

Scientia.

A new scientific association, comprising a small number of very distinguished members, has been formed in Paris under the name of "Scientia." The object of the association is primarily the promotion of scientific knowledge, but the members have taken advantage of the present smallness of their number to give to their meetings something of a social character, and enliven them with a dinner, at which, as with many clubs which meet only occasionally, some eminent person is usually present as a guest. At the last of these meetings, as we learn from *Le Genie Civil*, the guest of the evening was General de Nansouty, the originator of the plan for establishing an observatory on the top of the Pic du Midi, about which we have already had something to say. This mountain constitutes a somewhat isolated spur of the Pyrenees, and rises to a height of more than seven thousand feet above the sea. Although not high enough to reach the limit of perpetual snow, the top of the Pic du Midi is exposed to terrible winds, and in winter is buried in snows which make the ascent to it impracticable.

Nevertheless General de Nansouty, who had been strongly impressed with the value of the mountain, commanding, as it does, the great southern plain of

useful to science in its own way as the meteorological observatory. The experience of every year shows more clearly [the advantages of placing astronomical observatories, particularly those equipped with powerful telescopes, on the tops of mountains. The one thing essential to the use of high powers in the telescope is a clear atmosphere, and, pure as we think our atmosphere is in clear nights, its transparency is so far inferior to that of the air about mountain tops that, seen from the latter, the atmosphere of the plain always appears filled with haze, which certain conditions of sunlight show to be due to perpetual clouds of dust, kept by gravitation in the lower regions of the air.—*American Architect*.

A BELGIAN HORSE.

Admirers of the paintings of Rubens and other Dutch masters are astonished at the peculiar shape of some of the horses represented, and attribute it to the fancy or peculiarity of the painters. This is by no means the case, for these masters only painted true and exact pictures of the horses of their country, one of which is shown in the annexed cut, taken from the *Illustrirte Zeitung*. The horse represented in the cut was raised in Belgium by a peasant, and lately imported into

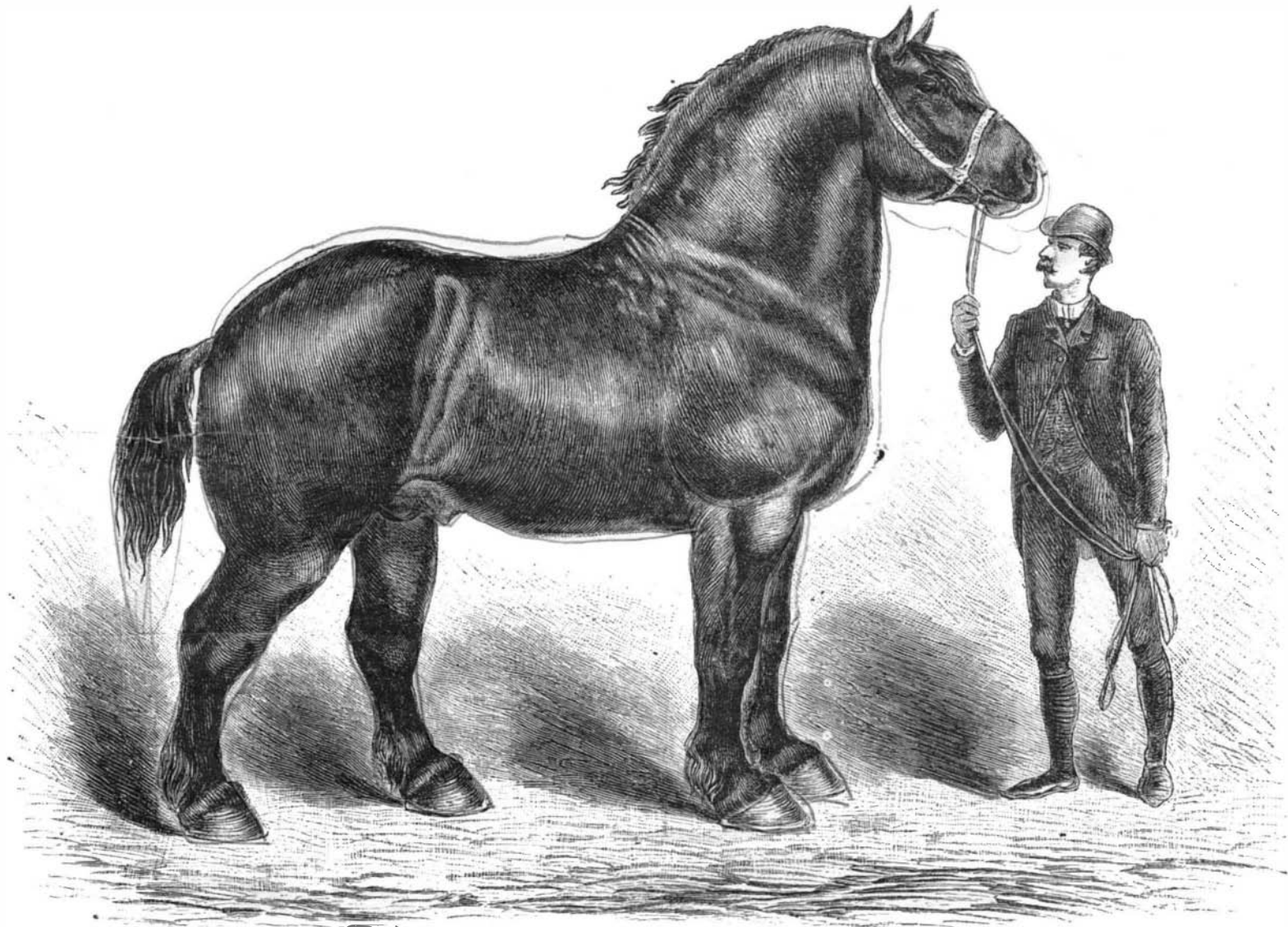
Oleomargarine Legislation.

