

A Large Anaconda.

An anaconda, 15 feet long, the largest, it is said, that ever came hither, arrived last week, and was almost immediately dispatched to the Philadelphia Zoological Garden, where it now is. Mr. Frank Thompson, the dealer in wild animals, who imported it, exhibited it to the writer in his headquarters at 411 East 56th St. An attendant knocked off the top of a large box which lay upon the floor, and the monster was seen in his entirety, the great folds of the body, of a light brown color, marked with dark circles, lying tier upon tier from the bottom to the top of the box. No sooner was the light let in upon him than he began to move his head from side to side and shoot out his forked tongue threateningly.

"I want to examine his mouth," said the dealer, "to see if there is any appearance of canker, for it is of such corroding humors that these reptiles usually die." Saying this, the dealer eyed the monster for a moment intently, and the latter returned the look with interest. Suddenly the dealer, a powerful man, thrust forward his right hand and seized the huge neck with an iron grip, and the great mouth was opened wide in anger. There was no appearance of cancerous growth, and the wary dealer, letting go his hold, dodged to one side, and the blow aimed at him by the reptile fell short. Before he could get ready for another, the top of the box was jammed down upon him. It was curious to note the effect the sight of the anaconda had upon the kangaroo and other animals in the adjoining cages. They seemed beside themselves with fright, jumping hither and thither; the eyes of the former almost starting from the sockets.

The anaconda is found almost exclusively about the Amazon watershed, and is essentially a water snake, living in or near the water. The boas come from the same locality, but are distinctly land animals. Wallace and Bates (the latter is now secretary of the Royal Geographical Society), in their voyage up the Amazon, some forty years ago, had their chicken coop, which hung over the stern of the vessel, torn to pieces and robbed by an anaconda one night while they lay at anchor, and they aver that this reptile will take any kind of an animal off a vessel's deck if he can reach it.

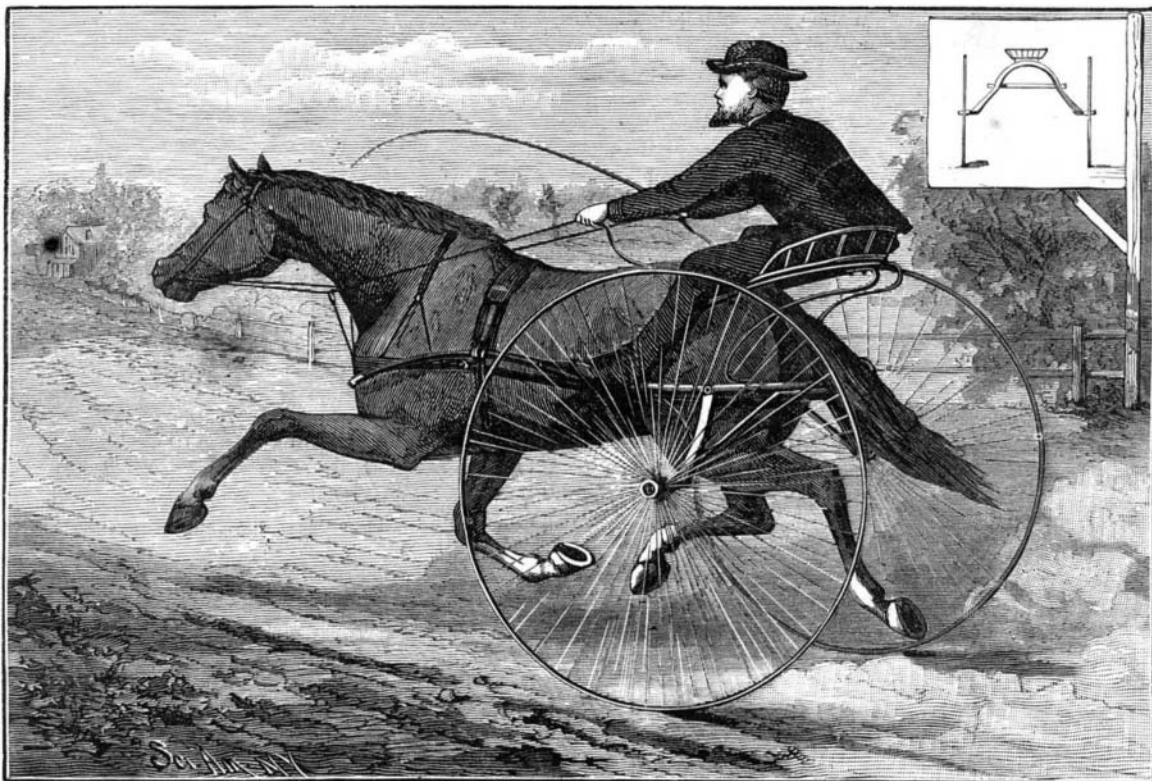
He lies hid in the water where animals are wont to come at night to drink, and when a favorable opportunity presents itself, darts his head forward, seizes his prey with his teeth, and then, dragging it into the water, he winds himself around, crushes, and then devours it.

