FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—There are 93,138 women nailmakers in England.

—Ex-Khedive Ismail is a rich man; more than $100,000,000 has been paid into his account at various European banks, principally in Holland and Belgium.

—A London firm of pencil makers manufactures its shavings and sawdust into an article which they call the "Dust of Lebanon." It is sprinkled upon the fire to remove the unpleasant smell of cooking not ceable in a room after cooking.

—Parisians ate thirteen thousand donkeys, mules and horses last year. The *Academie de Medicine* has awarded a prize to an essayist who strongly recommends a more general use of such diet.

—A statement was recently published that horseflesh is being sold in large quantities to the poorer inhabitants of Manchester, Eng., under the name of beefstea.. and, further that many of the slaughtered horses were believed to be diseased.

—The manufacture and sale of tobacco in France is a Government monopoly, the supply of the weed being under the control of the Minister of Finance. Within the past year its use has so greatly increased that the Minister has lately added to his supply by purchasing from three Amer can firms upwards of 11,000,000 kilogrammes.

—Young ladies in Vienna wear their initials worked in silk and gold on the front of their jackets. "Young ladies who are engaged," it is pointed out by the correspondent who sends this news, "may wear other initials than their own." Presumably it is meant that they may wear the initials of the favored suitor.

—The London *Globe* propounds this conundrum: "There were nine R. A.'s who had to decide upon the pictures to be hung at the annual Academy Exhibition. They began on Monday and finished on Friday, working five hours a day—a total of twenty-five hours. They had 8,000 pictures to examine, making 320 per hour, or 5 1-3 per minute, which would allow 11 1-4 seconds to each picture. How did they do it?"

—In the *Medical Press* Dr. Spanton tells of a young man who attended the Salvation Army meetings in order to be cured of heart disease. Eight or ten of the "soldiers placed their hands upon his head, and the "Major" talked earnestly with him and crossed his forehead with oil. He was asked if he did not feel healed, and replied in the negative. The process was repeated, and the bystanders shouted to him that he was healed. But he was still obliged to deny the fact, and was at last ignominiously dismissed with the observation from the Major: "You don't understand faith."

—Paris has a market for cigar stumps. It is open for business daily from eight to ten o'clock. The stumps are worth from fifteen to twenty-five cents per pound, according to length. The sellers are mostly poor old men and women and ragged gamins. Much of the tobacco thus scraped together is sold to workmen, and much is also said to be exported under the title of Tabac de Paris. There was an old man in the Maubert quarter formerly who became so rich at this humble business of selling cigar stumps that he had an annual income of $3,000.

PERSIAN HORSES.

What the Animals Are Worth and Their Peculiarities of Gait.

Railroads have never been built in Persia, and it may be some time before they are built. The character of the country is such that it is difficult to lay railroads from the north, and the character of the people and customs are also such as not to make them especially anxious on the subject, although a change of sentiment is perceptible. Until late years carriages have also been unknown, and only in the vicinity of Teheran is this possible. For these reasons horses and donkeys have always been employed to a large extent.

The Persians have from earliest times been noted for horsemanship. The Persian horses, although full of spirit, are generally far more gentle in disposition than American horses. The usual paces are a very fast walk, a canter and a run. The trot is not a favorite gait in the East, and I am quite of the opinion of Orientals that it is a gait far more fatiguing for long rides than the gallop, and only fit for carriage-horses.

A strong horse six years old can be bought at Teheran for forty-five dollars. A very superior blood horse can be bought for three hundred and fifty to four hundred dollars. The average price for a good and handsome steed is sixty dollars.

The stables are generally very primitive affairs, each horse having a separate manger composed of stone and mud, built against the garden-wall, with a few branches thrown over to keep off the sun, for during nine months there is scarcely any dew or rain. Each horse is also tethered by the hind foot to a spike driven into the ground. But the greatest care is taken, notwithstanding, in regard to the health of these horses. They are always carefully blanketed, and in cold weather or after nightfall hardly anything can be seen of them but the ears and tail, they are so completely muffled with blankets of felt.

