

WORLD AND

Horned Horse.

CURIOUS horned horse called the gnu is a native of South Africa. The gnu is a pseudo. It really seems to be a cross between the horse, the cow and the deer. It has the head and horns of a cow, the tail, mane and withers of the horse and the legs of a deer. Although the gnu is one of the most singular creatures on earth, exhibiting the form of a panel called "The Eagle and the Swan." It was exhibited at Vienna, where it attracted much attention and was purchased by a connoisseur who is a well known amateur. Her next pretentious work was a screen decorated with "The Fates." In this work she created a new method called re-embroidery. The background of the figures of the Fates was composed of ancient silks, and as some of the silks were covered with holes made by moths, she added supplementary ornaments motives embroidered on cloth to conceal the defects. The result of this forced experiment was the recovery of re-embroidery.

When this screen was exhibited in Brussels it attracted the admiration of the Mayor, who gave Mme. de Rudder a commission to decorate the Marriage Hall of the Hotel de Ville. About the same time she was commissioned to embroider six large allegorical panels for the walls of the Hotel Provincial in Ghent. These panels are remarkable not only for their decorative beauty, but for their charming composition. The workmanship is varied and accomplishes a wonderful effect.

The artist's next important commission was from the Congo Free State for eight decorative panels to adorn the walls of the Congo section at the Brussels Exposition. These panels are now in the museum of Tervuren, where they show to great advantage. They are pure applique, except the features, which are for the most part embroidered. They represent the triumph of civilization over barbarism.

The triumph of Mme. de Rudder's expression of her chosen art is in her latest work—four large panels representing the four seasons. They are exceedingly beautiful, not only in conception and composition, but in the perfection of detail and management of the medium in which the ideas are expressed. Perhaps the most beautiful of the four is "Winter," and a description will give some idea of Mme. de Rudder's art. She has chosen an interior scene to illustrate the subject. Two old people are sitting by the fire. A bit of bright coloring is lent to the picture by a bunch of chrysanthemums in a vase. A child, symbolical of coming life, is offering a branch of mistletoe to the grandmother, and near-by an old man is slumbering in a chair. Through the window can be seen fields white with snow, rendered in tones of naturalness of atmosphere and perspective. The intricate contrast to the richness and richness of life shown in the picture representing "Summer."

Though there is a group of artists who are all in this difficult art, Mme. de Rudder easily stands at their head as a leader of this peculiar craft.

Artistic Embroidery.

THE difficult art of decorative embroidery, which has been so little cultivated for many years, has at last been revived by a French woman. Her triumphs in this line are equal to the most exquisite productions in the past.

Mme. de Rudder in collaboration with her husband, who is a well known sculptor, published her first work in 1884 at the Exposition Cercle pour Art. This was in the form of a panel called "The Eagle and the Swan." It was exhibited at Vienna, where it attracted much attention and was purchased by a connoisseur who is a well known amateur. Her next pretentious work was a screen decorated with "The Fates." In this work she created a new method called re-embroidery. The background of the figures of the Fates was composed of ancient silks, and as some of the silks were covered with holes made by moths, she added supplementary ornaments motives embroidered on cloth to conceal the defects. The result of this forced experiment was the recovery of re-embroidery.

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A STEAMSHIP LANDED HIGH AND DRY WITHOUT HARM.

THE wreck or stranding of a steamer does not necessarily imply great stress of weather, stormy seas, high winds or dense fogs. Sometimes a steamer runs aground in broad daylight. Here is a snapshot of the Carolina, a passenger boat plying on the Saguenay River, a tributary of the St. Lawrence, near Quebec. According to all reports, the weather was fair, yet the boat, in charge of a pilot, went far up on to the beach. No lives were lost, no one was injured, but while it only took five seconds to run her ashore, almost a week was required to float her again.

The value of the motor cars at present in England is \$75,000,000.

The Papal Bull.

A PAPAL bull may be an edict, a decree, or a rescript, which contains an order or a decision to be publicly declared. It is only indirectly that the word "bull" is applied to the document itself. It belongs properly to the seal, without which the paper would not be recognized. The seal is in the form of a gold or silver bull. The Italian name of this bit of lead is *bullo*. It was in Latin bulla. Both the material and the form have dropped out of sight. The Roman bulla was a circular disc or a case like a watch or a circular locket. It was worn by boys of noble families, attached to a chain which was wound several times round the neck, and which fell in front, so that the bulla was always in view. It was frequently a little case which contained some charm against sickness and the "evil eye." It was dressed even more than dis-

Elephants and Dress.