THE "SADDLE SULKY."

The essential feature in the construction of the sulky represented in the accompanying engraving consists in so curving the axle as to admit the rear of the horse between the wheels, thus permitting the horse to turn upon his center of motion, thereby making riding in such a vehicle very safe. In many respects it is like riding in a saddle on wheels, as it is to all intents and purposes a part of the horse. The inventor claims that a vehicle of this nature will be of marked value, particularly for riding over rough roads, or where ordinary vehicles cannot be used, as there would be absolutely no danger. From the engraving it will be seen that the front of the seat of the sulky is supported upon a spring perch, rising and curving backward from the shafts, the rear portion being held upon flat springs secured to the curved bow uniting the ends of the shaft. This construction especially promotes the comfort of the rider, and avoids the unpleasant motion usually experienced in two-wheeled vehicles. The sulky is very light, and at the same time exceedingly strong, since the axles are firmly secured to the continuous shaft, and well braced.

The sulky here shown is intended for exercising horses, but we are informed that a still lighter model for trotting purposes is made, similar to the small diagram, wherein the axle makes a continuous arch under the seat over the rear of the horse. This form, the inventor claims, prevents very largely the slewing usually experienced in turning around the curves of a track, thereby tending to increase the speed of the horse and lower the record.

This sulky has been recently patented by Charles F. Stillman, M.D., of 142 Broadway, New York City, and is being manufactured by Brewster & Co., of Broadway and 47th Street.

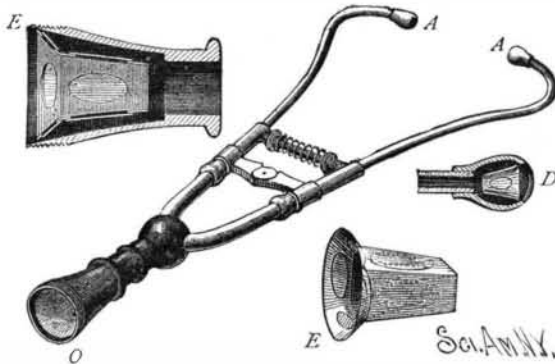
**STILLMAN'S "SADDLE SULKY."**

for the purpose of keeping the streets open to free and uninterrupted travel. But the legislature had not the power, neither had the municipal authorities, as against the adjoining owner, to confer upon any person the right to make use of the highway for any other purpose than to pass and repass, without the consent of the owner of the fee.

takes a pride in showing his fearlessness in the pursuit of his vocation under all circumstances. Sensible people call it foolhardiness. It has cost the life of many a good fellow, and we really believe that whenever a man exhibits unmistakable symptoms of this form of mental obliquity, he should be discharged from positions involving danger to himself or others.

IMPROVED VIBRATING STETHOSCOPE.

The engraving represents a stethoscope provided with vibrators or sound-augmenting diaphragms, arranged to act on the sounding board principle, to increase the efficiency of the instrument. The vibrators are thin disks of metal, skin, rubber, or other suitable material, placed in the ear tips and in the receiving tube. As here illustrated, the tips and receiving tube are each provided with four diaphragms held in a thimble inserted in the tips and tube in such manner as to form a sounding board chamber for each diaphragm by the relative position of the thimbles, the diaphragms, and the material of the receiving tube and the tips. Four diaphragms are preferably employed in the receiving tube, and air chambers are provided in the upper edge of each thimble.