Certain farmers and buttermen in New York succeeded in getting a law passed in 1884 designed to suppress the manufacture of oleomargarine. Sec. 6 reads as follows:

Sec. 6.—"No person shall manufacture out of any oleaginous substance or substances, or any compound of the same, other than that produced from unadulterated milk, or of cream from the same, any article designed to take the place of butter or cheese produced from pure, unadulterated milk or cream of the same, or shall sell, or offer for sale, the same as an article of food. This provision shall not apply to pure skim milk cheese, made from pure skim milk."

It was provided that the violator of this section should be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or not less than six months or more than one year's imprisonment, or both such fine and imprisonment, for the first offense, and by imprisonment for one year for each subsequent offense.

The court of appeals, the court of highest resort, decided, June 16, 1885, that the law attempted to prohibit the sale of any articles intended to take the place of butter, thus preventing competition and placing a ban upon progress and invention; that invaded the rights

**THE STRONGEST HORSE IN THE WORLD.**

France, as a site for a meteorological station, resolved to attempt a thing that the mountaineers said was impossible, and to pass a winter in a hut at the very summit of the peak. He collected materials, and during the summer constructed a little cabin, which he stocked with provisions and instruments, and put in communication with the outer world by means of a telegraph wire. Before the winter fairly set in, he established himself in his little hut, and there, cut off by the snow from either rescue or retreat, he stayed until spring opened again the way down to the plain. In spite of cold, hunger, and loneliness, he pursued his observations and kept his records, fortifying himself under adversity, as M. Tissandier said in introducing him to the club, by remembering that he was a soldier, bound by his profession not to yield to any force which he had not tried his strength against and found irresistible. Like a soldier, too, the General remembered, through all his privations, to gain what advantage he could for the benefit of the poor people about him, and used his telegraph to send word to the farmers on the plains when the melting of the snow on the peak showed an inundation would soon follow below. After a few winters spent in this manner, a permanent and well-equipped station was, as our readers know, built in place of the little cabin, and a staff of observers established there; and within a short time M. Raphael Bischoffsheim has promised to build an astronomical observatory by the side of the meteorological station. If this promise is carried out, the astronomical observatory of the Pic du Midi will probably soon become as

Germany. This horse is about 6 feet high, and weighs 1,800 pounds. It is said to be the strongest horse in the world, but we have no particulars of his performances. Notwithstanding its size and weight, it can be used very well for carting, pulling heavy loads, etc., and is more active than might be expected.

About 25,000 horses are exported yearly from Belgium, most of which are raised by small farmers.

Two Singular Lunatics.

The Morristown *Jerseyman* tells of a lunatic at the Morris Plains Asylum who was mute for five years. Even the physicians thought he had lost the power of speech. One day two of his fingers were mangled in a washing machine. To the astonishment of everybody who heard him he exclaimed: "By the great and jumping Moses, a devil is better than an inventor." That was three years ago, and he has not spoken since. Another patient, a boy in the same institution, is a lightning calculator. The most intricate problems are solved by him in fractions of a minute. The boy believes that his head is filled with little blocks with figures upon them, and they instantly fall into different positions and work out the problems. He thinks his brain, in fact, is a multiplication table. His insanity seems pardonable, for only a few sane men can compete with him as a mathematician. Every day he soaks his head in water to prevent the blocks from rattling, and occasionally he begs for oil to put into his ears, so that the imaginary squares will slip upon each other more easily.

both of persons and property, guaranteed by the constitution; that the sale of a substitute for any article of manufacture is a legitimate business, which, if carried on without deception, cannot be arbitrarily suppressed; and that the act in question was not aimed at deception, but went further, and created a monopoly destructive of rights protected by the constitution both of the State and of the United States. In effect, the decision declared lawful the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine when it is offered in market under its true name, and not as an adulterated form of butter, and when it is shown to be composed of pure ingredients.

Artesian Well in Moscow.

This well was opened on the 1st of January, 1885. Boring was begun in 1865, but in 1871 the boring tool broke at the depth of 1,512 feet, and all efforts to extricate it were useless. In 1876 the work was abandoned. In the mean time, however, the water filled the bore to within 40 feet of the surface, and as it was found that this height remained constant, a new plan was adopted. A gallery was excavated from the bank of the Jaonsa River to the well at a level low enough to permit the water to run into a reservoir at the other end. The gallery runs through limestone strata, is 1,400 feet long, and has a fall of 4½ feet. The water is pure, cold (8° R.), and flows abundantly, the daily supply being 770,500 gallons; this is nearly half the whole quantity of water supplied to the city of Moscow. This well ranks among the largest in Europe.