculosis is increased by living in thickly settled communities is shown by statistics collected by Dr. Petit fr 662 French towns. In Paris the proportion of deaths from tuberculous disease in 100,000 inhabitants is 490; in 11 towns of from 100,000 to 430,000 inhabitants it is 363; in 46 towns with a population between 30,000 and 100,000 it is 305; in 50 towns of from 20,000 to 30,-000 inhabitants it is 238; in 127 towns between 10,000 and 20,000 it is 271. in 332 towns between 5,000 and 10,000 it is 216, and in 95 towns with a population below 5.000 it is 181.

A \$150 lawsuit over a \$1 25 pig has just been ended in Michigantown, Ind., and the town treasury is out the former amount. A month ago the city marshal impounded a pig belonging to The farmer rea farmer named Hill. fused to pay the \$1 50 pound charge, and replevined the pig. The town sued him, and after three trials the Circuit Count the other day gave verdict for Hills, with \$1 01 damages More than half the people in town were summoned as witnesses, and the total amount of money lost over the pig runs to a pretty high figure.

A PORTION of the prevulgate Latin version of the Old Testament, containing the Book of Joshua and part of Judges, and forming part of the same manuscript as the Lyons Pentateuch of the eighth century, was recently recovered by the Government officials at the sale of M. de Verna's library and restored to the Lyons library. The manuscript was stolen many years ago. Lately another portion of it, which rad come into the Ashburnham collection 40 years ago from the noto-rious book thief, Libri, was given back to the same library by Lord Ashburn-

REV. JOHN JASPER is as firmly convinced as ever that the sun moves round the earth and that the earth doesn't move at all. He preached his famous "sun-do-move" sermon to an audience of 200 white folk in Mount Zion Church, Richmond, Va., last Sunday, and was more than ever scornful toward the scientists and emphatic in his arguments for the literal acceptance of Biblical texts bearing on the point. "When you rises and when you sots down, don't you move? Den how could the sun rise and go down 'thout moving'?" he argues.

RECENTLY a henpecked husband sought divorce before a London court. "Even before my marriage," he said, 'I saw enough of my wife's temper to convince me that I would become a very unhappy man. Experience has proved that I was right." "Why, then, did you manry her?" asked the judge in astonishment. "Because she would otherwise have sued me for breach of promise, and obtained a verdict for at least \$500. You will understand that I preferred a divorce. It's cheaper. The judge did understand, and relieved him of his evil.

A MAN wearing the Victoria Cross was recently sentenced to eighteen months' hard labor in England for bigamy under unusually cruel and cowardly circumstances, the judge telling him that he richly deserved the full limit of ten years. He had married one after another a number of young girls, beating them brutally after he was tired of them. Yet he had won his cross honestly by an unusually unselfish act of bravery. In 1880, when the British were cut up by the Afghans at Maiwand, in the insurrection that led to Roberts' march to Candahar, he saved a gun heaped up one of them, a Shorthorn heifer, she received a first prize and also a special on foot against the Afghan horsemen mail.



about to surround it, and holding them off with his rifle for the few moments needed to get the piece clear.

VIPER'S blood it is that contains the poisonous substance which makes the animal's bite fatal, according to the researches of MM. Bertrand and Phisalix. It contains also an antitoxic element that stands heat longer than the venom, so that blood heated to 58 degrees Centigrade proved not only innocuous when injected into guinea pigs, but rendered immune agaist injections of blood that had not en heated.