**BLODGETT'S IMPROVED VIBRATING STETHOSCOPE.**

It is claimed that by this arrangement of vibrating diaphragms and air chambers the effect of the sound waves in their passage through the tubes over the diaphragms is vastly augmented, and the efficiency of the instrument to detect the most subtle and feeble sounds within the human body is increased in a remarkable degree. As shown in the engraving, the letters, E E, indicate sectional views of the vibrating diaphragms inserted in the receiving tube, O, and the letter, D, indicates sectional view of vibrating diaphragms inserted in rubber tips, A A. These diaphragms may be applied to all stethoscopes now in use.

This stethoscope is the invention of Dr. F. M. Blodgett, of No. 207 West 34th Street, New York city.

Use of Public Highway.

According to a late decision of the New York Supreme Court (*McCaffrey v. Smith*), neither the State legislature nor a village can confer authority on a person to occupy part of the public street as a hack stand as against the adjacent lot owners. The court said: The legislature undoubtedly had the power to authorize the village authorities to pass ordinances and by-laws (which they might enforce) limiting and restricting the use which the public might make of the streets beyond their rights of travel—ordinances which could be enforced as against the adjoining owners themselves

Patent Rights as Property.

The *Weekly Law Bulletin* reports the following decision:

Section 14 of chapter 222, Pub. Stat., provides that execution may issue against the body of the defendant in an action of assumpsit, whenever, among other things, the defendant has been guilty of fraud "in the concealment, detention, or disposition of his property;" and an order for the execution may be granted on an *ex parte* hearing without notice to him. A judgment debtor who has a valuable patent right is not entitled to withhold it from his creditors upon the ground that it is an incorporeal or intangible right; such a right is not exempt from attachment by law, and one having property not exempt, which he detains for his own use, refusing to apply it to the payment of the judgment against him, is guilty of fraud in the detention.—*Re Samuel D. Keene*, S. C. R. I. II. New Eng. Rep., 505.

Submarine Mining Experiments.

Extensive submarine mining experiments were carried out near Portsmouth on September 14, with the view of testing the efficiency of the present system of firing mines, the system, owing to the weakness of the detonating charges, having broken down at the recent naval review. Two experiments were made. The first was with observation mines, which consisted of a line of six mines, each containing 500 lb. of gun cotton, so arranged as to blow up an enemy's ship should it have crossed the line. The mines were at the bed of the channel, covered with 10 fathoms of water, and connected by an electric tube in which was inserted at each mine a charge of fulminate of mercury. On a key being pressed, four out of six mines were exploded, and each sent up a huge volume of water, 400 feet high. Gunboats were stationed 600 yards off, and after the first violent shock the sensation was as though the boats were bumping heavily on rocks. These mines were laid on a mud bottom, large quantities of which, together with tons of fish, were blown up with the water. The next experiment was with a line of 12 countermines, supposed to be laid over an enemy's mined channel, and these also each weighed 500 lb., and were 180 feet apart. On the key being pressed, 11 out of the 12 mines exploded; but, owing to these being laid on a sandy bottom, the shock was no greater to the gunboats than in the first experiment. The tests were carried out on a point of land eight miles from Portsmouth, where the effect of the shock was not felt.

Foolhardiness.

To one who is familiar with the carelessness exhibited by persons who have served a long time in dangerous occupations or in close proximity to dangerous machines, the wonder is not that so many accidents happen, but rather that so few fatal casualties occur. A young man of exceptionally steady and cautious habits was employed some time ago by one of our leading woodworking establishments. His steady, cautious nature led to promotion, and a part of his duty required his presence where there are many rapidly revolving pulleys and belts.

It was noticed that he gradually got to "fooling" with the belts, and he was warned of the danger by some of the old hands. The other day there was a sudden jar and a stoppage of a part of the machinery. An examination revealed a broken belt and the mangled corpse of the young man. The cause was evident to the coroner's jury—pure carelessness. Every week we read of accidents to carpenters, painters, etc., and no wonder. The recklessness of this class of men in trusting themselves on rickety scaffolds is incomprehensible. The other day we saw a painter at the top of a long light ladder, the foot of which rested on a frail pine goods box on a sideling pavement. On a close calculation there was not more than an inch, or at most two inches, of "center of gravity" that prevented his receiving a terrible fall. And this man, like hundreds of others,