BLIND TAUGHT FARM

Two New York Boys Learn Art in Clinton Park.

One of Them Becomes So Expert Car. Separate Lettuce and Carrot Seeds and Tell Color of Different Flowers

New York.-The Children's Farm School in De Witt Clinton Park has taught two blind boys to raise "crops" equal in every respect to those of the children who can see. In fact, Mrs. Henry Parsons, in charge of the school, and Mr. Brady, the boys' teacher, insist that in the matter of beets and carrots the blind children's work was superior.

The subjects of the experiment are 'Carl and Peter, each 13 years old and strong boys for their years. Peter is totally blind and has to be led everywhere. Carl, who can't distinguish anything more than four inches away from his eyes, has just enough vision so that he can go and fill Peter's watering pot.

Carl's sister used to bring him to the park playground. Leaving him on a bench she would run off to the swings, and the boy would sit there listening to the other children playing. A gymnasium instructor saw Carl sitting there day after day and tried to think of some occupation for him. Finally the instructor suggested that a plot in the school garden be given to the boy. Then one day Carl came bringing Peter, and Mrs. Parsons decided to try the experiment of teaching the blind gardening for pleasure if not for profit.

On June 10 they began teaching Peter and Carl to raise beans, beets, carrots, onions, radishes, lettuce and corn, just as the other children do. A wooden fence was built around Peter's plot, along which cords were strung to serve as guides to the five rows of "crops" which were to be planted. Feeling these and measuring the distances by his fingers and arm Peter drew his miniature furrows and dropped or sprinkled his seeds. In his first attempt to cover the seeds he knocked the rows askew, but then by placing his hand on that of his teacher while he did a row in the right way Peter mastered that art.

No grown-up farmer would like to weed with his eyes shut, but that is what both Peter and Carl had learned to do. They were taken to other children's plots, allowed to feel the different seedlings as they appeared, and so taught to distinguish the tiny plants from weeds. Hand hose not more than a foot long were made for them. By keeping their left hand fingers a few inches ahead of the blade they did their hoeing without cutting down

Several weeks ago came the time for the first harvesting on the Children's Farm, which raises two rounds of crops in a summer. As radishes, beets and beans approached maturity the excitement among the small farmers waxed so tense that the distinction between meum and tuum was frequently lost to view and the boy whose beans matured early was likely to find himself minus the beans. Even the observation plots in charge of the instructors were robbed of their prize products. But to the credit of the farm be it said that while the destruction walked around them the <u>blind bors' crops were left undle</u>

> turbed. This harvesting was followed by the second planting. In this Peter. and Carl showed such marked improvement that Mrs. Parsons believes that gardening in some of its branches can be made an employment for the Fblind. The sowing of beets and carirots by the blind boys was the best done on the farm.

In a few weeks Peter and Carl have Bearned to distinguish the different meeds entirely by feeling. Peter has ta feat which beats that of the girl in 'Grimm's fairy stories who had to pick Shoutthe out of the ashes. That girl had theoretiful blue eyes, and even at that she had to call on her fairy godmother ito help her out. But Peter, who is totally blind, can take lettuce and scarrot seeds mixed together and sepfarate them correctly, though they are enough alike to deceive many persons who have their sight.

Peter's latest accomplishment is to distinguish bright colored flower petals one from the other apparently by some subtle difference in the texture of the blossess. That doesn't mean that he could tell whether it's a paie? pink or a light blue aster or recogmise any fine gradation of tint, but he knows a red petal from a yellow one.

Altogether the instructors are much pleased with the summer's experiment and are as eager as the boys to condinue it next year.

Microbe Fee of Farmers.

Sheffield, England.—At a meeting the other day of the British associaition Dr. Russell and Dr. Hutchinson. who have long been experimenting in soil fertility announced the discovery of the micro-organism which destroys the bacteria essential to the fertility of the soil.

A subsequent speaker declared that it was the most important agricultural discovery made in fifty years.

