

many who profess to be trainers, I could give many instances—where colts have been ruined for racing purposes—where an almost continual blistering had been kept up from the time they were yearlings until they were three years old. Instead of curing the ring-bone, it not only increased its size, but stiffened all the joints and ligaments from the hoof up to the hock, and in some instances it nearly destroyed the action of that joint. I will, in some future number, collect and publish the names of the horses who have been ruined by blistering, particularly for ring-bone. The reader will, therefore, bear in mind that something cooling, with rest, is the only cure or preventive for an undue deposit of bony matter over a joint. If the horse is turned out in a meadow where his feet will be kept moist and cool, the same effect will be obtained, but in hot weather the horse should be kept in a cool, dark stable during the day, so he will not irritate the parts affected by stamping the flies off. To show the fallacy of blistering, we will suppose the flexor or back tendon is slightly bowed, but there is nothing the matter with the suspensory ligament, or middle tendon, as it is sometimes called, or the sesamoid bone, or the cannon bone, or the periosteum. Yet, in order to produce an imaginary cure in the slightly bowed flexor, they fire or apply a blister, which extends and inflames all the above enumerated parts, for several months, and which were perfectly sound when the fire or blister was applied. The result is, the swelling extends to the joints, and stiffens and alters the entire action of the leg, when, with a little rest, coupled with cooling applications, the tendon would be straightened to its natural healthy condition. In nine cases out of ten rest and cool lotions will accomplish what blisters will never do. Where there is an injury upon the muscles, and they become morbid, a blister might be of some service, but even then a seton is far better, because a blister burns and cauterizes the skin, which is full of nerves spread all over it, and it not only creates intense pain in the parts blistered, but it extends its painful influence to the whole nervous system, often producing diabetes and sometimes death. Therefore, I warn all trainers and owners of thoroughbreds to beware of blisters.

I will give you an instance of the deleterious effects of blistering the horse, excepting under the peculiar circumstances which I have named above. Forty years ago, or thereabouts, a celebrated race nag, called Beeswing, broke down in a four mile race. After winning the first heat, it was discovered that the flexor tendon on the near fore leg was slightly bowed, and she was immediately withdrawn from the race in consequence. I then believed if she had been allowed to continue in the race, that she would have won it; but the gentleman who trained her and had her in charge had induced Mr. Bat. Smith, of Alabama, to give \$5,000 for her, which was a very high price at that time for a mare. He, desiring to return the mare broken down to Mr. Smith, withdrew her from the race, thinking by firing and blistering her, she might stand to run many races afterwards. She was sent to the best veterinarian at that time in the City of New Orleans, who, as soon as he got her to the stable, placed a shoe on her foot which raised her heel some two inches. She was then thrown, and, from her fetlock to her knee, she was severely fired on both sides of the leg. She was then placed in a narrow stall and severely blistered. The next day her leg was swollen up almost to bursting. A week afterwards I happened to call in to see her, as she was a favorite of mine, but I scarcely knew her; the fever had set in, and, with the loss of appetite, she had shrunk away one half, and looked like a different animal. From raising the heel on the fired leg it had thrown most of the weight of the body on the sound leg, which caused it to swell up clear to the shoulder, and she not receiving any exercise, of course it con-