ELEPHANTS are fond of finery and delight to see themselves decked out with gorgeous trappings. The native princes of India are very particular in choosing their state elephants, and will give fabulous sums for an animal that exactly meets the somewhat fanciful standards they have erected.

For these they have made cloths of silk so heavily embroidered with gold that two men are hardly able to lift them. The elephant which usually led the state procession of a Rajah being lit, the magnificent trappings were placed on one which had up to that time occupied only a subordinate place. The animal, delighted at the show of finery, showed its side by so many little squeaks and kicks of pleasure that general attention was attracted to it.

Not long after another state procession was formed, and the previous wearer of the gold cloths being restored to health, took his accustomed place and trappings, when the now degraded beast, imagining, perhaps, that he was being defrauded of his promotion, was with great difficulty restrained from attacking the leader of the parade.

Curious Digestion.

THE strangest military body in the world is a band of cavalry at Saint de Moorway, a province on the east coast of Africa, which is under the rule of the French Governor of Madagascar. These soldiers go about their military operations on foot. The animals are lean creatures, and it is said they move with surprising rapidity.

Dreams and Illness.

IT is seriously advanced by an English doctor that dreams may foretell sickness. The theory is that when a man is dreaming his mind is more sensitive than in his waking hours, for the simple reason that his actual surroundings are not impressing any of the mind's attention. Thus it happens that when some disease has set in the man awake does not feel in its earliest stages, although the active mind in a sleeping body does feel it. The sleeper dreams, let us say, that he is suffering some complaint of the leg, and two or three days later, the disease having developed, he finds that he really has had an attack of rheumatism.

Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood, records having had a dream in which a bee stung him in his left thigh, on a place where a couple of days later appeared an ugly ulcer. The ulcer was formed, despite all the treatment, when the now degraded beast, imagining, perhaps, that he was being defrauded of his promotion, was with great difficulty restrained from attacking the leader of the parade.

Curiosity of Digestion.

FOR some years a certain class of performers has attracted spectators by swallowing an assorted collection of hazardous, despite all the laws of digestion. In one of the hospitals of London a collection has been made of the varied articles extracted from the intestines of a single performer who follows the profession before mentioned. A photograph of the collection is reproduced herewith.

There was a time when conficcated tobacco was burned in a peculiar bulging kiln at the London docks, which was called the "Queen's Pipe." But since 1882 this smugger's practice has been put to better use. There is a good deal of it. Nearly 40,000 pounds have been taken in the last five years. Of this 15,000 pounds were sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and Edinburgh for fumigating plants and making tobacco wash; 9,000 pounds were given to the criminal lunatics at Broadmoor; 3,500 pounds of cigars were sold by auction; 7,500 pounds of stalks, which were useless, were burned; 3,000 pounds weight was lost through drying, and the remainder of the tobacco is still in hand awaiting disposal.

A Curious Group.

HOW many of our readers can tell at first glance what species of animals these are? They do not object to the fact that they are not birds, but they are badgers; and let it be at once announced that it is a fallacy to believe that one of the badger's forelegs is shorter than the other, 'to enable it to run up and down hills more quickly.' That was a sort of natural history fairy tale that recent close study has entirely annihilated. Some of the olden text books have pictured the little animals with cloven hoofs, an undeserved libel on a hard working, much abused object.

The unusual spectacle of a bridegroom appearing at the altar hand-cuffed has been seen at Montebell, an Italian village. The bridegroom, an Italian, was undergoing a long sentence for burglary and recently prevailed upon the governor of the prison, to whom he stated he had committed the crime for the sake of his fiancée, to allow him to marry. Two gendarmes in uniform acted as witnesses and guardians at the same time. At the church door the young bride and bridegroom parted with heavy hearts.

The Fasting of Snakes.