Large Cetton Crop in Egypt. Washington .- Egypt's cotton crop this year, it is estimated, will exceed 700,000,000 pounds, and Consul Birch at Alexandria reports that probably it will be the largest crop ever yielded by Egyption fields.

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WHEAT PAYS WELL IN EAST

Interesting Story of How New Yorker's Massachusetts Barm Raised Big Crop.

Springfield. Mass. - Although the wheat fields of the far west are generally supposed to be very large, the department of agriculture has issued an estimate that in states where the fields are the largest their size averages little more than 100 acres. New England has the smallest wheat fields, the average in Vermont being only three. That wheat is indigenous to the soil of Massachusetts is declared in the reports of the Massachusetts Agricultural college and that it can be grown profitably in Berkshire county is asserted by experts who have made an examination of the soil of the hill towns.

A Lenox farmer, George W. Ferguson, has this year harvested 417 bushels of winter wheat from ten and seven-tenths acres of land and sold the wheat in a Pittsfield market for \$2.50 a bushel. The wheat is to be tosed as seed wheat, so clean and perfect was the product. Mr. Ferguson has for 16 years managed Pine Croft farm, a typical country farm in Lenox owned by Frederick Augustus Schermerhorn of New York. Besides overseeing a farm of 335 acres. Mr. Ferguson has served Lenox as a selectman for several years and last year was chairman of the board. Pine Croft comes up to one's idea of a country farm. It is not a city lot, such as some farms of Lenox millionaires become, but is the nearest to pature that its owner can make it. One of the few groves of primeval forests in western Massachusetts are on this property. Farmer Ferguson began raising wheat to feed his poultry because wheat was high. For several years he produced enough wheat for home consumption, using the straw for bedding purposes. Its return in value astonished him. He found it of a good profit and determined upon

an experiment. On the ten acre lot grew sections of quack grass. He wanted to get rid of this growth and plowed the lot and sowed it entirely to buckwheat. This hardy grain successfully killed out the quack grass. Its heavy body shut out the sun from the soil beneath its bulky growth and the foreign grass died from the want of sunshine. With the buckwheat well along last year Mr. Ferguson had it blowed under and fertilized the lot with some fertilizer left over from the spring planting. Possibly two tons of commercial fertilizer was used in preparing the field of over ten acres for

red winter wheat which was sown. From this experimental lot Mr. Ferguson has just reaped a bumper crop of wheat. Not only was the wheat perfect in head, every kernel being filled out, but the body of straw was excellent.

TRIES HARD TO JOIN LOVER

Grand Rapids Girl Attempts to Entlet but Balks on Request to Remove Clothes.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Held back for a day, a story of a young girl in male attire and evidently wishing to join her sweetheart in the east has just come out of the local United States marine corps recruiting station.

The "young man" in question entered the station stating "he" wished to enlist in the service to be sent to New York as soon as possible. Not understanding why the applicant should be sent so hurriedly to the training station, the officer asked the applicant to explain. Faint, but very determined, the answer was given that a close friend by the name of Brown was sent by the local recruiting officer and is now in New York very ill, and it was "his" wish to be near "his" friend as soon as possi-

The preliminary examination was, hurried through and the prospective recruit shown to the next room where "he" was asked to remove "his" clothing that the remainder of the examination might be finished. After waiting for an usual length of time for the "lad" to appear, the officer called "him." No reply being received the door was opened. The room was not occupied. The window leading to the ball was open and on the floor near by was found a lady's handkerchief. wet with tears, which had an initial "B" in the corner.

DAYS OF CANAL MULE ENDED

Tugboat Seems to Se Practical Solution of Waterway Puzzle in Penneyiyania.

Mauch Chunk, Pa.—The days of the canal mule at last seem numbered as the result of repeated experiments by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, and tugs promise to become the power to move the coal-laden chunkers on the company's canal.

After trying different electrical appliances during the past few years and finding that it was not feasible to use electricity, a coal-laden barge bound for Bristol was taken in tow by a tug and made four miles per hour. It went over the nine miles level in 314 hours, which is about two hours and a half less than it is generally done by mule power. Other tests are to be made by the steamer and if successful the mule will have

to go. Several years ago the company built a trolley line along the townsth from here to Canlport and Weissport for the purpose of moving the boats, but it was found inexpedient and the mule was again brought into service.