could get her to the boat. She finally reached home in a sorry condition, but with grass, good feeding, and proper treatment, she recovered, in a measure, her natural action, and, by fall, she showed her proper form and was trained again, but, before the winter races came off, she broke down in both fore legs, so that all that cruel treatment to which she was in variously subjected—firing, blistering, starving, and torment—went for nothing. Had she been treated exactly the reverse, with application of cooling lotions, plenty of rest, and freedom from flies in the day time in a dark stall, and turned out at night on grass, nature and a cooling diet would have restored the parts, in all probability, to perfect soundness. Besides, the milder and more humane treatment suggested above would have enabled the persons having her in charge to have seen whether she was really broken down or not, for it might have been a kick stroke or grab by her other legs while running. But when she was fired, which was only a short time after the occurrence, no one could tell if it was a break down until the swelling subsided and then, because the ridges of the firing iron, and the scars of the ulcers, brought about by blistering the leg, leave the skin rough and the hair jagged, so that the leg can never resume its former beauty and smooth appearance. Blistering and firing, even allowing them to produce the favorable results claimed by their advocates, should never be resorted to until a proper diagnosis can be made of the parts affected. In nine cases out of ten they will see that a cure can be made without resorting to their barbarous mode of treatment. One of the most cruel cases of blistering that I ever knew, on account of it having resulted in the death of the animal, was a gray filly, by Lightning (I think her name was Nema), who, from overwork, became stiff in front, and galloped short. The trainer, not knowing exactly the locality of the affection, blistered her from the coronet to the withers, which caused the legs to swell to bursting. She cast her hoofs, and, after suffering for two or three days, died. I am told the spectacle was simply horrible: it occurred near Lexington, Ky. Another case of savage blistering occurs to me: The horse Hartland became lame in the hock, which caused it to swell and puff up. In that swelled state, an ignorant negro who had him in charge, blistered him so severely as to take the skin off the hock, and the hair off the entire leg. The flesh upon the hamstring cracked open, and now bleeds every time he runs, and I assure you it is anything but a pleasant sight to see him after a race with a raw and bloody hock, walking around, to the disgust of everybody. Remember, it all came from ignorantly applying a blister to the parts when inflamed, whereas if the inflammation or swelling had been reduced and still left a thickening of the parts; a slight blister, judiciously applied, might have been effective. In the majority of cases, by having a little patience, nature would have restored the parts without the assistance of a blister.

There was also the case of Blarneystone, who was taken to Canada, where he could have the benefit of plenty of snow, with the hope of restoring, in its incipient stage, a broken-down foreleg. There his leg received a severe gridiron, firing: so was afterwards blistered, in fact he was blistered several times during the winter. He was put in training in the spring, and brought to Long Branch, where he finally broke down again. Next comes to mind the case of Wild Idle, by Australian, dam Idlewild. He was trained and run as a two-year-old, and won the Nursery stake at Jerome Park. He came out of the race perfectly sound, but went into the hands of another trainer, who calls himself a "vet," which, I suppose, is the short, in Yorkshire, for veterinary. The colt had a little thickening on the inside of the hock, which was caused from a swelling of colt distemper; but it caused no inconvenience to his galloping action. This "vet" trainer,

situation, and walked and trotted and occasionally galloped during the spring. At the hock, being stiff, the stiff had to carry the weight of the gaskin and leg, which taxed it beyond its natural powers, and which would naturally weaken and tire. He finally became so lame, that the trainer concluded to give him up, and he was transferred back to the stable of the trainer who first baulded him. He turned him out in a good grass lot five or six weeks, then he took him up, and commenced training him for the Marty Stake, for which he was engaged, but he was taken up so late that he had scarcely time to condition him; notwithstanding which he ran a very good race, considering the condition he was in. This careful and judicious trainer then took him home, wintered him well, and let him run out in all fair weather. It so reduced the swelling in the leg and the thickening of the skin, that the hock resumed, in a measure, its normal form. He trained him in the spring, ran him, and won a mile and a quarter handicap in the fast time of 2:12, beating a field of twelve good horses. At the same meeting he won the Jockey Club Handicap, two miles, in 3:38, carrying 111 lbs. Five or six weeks afterwards he won the dash of four miles at Saratoga; was then sent to California, where he ran four miles with ease in 7:25. He might have shown as well, or perhaps better, in his three and four year old form, as he did at five years old, but for injudicious blistering, which entailed upon his worthy owner the expenditure of a small fortune in paying forfeits, training bills, and other expenses; and, but for an accident, his horse would have become worthless to him forever, and that was from the solicitation of his first trainer, that he would give him the privilege of taking him home, to see what he could do with him, by letting him rest. His owner consented, but not until after his present trainer declared his leg would never stand a training preparation. The reader can see, therefore, how injudicious treatment and severe blistering almost prevented one amongst the very best colts ever foaled from exhibiting the great racing merits to the public. Another case was that of Zigzag, who was blistered and fired at different periods for over eighteen months, and during that time, more or less, was kept in training condition, and, after going to all that expense of training, keeping, and other expenses, after a short training, he gave way in the near fore leg, and was not trained afterwards. Another was the chestnut colt Billy Conner, who was blistered, more or less, during a course of years, but when put in training showed symptoms of breaking down again. He was then rested for about a year, was taken up and trained again, and ran several races without his leg showing any symptoms of weakness from previous breaking down. It shows that it is rest, and plenty of it, that enables nature to restore an injured leg, if it can be restored at all, and not the blistering which so many men imagine is a cure all. General Duke was blistered for three several winters very severely with biniodide of mercury and lard, until the skin of his leg cracked in checkers, for I often saw the horse while under this severe treatment. He was trained the following spring after each winter, with some success, from which this same veterinary trainer took great credit to himself, as having given the horse a new leg, as he was wont to say, in order to give himself importance, that he might procure other horses to train similarly affected. But the owner of the horse says he never was broke down until this vet., as he calls himself, broke him down, and he was not trained afterwards.

