For a poem, which the devotees of *Patience* would probably call a "weird, wild, fleshly thing," let us quote the following extract from a children’s primer:

"Z is a zebra that lives in the circus,
Striped all over, but not a good work-horse;
The picture is pretty, and some day I '11 strive
To go to the circus and see him alive”

The rhyme on "circus" and "work-horse" is certainly unique.

A lady from the rural districts,—no offence to Dorchester intended,—on entering a Beacon Street car the other day said to the conductor that she wished to go to Arlington Street. The car soon reached there, and as the conductor was helping her out, she said, "I am so much obliged to you; I really hope you have n't gone far out of your way to bring me here.”

The civil engineers recently held a meeting for the purpose of forming a society. A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution.

We are exceedingly glad to state that Prof. W. R. Nichols has so far recovered as to visit the school.

Prof. W. O. Crosby has recently issued a very concise little pamphlet, entitled "Common Minerals and Rocks." It is published by the Boston Society of Natural History as one of their guides for science teaching. The price is only thirty-five cents. A set of forty-six minerals and rocks spoken of in the volume are sold with it for $1.00 extra.

The determination of a portion of the students of the Institute, to attend in a body the performance of the "Black Crook," on the 2d inst., met with considerable censure from another portion. A mass meeting was called to disapprove the visit, but finally contented itself with passing resolutions requesting those who went to preserve the good name of the Institute.

Subscribers may obtain copies of the paper which they have not yet received, by applying to H. F. Ross, Sec. of THE TECH.

Exchanges.

THE *American Machinist* is one of the best of our exchanges devoted to scientific interests. In general appearance it is much the same as the *Scientific American*, and it embodies many of the special advantages of that well-known journal. Its articles are finely illustrated, and written by engineers and men of high standing. We would especially recommend it to the notice of our mechanical students. The issue of Jan. 7 contains two interesting articles on locomotives. One gives a description of the swiftest American locomotive, built by the Baldwin works. Its regular running time is thirty-two mile in thirty-seven minutes, and its fastest mile ever made was in forty-five seconds. The second is on the locomotives of 1881; 1,775 having been turned out during the year, by eleven works in Pennsylvania and New England.

The *Boston Journal of Commerce* is a very able illustrated weekly paper, very handsome in appearance, devoted to the interests of engineering, manufacture, commerce, etc. It has technical articles on workshop matters, and gives considerable space to the cotton industry and machinery. In the issue of Dec. 31 will be found a paper on machine riveting, giving the advantages and disadvantages of this method, in comparison with hand riveting; and also some curious indicator cards, taken from actual work, and showing the reckless waste of steam which an ignorant setting of valves occasions.

The *Bates Student* for December is just in,—a monthly, of magazine form and good appearance; the four leading articles have considerable literary merit, and the editorial work is good. Our criticism, if we make any, would be on the weak character of the fun in the "Clippings."

The *Colby Echo* appears in a garb befitting the holidays, enclosed in a Christmas cover, appropriately embellished with palms, swallows, and butterflies. Delightful climate has our contemporary!

Harvard's new daily, the *Herald*, comes to hand, its first issue containing a notice of the