

of performing easily the work required of it. To the discretion of the groom or his master must be left the various questions as to the length of time the horse is to be out, the nature of the exercise, whether he is to go out clothed, &c. But however these matters be settled, the horse on coming in must be well groomed, rubbed dry, and made comfortable. The clipping or singeing is practised a rug is valuable; but the loads of clothes often used are useless and injurious, only securing a sleek, dry skin with less labor to the groom, but at the sacrifice of the poor animal's comfort and health, and with the certainty of rendering him more susceptible of cold. The same, or still more serious, objections attach to the common practice of keeping the stable too warm. For 22 horses recently taken up from the fields and the temperature should not exceed 50, at from 55 to 60 degrees will be sufficiently warm for any horses.—*North British Agriculturalist*.

Miscellaneous.

ANOTHER BALLOON ASCENT.—THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—On Monday, Mr. Glaisher, the superintendent of the meteorological department at the Royal Observatory, made a second ascent from the works of the gas company, in Wolverhampton. As on the first occasion, so now, the ascent was made in Mr. Coxwell's smooth balloon, and under the direction of the aeronaut. The instruments taken up were similar to them the same and others similar to those used on the previous ascent, the only exception being that of Thompson's electrometer, which was destroyed in the descent upon the first occasion. That instrument being absent notes will be confined to the primary observations contemplated by the association—namely, the humidity and temperature of the atmosphere, with its pressure, the vibration of the air, and how much (if any) ozone there is in the atmosphere away from the earth. About 600 cubic feet of very light gas was turned out shortly before one o'clock, Mr. Glaisher having shipped all his instruments and arranged them on the board before him, preparations were made to leave the earth. One-fourth of the quantity of gas supplied was let out, with a bag of ballast, and the signal having been given, the balloon left the earth at two minutes past one, amidst the warmest plaudits from Lord Altesley and a large number of the gentry of the neighbourhood. The ascent was a most successful one, the wind was moving about 20 miles an hour in the lower region of the atmosphere, the sky was clear, and the sun was shining brightly. The direction in which the balloon was wafted was south by west, about half a mile to the west. On attaining to about 10,000

feet the upper current of the atmosphere was met with; the voyagers then got into a southerly direction; were seen due south, then a point or two to the east; and in about a quarter of an hour after they left the earth's surface they were north by east, about half a point to the east. They then seemed to take their first dip from a high to a lower altitude, and then again to ascend; and it was thought a second dip was made during the time that they were in sight, which was nearly two and a half hours, for so clear was the atmosphere, so immense the size of the balloon, and so slow the motion of the wind, that it was 3 25 p. m. before the machine was lost to the sight of the spectators on the ground whence it ascended. The direction taken seemed to be over Birmingham, and towards Coventry. Great interest is felt in the experiments now being made, the results of the previous experiments being, in many respects, contrary to all views hitherto entertained on the points of meteorology that are now being investigated. For instance, a cloud one mile thick was passed through on the first occasion, without there being any dew deposited on the most sensitive hygrometer, and no ozone was found in the air, notwithstanding that, in experiments on the earth, the most ozone was found at the high altitudes. For the experiments of Monday, ozone papers were specially made by Dr. Moffat himself. The balloon descended at five minutes past four o'clock, at Solihull, 25 miles from Wolverhampton, after attaining a height of four and a half miles, where the temperature was 24 degrees, the barometer about 13 inches, and the dew point minus ten.

A SKYLARK PREACHING A SERMON.—There is no such thing as a song-bird in Australia; there are birds who chatter, birds who shriek, but no birds that sing. Well there was a young man who went from England as a gold-digger, and was lucky enough to make some money, and prudence enough to keep it. He opened a "store"—a kind of rough shop where everything from candles to coffins are sold—at a place called "The Ovens," a celebrated gold-field, about 200 miles from Melbourne. Still continuing to prosper, he, like a dutiful son, wrote to his father and mother to come out to him, and if they possibly could, to bring with them a lark. So a lark was procured, and in due time the old folks and their feathered charge took ship and departed from England. The old man, however, took the voyage so much to heart that he died; but the old woman and the lark landed in sound health at Melbourne and was speedily forwarded to Mr. Winstead's store at the Ovens. It was on Tuesday when they arrived and on the next morning the lark was hung outside the tent, and at once commenced piping up. The effect was electric. Sturdy diggers—big men, with hairy faces and