

pearance of a large red boulder, and was said to have been taken from the inside of a horse, the property of Mr. James Rhodes, colliery owner, Coal Aston, which had died suddenly a few days since. The animal was twenty-seven years old, and up to the night previous to its death appeared to be in good health. Mr. Bingley and Mr. Nelson thought the substance had its origin from the horse having swallowed a nail, or a piece of wire, at some remote day, and that it had increased to its present extraordinary size by gradual incrustation.—*Sheffield Independent*.

ENGLISH LIVE STOCK THREE CENTURIES AGO.—Polydore Vergil, writing about the beginning of the 16th century, thus describes the cattle and other live stock in this country at that period:—"England is well stored with all kinds of beasts, besides asses, mules, camels, and elephants(?); but there is engendered neither any venomous beasts, nor ravening, except foxes, and in old times wolves; by the which means their cattle do freely stray without harm, almost without an attendant keeper; for a man may see herds of oxen and horses, yea, flocks of sheep, daily wandering and nightly, through hills and dales, through common fields set open for pasture, and through such several grounds as every neighbour may take the commodity thereof in feeding his cattle after the corn is gathered in; * * * a great company of their horses do not trot, but amble; and yet neither trotters nor amblers are strongest, as strength is not always incident to that which is more gentle or less courageous. Their oxen are of the like nature, wherefore many of them are yoked at once in one plough or cart (for both the earth is tilled, and cars drawn, as well with oxen as horses) which also stand man in no small stead as touching the bearing of burden. Their oxen and wethers are beasts, as it were, of nature, ordained for feasting, whose flesh almost in no place is of more pleasant taste; but *beef is peerless*, especially being a few days powdered with salt; neither is it any marvel, for that beast, once released from labouring, is kept up for their common feeding. In fine, the chief food of Englishmen consisteth in flesh; neither among them do those oxen lack their commendation, which, after long travail [or travel] are killed in their age, albeit their flesh is harder than the other."

ETHER APPLIED TO VETERINARY SCIENCE.—The vapour of sulphuric ether has, we hear, been employed at the Royal Veterinary College, Camden-town, on a sheep and a horse, with the most decided success. The first-named animal was affected, and had been for many months, with an incurable disease of the hock-joint. The pain was so severe that the poor sheep was quite unable to put her foot to the ground without experiencing much suffering. On being brought into the theatre she was caused to inhale the vapour of

ether through a tube, and in about five minutes after it was evident that she was under its influence. The leg was then amputated by Mr. Sims, and at the thigh without the slightest indication of any pain whatever. The operation occupied about six minutes, and within 20 minutes from the commencement the animal was removed from the theatre restored to sensation and consciousness. The horse was labouring under a chronic affection of the near fore foot, commonly known by the name of the "naricular disease," for which the operation of "unnerving" is generally resorted to as a remedy. This is necessarily a very painful operation, and oftentimes the operator has to contend against the violent struggles of the animal, particularly at the instant when the division of the nerve is affected. In this case the ether vapour was inhaled for about 13 minutes, when the horse fell forward, and the nerve on each side of the leg was divided by Mr. Spooner without the least manifestation of pain; a slight convulsive action of the limb, similar to that which takes place when a nerve of a recently killed animal is cut through, alone giving indication of any sensation. Within 23 minutes this animal had also perfectly recovered from the effects of the ether. No restraint whatever was resorted to to keep the animals in the required position for these operations, and the inhaler employed was not one invented for the purpose, but an apparatus temporarily adjusted by Mr. Morton until a more perfect one was obtained.—*Times*.

THE LONDON DRAY AND CART HORSE.—This animal has not, I imagine, varied much from what he was a hundred years ago. He is employed for the same purposes—in the same situations; consequently, size, weight, and strength were, and still are, the chief things wanted in him. His price has, however, varied considerably, as he is to be got at, I should say, about a third less than 50 or 60 years back, when, I have been told, 80 pounds was no unusual price for a dray or distiller's horse. If we were to judge by the docility shown in these monster animals, we might be led to imagine their natural dispositions to be better than the high-bred horse; but I do not believe this to be the fact; their quietude proceeds from their being less irritated than other horses; they are never really distressed, or, as is the case with the race-horse or hunter, punished to make exertions when they are. Their spirits are not so high, nor is their blood ever got up like that of the horse at fast work; so they are never thoroughly excited. A good deal depends on the men who drive and attend them. They, unlike the coachman or groom, have no pride in seeing a horse fast at his work; they are slow themselves; and provided the horse obeys the motion of the whip, and "come'ther who's" or "gee who's," or backs the dray, they do not care if he is half an hour doing it. This accounts for the docility of the dray and cart horse.—*Sportsman's Mag.*