OF THE many curious characteristics of reptiles, none is more remarkable than the ability to live for a great period of time without taking any nourishment. Among serpents in captivity individuals are noticed which, although side by side with those who accept food, refuse to eat. Some are found to have been in a state of affairs cannot be indefinitely prolonged, but death in many cases does not occur until after a period which in many cases is very great.

Some time ago there was a North American snake in the Museum of Natural History in Paris which did not eat for fifteen months and a rattlesnake which fasted for twenty-six months. M. Vaillant cites the case of a peep which is still living the subject has fasted for three months and a python who took food after twenty-nine months. He also reports the death of two peepholes due to inanition, one after three years and the other after almost four years.

But the most remarkable case is not of the length of time which the fast lasted, though this was two years and a half, but for the loss of weight of the reptile—that is, the extent of the fasting on the original weight. According to experiments on warm blooded animals death occurs independently of every other cause when the subject has lost 40 to 50 per cent of its original weight. M. Pellegrin reached the same conclusion with reference to ring snakes, which, after being submitted to absolute fasting—that is, deprived not only of food but of water—died on the average after a loss of 35 per cent of the original weight. In the cases of those submitted to relative fasting—that is, not deprived of water—death occurred after a loss of 40 per cent of the original weight, but the duration of life was with them three times greater.

It is not the same in the following case—The 17th of November, 1897, there was placed in the snake house of the museum a superb reticulated python of Japan, which measured nineteen and one-half feet in length, his coloration being living and brilliant, his diameter enormous, and his activity denoting the most flourishing state of health. Furthermore, he manifested a very strongly aggressive disposition. He was offered the most diverse foods, but all were obstinately refused. Sheep, rabbits, geese, ducks and chickens were in turn offered, and while at times he attacked these in his coils he left them without touching them. He contented himself with frequent bathing in his basin, and this fact is important, as death commonly occurs with the ophidians submitted to an absolute fast.

The python continued to refuse food and began to decrease in volume; the brilliant and glistening color present at first giving place to a dull, gray color, and at the commencement of 1898 he was surprisingly thin, being nothing more than skin and bone. Completely apathetic and inoffensive, he allowed himself to be handled with impunity, and remained inert, curled up in the corner of his cage. It was sought to feed him by placing eggs in his mouth, but it produced no result. His death occurred after a fast of two years, five months and three days.

Baby Transportation.

THE little Lapp infant is cradled in a shoe-his mother's. This is a big affair, covered with skin and stuffed with soft moss. This can be hung on a tree or covered with snow, while mamma goes to church or any place where babies are not invited.

The Mongolian infant travels about in a bag slung on a camel's back.

The Turkish baby is cradled in a basket from her hip, or in a hammock. In some parts the baby's nose is adorned with a hot cigarette, or the little one's head is in a veil, like its mother's.

The Chinese baby is tied to the back of an older child.

In some countries the mothers lay their babies where a stream of water falls on their heads. This is to make them tough, which it does, unless the babies die as a result of this treatment. Another mother covers her baby's head with paste, while the Turkish baby is covered with butter.

The worst fate falls to the lot of the newly born child in Bulgaria. Its mother puts a hot cigarette on the little one's head to make it solid and protect it from sunstroke. Its mother thinks she knows better about some things than it does, so it has to submit, which it does with a very bad grace indeed.

An Interesting Throne.

MOST visitors to Monaco give little thought to the concrete seat of power of the kingdom, for the fascination of the chance is many times more potent than the desire to study regal form. A comparison of the thrones of Europe will show that Monaco is striking in its impressive simplicity and beauty. The land monarchically ruled from this seat is not vast, but in sentimental area, it is as large as the world.

In Paris a company has contracted with the municipal authorities for the foliage to be derived from the trees of the public squares, gardens, streets and woods within the limits of the city. These leaves are to be compressed under high pressure, and will then be converted into a fuel which, it is claimed, will have a far greater calorific capacity than coal or any other fuel known.

The money spent in Germany on drink is three times the cost of the army and navy together, and more than seven times the cost of their primary education. The amount is almost equal to that of the German national debt, so that the German people by leaving off drink for a year and a month could pay off the whole debt.

The establishment of British troops in South Africa is about twenty thousand of all ranks. The annual cost of the force, including allowances for the erection of barracks, etc., is about \$12,000,000.

