

or overcoat before passing out of the door; the neglect of these has had many a good and useful man in a premature grave.

Never speak of a hoarseness, especially if it requires an effort, or gives a hurting or painful feeling, for it often results in a permanent loss of voice or a long life of invalidism.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

HORSE-STEALING IN ALGERIA.—The Arab who is projecting a master-stroke, and intends selecting the handsomest out of a thousand steeds usually comes in the course of the day to inspect the bivouac, although he is obliged to make his preliminary observations from a distance—from a very considerable distance, it may be. The natives, in fact, are a low lot to penetrate easily into the middle of an encampment; but they are almost always people of the neighbourhood who form part of the expeditionary columns, such as camel-drivers, herd-men, and pack horse leaders, who have been hired for the transport of provisions. In the latter case, the Arab thief will be mistaken for one of the men employed; he will take good care that no one shall see him enter. His choice made the rogue disappears till right. In order to return to the middle of the bivouac, he habitually divests himself of every item of clothing, and retains no other arm than a well-sharpened knife in a leather sheath slung with a strap across his body. He is also provided with a long rope of camel's hair, which is twisted round his head, like a turban. As soon as he has passed the first sentries the thief is metamorphosed into a serpent; he crawls on continually, without hurry, without noise, without any perceptible rustling. With his eyes fixed on the living objects whom he wishes to avoid, he stops short if he perceives in the sentinels the slightest sign that their attention has been attracted. He will take three hours, if need be, to clear a distance of a hundred yards. At last he gets near the coveted object, the horse intended to be stolen. There, his movements are more deliberate than ever, in order not to frighten the animal, who must not be allowed, for several minutes, to perform any but very natural motions, capable of deceiving the eye of the most vigilant sentinel. At first he cuts the shackles with which the horse's fore feet are tied together, he fastens his rope to one of the horse's feet and retires, crawling all the while, as far as the length of the rope allows him. The distance between himself and the animal then varies from twelve to fifteen feet. If, during these preparations, the horse keepers appear to have heard any noise, the thief again remains motionless; the horse remaining quiet, and the sentinels resuming their former tranquillity, the process of stealing is continued. The Arab slightly pulls the rope; solicited by this mute appeal, the horse rises and sets a step; but the movement is so perfectly similar to that which the animal is in the habit of making when he wants to reach a wisp of hay or a blade of

grass a little way off the stake to which he is fastened, that, by night, nine sentinels out of ten would be deceived. The robber repeats the same manoeuvre as long as possible. As he has carefully studied the ground, he will continue it without alarm is given; but generally, once out of the immediate reach of the men whose duty it is to keep special watch over the stolen horse, he leaps on the animal's back, and sets off at a full gallop, well knowing that gun shots by night are only dangerous for the comrades of those who fire them. Sometimes the thief covers his entire person with leaves, but he will commit no such foolish act in a country denuded of shrubs and bushes. On naked ground, he is as naked as a snake; in a bushy country, he transforms himself into a living bush: in short, he assimilates his person to the aspect of the country he is traversing.—*All the Year Round.*

Fossil Tree.—Dr. Nichol gives the following particulars of a remarkable fossil plant, the impression of which upon the sandstone has just been discovered:—"Geologists, and especially those taking an interest in the coal flora of our district, may be gratified to learn that an impression of a gigantic fossil plant may be seen, exposed by the blasting of the sandstone, in a quarry between Richmond Villas and Fynoe, in the immediate vicinity of Swansea. The portion of the fossil uncovered measures no less than 6 feet 3 inches in width, in the line of its flatings, and 5 feet 6 inches in height at one of its sides. Its structures, so novel and singular, does not seem to be referable to any of the known vegetable types of the carboniferous era, and there is but one form hitherto figured to which it bears any resemblance; but the specimens of this plant, which are likewise rare, measure only about an inch and a half in width.—*Welshman.*

A GIANT STONE TREE.—The Maysville (California) *Democrat* gives an account of the most gigantic vegetable petrification ever discovered. It was found by Captain J. Stephens in a desolate district near "Hagh Rock Cannon." It is a tree, partly buried in the soil, which measures 600 feet in length and about 60 feet in diameter. There was a complete forest of petrified trees found in the vicinity, evidently the remains of antediluvian ages. The tree lies where it fell centuries ago, the upturned roots are in the position they would naturally be, and the trunk has not been disturbed. Specimens of the tree, chipped off at 200 feet from the base, are exhibited at Maysville.

A SAGACIOUS DOG.—A celebrated surgeon named Livois, who was in the French Army, took compassion on a dog whose leg had been fractured by a shot during the siege of some place or another. He set the bones, and cured him. Some time afterwards he found waiting at his door the same dog, with a companion who