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THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20, 1897.

HORSELESS CARRIAGES.

They Were Common in London Sixty-five Years Ago.

It is interesting to-day to remember that nearly sixty-five years ago, horseless carriages showed every sign of being the common method of travelling in London and the surrounding neighborhood, for although at that time restrictions had been put upon steam carriages in the country, these vehicles were quite a familiar sight in the metropolis, says the Westminister Gazette. The inventor was Walter Hancock, a Straightford man, who in 1831 brought out an omnibus of his own design, which was both elegant and in accordance with the comfort of travellers. Companies were soon formed to work the "new idea" the object of one being to run from Paddington to Brighton, and Hancock contracted to supply the necessary rolling stock.

In a few years coaches were regularly running from the city to most of the important suburbs, but, owing to poor management, the concerns did not last very long. In 1835, the journey from London to Marlborough (seventy-five miles) was performed at the average speed of seven and one-half miles an hour, and the journey to Birmingham was accomplished in a much faster average time (about ten miles). This was not the highest speed that could be attained, however, for the records state that a vehicle carrying a number of passengers travelled a mile along one of London's principal thoroughfares at the rate of of travelling. No fewer than 12,700 their fellow-men."

passengers were carried over 4,000 miles by steam in the last few months of 1836.

Japan's Big Canal.

The scheme is under contemplation to dig a big canal between Abeya and Otsu, a distance of about ten miles, in the province of Noto. This scheme was once proposed in the clau of Kanazawa half a century ago, but fell through, as the clan could not afford to pay for the works, then estimated at \$3,000,000. If this canal is actually opened all vessels which have now to go round the peninsula province over a distance of more than 100 miles can go directly from the coast of Kaga to Nanao through the much shorter route of only ten miles. Nanao will then become a prosperous port and great economy be effected to the navigation of the west coast .- Nichi

Breathing Through the Nose.

Why is it that the Indian squaw thinks to look more after her papoose's physical training than the American mother does of her baby's development? So many infants breathe through their mouths, and sleep with the mouth open, and yet the mother does not seem to notice or correct the bad habit. Nature intended that the breath should be drawn through the nose. This protects the lungs, since the hairy lining of the nasal cavities arrest all foreign matter that may be drawn into them. The squaw frequently holds together her infant's lips for five minutes at a time to compel it to breathe through the nose.—Ex.

The famous pianist, Anton Rubinstein, left a voluminous book to be published as "A Basket of Thoughts." The following extract, under the head of "Religion," will give some twenty-one miles an hour. It is idea of its character: - "There are well perhaps that this speed was two kinds of priests-honest and only maintained for one mile, for dishonest. The honest ones deceive even in 1836 it was a dangerous rate themselves; the dishonest deceive

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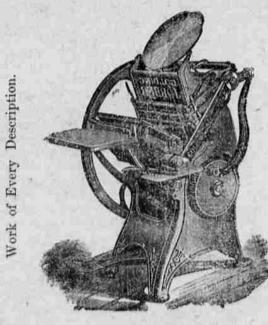
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