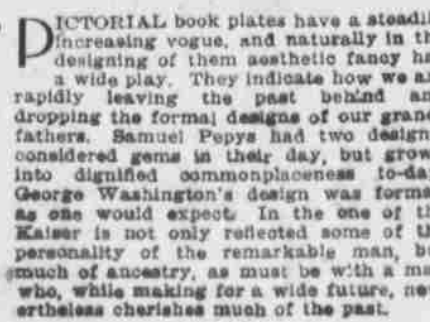
Original Machine Gun.

THE machine gun is generally supposed to be an invention of the last twenty years. Herewith is presented a picture, however, of a proposed machine gun which was devised in the fifteenth century. The crudeness of the picture attests its age. Although the machine gun was very roughly portrayed in this case, it is obvious that it here had its original conception.

In Servia the dislike entertained for fair hair is so acute that it extends even to the white hair of old men. No Serbian woman who respects herself will appear in public with white hair. Nor does she attempt to conceal the fact that she dyes it periodically. The custom has come down to her from time immemorial.

Curious Bookplate.

EDITORIAL book plates have a steadily increasing vogue, and naturally in the designing of them aesthetic fancy has a wide play. They indicate how we are rapidly leaving the past behind and dropping the formal designs of our grandfathers. Samuel Peory had two designs considered gems in their day, but grown into dignified commonplaces to-day. George Washington's design was formal, as one would expect. In the one of the Kaiser is not only reflected some of the personality of the remarkable man, but much of ancestry, as must be with a man who, while making for a wide future, nevertheless cherishes much of the past.



Origin of Foolscap.

ALL the world has agreed to call a sheet of paper thirteen by sixteen inches foolscap. This is used as a standard size for all the world over, officially and commercially. The paper derived its name in a curious manner. After the execution of Charles I, Cromwell and his staff, in organizing the commonwealth, made all possible efforts to remove everything which had anything to do with the old monarchy. The paper in official use up to that time had a watermark, the king's crown, and when Cromwell was asked what he should put in the place of this crown, he overruled the members' dislike for everything concerning royalty by directed a fool's cap to be put in place of the crown.

This was done, ana, when Charles II ascended the throne of England it was at first forgotten to replace the cap by something else, and thus, too long being afraid to do anything to recall things dangerous to touch, and so it was neglected and the fool's cap may be seen as a watermark on nearly all official papers.

Diminutive Sheep.

SOME phases of animal training are most tedious, and it is only by the application of insistent patience that carefully calculated results are obtained. The marvelous performance of a company of trained seals, now in America, is the most striking example actually at hand. They appear to be almost human in their intelligence, and one juggles quite as well as some men performers. Of course, all this action is wholly foreign to the nature of these amphibians. But, then, all training makes animals do things most opposed to their natural disposition. One, for example, would think that this cat and mouse were stuffed lifeless figures, so unusual is the combination. Under ordinary circumstances the cat would have at once

Favorite Dishes.

MIRLITO said that no man could eat coarse food and have the soul of an artist. His own diet was generally very plain.

Vernet enjoyed a soup made of "dripping" and onions. With this and a piece of black bread he was quite content.

Boislegue declared that the most agreeable food he had ever eaten was a slice of board's head served at a college dinner.

Francois liked baked cheese, plentifully sprinkled with salt and pepper, nor did he ever seem to suffer from this preparation.

The Duke of Marlborough, so it is said on one occasion: "No soldier can fight unless he is properly fed on beef and beer."

Oliver Goldsmith enjoyed veal pie. He was so abstemious that a handful of every man's house a rebellion was impossible.

John the Evangelist, according to tradition, was so abstemious that a handful of barley was all the food he needed for a day.

Burke enjoyed English beef and Irish porter. He said England and Ireland could always come together on such a platform.

Mendelssohn never cared much for the pleasures of the table. He said he could live for a week on a sausage and a loaf of bread.

MANUSCRIPT OF A FAMOUS NOVEL.

THE SPELL
CHAPTER THE 1ST

In the great collection of manuscripts of writing experts believe that the writing famous novel in the British Museum has been influenced by an immense amount of study in Latin.

The Queen of Siam has the smallest foot of any titled person in the world. She is exactly the same throughout. Man-

