

as they have learned the difference between delicious food on one side and short rations on the other, and puts up a rail. They already learned to leap a little, and the day they improve and go a rail higher. The rail is added, and the process is repeated till they become quite expert.—*Country Gentleman*.

ABD EL-KADER'S RULES FOR A HORSE.—The following are the rules laid down by Abd el-Kader indicating the points of a horse of pure blood. He ought to have three things long, three short, three broad, three pure. The three short are the ears, the forehead, and the fore-legs; the three broad are the bone of the tail, the legs, and the back; the three pure are the forehead, the chest, and the quarters; and the three pure are the skin, the eyes, and the hoofs. He should have the withers high, the neck fine, not fleshy, the tail well furnished with the root, the eye inclining as if to look at the nose, the forelock full, the nostrils wide, the coat entirely black (if partly white it is a sign of inferiority), the fetlocks small, the hoof hard and hard, the frogs hard and dry. He should be able to drink from a stream level with the surface on which he stands without stooping the forelegs. The colours most prized are dark bay or chestnut (the latter esteemed the best), brown or black. Black are, however, thought less safe on rocky ground; white considered soft. Roan, dun, and iron gray little esteemed. A blaze, if all down the face, is approved, so are three white legs; but rules on this matter are very fanciful. All these doctrines are supported by an infinity of proverbs, poetical quotations, and religious sayings, but it will be seen that they accord generally with our own ideas. Much importance is attached to a well lying shoulder; and breadth of chest, both as a security against suffocation and as giving room for the lungs. A principal rule for recognising the development of the forehead is to measure the distance from the extremity of the bone of the tail, along the neck to the centre of the withers, then from the tip of the ear along the neck and crest, down the face to the upper lip. If the two measurements are equal, the horse will prove good, but of middling value. If the length is greater behind than before, the animal wants power. If it is greater before than behind, he is excellent, and the difference in measurement the greater his superiority. The count d'Aure, late chief of the 1st regiment of cavalry, and now inspector-general of imperial studs, assures Gen. Daumas that he has tested this rule in more than a hundred cases, and found it unfailing.—*London Review*.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON AND HIS CATS.—A human being, weighing a general principle, must call to the fore his mind all that is to be said for and against it. And he may quite overlook some

important reason, on one side or other. He may quite forget something so obvious and familiar, that a child might have remembered it. Or he may fail to discern that some consideration which mainly decides his judgment is open to a fatal objection which every one can see is fatal the instant it is stated. Was it not Sir Isaac Newton who had a pet cat and kitten? And did not these animals annoy him while busy in his study, by frequently expressing their desire to be let out and in. The happy thought struck him that he might save himself the trouble of often rising to open his study door for their passage by providing a way that should always be practicable for their exit or entrance. And accordingly the great man cut in his door a large hole for the cat to go out and in, and a small hole for the kitten. He failed to remember what the stupidest bumpkin would have remembered, that the large hole through which the cat passed might be made use of by the kitten too. And the illustrious philosopher discerned the error into which he had fallen, and the fatal objection to the principle on which he had acted, only when taught it by the logic of facts. Having provided the holes already mentioned, he waited with pride to see the creatures pass through them for the first time. And as they arose from the rug before the fire, where they had been lying, and evinced a disposition to roam to other scenes, the great mind stopped in some sublime calculation; the pen was laid down; and all but the greatest man watched them intently. They approached the door, and discerned the provision made for their comfort. The cat went through the door by the large hole provided for her, and instantly the kitten followed her *through the same hole!* How the great man must have felt his error. There was no resisting the objection to the course he had pursued, that was brought forward by the act of the kitten. And it appears almost certain that if Newton, before committing himself by action, had argued the case; if he had stated the arguments in favour of the two holes, and if he had heard the housemaid on the other side, the error would have been averted.—A. K. H. B. in *Good Words*.

THE GREAT GREY SHIRKE.—Fierce and powerful as this bird is, it holds the falcon in the greatest terror, and is gifted with so true an eye for its enemy, that it can perceive a falcon when at an immense distance. Taking advantage of this peculiarity, the fowlers who set their nets for falcons always take with them a grey shrike, and after setting their nets, fasten the string to which the bird is tied to a peg near the nets.—A little turf hut is built as a place of refuge for the shrike, and a small mound or hillock raised, on which it perches. The fowler then retires to his own little hut, places the strings, which draw the net within reach of his bird,