

**Defence of Bull-Fighting.**

The terrible death of a promising young torero in the bull ring has once again attracted the attention of the English public to the Spanish national sport. One accustomed to hear bull-fighting denounced as both cruel and cowardly—cruel because of the suffering it inflicts on animals, cowardly because the risk run by the bull fighter is infinitesimal. The first charge is absolutely true, so far, at least, as concerns the unfortunate horses. The second is equally false, as the tragic death of Espartaco the other day should serve to teach the amateur critics who, for the most part, have never seen the spectacle they denounce in such unqualified terms.

If the Spaniards would only revive the original form of the sport they borrowed from the Moors—that is to say, the riding, not of wretched cab horses, only fit for the knacker, and mounted by professional picadores, but of valuable horses, with "owners up," who would, of course, exercise their skill in trying to save their mounts—there would be little to be said against bull fighting on the score of cruelty.—London Graphic.

**Dogs and Insomnia.**

On the occasion of a dog show in Paris a French statistician has published an estimate of the number of dogs at present to be found in that city. Evidently it is with no good feelings towards the poor animals, for after informing the world that there are no fewer than 80,000 of them in the French capital alone the calculator proceeds to speculate upon the number of persons who are kept awake by their barking. On an average, he thinks, one dog in ten would be restless and inclined to bark during the night, and in each case the barking would cause at least one person to lose his night's rest. On this basis he arrives at the dreadful conclusion that there are in Paris at all times 8,000 persons who cannot sleep from this cause alone. And yet, he complains, the barking of dogs is not even mentioned in medical works as one of the causes of insomnia.—London Daily News.

**A Curious Custom.**

A custom that has existed for several centuries is still maintained in some towns on the lower Rhine. On Easter Monday—auction day—the town crier or clerk calls all the young people together and to the highest bidder sells the privilege of dancing with the chosen girl, and her only, during the entire year. The fees flow into the public poor box.

**Valuable Oil.**

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