Of course the royal stables are more elaborate affairs. One gets a glimpse of horse life in Persia in ancient times when he reads in history of the way in which Darius Hystaspes was elected to the throne. I will not tell you the story, because if you have not heard it, it will interest you to look it up yourself. But the royal stables of Persia have always been stocked with hundreds and thousands of picked steeds, fit for state pageants, hunting and war. The importance attached to this branch of the King's household brought about the custom which existed from time immemorial, until within the present reign, that a fugitive from the wrath of the King could find a sanctuary in the royal stables. So long as he remained there he was safe. The present Shah has two thousand mares in the valley of the Lar alone. This is a remarkable winding depression in the mountains, forty miles from Teheran and eleven thousand feet above the sea.

The donkeys of Persia play an important part in the affairs of the country, by far the larger part of the trade of Persia being conducted on the backs of these long-suffering little beasts. As one travels over the hard mountain roads he constantly encounters large droves of the minutest donkeys, wending their way among the rocks to the tinkle of little bells, bearing the exports and imports of Persia on their backs. A peculiarity of all the donkeys used for this business is the conformation of their nostrils, which are twice the length seen elsewhere. It seems the Persians have an idea that the donkey breathes easier in traveling over such an elevated country by having the nostrils enlarged. The nostrils of the Persian donkeys are therefore slit up for three to four inches.

In no country in the world can such a variety of the genus donkey be found. The finest variety are milk-white, and the size of small mules. They sometimes bring the price of good horses for they are in special demand for gentlemen of quiet disposition, and for women. The latter as well as the former always ride astide, and a group of women riding to town on donkeys, muffled as if in grave-clothes, is a wonderful spectacle. These women are, however, not as solemn as one might infer from their funereal appearance. Under their veils they laugh and chatter merrily enough, and seem to be full of fun.—*S. G. W. Benjamim, in Youth's Companion.*

THE RED SEA.

A Journey Down Its Treacherous Waters—How the English Secured the Island of Perim.

To begin with the early morning, we were offered the accustomed tea and coffee, under the name of "chota hazeri"—i. e., small breakfast. Next we noticed that our luncheon was transformed into "tiffin," and that as we sat in the cabin silent Hindu lads squatted on the floor, pulling punkahs to keep us cool, and at the same time blowing away all our papers, till some kind sailor friends supplied us with leaden weights. Evidently we were on the highway to some strangely new state of existence. The ship's company, too, seemed to comprise samples of all the Oriental races: Chinese quartermasters, Malays, Lascars, splendid Nubian stokers, British officers. There were Hindus, Mohammedans, Confucians, Buddhists, and Christians. The Captain's servant, who waited upon us, was a Kitmutgar of the true stamp—turbaned, white robed, barefooted—a Mohammedan of course, else how could he supply us with genuine roast beef? The fruits, too, at desert were new—bunches of plantains, like creamy confectionery; guavas, like indifferent pears, but hateful to smell; pummeloes, like huge oranges with pink flesh, and scarlet pomegranates, duly prepared with wine and sprinkled with spices. The very rocks were altogether strange to us. Wonderful volcanic masses, like giant heaps of tinder and slag round some antediluvian smelting furnace, masses of red and green and black lava cutting sharp against pale yellow earth, make these freaks of nature as strange in color as in form. One group bears the name of the Twelve Apostles. Then comes Bab-el-Mandeb—the Gate of Death—of Hell—or of Tears, as I heard it variously rendered. It was suggestive of all three as we first beheld it, standing out in purple relief against a ground of fiery sunrise, while clouds and sea were alike somber and solemn. It received its very suggestive name from the Arabs of old on account of the dangers of its navigation. So numerous were the shipwrecks between these cruel gates that when any man starts on this voyage he was held to have indeed entered the jaws of death, and his family wailed and put on mourning for him as though he were already dead. Just opposite this headland lies the small island of Perim, commanding the entrance to the straits. On it stands a lighthouse and a small fort, both of very recent date. The story told concerning the annexation of this island is curious. From the beginning of time nobody had coveted so arid a rock, till one day it occurred to France that it might prove a useful position. So in January, 1857, the French brig of war Nisus, eighteen guns, was dispatched to take possession, and very naturally she halted at Aden, where her officers were invited to mess, in the course of which, wine being in and wit out, so far as to loosen tongues, they divulged their mission. No comment was made, but Brigadier Coghlan, (afterward Sir William Coghlan,) the commandant, silently wrote a few words on a slip of paper, which was at once dispatched to Lieutenant Templer, commanding the Indian navy schooner Mahi, five guns. Not a moment was lost, and the Mahi immediately sped on her way to Perim, and there hoisted the British flag—to the no small amazement and disgust of the loquacious envoys on their arrival thither the following day.—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