(To be Continued.)

**THE CHAMPION KICKER.**—We have often heard of people "kicking," but George W. Burns, of California, is the champion among them. He was kicked by a horse, returned the kick, and killed the horse.

containing the best of both worlds. She was entirely too quiet and regular like Lexington. He almost refused to stay there, and it was deemed prudent to return him to his old quarters. Flora Temple was then assigned to the new building, and with singular perception seemed to think it was specially designed for her. The large inside room being lined with wainscoting nine feet high, and having panes of cast glass four feet long by two in width, for the admission of light, gives the entire place an appearance of a modern, well-appointed trotter's stable. She seems well contented here, and is now in her thirty third year, having survived her great preceptor, Hiram Woodruff, ten years. She eats well, and her ear and eye display the same flash and fire they did in her younger days. She has grown quite hollow backed, and in the use of her limbs is very stiff and clumsy. It is not likely she can last many years longer. One year since Mr. Buñd Doble and Mr. Henry N. Smith, of Fashion Stud Farm, purchased her, intending to exhibit her with Goldsmith Maid, at the Centennial Exposition; the Maid's coming out last spring in form and condition fit to trot for a man's life, changed all this programme, so that old Flora was not disturbed by curious crowds, but allowed to remain in her quiet retirement.

#### THEATRES AND CHURCHES DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, has compiled a list of theatres, churches and other public buildings which have been destroyed by fire within the memory of man. He goes back to the year 548 B. C., when the temple of Delphi was burned, and the year 856, when "the aspiring youth" "fired the Ephesian dome." The table includes the following notable conflagrations, with the dates of their occurrence and the number of lives lost in certain cases: Church of St. Sophia, Constantinople, 532 A. D.; St. Paul's, London, 1137; St. Paul's and 60 other churches, London, 1666; Drury Lane theatre, London, 1672; the Flemish theatre, Amsterdam, 1772; 700 lives; Trinity church, New York, 1773; the Saragossa theatre, 1678, 400 lives; the theatre at Montpellier, 1783, 500 lives; London Bridge, 1812, 3000 lives; Chestnut street theatre, Philadelphia, 1820; Park theatre, New York, 1821; Bowery theatre, New York, 1828; theatre in Canton, China, 1845, 2,300 lives; Niblo's theatre, New York, 1846; church at Santiago, Chili, 1863, 2,000 lives; Niblo's garden, New York, 1873; Saragossa theatre, 1872, 600 lives, and Fifth-avenue theatre, New York, 1873. The latest report gave the number of the lost by the Brooklyn theatre fire as 284.

#### MONTREAL FISH AND GAME PROTECTION CLUB.

An adjourned meeting of this club took place on the 11th inst., in the Exchange Bank Building, the attendance of members was small, Mr Macpherson Lemoine, President, in the chair. The object of the meeting was to consider the act passed by the Quebec Legislature amending the Game Act. The President expressed regret that the suggestions had made by the Association had not been taken into consideration. Mr. J. J. Bedpath moved, seconded by Mr. W. Rintoul, that the Secretary be instructed to correspond with the Secretary of the Fish and Game Protection Society of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, to the effect that large numbers of deer were sold on this market which come from Ontario, and asking that the practice be put down. After some unimportant business, the meeting adjourned.

