

ZEBRULAS TO REPLACE MULES

Cross Between Horse and Zebra, Native of Africa, Crosses to Be a Superior Animal.

German papers say the mule will probably be replaced in the twentieth century by a more efficient animal...

Formerly the opinion prevailed that the zebra was almost extinct. The opening up of Africa...

Three species of zebras still exist in Africa; the so-called "Grevy" zebra, on the high plateaus of Senegal...

WOMAN SWIMMER'S EXPLOIT.

Makes Large Wager That She Will Swim to Europe and Back.

One of the best of women swimmers at one of the eastern seashore resorts this year was a well-known vaudeville actress...

"I'm off for Europe—here goes!" The manager laughed. "I will wager you \$1,000 that if I stroll into the surf here three meters from now I shall not acquire a foot on American soil until I've visited Europe."

"You mean that?" said the actress. "Assuredly," replied the manager, continuing to laugh.

"Well, here I am—I shall draw on you for the \$2,000." The manager smiled, her that she could do it in the \$2,000 on the London agent's note...

Chinese Church Choir. Sailed for Hong Kong. It is a choir of Chinese converts in the city and composed of young Chinese converts...

Preferred the Fourhorse. J. S. Levesque, a well-known contractor of St. Louis, Mo., who has been in the business of building bridges for many years...

FISHERMAN'S LUCK.

Illustrated by the Experience of a Couple of Empire State Anglers.

"The unaccountable things that fish do, whether it is whim or suspicion that prompts them, are an unending source of wonder to the observant angler," said one of that guild...

"After he had caught three big ones and I had landed half a dozen perch I suggested that we exchange rods and see if that would make any difference..."

"I can't understand it," I said, "but your tackle seems to suit the pickered better than mine, and mine seems to be the choice of the perch, although there is not the slightest difference between rods, lines, hooks or bait."

"This'll be enough," said I. "Well, go home." "And we pulled up and went home."

EXPEND MUCH ENERGY.

In Their Efforts to Avoid Work, Tramps Work Harder Than They Would Have Us Realize.

"Did you ever notice how hard some men will work to keep from working?" said a man who keeps tab on things of a curious kind in the New Orleans Times-Democrat...

"The man who works to keep from working," said the man who keeps tab on things of a curious kind in the New Orleans Times-Democrat...

Preferred the Fourhorse. J. S. Levesque, a well-known contractor of St. Louis, Mo., who has been in the business of building bridges for many years...

During the past few years but a single order has been given to any ship building company in the United States for the construction of a vessel intended for the foreign trade...

THE SPEEDY COCKROACH.

It Is Lively Insect That Gets Along at the Rate of One Yard a Second.

"The cockroach is one of the fleetest members I know anything about," said a man who takes a deep interest in insect life in the New Orleans Times-Democrat...

"I concluded that a yard a second was a good estimate of the cockroach's speed. That is not bad going, either. You must remember, too, that these insects do not fly. They run on legs, though in the test I made it was almost impossible for me to say whether the roach was flying or running, it simply shot across the desk like a flash..."

"Flies are swift in their movements. Fleas are noted for their quickness, and other insects have been mentioned because of a certain business characterizing their movements. But in a running race between insects I will take my chances with the cockroach, for I think he is just about as fleet of foot as anything you can find..."

CLOTH IN BOOK-COVERS.

All Cotton Fabric, Yet So Finely Finished as to Resemble Silk or Leather.

All of the cloth used in the binding of books is made from cotton fabric, yet one would not say so on seeing the finished product. Some of it looks exactly like coarse linen. Other styles have an appearance of the finest kind of silk...

The process is an expensive one and the resulting price of the cloth is, rather high, running from 20 to 60 cents a yard. There are several artists in the large cities of the country who have begun to make a specialty of designing book covers on this cloth and they are able to make a good living from their work...

THE AMERICAN HEART.

Failure of the Organ Is One of the Most Common Causes of Death.

We have heard much about the American stomach and the American brain, but we are just awakening to a discovery that there is being rapidly developed a form of heart disease, which is not peculiar to America...

A Careless Fact. A traveler writes: "I have often been struck by the ease with which people in Southern Europe are amused. In Paris people go to the opera and come back for the grand Prix race and sit on their feet for an hour or two on their seats, and then go to the theatre. In Rome at the foot of the Divino Amore tower in the Campidoglio a spot where once stood a temple to Venus and had a shrine, while people go out and find the Appian way to see them return. In Madrid this peculiar sport is even more marked. On the Puerta del Sol I once people stand around and do nothing outdoors, while rows of people sit on the benches in front of the theatre to watch the lower classes walk by with the lower classes walk by to watch the lower classes walk by..."