—A gentleman, scientifically inclined, recently captured a spider, and by careful estimate, made by means of actually weighing it and then confining it in a cage, he found that it ate four times its weight for breakfast, nearly nine times its weight for dinner, and thirteen times its weight for supper, finishing up with an ounce, and at eight in the evening, when he was released, ran off in search of food. At this rate, a man weighing 160 pounds would require the whole of a fat steer for breakfast, the dose repeated with the addition of half dozen well-fatted sheep for dinner, and two bullocks, eight sheep and four hogs for supper, and then, as a lunch before going to his club banquet, he would indulge in about four barrels of fresh fish.—*N. Y. Times.*

—It is reckoned that the marble business of Rutland, Vt., has trebled in the last ten years in production and in wages paid. The total amount of sales in 1884 approximated $2,000,000, and this year it is likely to exceed that.—*Troy Times.*

HELPLESS UPON A FRIENDLESS SEA!

Who, in taking passage in a great trans-Atlantic steamer, does not feel a thrill of exultation over her magnificent power. Against her the Storm King may hurl his elemental forces, nor pierce her armor, nor stop her onward course.

But let me describe a scene when, one morning in mid-ocean, there came an alarm from the pilot house followed by a cry: "The ship's rudder is lost!" From the confident expression, consternation came to every face. The wheelman being helpless to direct her course, the vessel was at the mercy of wind and wave.

The captain had been negligent—the hangings of the rudder were allowed to wear weak, and suddenly it had dropped deep into the sea!

Strong in intellect, in physical vigor, in energy and in ambition, man confronts, undaunted, gigantic tasks and commands applause for his magnificent achievements. But, all unexpectedly, an alarm comes—the rudder of his constitution is gone. He has been careless of its preservation; mental strain, nervous excitement, irregular habits, over-work, have destroyed the action of his kidneys and liver. This would not occur were Warner's safe cure used to maintain vigor. And even now it may restore vitality to those organs and give back to the man that which will lead him to the haven of his ambition.—*The Traveler.*

LONDON FIRE DISTRICTS.

The Arrangements in England's Chief City for Extinguishing Fires.

London is divided for fire purposes into four districts, each garrisoned with 130 or 140 men—a force strong enough to deal with the individual district fires. They are the A, comprising Westminster, Kensington, Bayswater, and writing roughly, the whole of the West End; the B, the centre, including the city; the C, the East End, and the D, the whole of the south side of the river, in which the headquarters, in the Southwark Bridge Road, are situated. Over each of these districts there is a Superintendent connected with headquarters by telegraph, and in most cases by telephone, and himself connected with all the stations over which he has superintendence, for the discipline and efficiency of which he is directly responsible to his chief. No station, with one exception, is telegraphically connected with another; every order passes from or through the Superintendent, even if sent by the chief. The one exception is in favor of the two nearest stations of two district. For instance, the station nearest in District A is connected with the nearest station in District B, and the nearest in District D, but the connection is never made use of unless there occurs a fire on some point between, in which case both stations communicate and turn out. The connection is, of course, also employed if there be a break down of communication, such as frequently occurs, between the office of the Superintendent of the district where the station is situated and headquarters. This system of communication by telegraph and telephone, now rapidly approaching completion, is, as far at any rate as the telephone is concerned, the growth of only the last few years, for it was in the early part of 1880 that the Edison Company gratuitously established telephonic communication between the B, C, and D districts and headquarters. The omission of the A district (the West End) was caused by the necessity of laying underground wires, an expense the company could hardly be expected to bear. The telephone now in use is the Gower-Bell, for the postal authorities, from whom the brigade rent them, do not appear to favor the Edson, notwithstanding that those who have had experience of both describe the latter as the better.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