MARK TWAIN'S lecture tour in the Antipodes is proving highly successful, but, according to the Australian papers, he had a series of setbacks at the start, which probably have afforded him some quiet chuckles since. His agents had engaged a hall at Honolulu which he was to lecture while the steamer he was traveling to Australia on was in port. Eight hundred seats were sold. But when Mark Twain arrived he found he could not land at Honolulu on account of the cholera. As soon as he arrived in Australia he was laid up with a carbuncle, which kept him in his hotel for a week. When he got well, and everything seemed smooth ahead, his manager was put in quarantine at Adelaide, and kept there fourteen days, because the steamer on which he arrived had smallpox aboard. But Mark went ahead without his manager, and let him catch up af-

THE New York Herald's first prize of \$10,000 for the best serial novel goes to Julian Hawthorne; the second prize of \$2,000 to Rev. W. C. Blakeman, of Ishp, N. Y., and the third prize of \$1,000 to Edith Carpenter, of Millville, N. J. The prize of \$3,000 for the best novelette goes to Molly Elliot Seawell, or Washington, and the \$2,000 prize for the best short story to Edgar Fawcett. The \$1,000 prize for the best epic poem is awarded to a writer who veils himself or herself under the nom de plume of Sangamon, without revealing his or her identity. Excepting Mr. Hawthorne and Mr. Fawcett, the winners in these competitions are comparatively unknown writers, though, with the exception of Rev. M. Blakeman, they have all contributed more less to contemporary literature. That they did not lack competitors for these prizes is indicated by the fact

A Turfman's Tale.

novelettes and 3,000 short stories.

that before reaching their conclusions

nearly 1,000 poems, more than 1,000

judges were compelled to peruse

A New Jersey man told me a good story the other day on one of our foremost turfmen, a man whose name is perhaps printed oftener than that of any other connected with the racing in America, says a writer in the New York Press. . A good many years ago this turfman, who was not then deep in the racing business, arrived in Jersey City with a trainload of mustangs from the plains of Texas. He knew nothing of the laws of the state, nor of the ordinances of the city. He knew that he wanted to sell his mustangs, and thought the best way to do it was to sell them at auction. Being somewhat gifted in speech, he determined that he would be his own auctioneer. The sale started out well. Fair prices were realized. Suddenly it was interrupted by policamen, who demanded a view of our friend's license.

"License?" he said, amazed. "What license? I haven't any license of any kind."

"Well, you can't sell horses in this city without a license. You'll have to come along. No monkey business with us. " Of course, he went along, but was

lucky enough to find a friend at court (a lawyer who went bail for him in the sum of \$50. Then the lawyer said:

"A license costs \$250. You are under bonds. Go ahead and finish your sale, collect your money, and skip out. Give me \$50 to settle the forfeited bond, and you are \$200 ahead of the game."

It was done accordingly. The turfman and his friend met in the St. James hotel lately and laughed ove the joke.

Photographing the Borrom of the Sea.

A Western sportsman has been for years making a collection of photographs of all kinds of wild animals in their native haunts, and many of these pictures, especially of animals about to spring at their intended prey, have been taken under conditions that made the skilful handling of the rifle highly necessary the instant after the camera was snapped. Another enthusiast has devoted himself to photographing the animals of the forest in their nightly wanderings. He would set a wire in the path of the animal he wished to photograph, and adjust the camera so that as the animal came along and made contact with the wire, magnesium powder was ignited, and in the flash the picture was taken. In this way some beautiful specimens of deer in all sorts of attitudes, of mountain lions, badgers, opossums, etc., have been secured, and many new features have been developed of great interest to the naturalist. M. Bontan, the European naturalist, who studies the wild life of the Mediterranean in the garb of a diver, has succeeded in taking some photographs of the sea bottom. He uses a flash light obtained from a seirit lamp and magnesium powder, which is covered by a water-tight bell jar. The

## ASK FOR INFORMATION.

flash-light can be worked together.

lamp stands on a barrel containing oxy-

gen gas, which he employs to work the

lamp and the pneumatic shutter of the

camera. He breathes through the supply

pipe of the diving dress. The camera is

water-tight, and stands on a triped near

the barrel, so that the shutter and the

Persons who have sufficient interest in knowing what the experience of life insurance companies that have kept abstainers and non-abstainers in separato classes has been, to send a postal card to the manager of the Temperance and General Life Assurance Company at Toronto, Cnt. stating their desire to get this information can have it by a return