Virtual Election Index. Journalists are usually very quick to get the pulse of the country from the expression of opinion in the newspapers and magazines...

Insanities Among Women. A feeble-minded woman is being investigated the cause of insanity among women and has come to the conclusion that if women are admitted into competition with men the inevitable result will be a tremendous increase of insanity among the women. He finds that the percentage of women teachers who become insane is almost double that of the men teachers.—Detroit Free Press.

SELDOM GET MARRIED.

Only Daughters Are Not Allowed to See Much of the Men and Remain Single.

Some girls never have a fair chance of receiving an offer. It is circumstance, not fate, which rules their destiny. They drift on to a quiet, humdrum way at home and hardly ever see a man. Papa and mamma like to keep "Baby" with them and papa objects to gentlemen visitors. "Baby" is probably quite as pretty, quite as attractive as her married competitors, but how can she marry if she scarcely ever sees a "him"? And in these days knights do not go riding past latticed windows, behind which the poor, incarcerated damsel sits, says a very discerning old maid in the Detroit Free Press.

Not far from us there lives a family of this type. Phoebe and Prudence are two nice, gentle girls, shall I call them? Anyhow, they are "nice" in every sense of the word and I am certain would have married had they had some girls' opportunities. But Papa Brown did not like "young men about the house" and he and Mama Brown wanted their daughters at home in the evening. Well, they have attained their hearts' desire. Phoebe and Prudence are almost certain to adorn the domestic hearth for many many evenings to come. And I think they would have looked much better organizing "Sunday" evenings.

When the candidate is talking the oath his finger is pierced with a needle and the blood drops into a glass of wine held by the member who stands sponsor for him. They both drink from this glass, signifying that they are of the same society and of the same blood relationship. The grips and passwords are then communicated to him, and he is now a full-fledged highbinder—an assassin for pay.

When the society receives a commission to kill a man a good half of them is sent out to do the bloody work. Or if it is a war, the society details a number of its best shots. The blood money goes into the common fund and is used for the defense of criminals, care of the wounded and pensions if sent to the state prison. The surplus is divided according to the rank and service rendered. If a highbinder is killed while on the discharge of his duty work the society gives him a large funeral, sends his bones to China and pays his family a small pension. A society will not abscond any of its members in trouble, and will be a lawyer as long as it has a dollar or an unsecured bond for a threat of assassination.

These societies prey upon poor men, and they are not only robbers, or perhaps assassination fellows. They terrorize the deprived, women and children from their sins weekly, and from the owners of these women. If the owner refuses to be blackmailed they steal or force to take one of his women and hold her for a reward or else force to some other female worker. Sometimes the band leader himself, a rival society to protect his den. There are wars between two highbinder societies.

When one society invades the district of another war is the result. The rival bands of outlaws have the Chinese quarter divided, and it is a violation of treaty to plunder or murder in each other's territory. The gaming houses are also a steady source of revenue paying an agreed sum weekly to each alone. The highbinder societies are a terror to the mechanics, who would gladly see them driven out of the city. Then peace would reign in the Chinese quarter.

FALL AND WINTER HATS.

Artistic Color Schemes and Pretty Materials Are in Evidence.

Women are proverbially extravagant in the matter of millinery, and the hats of the coming season will give them no opportunity to retrieve their reputation. They will not only encourage but demand extravagance because of the costliness of the materials of which they are made, says the New York Tribune.

Of these a reigning favorite, both as a covering and a trimming, is a long napped silk plush, very beautiful in quality and coloring. Sumptuous plaid effects are among the new plushes, and on one that a plush of peacock blue and green was wadded in folds around the brim of a turban, the crown of which was covered with the breast of a peacock. A color which promises to outlast all the brown tones in the materials is purple, including the lovely and delicate shades of the heliotrope and the warm, lovely shades of purple tanned red, such as are seen in the tubesia.

Birds will flutter into fashion with a force that will carry all before it. Blackbirds enough to furnish a good sized pie gather on stunning white velvet hats, while birds of diverse feathers lock together upon enchanting combinations of silk and satin. Brown birds, wings and quills seem to predominate upon street hats, but the woman with a soft heart and tender sympathies can turn from bird-trimmed hats without a qualm for the most superb of the new hats are shaded with great brush strokes of unusual length and beauty. An exquisite plume-trimmed hat of panne velvet in a fashionable tint of pale green, permeated with a hint of lavender, had a brim of black velvet...