**THE AMERICAN HORSES.**—In the last training intelligence from Newmarket, Eng., it was announced that on Christmas day Mr. Littlefield gave Mateo, Egotist, Star, and Donna a gallop of a mile and a quarter at a good pace.

being started at the same time. He was from his not having lost a game during his equum of two months in New Orleans. A match for \$200 a side was accordingly made. There was no other change in the programme, the original stipulation as to a game of 1,800 points, played on three nights at the Grand Theatre, the winner to take all the receipts and incur all expenses, being still adhered to. The dates chosen were Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 5, 6, 7. The telegraph reports that Sexton closed the second night with a run of 311 thus equalling Slosson's achievement in the fourth inning of his game with Garnier at Irving Hall, in New York, on June 16 last. This brought Sexton's score up to 1,200, and play for the night had to cease with an unfinished run. Resuming on Sunday night, he made 106 more, thus recording a run of 417, which is 106 greater than ever made before, and 205 greater than had been made up to May 17, 1876, when Sexton himself, running 251 in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, superseded Maurice Daly, whose run of 212, made at Tammany Hall, New York, March 3, 1874, had for more than two years been high. On May 25, 1876, in Philadelphia, Sexton ran 287, since which time his best of record, until last week in New Orleans, had been 177. He won the New Orleans game by a score of 1,600 to 976, his average being the astounding one (for so lengthy a score) of 24. Rudolph alone has averaged anything like it, but it has been in games of 400 and 600 points, but 25 by Rudolph against Sexton, is the best that has been made in any other game of 600 points or more.

#### VIGNAUX vs. SEXTON.

In the case of Maurice Vignaux against Wm. Sexton, the American billiardist, in which Vignaux seized Sexton's billiard table and brought an action against him, the French tribunal had decided that Vignaux was not justified in seizing the table and demanding payment of the expenses, and condemned Vignaux to pay 100 francs fine and the costs.

#### HICKEY vs. WM. JAKES.

An exhibition game of billiards 300 points, French caroms, was played at the North American rooms, Cobourg, on Monday evening, between Mr. John Hickey and Mr. Wm. Jakes, the Canadian champion. Hickey was the winner by a score of 300 to 210. Winner's average, 82, best run 63, loser's average, 52, best run 33. After the game Mr. Hickey gave an exhibition of some very fine fancy shots. —Com.

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**—Such is the success the recreation room of the Mechanics' Institute, that the managers think of adding several more billiard tables.

Mr. John Donohue, of McVittie's Billiard Rooms, Montreal, was presented with a handsome gold ring by a number of his friends on the eve of his undertaking the management of the billiard room in the St. Lawrence Hall, which he has rented. The room is being refitted, and will shortly be opened.

An order has been issued by the Chief of Police of St. Catharines to close up billiard rooms and similar places by midnight.

#### DEATH OF LUCILLE WESTERN.

Lucille Western, the actress, died at 7 o'clock, Thursday night, January 11th, at the Pierpont House, Brooklyn, of congestion of the lungs. Miss Western was born in New Orleans on January 8th, 1843, and in 1849 she made her debut in the National Theatre, Boston, dancing and playing small parts. She travelled with her sister, Helen, as "the star sisters," and they grew to be great favorites in the provinces. She first appeared in New York on March 29th, 1859, at the Old Bowery theatre, with her sister, in the "Three Fast Men." Her acting was at once indorsed by the metropolitan critics, and she became very popular, taking her position among the foremost actresses and women of the day. On October 11th, 1859, she was married in St. Louis, Mo., to James Harrison Mead. She has travelled the country over, as a star of more or less magnitude in such plays as "The Child Stealer," etc. Her power of impersonation was very strong at times, and in drunken scenes and in such phases of acting as Nancy Sykes she was exceptionally effective. She played an engagement in this city at the opera house, a short time ago, and is well known to theatre-goers hereabouts.