ARE HIGH IN STUDY

Women and Athletes Lead Other Students at University.

Co-eds Rank 4 Per Cent Higher Than Men and Average Work of Fraternity and Sorority Members Not Up to Standard.

Champaign, Ill.--That athletes of the University of Illinois rank higher than the average young men students in their class work is the interesting fact discovered by Professor T. A. Clark, dean of men, after reviewing an average of the grades of every student at the Champaign-Urbana branch of the university. This same investigation shows that the co-eds rank 4 per cent higher in their studies than men and further that the average work of the fraternity and sorority members is not quite up to the standard.

To get this information Dean Clark set a number of clerks at work. Each student's grades for both semesters was averaged according to the number of hours taken in the subjects. Thus a record of more than 3,700 students was obtained, an average in general made and then the special classes of students considered were compared with this general average.

For the general average of the three thousand men students the figures were 81.11 for the first semester and \$1.31 for the second semester, or a general average of \$1.21 for the year. The seven hundred or more co-eds averaged 86.04 the first semester and 85.02 the second semester, or 85.53 for the entire year.

All the members of the football, baseball, track, swimming and basketball squads were counted in the list of athletes. The two hundred or more considered had an average of 82.74 for the first semester and 81.78 the mecond semester, or 82.26 for the year. The track squad had the high average of 83.07 for the year and the basketball players a low average. Another interesting discovery is that the athletes did 4 per cent better work the semester they were most actively engaged in athletics than during the semester in which they were not. An exception in this, however, was found in the baseball squad, which on account of numerous trips, as well as long practice periods, naturally fell

down in their class work. Commenting on this, Dean Clark says: "You can't quite say that an athlete necessarily breaks down in his college studies. This may be true of other colleges, because I really think we look after things more carefully than they do at some institutions."

Fraternity men were discovered to be alightly lower than the average young man's ranking, and the literary society members much higher than the average. It was also discovered that the fraternity men who took the most interest in the general university affairs had the highest averages, and that the fraternity men least interested in general college matters were the poorest fraternity students, thus disproving the general claim made by state fraternity men that they have too many other interests besides their class work.

The sorority young women, generally speaking, were found to compare in about the same proportion to the grand total as did the men. The local clubs and sororities showed about the same as the fraternities and sorori-

With these figures as a basis it is probable the fraternity men will be asked to adopt a rule that pledgers must pass at least 12 hours of university work before they can be initiated. If they do not, the university authorities probably will. The sororities have already taken action in this

The figures further show that the fraternity men from larger cities, such as from Chicago, are the poorer scholare, and the same can also be said of some of the members chosen because of appearance and first impres-

MONEY LIES IDLE IN COURTS

Nearly \$10,000,000 in Unclaimed Funds in England Alone—Reduce National Debt.

London.-A recent publication of the Law Journal has an interesting article on the subject of the unclaimed funds lying in court. "Some of those," it says, "who are at present engaged in the quest of treasure supposed to be buried in sunken Spanish galleons might possibly turn their attention with greater profit to the mass of unclaimed treasure which stands to the cerdit of suitors in the books of the

pay office of the supreme court. The amount so standing in England alone at the present day is nearly \$10,000,000, of which the interest and a large part of the capital will, in default of a successful petition, ultimately go to the reduction of the national debt.

Diet of Dried Fruits. San Francisco.--Twenty students of Stanford university have agreed to submit themselves to a diet of dried fruits for an indefinite time to assist in a government experiment. They will eat dried fruit at all their meals. and the effects of the various prepared fruits on their bealth will be noted: by Dr. Swain of the department of chemistry at the university.

MAN MAKES HIMSELF YOUNG

Extraordinary Success Claimed for Sir James Grant's Method-Vitality Amazes.

London. -Sir James Grant, the wellknown Canadian physician, a recipient of many foreign honors, believes that he has discovered, not exactly the elixir of life, but at any rate a means of greatly prolonging youth back to some extent.

