

graves; all alone by themselves. Perhaps they were spectres, and I wanted a medium.—*Dick-in's All the Year Round.*

SPORTING CHALLENGE FROM VICTORIA.—

Austria challenged England in Cricket, and, as the result proved got well beaten. Victoria now issues a challenge to English sportsmen to a match for £10,000, between English race-horses and the best of our Australian breeds, the race to be run in this province. The proposition, as it at present stands, is somewhat in this form: a match for 5000 sovs. a side; weight for age; three miles on the Melbourne course. The number of English horses to be named unlimited. The colonies to be restricted to naming twenty, one to the post, &c. This would give us a match between the best horse in Australia and the best that England would send us. The amount has been already subscribed here; and Mr. Walter Craig, of Ballarat, a right good sportsman, who goes home by Great Britain on the 1st of May, has been authorised to make the match, and to deposit a certain proportion of the stakes. Surely some adventurous spirits will be found in the old country to take up the gauntlet thus thrown down. Horses which are second-class in first-rate fields would be most formidable here, and would be all but certain of carrying off the stakes. Whilst on the subject of sporting, it may not be amiss to mention that already preparations are being made to receive with a proper amount of *eclat* the team of cricketers who are expected to do battle for the honour of their country early next year. Passages have been secured for the whole of them by the Great Britain steamer on her return voyage from England in September next.

SURGERY IN AFGHANISTAN.—The Afghans, from their rough and hardy life, acquire by experience very practical, though, to be sure, uncouth, methods of righting themselves, their horses and cattle, when they may suffer from accidents. Their operations for the reductions of dislocations in the human subject are most original; and, if report speaks at all truly, equally successful.

For a dislocation of the thigh, the unfortunate patient is sweated and starved for three days in a dark room, the atmosphere of which is heated by fires kept going night and day; and the effects of this high temperature are increased by drenching the patient with copious draughts of warm rice-water or thin gruel. During the interval that this treatment is enforced on the patient, a fat bullock is tied up and fed *ad libitum*, with chopped straw flavored with salt, but is rigidly denied a drop of water. On the third day the patient is made to ride the bullock or buffalo astride, a felt alone intervening between him and the animal's hide; his feet are next drawn down and fastened tightly under the animal's belly by cords passing round the ankles. All these pre-

liminaries arranged, the animal is then led or to water, and drinks so greedily and inordinately that its belly swells to nearly double its former size. The traction produced by this on the dislocated limb is sufficient to bring the wandering bone to its socket.

The method of reducing a dislocated shoulder is quite as curious and interesting. It is managed thus; the hand of the dislocated limb is firmly fixed as close to the opposite shoulder as it can well be, by cords tied round the waist; between the bend of the elbow and the chest is placed an empty "masak" (a goat skin water bag, in common use throughout Oriental countries as a means of carrying water), which is gradually filled with water; the weight of this suffices to overcome the resistance of the muscles before they have borne it a quarter of an hour, and the head of the bone flies back to the socket with its usual sound. Most masaks, when full, weigh close upon a hundred weight, and many much more than this.

For a reduction of dislocation of the ankle joint, the injured extremity is placed in a hole dug in the ground and covered over with soft earth, which is firmly pressed down by stamping. The limb is then pulled out by force, with the joint returning to its natural position.

VEGETATION ON THE AMAZON.—The magic beauty of tropical vegetation reveals itself in all its glory to the traveller who steers a boat through the solitude of these aquatic mazes. Here the forest forms a canopy over his head; there it opens, allowing the sun to shine to disclose the secrets of the wilderness; while on either side the eye penetrates through beautiful vistas into the depths of the wood. Sometimes on a higher spot of ground a clump of trees forms an island worthy an Eden. A chaos of bush ropes and creepers sling its green flowers over the forest, and fills the air with the sweetest odor. Numerous birds, partly rivaling in beauty of colour, the passionflower and bignonias of these hanging gardens, adorn the banks of the lagoon, while gaudy macaws perch on the loftiest trees; and, as to remind one that death is not banished from this scene of Paradise, a dark-robed vulture screeches through the woods, or an alligator rests like a black log of wood, or a somber rock, on the tranquil waters. Well he knows that food will not be wanting; for river toises and large fish are fond of retreating to these legunes. * * * If the Nile—so remarkable for its historical recollections, which carry us far back into the bygone ages—the Thames, unparalleled by the greatness of commerce which far eclipses that of ancient Carthage and Tyre—may justly be called the rivers of the past and the present, the Amazon has equal claims to be called the stream of the future; for a more splendid field nowhere is open to the enterprise of man.—*Tropical World.*