A REMARKABLE DECISION.

The Necessity of Physicians Keeping Abreast of the Modern Methods of Practice.

A physician was recently brought to task by a German tribunal for neglecting to keep himself informed as to modern methods of practice. A servant who received a wound in the chest in April last died from septicæmia under the care of this doctor, who, despising antiseptic dressings, treated his patient according to ancient usages. The Court held that "every medical practitioner should keep himself informed on the accomplished progress of science, and have an exact knowledge of modern systems of treatment. If these had been employed the patient's life might have been saved, hence the liability for negligence." The Court of Appeal sustained the judgment. Some effort should be made in this country to force physicians to pass examinations every few years as to see whether they have kept informed as to the more recent medical investigations, including surgery. No provision is made in this country to protect the sick from being treated by incompetent or ill-informed doctors. A would-be physician in Europe must undergo a rigid examination before he is allowed to practice, but diplomas in the United States are no guarantee of knowledge or skill in the treatment of disease, and then thousands of our older physicians in the rural districts are unacquainted with the advanced methods in modern medicine and surgery due to discoveries made within the last quarter of a century.—*Demorest's Monthly.*

—Farmers' Fruit Cake.—Soak three cups of dried apples over night in warm water; chop slightly in the morning, and then simmer two hours, or more, in two cups of molasses until the apples resemble citron. Make a cake of two eggs, one cup of sugar, one cup sweet milk, three-fourths cup butter, one and one-half teaspoons soda, flour to make a rather thick batter, spice in plenty; put in the apple and bake in a quick oven. This is very nice.—*The Household.*

Seven Cuban bandits have been executed at Matanzos.

The volcano of Cotopaxie, in Ecuador, is again in a state of eruption. Many lives have been lost.

LONGEVITY IN HORSES.

How Severe Training Prolongs the Life of the Thoroughbred.

While the aptitude for living to a great age is undoubtedly inherited, still this tendency to long living many times shows up in the character of a sport, as a single son or daughter from a given pair may attain to a great age, all other scions from the same stock being only moderate long livers. As to longevity, as we ordinarily meet with it, there are physical signs that, fully inspected and estimated at their worth, will always be found to tally with the results. The thoroughbred has a firm structure throughout, clearly the result of transmission through an agency rendered firm of tissue by continuous and somewhat severe training, ignoring accumulation of fat. The latter substance in excess, or even approaching this, places the horse, or the person with this peculiarity, as though with a sword suspended over him by a very weak thread. Life is prolonged by such repeated efforts as give vigor, short of sapping the vitality, and one of the agencies through which this is done is curtailment of tendency to fatness. We have in trees corroborative evidence that firm texture tends to long life. The hardwood trees are considered by naturalists to be long-lived in proportion as they grow thick and stout rather than tall. Slim plants are, as a rule, delicate and short-lived. We can safely apply this similitude to the horse, and calculate that the spindling, leggy horse will not prove hardy or long-lived. The firm texture of the flesh and bones of the mule may be taken as evidence that this concentration of structure may be considered to be associated, as a rule, with tendency to long life, and it is worth considering how far we can safely depart from the peculiarity referred to.—*Live Stock Journal.*

—Never discard a variety of small fruit, nor vegetable, nor potato, which gives satisfaction, for an untried new one, no matter who says that it is better.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*