Sir James is himself the best advertisement of his method, for he possesses amazing vitality for his age. now nearly seventy-seven years. He is visiting London, and he looks like a man in his fifties. His secretary, a young man, says it is difficult to keep up with the work his employer does.

Two years ago Sir James created a sensation at a meeting of the British association by a paper on the extraordinary rejuvenating powers of electricity. He has since then treated himself by his own method, with results that he describes as wonderful, and he has also had much success with a number of eminent patients on the other side of the Atlantic. His treatment consists of electrical applications by means of a special battery and systematized mas-

MAGO. A writer in the Pall Mall Gazette says he walked with Sir James a distance of half a mile, and could not help commenting on his vigor and energy. He asked Sir James if he wore spectacles, and Sir James replied:

"Yes, I do wear spectacles. I have worn them for forty years-until such such time as I began to treat myself with electricity and massage; today I do almost the whole of my reading and writing without using any spectacles at all. My hearing is as good as ever, and I feel that I have

the energy of a man of forty. "I notice that your city is full of taxicabs, but so far as I am concerned I never ride where I can walk, and, indeed, if I were challenged I would undertake to run a smile a day. I can hardly believe that I am seventy-seven, and for this happy state of affairs I thank my elec-

trical treatment."
Sir James does not believe either in alcohol or tobacco.

HE WAS HEIR TO MILLIONS

Mystery of Daniel Sheridan's Disappearance is Cleared Away After Many Years.

London.-The mystery of the disappearance of Daniel Sheridan, the American claimant of the "Blake Millions," has been solved at last. It is some months since the Star printed a story about the pathetic struggle of this Irish-American farmer to obtain the fortune left by Mrs. Helen Blake, who died intestate in London. in 1876. Her property, then \$700,000, has been in the hands of the crown ever since, and, counting the accumulated interest, is now estimated to be nearly \$2,500,000.

A letter just received by that newspaper from Daniel Sheridan's son, Joseph, who lives in Quincy, Ill., reveals the fact that an old, homeless, nameless man, who died in Lambeth infirmary on December 19, 1896, was the lost claimant for the "millions." Mrs. Blake was Helen Sheridan, a

beautiful lighth girl, when she was married to Capt. Robert Dudley Blake, a young officer of dragoons stations in Dublin. He later became a gen eral. Daniel Sheridan asserted be was Mrs. Blake's cousin, the son of her father's elder brother, and he came to London to prosecute his claim from Kankakee county, Illinois, in 1885, being then a man of seventy. He could not, however, obtain the necessary evidence to satisfy the treasury that he was the next of kin. His money dwindled away, he was heavily in debt for board and lodging, and all the while his family were writing to him from America upon the idea that he had obtained the fortune and reproaching him for deserting them. But the old man would not go back without the money.

For a time he was an inmate of a workbouse. On his discharge from there he wrote to his son that he was going to Ireland to find some one who knew him as a boy. That was the last his family ever heard of him. He seems to have wandered about helpless, hopeless, a broken man, until on December 6, 1896, he was once more admitted to the Lamberth infirmary. He gave no address, and three days later he died.

TIPLESS HOTEL IN NEW YORK

Remarkable Hestelry Will Be for Women Only-Prices Placed on Cost Basis.

New York.-A tipless hotel in New York, an institution that many persons think should take rank with the other "seven wonders of the world." is to be opened November, 15. The new hotel is to be for women exclusively, and its establishment is due to the activity of Miss Virginia Potter, niece of the late Bishop Potter; Mrs. Henry Olisheimer and several other influential women.

A guest will not have to fill her hand with dimes to distribute on the way from her room to the aldewalk. She may even push the button for ice water or order the porter to move her luggage without fear of the everpresent holdup. An employee found accepting a tip in the hotel will have to look elsewhere for a job. Room and board may be had for \$3.50 to \$6 a week.

TW. 16. YGROUND LESSONS

One W.n. Administered by a Judge and Another by the Boys Themselves.

