

INSECTS' BREATHING APPARATUS.

In a recent work on the morphology of the tracheal or respiratory system of insects, reviewed by the New York Independent, Dr. J. A. Palmen arrives at the conclusion that the primitive number of pairs of spiracles or breathing holes in insects is eleven, thus agreeing with the views previously expressed by Packard in a brief essay published on the subject in 1873.

SELECTIONS FROM THE TALMUD.

Messrs. Frederick Warne & Co., of London have recently published, as a part of their cheap series of the "Chandos Classics," selections from the "Talmud," translated by H. Polano, a book that is full of curious and valuable information.

Many a colt's skin is fashioned to the saddle which its mother bears. Truth is heavy, therefore few care to carry it. He who multiplieth words will likely come to sin. Sacrifice thy will for others, that they may be disposed to sacrifice theirs for thee.

BLASTING COAL WITH COMPRESSED AIR.—With a view to facilitate the getting of coal without the use of gunpowder, Mr. Samuel March, of Nottingham, proposes the use of compressed air in cartridges placed in direct connection with pumps, the pressure in such cartridges being increased until the explosion takes place.

A TELESCOPE IDEAL.—The mammoth telescope completed some two years ago by Alvan Clark & Son, of Cambridge, for E. J. McCormick, of Virginia, the reaping-machine manufacturer, still lies in the factory.

SANITAS.—The oxidation product of turpentine (analogous, it is said, to the principle of the famous Eucalyptus globulus) discovered by Messrs. Kingzett and Ziegler, is now manufactured on a large scale for use as an antiseptic and disinfectant, under the name of sanitas.

THE SHRIKE, OR BUTCHER BIRD.

Our engraving shows a style of bird which many readers will recognize for it, or an allied species which is very common on this coast. It is the shrike, the terror of singing birds and of insects. The scientific name of the species shown in the engraving is Lanius excubitor, according to Wilson and Audubon. They build their nests in covered and secluded spots.

LACE PAPER.

The manufacture of what is called lace paper is an important branch of trade in Germany, and even in these times of general depression has maintained its activity. The uses of these papers are exceedingly various; it is the general custom in Germany to decorate ceilings, fireplaces and the like with them, while confectioneries, bouquets, etc., are put in gay-colored wrappers.



GREAT AMERICAN SHRIKE.

many of the feathers upon it. This shrike often pursues a turtle-dove or other bird a long distance on the wing, and eventually, by a single blow, cause it to fall to the ground. It is always active, courageous and persevering; and in winter, when insects and small birds are scarce in the Eastern States, at times it enters the cities, and attacks birds in cages, even flying through the open doors and windows in the pursuit.

WELL, NOW, but those California Chinese want pay for being burned out of house and home by the mob! Could check go further? Detroit Free Press. But it isn't check that attracts itself in this case. It's the Chin Chin that's to pay.—Graphic.

"Do you know where I can get room to store a load of salt?" asked a countryman of a Boston clerk. "Perhaps my father could accommodate you," was the reply. "He has plenty of salt rhenum on his hands."—Dexter Smith.

card paper must be used, and the center replaced by pasting a piece of glazed card so as to form the funnel; but previously a cross must be cut out of the center so as to admit the stem of the bouquet. Some of these bouquet-holders have from 12 to 24 pins, and are made in imitation of ferns, etc.

NOT THE FAULT OF THE ENGINEER.—An Eastern exchange says: Destructive tornadoes occur in our Western States with sufficient frequency to be regarded as somewhat characteristic of certain regions. High table-lands in the interior of continents are more exposed to violence from winds than any other portions of the temperate zones.

JOYCE, of whisky fame, is to issue a volume of poems. They will doubtless be spirited.

SHIPPING MEAT AROUND THE WORLD.

Facts are now coming to light which may enable us to ship meat to England just as we ship wheat, and laugh at the high rates of freight overland. These facts have resulted from the inquiry provoked by the successful shipment of meat from the Eastern States to England, as to how long and over how great distances the refrigerating process would preserve the flesh from decay.

If the movement as above described, proves as practicable in wide application as it has in an experimental way, there is a possibility of our admission to the ranks of the meat supply of England, via ocean transit, unless railway rates overland are reduced. If the isthmian canal should be realized, there would no doubt be a turning of shipments westward to our port, which otherwise might go from Eastern ports.

Hudson River Tunnel.—It is the intention of the Tunnel Company, says the Iron Age, to begin work early in the coming fall. A shaft 28 feet deep has been dug at the foot of Fifteenth street, Jersey City, and this shaft will be increased 20 feet. From this as a starting point, the tunnel will proceed in a northeasterly direction through the Hudson river and the Christopher street ferry slip.

SAND IN SOLE'S MOUTH.—It is estimated that the coast at the mouth of the Suez canal, at Port Said, is advancing outward at the rapid rate of about 50 yards per annum, and that the necessity for extensive dredging will be greater year by year. Not less than 957,000 cubic yards of deposit had to be removed in 1875, while the dredging of 161,000 cubic yards sufficed in 1871.

GERENCE burns with war fervor. Greek fire or grease either is hard to extinguish once alight.