In St. Louis three boys of well-to-do parents were brought before a magistrate, charged with maliciously damaging the public playground apparatus when it was first installed. The magistrate might have imposed a money fine, but instead, says the Twentieth Centur Magazine, he senteneed the boys to work on the playground on Salurday afternoons until the work done equaled the value of the property destroyed.

The shamefaced trio went to work. The rest played and looked while the three worked. All learned a concrete lesson in respect for law and property. Now the boys of this playground understand that the playground belongs to them, and no "best girl" is more jealously safeguarded by more ardent admirers.

A similar instance occurred in Starr garden, in Philadelphia, under the management of the Playgrounds association of Philadelphia. Some of the baseball bats and balls were stolen. There were that many less for the rest to play with.

When this became apparent those balls and bats were ferneted out by the growd and the offenders received a sound drubbing and forcible admonishment. The bats and balls are back in action once more and the crowd proposes to see that they stay where they belong-to the crowd.

SHORT SHRIFT FOR BORES

Japanese Engineer's Clever Device for Getting Rid of Garrulous Speakers in Parliament.

A Japanese engineer named Yamaskawa has conceived a method of silencing parliamentary bores, and from his invention he is entitled to be considered a benefactor of the human

Attached to each seat in the house of parliament he proposes to have a metal tube, the top being about the size of a franc piece or shilling. Each member of the house is to receive a leaden ball or bullet on entering. These balls can be easily passed into the tube, which, carried under the floor, leads to a receptacle immediately under the place where a member stands when addressing the assembly.

This spot is like the traps on the stage of a theater. The trap is so arranged that when a certain number of balls-not less than one-half the number of members of a full house—have reached their receptacle the trap is made to descend automatically, carrying with it the garrulous speaker or bore, as the case may be.

No points of order have to be raised. The displeasure of the house is manifest in silence. Away goes the bore and another speaker is called upon.-London Globe.

Grass Widows "In these modern times," said the professor, "grass widows are so common a product that one hears very little about them. Only a few years ago, however, the word was on every tongue and one heard idle and absurd calculations as to the origin of the term 'grass.' I've heard speculations as to grass widows making hay while the sun shines' when some divorces was to be married, and others as towhether it was because the grass was green' on the yet undug grave of the ex-husband, 'Grass widow' is a phrase that is just a degeneracy of pronun-

ciation. "The word should be 'grace widow," a term for one who becomes a widow by grace or favor, not of necessity, as by death. It originated in the earlier ages of European civilization, when divorces were not common and could be obtained only by favor of the Catholic church. When such a decree was granted to a woman the papal rescript stated 'Viduca de gratia,' which interpreted is 'widow of grace.' "

Flats. Smaller and smaller grow the flats of New York. Now you can get an apartment consisting of one room, a kitchemette, a bathroom and a closet, big enough for two persons to live in if they don't mind being crowded. Two-room apartments are common enough, but strangely enough many of them cost as much as a six-room flat, sometimes more. In Eightysixth street, near Broadway, stands a 14-story apartment house which makes a specialty of two-room and kitchenette apartments. They rent for \$1.006 a year, and on the next street one carerent a six-room apartment for \$900. Rents have gone up all over the city, and it's a wonder where so many hundred thousands of persons get the money.-New York Telegraph.

What Girls Are Called. The most popular names for girlswhat are they? Statistics have been amassed by some one in a girls' college, where there is an enrollment of 1.600. Of this number more than 100 have the name of-not Gwendolen, or Gladys, or Patricia, or Doris, or Juliet. or Marie, or Ines, or Marcia, or Persis, or Eugenie, or Geraldine, or Hortense, or Muriel-but just Helen. One-sixteenth of all the girls bore this name, which means Light. Mary came see and with less than 90.. Then followed Margaret, Ruth, Florence and Elisaboth, in that order. Old-fashioned names are frequent. There are still many Hopes and Derothys, and a few Bmilys and Penelopes, but Abigail, Huidah and Hopelbah seem to have outlived their popularity in America.

KEEP THE CHILDREN YOUNG

Putting Too Much Responsibility on the Older Ones is Not Entirely Fair.

Is it quite fair, do you think, to ask your older children to take the government of the younger out of your

hands Of course, the "little mother" is a pathetic product of the slams; but in families much further up the social scale one sees so often a sort of delegation of command that would be amusing if it were not so hard on the "delegates."

"Mary, take baby out for a walk." "James, I am going out; stay home and watch your sister." "Boys, stop playing; Willie wants you to amuse "Surely you're not going out alone, daughter? Take your little brother with you!" Again and again one hears speeches such as these, followed by resigned obedience or sulky rebellion.

Naturally, the older children should feel some sense of responsibility and of helpfulness; they should-and will -love and want to please the younger brothers or sisters; but their mothers should not forget that, after all, they are only children, too, though a few years further off from babyhood, and that they need their playtime.

Indeed, if only for the sake of the younger ones, this lazy practise for, except in some cases of sickness or overwork, that is all it is-should be discontinued; for the poor little things suffer often by the bad temper or the inexperience of their caretakers.

Keep all your childra young as long as you can, even if it means a little extra work with the smallest ones.

MOST ATTRACTIVE AFTER 30

Women Who Have Passed That Age Without Becoming Sour Are Liked by Men.

Some man has said—and many have echoed his sentiments-that the most attractive woman in the world is an unmarried, good-looking woman between 30 and 40-providing her spinsterbood has not soured her disposition. A woman at that age has usually acquired a certain polse, has kept her person exquisitely groomed and her wits sharpened. Cares of the household have not deterred her from keeping up to date in plays and books and music, and even though she may be a bread winner, she is more likely to have found time to acquire some accomplishments which will make her sought after; occasionally she even has that rare one of being a good listener-and every man will agree with me that that, of all feminine accomplishments, is quite the most charming. The man has never seen her with her hair screwed into "natural wavers" or pouring the coffee in a solled dressing gown, but naturally another side-but what does it matter since only she herself knows it?

When a maid arrives at the age of twenty-five, from then until forty let her buckle on her strongest armor and take up her spear well sharpened for the fray. She will need themfor it is during that inclusive period that she is most dangerously attractive to men, especially to married men. -Philippa Lyman, in Smart Set.

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Bad Habit Broken Up. This one is told on a Louisville butcher. We shall call him Bill, besauce that is not his nes

A customer had gone into his shop to purchase a beef roast. Now, it seems that Bill used to have a most annoying habit (to the patrons) of bearing down with a heavy hand upon the scales. This high-cost-of-living thing, and all that, were had enough in all conscience, thought some of his patrons, but one of them finally broke Bill of this trick, and now he gives full weight every time.

As was stated, the customer was buying a beef roast, and Bill slyly was helping out the work of the scales with one pudgy fist when, before a shopful of people, the buyer said: Take your hand off that scale, Bill.

I'm buying beef, not pork." Since then no one has had to chide Bill for a similar act.—Louisville

Outside the Pale. As the car swung sharply around from Shaker street not a man arous to offer his seat to the handsomely gowned woman who was clinging desperately to one of the straps, says their Chicago News. Whereupon Mrs. Kyckers, who was sitting next to hen husband, exclaimed indignantly: "I think it is just shameful for all you men to stay seated and make that poor woman stand!" Mr. Kyckern was not impressed. "Do you know who!" that woman is?" he asked. "No," his wife retorted, "I don't know who she is; and it doesn't make any difference who she is; she's a woman, and ought to be treated with decency." Mr. Kyckers spoke patiently, "My dear," he said, "she is the wife.

The Cat Did It. At East Liverpool, O., a boy was told to carry a cat away and drown. her. He put her in a covered basket and started off; but she got out of the basket and in running away frightened a horse into running away. The animal ran for a mile and then hit a telephone pole and was hilled. The boy got a licking, the cat got away and a \$200 horse was killed, all because nobody knew enough to tie at bell to pussy's stail and let her scare herself out of the neighborhood. The bell will work the trick every time.

of the trolley company's president."

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS