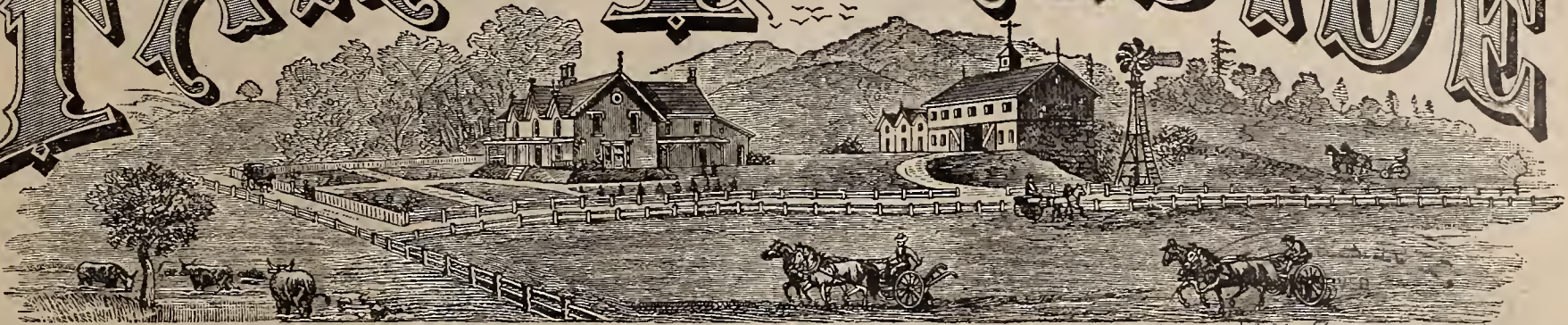


FARM AND FIRESIDE



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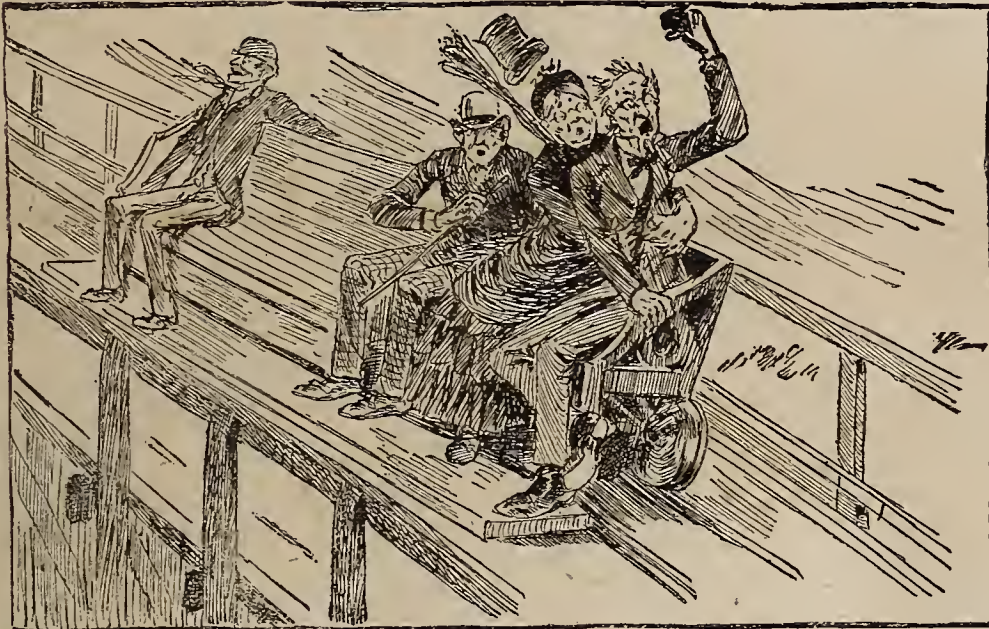
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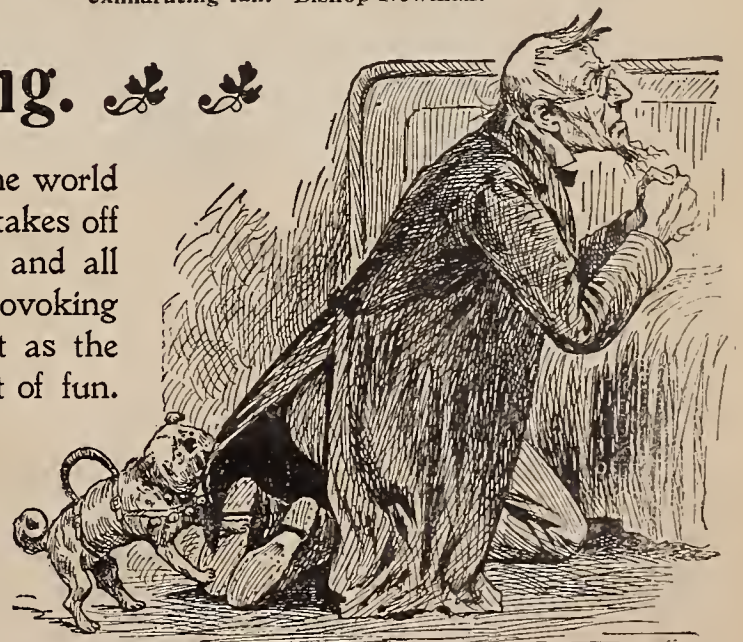
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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Feeding Our cows and horses are once more closely confined in the stables, and being fed on dry food. Again the problem is before us how to feed properly and economically. The subject seems to me of such vast importance, and yet so little understood, even after so much has been said for some time past about "balanced rations," etc., that I cannot refrain from transcribing some notes made at the New York breeders' meeting last year, containing the gist of Dr. Smead's remarks on feeding farm stock. The following is the substance of the doctor's talk:

"Just this practice of feeding unbalanced rations and ignorance in breeding are what keep the veterinary surgeon in business. The skilful breeder often selects his animals, and mates them with good judgment, and then ruins all by his ignorance in feeding. When a young animal is improperly fed, its digestive organs are overtaxed, and the animal grows up a dyspeptic. The stomach is ruined, and all sorts of ailments follow, even to ring-bones and spavins. The veterinary surgeon reaps the benefit from these errors by securing business. For the farmer's sake I am glad that timothy hay is scarce. The best timothy hay ever cut (while in bloom) will starve a horse or cow if you feed it long enough and nothing else. This hay, when most palatable and most easily digested, has a nutritive ratio of one to twelve, while the animal requires one of one to five and one half, or when more exposed, one to seven or one to eight. When you go beyond one to nine, you will soon see the evil results, especially when the animal is kept closely confined. Five times out of six a horse has no trouble with his teeth. Sometimes he may have worms. But if he is given a balanced ration, and thus nature's laws are complied with, there would not be worms enough in him to do any harm.

"The veterinary surgeon lives on the ignorance of the people. He cannot give every man a lecture, so when called to

cure a timothy-fed horse, he truthfully tells the owner that the animal's digestion is out of order and its liver torpid. He puts up a lot of powders of some bitter stuff (gentian, etc.), one to be given three times a day in a lot of bran and perhaps some linseed-oil meal, and enough of that to balance the ration. In a few weeks the bran and oil-meal will have effected a wonderful cure. But there is not medicine enough in the world to offset a bad ration.

"Farmers feed anything and everything they just happen to have. The cows are dried off in December, and then turned off on straw and corn stalks, with perhaps a little corn-meal. Straw has a nutritive ratio of one to thirty, corn-stalks of one to fourteen and corn-meal of one to ten. The whole combination will make a ratio of about one to twelve or fourteen. A cow may look reasonably well on such food, but when she has her calf, bowel and other troubles will set in. The ratio should be one to five or six. She has had to eat and digest about two and one half times as much starch and heat formers as required for her sustenance in order to get what albumen she needs. She cannot get enough of the muscle and blood forming elements. Straw starves a cow while she apparently may get fat. The muscles lack tone and vitality. She may get along all right for awhile, but after calving her appetite will fail, and weakness comes.

"Ensilage is not a balanced food. Cows fed on it without anything to balance the ration may bring forth a calf that is apparently strong and healthy. But soon it gets the scours, and dies. Usually, when a cow that is given improper food loses her appetite for it, she is forthwith declared to have 'hollow horn,' or to be 'hidebound,' and all sorts of absurd remedies are proposed or tried, such as boring a hole through the horn, splitting the tail, etc. Correct the ration, and the cow will get well.

"Sheep are often said to have 'nervous prostration.' The trouble is mostly in the food. It requires food to develop twin lambs. The ewe is given straw and oats and corn. It is not the right food. The ewe has no milk, and the lambs die. An animal can be fat, even very fat, and yet starve to death. Fattening hogs usually are given corn or corn-meal, and little, if anything, else. We used to make these hogs weigh four hundred to five hundred pounds apiece. These fat lumps of grease have very little blood. The small (one hundred and fifty pounds) hogs have twice as much. The fat ones have no nerve or vitality—only starch and fat. If kept a few weeks longer they would have died, starved for the lack of protein—nerve and muscle food. A hog fed exclusively on corn will starve to death in just about one hundred and twenty days."

Wheat-bran and linseed-oil meal have often been mentioned as two of the best and cheapest foods with which to balance a faulty ration. They make muscle and blood and bone. This last fall I have secured my winter's supply of bran at eight dollars and nine dollars a ton. This is remarkably cheap, especially when we consider that the value of the article is not alone in its properties as direct food, but in the correction of the faulty ration, thereby saving waste and preventing injurious effects of the improper feeding. Linseed-oil meal at present rates is also a very cheap food, and useful in the same two directions. We can well afford to be very liberal in the use of bran and oil-meal. If I had timothy hay and could sell it at say twelve dollars or so a ton, I am sure I would let it go very quickly, and feed the much cheaper straw, with wheat-bran and oil-meal.

Quinces are grown largely in this vicinity, and they are a pretty sure crop, bearing almost with unfailing certainty every year. Sometimes we can get a pretty good price—two dollars and more a barrel, pony size, for them; sometimes they are a drug on the market. On the whole, they pay

about as well as other tree fruits. The soil here is a kind of clay loam, reasonably well drained. But like all other fruits, the quince does its best only when given good treatment as to manure and cultivation, and yet its common fate is neglect. My friend Mr. W. W. Meech, of Vineland, N. J., has revised his book on quince-growing, first published about eight years ago, and the publishers, Orange Judd Company, of New York, have kindly placed a copy on my table. It is not generally known that quince-trees can be propagated by cuttings. Mr. Meech says on this subject:

Quince-trees from Cuttings. "Propagation by cuttings is probably the best method of multiplying quince-trees. Cuttings off large branches are better than those of small shoots. The amount of wood seems to measure the vital force of form, both roots and tops. From twelve to fifteen inches is a good length, enabling the plant to go deeply, and so guard against drought. Small cuttings may be cut shorter, and have a piece of apple or quince root grafted on to push them. The chief thing is to guard against the exhaustion of sap by evaporation until roots are formed. . . . The fall, after the leaves have dropped, is generally preferred for taking



the cutting; but they may be taken much later. I have had some cuttings grow in the open air which were made in May, after the trees were growing." The illustration shows a large cutting, planted and growing. The reader will see that it is not difficult for any one to make his own quince-trees, if larger trees are accessible to furnish the wood. T. GREINER.

Natural Plant-food. Bulletin No. 108 of the New York agricultural experiment station (Geneva), under the title of "The Real Value of 'Natural Plant-food,'" is a most timely exposure of an imposition which has been practised upon the farmers of the state for some months past. The sale of a material known as "Natural Plant-food" has been vigorously pushed among the farmers. The station has collected samples of this material and analyzed them. The guarantee statement of the manufacturer is given and its numerous features pointed out. The station's analysis is then given, which shows that the material is a mixture of raw Florida phosphate and green sand-marl, containing very little available plant-food. A most generous estimate of the value of "Natural Plant-food" would make it worth little more than ten dollars a ton, while it is usually sold to farmers at twenty-five to twenty-eight dollars a ton. This is probably the most serious imposition practised upon our farmers for some time on so large a scale, and the station's promptness in making this exposure for the protection of our farmers deserves strong commendation.

Farm Home Reading Circle. The Michigan Agricultural College has again proven itself alive to the needs and demands of the general farming population. The fundamental

purpose of the agricultural college is to educate farmers' sons and daughters toward the farm, and not away from it. She is doing this, and in addition is making it possible for those who cannot afford a college course to become posted on agricultural topics through the Farm Home Reading Circle. One of the objects of the Farm Home Reading Circle is to recommend the best books for the farmer, gardener and stock-breeder to read, and at the same time to furnish an opportunity for the farmer to buy those books at greatly reduced prices.

The Farm Home Reading Circle, above all, claims to educate the present generation, those who are now farming, rather than the future generation. Those farmers who think there is nothing for them to learn in books are yearly getting more scarce. On the other hand, we are glad to note a very large number of our farmers are almost constantly asking guidance in the selection of books to read which will be of practical benefit to them in their work. Again we say this is the object of the Farm Home Reading Circle. It can no longer be called an experiment, for it has been more successful than any other similar movement. It is stronger to-day than ever before. We have a large number of members, not only in Michigan, but also in several other states and in Canada. Several changes have been made since the Farm Home Reading Circle was first organized, and we are sure that no one interested in farming, gardening, fruit-growing or stock-breeding can find a more profitable employment for the long winter evenings than to take up the course of reading outlined. It is not necessary to organize a reading-circle to get the benefits of this course. You can read alone.

Please remember that this is not a money-making scheme. We are trying to place within easy access of every farmer information of value to him in his everyday work. For further information address the secretary.

HERBERT W. MUMFORD,
Agricultural College, Michigan.

MOUND-BUILDER AND HISTORICAL RELICS.

The Ohio State University and the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society have been engaged during the past three years in making a large and important collection of Indian, mound-builder and pioneer relics. These have been placed in an absolutely fire-proof museum on the grounds of the state university at Columbus.

While Ohio is the richest state in remains of the aborigines, it was not until recently that the state collection became large enough to be favorably compared with similar exhibits in the eastern museums. For many years Ohio has been despoiled of valuable and interesting relics by these eastern institutions. Our own people have given the subject of the preservation and study of these things very little thought.

There are in the hands of persons over the state many thousands of stone, bone and clay objects made and used by primitive tribes; old books, manuscripts, land grants, old letters and other historical documents relating to the settlement of Ohio; pioneer relics, such as old clocks, spinning-wheels, nails, wooden springs, coins, etc. These will become lost or scattered. That they should be preserved and properly labeled and cared for in behalf of future generations goes without saying.

The museum at the Ohio State University is the proper repository for all such things. Once placed there, they can never be burned or stolen. Every specimen in the museum is properly labeled with the name of the person who donated it, the date and other particulars. The State Historical Society, together with the university, desires to make a strong plea to the people of Ohio to send by express or freight any relics in their possession. The charges on same will gladly be paid by the museum, and due credit given the donors. From those who do not care to donate, specimens will be received on loan, subject to withdrawal at the option of the owners.

The curator of the university will be glad to correspond with all patriotic persons regarding the work of the museum and the character of its exhibits.

WARREN KING MOREHEAD,
Curator Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

MISTAKES AND FAILURES.—The average mortal prefers to tell of his successes rather than his failures, but the chances are that he may learn more from the latter than the former, and thus be better equipped for future work. In the beginning of a new year we do well to look back and note some of our many mistakes and failures. Here and there can be seen the places where dollars were dropped—dollars that one needs and wants.

A WHEAT FAILURE.—Side by side with a rather extra wheat-field last harvest there lay three acres of land that was practically a total failure. The fall of 1895 was very dry, and this three-acre plot had grown a corn crop. It was ready for wheat and then mixed hay. The soil is a rather clayey loam. In order that the seeding to grass might be well done, the corn was drawn from the field as fast as it was cut. The work was laborious and costly. Then the breaking-plow was used, followed by roller and harrow. A smooth, fine seed-bed was obtained, but the fact was lost sight of that the subsoil was excessively dry, and thorough fining of the soil utterly failed to attract sufficient moisture to replace that lost in breaking the ground. There was lack of judgment, and total loss of labor.

TIMOTHY IN WHEAT.—The common practice is to sow timothy with wheat in the fall, when the plan is to sow clover in the spring for mixed hay and for fertilizing purposes. On good soils I have often seen nearly total failures to get the needed clover in this way. The timothy gets the start, and prevents the tiny clover-plants from getting a good foothold. A large acreage of land needing clover is annually robbed of its chance to become enriched through this fertilizing plant by the extra show timothy gets by reason of its having the start of it. It seems strange that many who want clover badly persist in seeding with timothy in the fall. If mixed hay is wanted, the safest course on rich soils is to sow both kinds of seed in the spring. Let the clover have a fair show. The truth is that many are more desirous of making sure of a stand of timothy than one of clover, because the former makes a better cash crop than the latter. They know that clover is needed, and the seed is sown, but if the timothy comes on well they are satisfied. It is an exhaustive crop, impoverishing a farm from which it is sold, and it is a losing game in the end to seed much land to timothy alone. The first crop of hay should be more than half clover, and then the decaying roots feed future crops.

FOUL GRASS-SEED.—Many years ago the writer sowed some clover-seed that was foul with plantain. The results of this failure to use proper care are yet apparent, and the loss has been serious. Year after year this pest has been fought, but when one crop of plantain-seed is allowed to go into the ground, some of this seed may remain six or eight years in the soil before it germinates. Plantain ripens its seed in August, just as red clover does, and there is no efficient way of eradicating this weed, except by abandonment of clover, or the plowing under of the clover sod soon after the clover-hay crop is removed. Mowing does not keep it from seeding sufficiently to keep the ground filthy. I write of fields devoted wholly to a rotation of plowed crops and grass for hay. Pasture-land may be cleaned by stock which grazes upon the plantain as well as the grass. Within two months farmers will be buying clover and grass seeds, and they should not pay for a pound of it until personal examination shows that the seed is pure. Dealers' opinions on this point are not safe guides. Examine the seed and see what is in it. The seeds of all noxious weeds should be known to farmers. The use of filthy grass-seeds is causing a big loss of money.

BREEDING-STOCK GONE.—When the supply of horses became greater than the demand a few years ago, and prices fell

so seriously, the animals that commanded the best figures were marketed first from most farms. They would sell when others would not, and the result is that in many sections there are very few brood-animals that are worthy of the name. Already there is demand for good general-purpose and draft horses, and comparatively few farmers are prepared to furnish them for the market five or six years hence, when there is reason to expect fairly good prices. The mares that could furnish desirable colts are gone, and cannot be easily replaced. Animals of poor form and mongrel breeding are in abundance, but we have learned that the mating of the best sires to ordinary mares is disappointing in most cases. The offspring may meet the needs of buyers, but usually does not. A serious mistake has been made in neglecting probable future demand along this line, and while prophecy is hazardous, I believe that the few men who have choice brood-mares will make more money in the near future than those engaged in the production of other kinds of stock. The trouble is that very few have such animals and can reap the profit.

DAVID.

ONLY A WEED.

(Concluded.)

Belladonna (*Atropa belladonna*), more commonly known as deadly nightshade, is a poison, but like *Digitalis* and other poisons, is valuable when properly used. I am sorry to say it is often improperly and foolishly used by many fashionable women, because of its effects on the eyes, enlarging the pupils and making them more brilliant. As a medicine it is mainly used in the form of an extract from the leaves, and is valuable in cases of convulsions, epilepsy, neuralgia, gout, rheumatism and all nervous affections.

Aconite (*Aconitum napellus*), the well-known wolf's-bane, or monk's-hood, is a native of Europe, but nearly always found in old-fashioned gardens in this country. It is one of the chief remedies of the homeopathic practice, though largely used by the old school as well. It is mainly used as a tincture from the root, and is a sovereign remedy in high and stubborn fevers, producing excessive perspiration and a most soothing effect.

Mustard, both black (*Sinapis nigra*) and white (*Sinapis alba*), is common in this country. The seeds are the parts mainly used in medicine. Mustard is an irritant, and in external uses will produce a blister; in large doses it is an emetic in cases of poisoning. It is also a valuable remedy in dyspepsia and stomach troubles, some really wonderful cases being recorded by the use of mustard alone.

Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*), the common white poppy cultivated in our gardens. The whole plant contains a milky juice, which, on becoming thickened or hardened, constitutes the drug widely known as opium. The opium of commerce comes mainly from Turkey and China, where the white poppy is extensively cultivated. Authorities tell us that no medicine has ever been discovered that can



BELLADONNA.

compare with opium in moderating and relieving pain or in producing sleep. Laudanum, so largely used, is simply the tincture of opium. Paregoric is a milder preparation of opium, benzoic acid, oil of anis and gum camphor diluted in alcohol.

Did space permit, I might go on through several columns of this journal and give you much interesting and valuable information concerning our common weeds and flowers and their medicinal properties, but I will close with a brief mention of a few best known to the reader:

Milkweed. A remedy for dropsy.
Mullein. Used in dysentery, coughs, and bleeding from the lungs.

Poke-root, also known as shoke-root. Used for its purifying effects in scrofula, skin diseases, and also in rheumatic affections.

Spicewood, also known as spice-bush, wild allspice and fever-bush. A cooling drink is made from an infusion of the twigs and bark, for use in fevers; a tincture made from the berries is a remedy for colic. The ripe berries, bruised, and mixed with sweet-oil, are used as a liniment for bruises, sprains, rheumatism, etc.

Wormwood. An herb cultivated in our gardens. Strengthens the digestive organs. Used in dyspepsia, intermittent fever and chronic diarrhea.

Boneset. A valuable medicine in cases of intermittent and bilious fevers, in fever and ague and in dyspepsia. It was used by the Indians extensively as a cure for fever and ague, and called ague-weed by them, by which name the plant is known in the West.

Flaxseed is mainly used externally in the form of a poultice, alone, or mixed with a little corn-meal, and applied externally in all cases of inflammation and inflammatory sores and abscesses. Flaxseed tea is used effectively in coughs, affections of the lungs and in dysentery.

In our search for knowledge, we should remember that we may often find in the simpler works of the Creator that which is of greater value to mankind than the majority of the works of man, no matter



POPPY.

how skilful he may be. The aborigines of America had a saying in substance to the effect that for every ill of mankind the Creator had placed in the vegetable kingdom a remedy. It is also an acknowledged fact that vegetable medicines have far less ill effect on the human system than medicines compounded from minerals, proofs sufficient that they are designed by the Creator for this purpose. In the simplest weed we may find a priceless value.

GEORGE R. KNAPP.

FARMING BY THE FIRESIDE.

The evenings are getting longer as winter comes on, and after the day's work is done and all is snug for the night, it is a good time to do some thinking. The fact is the average farmer does not think half enough. Many work so hard that they do not have vital force enough left to do a good job of thinking. They act on the principle that hard work alone will bring success, which is a fallacy. While there is no royal road to successful farming, fruit-growing or any other rural pursuit, there is a vast difference between the net profits of the average hard-working but plodding tiller of the soil and of one who is wide awake.

One all-important thing that a large part of the farmers, gardeners and fruit-growers forget is that they must feed their crops. It is no more reasonable to shut live stock in a barren pasture-field and expect them to fatten than to look for good crops in a field, orchard or garden that has not been well manured either naturally or artificially. The most fertile soil will become poor after a few years of cropping without wise management. The exercise of wisdom in managing the soil is a considerable part of good farming, and it can be partly done by the fireside. It is often the case that an attempt is made to manure a piece of land by hauling on it a lot of coarse, bulky material that really has very little in it of actual manurial value. It is often nearly all trash and water. The value of much barn-yard and city-stable manures lies chiefly in their mechanical action on the soil by loosening it, and the humus they make by decaying. These are quite neces-

sary, and should not be left out of any plan for enriching the soil. But there are three essential elements in all true and perfect manures that cause crops to grow, within undefined limits, in proportion to their abundance. They are nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. No vegetation will grow without all of them, but much depends on the kind of crop to be grown as to which should predominate. If one desires to grow forage crops, such as grass, corn, etc., or vegetables which have a large leafy growth, they call for nitrogen in excess of the other two. The cheapest source from which to obtain nitrogen is the air, four fifths of which is composed of it, and the supply is therefore inexhaustible. The only way to draw upon this supply is through the clovers, cow-peas and a few other pod-bearing plants which have the peculiar faculty of absorbing it and storing it in their structures, especially in the roots. The growing of these crops will not only save the purchase of the most expensive of the three manures, but if plowed under, will loosen the soil and add the needed humus. Other substances that are rich in nitrogen are fish-scrap, tankage and animal refuse of almost any kind, nitrate of soda and other mineral nitrates.

Potash is said to be the backbone of all manures, whether home-made or commercial, and it is truly at the bottom of all vigorous and healthy plant growth. It gives fruits large size and delicious flavor, and, in connection with oxide of iron, high color. Grains and vegetables feel the effects of its presence also by vigorous development. It is a dissolvent of the various elements of the soil, and acts like the magic key of plant life to unlock the stores of nature for its use. The soil is in most places provided by nature with a generous supply, but continued cropping so reduces it that it becomes necessary to resort to artificial means to maintain the due proportion. Wood ashes contain it, but they are not always available, of proper strength and sufficiently cheap. The mines of Germany are exceedingly rich and practically inexhaustible. Their product is so cheap as to be within the reach of the farmers of nearly the whole civilized world. It appears in the markets chiefly as kainite, sulphate and muriate of potash, the latter perhaps being rather the best form for general use. Phosphoric acid also has a powerful effect on all that grows. It is found most abundantly in plants and trees in their most highly developed parts, as in the grains and seeds of every kind. It is lodged in the bones and nerves of animals, and it is from this source that we get it most cheaply when the supply in the soil becomes scarce from frequent drafts upon it by our crops. Hence, we should buy bone-meal, bone-black, dissolved bone and, in a fossilized condition, dissolved phosphate rock.

All these things, their use and much more are fully explained in the publications of almost every agricultural college and similar institutions in the country; and they are in nearly every case freely given to whoever wants them. Store the mind during these long winter evenings with knowledge as to how to use these three friends, and use every means to get all there is on the farm to work in developing home resources in the way of barn-yard and green manures, and then do not fear to buy liberally of those in which you are deficient.

H. E. VAN DEMAN.

Formerly Chief of the Division of Vegetable and Mineral Pathology.

Aches

And pains of rheumatism cannot be cured by local applications, but only by thoroughly purifying the blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla has power to accomplish permanent cures of rheumatism by its great blood purifying properties.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

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Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

OATS AND PEAS.—I think I have spoke of my experience with oats and peas once before. I am getting to be enthusiastic on the question. My onion-patches were sowed to oats and peas after the onions had been harvested. A part of the green stuff was cut and fed when nearly eighteen inches high. It made an enormous amount of fodder, and a veritable downpour of rich milk from the family cow all the time that we fed it. It made the most beautiful butter, too. I do not believe that there is any kind of food that one can give to milk-cows that will give better results than this green oats and pea fodder. A good lot of the crop, however, was yet uncut when the heavy freezes of December came, and saved us the trouble of cutting it. Now it lies prostrate on the ground, and there it will decay, forming a lot of humus for the improvement of soil texture. I imagine that the next crops to be grown on these patches will show marked benefits derived from this treatment.

KEEPING APPLES.—In my childhood days I knew the orange little more than by sight. Possibly I had one to eat once or twice a year. At that time I considered the orange the very perfection in the fruit line, the golden apple of Walhalla, the Teutonic paradise. Later in life it surprised me to see my room-mate in the boarding-school, a native Cuban, express such a decided preference for our American apple, even over the best orange. But I wonder no more. What really can be finer than one of our well-grown Spys or Wageners when in prime eating condition? And we have such a lot of these good apples this year! Of course, we eat them very freely, and we shall try to keep a supply until late in spring, as long, in fact, as it will be possible to make them keep in good order. I have never found a better way to preserve apples for long keeping, in an ordinary family cellar (which notoriously is not a good place to keep them for any length of time) than by packing in oats. I want none but perfect fruit of choicest varieties for this purpose, sound clear through, and without a speck. Then I put a layer of oats in my apple-barrel, on this a single layer of apples, so that they hardly touch one another; then another layer of oats, then apples again, and so on until the barrel is full and can be headed up. The barrels thus packed are left in the barn or in some tight outbuilding until the approach of real winter weather. It will take a very low temperature to injure these apples. But when there is danger of their freezing, I simply take the barrels into the cellar, and leave them there until wanted. The oats absorb the excess of moisture, and keep the apples in an even temperature. Even if one specimen should rot it would not affect its nearest neighbors. When the apples are taken out for use, the oats can be fed to poultry or other stock, so that there is no loss. I once tried bran for packing material, but the apples and bran together soon heated, and the apples were spoiled for eating. Pine sawdust, which I once tried for the same purpose, seemed to them a flavor of turpentine that was abominable.

T. GREINER.

CAULIFLOWERS FOR MONEY.

During a season of low prices, as a rule, like the past, it is refreshing to have at least one thing that brings a good price, and such has been the case with cauliflower. The crop has been exceptionally good. From a piece less than an acre, in a young pear orchard, I sold about \$240 worth. The ground was plowed twice, manured lightly, and the plants put in late in June, with a Bemis transplanting-machine. Owing to the very dry, hot weather it would have been a pretty hard job to make the plants live if planted by hand. There was scarcely a plant failed in the whole piece, and the several plowings, by which the ground was gotten in extra fine condition, seemed to give them a wonderful send off. They were cultivated several times with a Planet Jr. cultivator, and had one or two hoeings. A good share of the crop sold for eighty cents to one dollar a dozen, as they were

extra large, solid and snow-white, and sometimes single specimens sold for fifteen cents. Getting a good price, as we did, of course, we were more than usually careful to tie them up in the best manner, so as to have them perfectly white. This is the main thing, anyway, for no matter how large, they will not sell well if they are not snow-white; and it is not only the tying up that does this, but a vigorous growth, with plenty of leaves shading the head. There is also a knack about tying them up that I have never been able to get any one in my employ to "catch onto." They invariably make a "botch" job of it. If the cauliflowers are tied up too soon and too close, it stunts the growth; again, if not tied up close enough, they get discolored, and look bad. My method of procedure is like this: I take a ball of string and wind this around from my hand to elbow, and cut open the skein of string, and they will be just the right length. Pulling cut a string, I gather up just enough leaves to shade the head perfectly, and no more than necessary, and tie this as low down as I can—just so the string is a trifle above the head, thus allowing the tops of the leaves to spread out somewhat to the air, and not retard the growth of the plant. I never tie them before they are about as large as an egg. Sometimes they should be larger, if an extra heavy plant and the heads are well covered with leaves. Some use wire for tying, but I do not like it. I can do it just as quick with string, and better; besides, it is cheap, and when a head is cut, there are no wires to lay around or to bother with. Ordinarily I have to go over a patch about twice a week, as there are usually at first only a few heading up at a time.

We have been shipping some cauliflowers South, with good results, as our southern friends do not seem to be able to raise a nice article. Shipping a car-load of apples to Columbus, Ohio, recently I put in two hundred heads, and just received word that they sold at an average of about ten cents each. These were cut with all the leaves—not trimmed—and in that way seemed to carry very nicely. We shipped them before by express, and while they sold for even more a head, the express charges took off too much of the profit. By leaving all the leaves on they do not bruise so easily, and keep fresher, but this is practicable only when shipped by freight, while a bulk of them with the leaves on would soon heat and spoil. In case of a shipment like the one spoken of, of course, we had no difficulty, for the heads were laid over the apples. I suppose shallow crates would have to be used in order to ship by freight. In a season like the past there is not so much of an object in shipping, of course, but in all probability by another season prices will be low enough here, and then we will be looking for a more profitable outlet for them. While the early cabbage from the South has been spoiling our early cabbage market the last four years, it is only fair that we get even with our southern friends by sending some of our crops South, such as cauliflower, which we can always grow to perfection here, while they cannot do so in a warmer climate.

C. WECKESSER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

ORCHARDS.

Orchard-growing is a matter of very great importance. Results will depend upon judgment and care. If rightly done, the benefits will continue for a generation. The knowledge required is so simple that it might well be expressed in four words—good trees, varieties, cultivation.

The site for an orchard, when surroundings will permit, should be to the north and west of the farm buildings, so as to afford protection from high winds during winter.

Plow land in the fall, if possible; planting is most safely done in the North during spring. Plow well and deep; then the land should be staked or marked off both ways, and stakes set or marks made where trees are to be set. Or to save nine tenths of the cost, see how many rows each way are required, then plow in lands the same width the rows are to stand apart, so that each dead furrow running north and south will come in the proper place for a row of trees. When each land is plowed, set the plow to run as deep as possible and go an-

other round in each dead furrow; with a steady team, and by taking pains, this last round will leave furrow straight. Then measure off crosswise, set three or four eight-stakes, and run a light furrow for each row east and west. Holes can be quickly scooped out where furrows cross. After planting, fill the furrows with one-horse plows, using short swingletrees.

If there is at any season standing water on the ground, ridge the land, leaving dead furrows for drainage. Set the trees on center of the ridge thus made.

Dig holes in the fall, if possible, in order to let them lie open during the winter so the soil will freeze deeply.

If clearing land, set stakes for all trees, and there pile and burn the brush; this puts the ashes "where they will do the most good."

The wrong way to plant a tree is to dig a hole in blue-grass sod much smaller than the roots, shove them into the hole, and when the latter proves too small, jump on the roots with both feet and jam them into it, turning the sod bottom upward on the roots. This is sometimes done by those who ought to know better.

The right way is to enlarge the hole so as to admit the roots without heaving, and to a depth sufficient to plant the tree one inch deeper than it stood in the nursery. Then slightly fill with good surface soil, making a cone in the center upon which the tree will stand. Bruised or broken roots cut back to where sound, using a sharp knife and being careful to slope from the under side, so the cut surface will face downward. Place the tree in the hole with the side having the lowest and heaviest branches toward the southwest; also lean body of tree toward the two-o'clock sun. Lean the tree slightly; the north side of a tree grows faster, hence so many trees incline away from the sun, with consequent injury to the trunks from sun-scald, flat-head borers, etc.

Set the tree on the cone, spread the roots evenly in all directions, pushing the ends downward. They then act as braces to hold the tree firm. Don't let roots be flattened out, nor worst of all, have their ends bent upward. Never bend roots; rather cut them back somewhat if very long. Sift the fine dirt over the roots, and at the same time gently move the tree up and down, that the dirt may be worked in among the roots. When they are covered to the depth of two or three inches, use rammer, or step down into the hole and firm the dirt with the feet from that time until the hole is filled to within an inch of the top, when the firmed earth should be covered with two inches of fine, loose soil to prevent evaporation.

Plant when the soil will powder, not paste. If very dry, water should be poured into the hole after roots have been covered three inches with fine soil, then after hole is nearly filled, finish firming. Watering is seldom necessary in spring setting, except in late planting.

Puddle roots before planting, always. A half barrel partly filled with water, with enough loam soil in it to make it thick, is a good puddle; or dig a hole in the ground. Puddling should be done immediately before planting, and not allowed to become dry on the roots.

In spring, as soon as frost is out, go over all fall-planted trees and tramp or pound the earth solid, for frost will have loosened and drawn your trees, and if left they may die.

Pruning a newly set tree, whatever may be necessary, should be done soon after setting, and all after-pruning should be supplementary to that. Buy well-grown trees with well-branched heads. A tree with a main leader or stem, with branches diverging equally in all directions, at intervals of from three to six inches, is the model tree, and such a tree needs no pruning. Such a tree, when grown, will seldom split down. But it is not often that a strictly perfect tree comes from the nursery, for they are hard to grow, and it becomes necessary to bring the tree into this model condition by pruning. Remove sharp forks and some of the weaker branches where they are too close together, keeping the tree balanced on all sides, but with more branches on the southwest side; don't cut back either the leader or the ends of side or lateral branches, except it be some unusually long ones on apple, pear, etc. If much cutting back is needed, do it the second spring (before buds swell), for trees live better when not cut back, especially cherry and pear. Never cut back the branches of a cherry-tree the first year; cut out entire all weak branches, but don't shorten those left.

A peach-tree, on the contrary, must have entire top cut off, leaving only a stick fifteen to thirty-six inches above the roots. When thus trimmed, plant in good, mellow soil, about two inches deeper than in nursery. When growth begins, sprouts will come out all along up the body. All should be rubbed off while small, except three or four near the top, that must be allowed to grow to form the main branches of the future tree. These new branches will grow from three to five feet the first season, and so make a much stronger and better-formed tree than would have been possible had not the top all been cut away. Don't fail to cut off entire top when planting a peach-tree.—Stark Bros.' Catalogue.

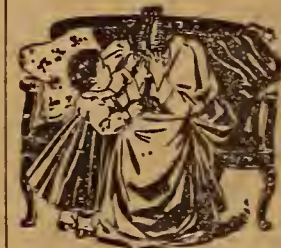
(To be continued.)

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Borers—Protecting Grape-vines.—D. R., Delroy, Ohio, writes: "Borers have been destroying my maple-trees, killing half of those planted the last two years. How can I protect them from them?—Grape-vines on trellis have been winter-killed to ground last two winters. How can I protect them cheaply?"

REPLY:—The trees should be looked over in fall and spring and the borers dug out. By painting the trunks several times in summer with soft soap containing a little carbolic acid the beetles will be deterred from laying their eggs on the trunk. A piece of soap placed in the crotches of the tree will be dissolved and washed down the trunk, and will have a deterrent effect on the beetles, but is not so good as applications of soft soap and carbolic acid.—Trim the grape-vines, and lay them on the ground, and cover with three inches of earth or with a thin mulch of coarse manure, but in this latter case put in some poisoned bread to kill the mice. In Minnesota all the common grapes have to be protected with earth in winter as recommended above, and in some sections in addition to the covering of earth a covering of mulch is necessary over all.

Wood Ashes in the Orchard—Geraniums in the Bedroom.—J. R. G., Brownsville, Tenn. It should be applied in the spring about the time that growth has got nicely started. If the trees are small, and you are short of ashes, I would apply about two quarts of ashes broadcast around each tree. If the trees are large, apply about twenty bushels to an acre broadcast. In either case it should be harrowed into the soil.—There is practically no effect as regards healthfulness from having geraniums in a bedroom. Plants during the day absorb carbonic-acid gas and throw off oxygen; in other words, during the day they make the air better. At night plants absorb oxygen and throw off carbonic-acid gas; in other words, they make the air more impure, but this night action is very slight, and it would take a whole greenhouse full of plants to throw off as much carbonic-acid gas as a little baby, or to be as injurious at night. The danger of having plants in bedrooms has been exaggerated to the silliest proportions, as I well know, since for several years I slept on very cold nights on a cot-bed in one of the walks of a greenhouse filled with plants, and never felt the slightest discomfort from it.



Even baby understands that it is not right that mother should be always sickly, nervous, fretful and cross. Baby wonders what is the matter. Baby would willingly help if he could. It lies with the woman herself to help herself. No one else can do it. She can help herself if she will. If a woman will take proper care of her womanly self; if she will use the right remedy for weakness and disease of the organs that bear the burdens of maternity, she will soon be healthy, vigorous and amiable. She will be able to help baby, instead of leaving baby to try and help her.

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Mrs. Joseph Simmons, of Hazelgreen, Grant Co., Wis., writes: "Inclosed find 31 cents in postage stamps, for which please send me the 'Medical Adviser' in cloth cover. I have used your Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and his 'Golden Medical Discovery' and 'Pellets' and have received a great deal of benefit from them."

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Our Farm.

CONVENIENT HOG-TROUGH.

THE customary V-shaped hog-trough is probably the most practical, cheapest and easiest made device for the purpose, and with a few changes can be made much more convenient than the narrow little spout which we find on many farms.

The trough of our illustration, Fig. 1, is made of two two-inch oak planks: the one on the side from which the hogs feed is eight inches wide, and the other anywhere from fifteen inches upward—the wider the better. The end pieces are also two-inch plank, and to fit the whole trough tightly between the sides of the pen, the wide plank should be notched so that the upper part is just even with the outside of the end pieces, see a, a. A wide board is fastened by means of a couple of cleats, b, b, tacked to the sides of the pen in a slanting position, as shown in the cut. In a large pen it would be better to use a two-inch plank for the latter.

The advantages of such a trough are these: The narrow spout is here changed into an opening the whole length of the trough, enabling the feeder to scatter the feed to accommodate any number of hogs. This is especially convenient when feeding apples, potatoes, corn or any other kind of grain; it prevents all fighting, pushing and jamming to see which can get nearest to the spout when being fed.

The slanting board, c, prevents hogs from climbing into the trough, and while

of stock-breeders which drives them to neglect right business methods.

During recent years many horse-owners have neglected to pursue a policy of increasing this class of stock on their farms. It is now discovered that the supply is very much reduced throughout the country. In the Mississippi valley prices advanced on good average work-horses in August more than twenty-five per cent over the prices paid last March. This fact ought to stimulate those who have broodmares to set about a policy of breeding in the very best lines at once. It is evident that for several years the most rigid economy in methods of breeding is called for. It is conceded by those who have given this subject careful thought that fall colts are preferable to those of any other season of the year. As a rule, the dams are not so much needed for farm work, and the weather being cool is more favorable for proper nourishing of their young. This subject is, therefore, now one that is pertinent to this month. The very best breeding foundation in both sexes must be sought if the proper returns in the future are realized.

Considerable progress will be made if only the sire is of the best type. The individual or company that buys a stallion should not let a fair price stand in the way of such an investment. Even in the

where one sets out to increase his horse stock for the coming years. The golden rule is a good one to be guided by in deciding what is a proper fee, and one should guard against a one-sided view of considering this question. The owner of a stallion has his side of the case to present, and he should be heard in full before his would-be patrons decide that his terms are too high.

There has been active interest during the current year in cattle-breeding. In no instance has there been any indications that buyers were going beyond the bounds of reason in prices. Some of the facts set forth above apply as well to this industry as to that of the equine animal. The average farmer needs more nerve to pay better prices for breeding stock of both sexes. Under right management, the sire for the average farm neighborhood should now be worth from 500 bushels to 2,000 bushels of good sound corn. In reference to hogs and sheep there is more call for care not to range above 500 bushels of corn for a single animal, and, as a rule, not below the value of 150 bushels of corn for a single animal. Economy does not consist in subtraction always, but in a wise addition at times, in investments. Serious thought must govern the breeder's actions. M. A. R.

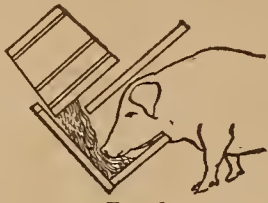


FIG. 2.

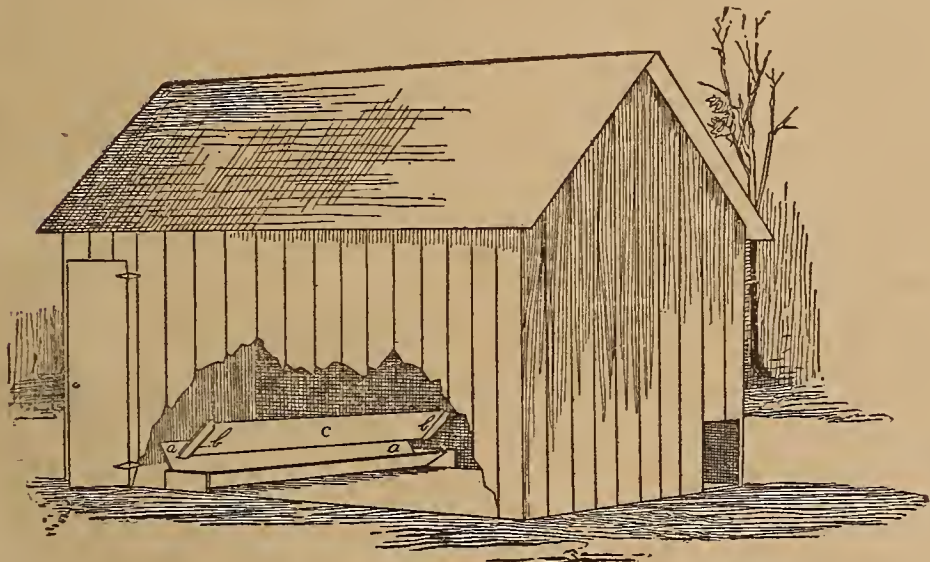


FIG. 1.

it does not interfere or infringe upon the space of the pen, it makes the feeding-alley roomier, which is quite an item in a building of limited size. In emptying the pail, this slant is a great advantage; it allows the pail to be turned almost bottom side up, as can be seen by the cross-section, Fig. 2.

The trough itself is all that is needed for a partition; it can be easily moved in either direction, and a nail or two driven through each side of the pen into the end pieces will hold it securely in its place wherever it is desired.

Another important point about a hog-pen, but one which is generally neglected, is a bridge or easy passageway from the pen to the yard. For the health and comfort of the stock it is necessary to give them free access to pure air and a chance to keep their pen clean. A small yard is sufficient for this, and the bridge should be level with the pen floor, of easy grade, and slatted or otherwise rigged to prevent hogs from slipping when passing in or out. G. C. GREINER.

PRICES OF BREEDING STOCK.

The average farmer is a bear on prices of breeding stock. He is probably no different, however, from the average man of any vocation. As a rule, any price is high to a buyer; the reverse is also true, that any price is low to the mass of sellers. It is difficult to determine a fair valuation of a breeding animal. As a rule, the prices range too low. The great mass of buyers do not feel obliged to secure the best in making their investments; this accounts for the low average quality of farm animals. Few people have the nerve and far-seeing wisdom when their animals are selling on their commercial merit for ruinously low returns to stay resolutely with a policy of high improvement. Nearly every one will admit that this policy is right, yet there seems to be a panic that takes possession of the majority

present depressed times such a sire that is thirty months to forty-eight months of age, and a typical animal, should be worth from three hundred dollars to six hundred dollars. If untried as a youngster, and afterward failing to breed satisfactorily, the animal can still be put on the market for work at the minimum price named. At least, if the animal will not sell for \$300 or more for a driver, after six months' attention to careful training, there was lack of wisdom in ever using such an animal on the breeding-farm. In breeding draft-horses, a sire may be worth all the way from \$300 to \$1,500. If an intending investor could find a stallion that every one would acknowledge to be the best in America, it would be worth probably \$5,000. In case it were possible to insure the life of the most excellent horse, it would be worth all in addition to \$5,000 that a reliable insurance company would be willing to insure it for.

The uncertainty of life is the only bar to very high values occasionally for the very best. The produce of this very best animal would in turn be worth at least one fifth to one half the value of such a sire, and at times might equal the full value. The bane of high prices in the purchase of breeding stock is overvaluation of inferior animals resulting usually from ignorance of the buyer, but at times from the deliberate scheme to forward certain lines of breeding, or to make sales of the produce on the strength of the prices paid for the sires or dams. In the coach-horse class and among the light-harness horses fancy values will run much higher than those named for draft-horses. With this class we trust not one in a hundred of our readers are specially interested. However, coach-horses and trotting-horses of values ranging from \$200 to \$1,000, to be sold as drivers and family horses, are not out of the reach of the ordinary farmer who has a liking for a good horse.

The pertinent question just now is willingness to pay a reasonable service fee

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM FLORIDA.—While we have a good many drawbacks, I think we can compare favorably with most other states. The freezes we had about two years ago were a great calamity to the state, but it showed us we could produce something besides oranges and lemons, and now we will soon be shipping oranges again. This year there will be probably over three hundred thousand boxes shipped. The greatest drawback we have as yet is the high freights on early garden truck and fruits. Watermelons, snap-beans, cucumbers, Irish potatoes, etc., could be raised in large quantities, and would be if freight rates were reduced twenty-five to fifty per cent; and I think in three years the railroads would make more money by the increased business than they do now. I want to say a word about Orange county, Winter Park and Orlando. We think we have the best location in the state. To show you that our citizens are enterprising, will say that during the past year we have built over ten miles of clay roads, at a cost of over five thousand dollars, all done by private subscription, and the work is being continued. We have found out that they are a great success. The common roads are all deep sand. We now have fine roads that northern visitors will delight to drive over as they view our groves and gardens. We have at Winter Park three fine church buildings, in which we have services every Sabbath. We have also located here Rollin College, one of the best schools in the state, with over one hundred students. Our fall gardens produced Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, snap-beans, green peas, ripe tomatoes, egg-plants, cucumbers, turnips, cabbage, all planted and grown after September 1st. C. H. W. Winter Park, Fla.

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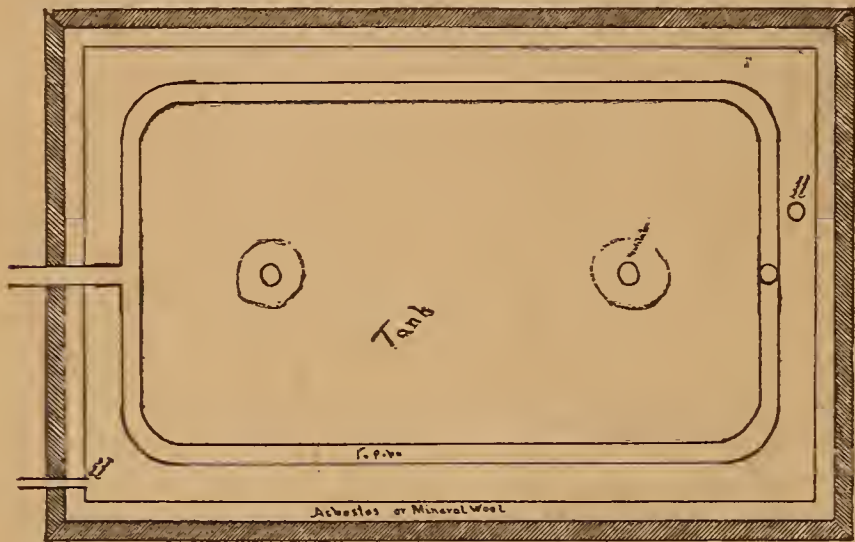
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Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

A REGULATOR INCUBATOR.

THE design is from a reader who prefers his name withheld. In describing the incubator he says: "The outside box should be of one-inch matched lumber, 42x21x28 inches, lined with asbestos-paper. The inside box should be 39x13x24 inches, without top, and with partition through center, dividing each chamber into spaces eighteen inches wide. The tank is 39x4x24 inches, made of galvanized iron, and rests on the inside box. There should be a copper pipe, as per drawing, one inch in diameter. The regulators are balanced on knife-edge, and are very sensitive. They cover the ventilator, or heat-escape, which is four inches in diameter at the bottom and one inch at the top—one in each compartment. The space between the two boxes and over the tank is packed with asbestos or mineral wool. The outside of the inner box is also covered with asbestos-paper. There should be glass doors to the inside box and double thickness doors to outside box. The egg-trays are made of half-inch strips, the bottom being wire screen (fine mesh). Air is let in from the bottom, a



button being so fixed as to close the opening when necessary. Almost any kind of a metal lamp can be used. If it does not properly heat the water, it is very easy to pour hot water in at the top. The space from the bottom of the inside box (five inches) could be reduced two inches, which would probably be an advantage. I will have a hatch off in a week, and will write you the results. I find I can keep the heat very easy, although I have the machine in an outhouse where every change is felt. I also have a brooder, and will send you plans if you care for them."

CHOICE MARKET FOWLS.

The difficulty encountered in teaching the beginner is that he desires a breed that is the best for eggs and for market. If he can separate the two pursuits and recognize the fact that the best laying breeds cannot be the best for market he will have his expectations sooner fulfilled. Now, in the market fowl one of the prime essentials is a fat carcass, but fat is just what should not preponderate on a laying fowl. The next requisite is a full and plump breast, not filled out with food in the crop, but with muscles on the breast-bones. The buyer always examines closely for fat and breast meat if he understands what he is doing, the color of the legs being of little consequence if the first two points are assured, though it is well to have yellow legs if they do not in any manner interfere with the desirable characteristics. The Americans seem to give some attention to leg color, which is not the case in Europe, as the best table-fowls, contrary to American preferences, do not have yellow legs, and this fact is one which is fast being discovered by the knowing buyers. There is such a thing as having good laying hens, however, and from them choice market poultry may be produced. It can be done by crossing Brown Leghorn males on Partridge Cochins, and keeping the pullets as layers. These pullets should be mated with Dorking males, and their progeny should be excellent for market, but the pullets

from the Dorking cross should not be retained. If one desires laying hens when eggs only are to be a specialty, no crossing should be practised. The fact must be kept in view that the Dorkings are tender when young. There is also another good cross for pullets, which is the Minorca male with Langshan hens, but both breeds are black. The pullets of this cross may also be mated with a Dorking male, or with a male of the Indian Game or Houdan breeds.

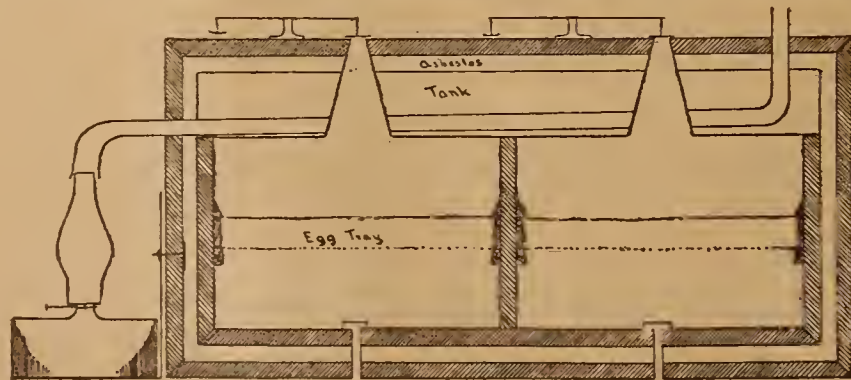
AVOID BONES WITH FAT ADHERING.

While cut green bone is perhaps the best food that can be used for laying hens, and also the cheapest, yet there is a way to feed it. There are different kinds of bone, some being better adapted to the use of poultry than others. It is a mistake to use fat and marrow with the bone. It is true that it is not an easy matter to get rid of such adhering materials, but it would be well to always endeavor to secure bones with lean meat adhering. Avoid fat as much as possible, as the fat is not only undesirable, but often injurious when the hens are in high condition. Bones are intended as nitrogenous and not carbonaceous. Grain will supply all the carbonaceous matter needed, and bones should contain as little as possible. Bones supply mineral matter and are digestible. They are largely composed of lime (being phosphate of lime), and are far superior to

oyster-shells, because the bone serves as food, which is not the case with shells. One pound of cut green bone for sixteen hens once a day will be sufficient, and the more lean meat on them, the better will be the results obtained.

SELLING THE SURPLUS.

During Thanksgiving the shipments of poultry to one or two of the large cities were heavier than for several years, the bulk of the supply coming from the West. This denotes that the farmers were anxious to realize during the dull period or that more poultry was raised this year. The demand was fairly good, however, and had shippers not sent in so large a supply in such a short time, prices would have been better. Crowding their poultry into market preceding Thanksgiving seems to be an annual feature with farmers, and



if they would retain a portion until after Christmas they would be amply repaid for the delay. Prices always advance in January, because the surplus poultry is sold at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Whether it will pay to hold onto fowls depends upon the location from market and the condition of the stock. If a lot of hens do not lay it is not advisable to keep them, especially if they are fat. Every ounce of food fed to fat hens is simply keeping them warm, as they will gain but little, and will not lay; but it will pay to feed the poor hens so as to have them in prime

order by the last week in January, as hens will then be about as high in price as they will reach. Turkeys will continue to be in demand for awhile, and geese will also sell fairly well. Old roosters or cockerels that are nearly grown are not worth sending to market at any time, as buyers will not take them if they can get hens. There is a demand at this season for very small broilers, and they bring good prices according to their weight, but it is doubtful if there is any profit in selling them when so young, owing to the cost of the eggs in hatching them, and the lack of knowledge on the part of farmers in properly preparing them for market and securing the prices that depend largely on an attractive appearance.

USE MILLET-SEED.

If a gill of millet-seed and a quart of corn could be compared in some manner, it would be found that more eggs would result from feeding the millet-seed than from the corn; not that there is more nutrition in the seed, but because the hens would quickly pick up the corn, and would be compelled to work for each of the tiny seeds procured. One tablespoonful of millet-seed scattered over a piece of ground or in loose litter will induce the hens to seek for food, and the exercise of so doing will promote their health, give them good appetites, and increase the egg production of every hen in the flock.

ADVANTAGES OF BRAN.

One of the main advantages in feeding bran is that it contains more mineral matter than ordinary ground grain, and supplies that which may not be abundant in the ration. It is customary to add one pint of linseed-meal to two quarts of bran, mixing this with four quarts of ground grain. Bran need not be fed more than once a day, and it is excellent when given with clover hay or cooked potatoes. For ducklings a mess of cooked turnips thickened with bran and ground oats makes a meal to which they are very partial.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Feeding Cracklings.—M. L. E., Peru, Ill., writes: "Are the cracklings from lard-pressings valuable as food for poultry?"

REPLY:—They are serviceable as food where the birds are to be fattened for market, but possess no advantage in promoting egg production.

Roup.—A. G. S., Columbiana, Ohio, writes: "My flock has been attacked by roup, and it is spreading rapidly. Can it be cured, and what is the remedy?"

REPLY:—When roup secures a foothold in a flock the best method is to destroy all sick birds and disinfect, as the disease is contagious, and even if birds recover, they will not be of much value or service.

Rattling in the Throat.—J. R. G., Brownsville, Tenn., writes: "My fowls have rattling in their throats, breathing with difficulty, but otherwise appear healthy."

REPLY:—Probably due to exposure to damp winds, the birds also being fat. Give only an ounce of lean meat once a day for a week, and at night give a teaspoonful of beaten raw egg. Add a teaspoonful of chlorate of potash to each quart of the drinking-water.

Lice in Poultry-house.—L. G., Hitesville, Iowa, writes: "I have one hundred fowls, but the house is full of mites, and the hens do not lay. Will the lice freeze out in winter? What remedy shall I use?"

REPLY:—Drench the house twice a week (roosts, walls, door, nests, etc.) with kerosene emulsion, and burn several pounds of sulphur in the house. Anoint heads, shanks, vents and under the wings with melted lard. Provide plenty of dust for dusting. It is not necessary to change the fowls for others. The lice will not freeze out, but must be destroyed.

"As my subscription for FARM AND FIRESIDE is nearly out, I want to earn a year or two's renewal, and know no better way than in getting you some more subscribers. Please send agents' terms and sample copies." This is what a Guernsey county, Ohio, subscriber writes. His is a good way for any FARM AND FIRESIDE reader similarly situated. We have special helps for such.

LOTS OF EGGS
when hens are fed green cut bone, cut by the Improved '96
MANN'S
GREEN BONE CUTTER
the standard of the world. 12 sizes. \$5 and up. C. O. D. or On Trial. Cat'g free if you name this paper.
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It is humane, rapid and durable. Fully warranted. HIGHEST AWARD AT WORLD'S FAIR. Descriptive circulars FREE.
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A NEW EIGHT-VOLUME ENCYCLOPEDIA AT ABOUT YOUR OWN PRICE.

Every one who has had occasion to consult the cumbersome old encyclopedias for some needed information, effectually concealed in some long article, will be glad to know of the appearance of a new general reference work built along different lines, so that any child who can read may successfully consult it.

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Another feature in which the new work stands absolutely alone, is in its very full appendixes, which embrace over 100 subdivisions, including a Biographical Dictionary, a Dictionary of Technical Terms, a Gazetteer of the United States, Presidential Elections in the United States, Religious Summaries, State and Territorial Election Statistics, Statistics of the population of the world, and a veritable mine of information on thousands of subjects of universal interest and importance.

But it is in its treatment of recent subjects that the Standard American will be found of paramount value. All other encyclopedias are from five to ten years old, and are silent regarding hundreds of topics that every reference work should contain. Such, for instance, as "The X-Ray," "Argon," "Horseless Carriages," "The Atlanta Exposition," "Color Photography," etc., etc. It also gives biographies of hundreds of people who have lately become famous, such as Prof. Roentgen, discoverer of the "X-Ray," Ian MacLaren, Dr. Nansen, the explorer, Rudyard Kipling, etc., etc. On account of its lateness in all of these matters, as well as its accuracy, it has become the standard in Schools, Colleges, Courts, Public Libraries, and wherever important questions come up for discussion.

It would therefore seem that no professional man, artisan, mechanic, teacher, pupil, or farmer can well afford to be without this most useful, practical and latest of all encyclopedias, especially as its price has been so arranged as to make the work a great bargain, and render its possession possible to almost any one who earnestly desires to own it.

Detailed particulars regarding the work and how to secure it at practically your own price, may be found in an advertisement on another page of this issue.

IS HOUSEKEEPING HARD?

The revolt of certain women against house-keeping is not a revolt against their husbands; it is simply a revolt against their duties. They consider housework hard and monotonous and inferior, and confess with a cynical frankness that they prefer to engross paper, or dabble in art, or embroider pillow-slams, or sell goods, or in some way make money to pay servants who will cook their husbands' dinner and nurse their babies for them. And they believe that in this way they show themselves to have superior minds, and ask credit for a deed which ought to cover them with shame, for actions speak louder than words. And what does such action say? In the first place, it asserts that any stranger—even a young uneducated peasant girl, hired for a few dollars a month—is able to perform the duties of the house- mistress and the mother. In the second place, it substitutes a poor ambition for love, and hand service for heart service. In the third place, it is a visible abasement of the loftiest duties of womanhood to the capacity of the lowest-paid service. A wife and mother cannot thus absolve her own soul; she simply disgraces and traduces her holiest work.

Suppose, even, that housekeeping is hard and monotonous, it is not more so than man's work in the city. The first lesson a business

man has to learn is to do pleasantly what he does not like to do. All regular, useful work must be monotonous; but love ought to make it easy, and, at any rate, the tedium of housework is not any greater than the tedium of office-work. As for housekeeping being degrading, that is the veriest nonsense. Home is a little royalty, and if a housewife and mother be of elements finely mixed, and loftily educated, all the more she will regard the cold-mutton question of importance, and consider the quality of the soup, and the quantity of chutney in the curry, as requiring her best attention. It is only the weakest, silliest women who cannot lift their work to the level of their thoughts, and so ennoble both.—Presbyterian Banner.

NOISE AND THE DEATH-RATE.

It is, of course, impossible to state exactly what part noise in New York City plays in the death-rate and the sick-list, but every physician knows it must be considerable. How often the physician in his daily rounds finds it necessary to prescribe "perfect quiet" in order that the flickering spark of life remaining in the patient may be brought back to a healthy flame! Yet in nine cases out of ten that perfect quiet which he deems so important cannot be had, owing to the noises from the street. Especially is this true in warm weather, when windows must be kept open.

The makers of unnecessary noise in New York are not confined to any one class. All are more or less guilty, from the church people to the organ-grinder and the street peddler. Any one who studies this subject and observes carefully will be astonished and disgusted at the reckless disregard of each for the health, peace and comfort of all others.

If you should go for a walk in Fifth avenue on a fine afternoon, and all sorts and conditions of people were to begin to assault you with switches, you would call the police; they would be promptly arrested and properly punished. What for? They have not killed you, or maimed you, or drawn any blood, and you are apparently none the worse for these assaults. What they have done is to irritate the nerve terminations of one of your five senses—namely, that of touch, or the tactile sense—and through the nerves of this sense they have made you conscious of painful sensations. This is exactly the treatment you receive from these same people, by their unnecessary assaults on another sense—that of hearing. But should you ask the authorities to interfere in this case, you would likely be arrested yourself, and your sanity inquired into. This remarkable inconsistency—the prompt protection of one of our senses from assault, and the utter disregard of another—seems almost unaccountable, except on the ground of custom and habit. It is simply another instance of patience and long-suffering under abuse for which the American public has become famous.—J. H. Girdner, M.D., in North American Review.

WHEN YOU STUDY, STUDY.

Lord Macaulay, the celebrated historian, was a great student, and when he studied, he studied. He used to get up at five o'clock, and study until nine or ten. He got so he could read Latin and Greek right offhand the same as you can this. He had the power of putting his whole mind on his book. Many people put part of their mind on their work and the rest on something else. But all this is wrong. Play when you play, and when you study, study. In study all the faculties are needed—reason to judge of what you read; memory to recollect it; and so with all the rest. Macaulay became one of the most distinguished writers of his time, and it was mainly by dint of this early habit of his, putting his entire mind at the disposal of the work before him. All cannot study alike, but we can all be deeply in earnest in whatever it is that we do, and only downright earnestness will cause us to succeed in life.—Domestic Journal.

HOW TO CHOOSE PAINT.

It is probable that people are cheated in the quality of paints they buy more often than in other things, because people in general know so little about them. It costs just as much time and labor to put on a paint that lasts six months as it does one that will last five years, so every person should get the information that will enable them to choose a good quality made of pure white lead instead of a cheap adulteration in which barytes is the chief ingredient. There are about twenty-seven brands of honest white lead, and there are numberless cheats. Every one who buys or uses paints can learn all about these, free of any cost whatever, if they will mention this paper and send their address on a postal-card to the National Lead Company, 1 Broadway, New York City, for a free hook on the subject. They will receive some beautiful cards showing samples of colors, and pictures of twelve houses painted in different tints and combinations, which will be very valuable in choosing colors to use on buildings, etc.

Hon. Thos. B. Reed

knows, if any one does, what it means to be a Congressman. In

The Youth's Companion



For 1897 the Speaker of the House of Representatives will write of the responsibility that goes with power and the hard work involved by high position. His article is instructive as well as entertaining, and it gives a clear idea of

The Life of a Congressman

During 1897 also Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge will picture "The Life of a Senator;" Postmaster-General Wilson will tell about "The Early Days of the Post-Office;" Attorney-General Harmon will describe the duties pertaining to his office; and Secretary Herbert will contribute a striking article on "Building a War-Ship."

One of the most beautiful CALENDARS issued this year will be given to each New Subscriber to The Companion.

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REMEDIAL FOODS.

This list of food remedies, compiled by the "Housekeeper," is well worth preservation:

Celery is invaluable as food for those suffering from any form of rheumatism; for diseases of the nerves and nervous dyspepsia.

Lettuce is useful for those suffering from insomnia.

Water-cress is a remedy for scurvy.

Peanuts for indigestion; they are especially recommended for corpulent diabetes. Peanuts are made into a wholesome and nutritious soup, are browned and used as coffee, are eaten as a relish, simply baked, or are prepared and served as salted almonds.

Salt to check bleeding of the lungs, and as a nervine and tonic for weak, thin-blooded invalids. Combined with hot water, is useful for certain forms of dyspepsia, liver complaint, etc.

Onions are almost the best nervine known. No medicine is so useful in cases of nervous prostration, and there is nothing else that will so quickly relieve and tone up a worn-out system. Onions are useful in all cases of coughs, colds and influenza; in consumption, insomnia, hydrophobia, scurvy, gravel and kindred liver complaints. Eaten every other day, they soon have a clearing and whitening effect on the complexion.

Spinach is useful to those suffering with gravel.

Asparagus is used to induce perspiration. Carrots for suffering from asthma.

Turnips for nervous disorders and scurvy.

Eggs contain a large amount of nutriment in a compact, quickly available form. Eggs, especially the yolks of eggs, are useful in jaundice. Beaten up raw, with sugar, are used to clear and strengthen the voice. With sugar and lemon-juice, the beaten white of egg is used to relieve hoarseness.

MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA.

Comprehensive and truth-telling illustrated pamphlets describing the agricultural and industrial resources of Missouri and Nebraska, giving experiences of farmers in these states will be sent free by the undersigned. L. W. Wakeley, G.P.A., Burlington Route, St. Louis, Mo.

MORTGAGE-HOLDERS.

A few figures will suffice to show that the holders of fixed investments include a great number of people who cannot be regarded as "grasping creditors." Thus in 1890 there were \$6,200,000,000 of real-estate mortgages held in the country. The savings banks held of these mortgages \$687,583,977 in trust for 4,533,217 depositors. The building associations held \$450,000,000 in trust for 1,800,000 shareholders. The life-insurance companies doing business in New York state held, December 31, 1889, \$272,828,457 for 4,582,281 policy-holders. Adding other states in 1890 about \$300,000,000. Thus in these three items we find 12,100,000 persons holding \$1,437,000,000 of mortgages. In 1890 one fourth of the real-estate mortgages in the country were held by the thrifty working-people of the nation. It is, in fact, a debt of the people to the people. The national banks cannot hold any of this mortgage debt, and all the other banks, state banks, trust companies and private banks in 1890 held less than \$60,000,000 of these loans. The large corporations do not own real-estate mortgages. An examination of the facts will prove to the satisfaction of any one that the great mass of mortgages are held locally in small sums and amounts by saving and thrifty people. Even the big mortgage companies represent a great array of holders. In every rural county farmers loan to each other, small sums are put out at bond and mortgage; many widows, orphans and aged men have their all in little mortgages. It is estimated that there are to-day 5,000,000 of savings banks depositors, 2,000,000 of building association shareholders, and 8,700,000 of insurance policies; in all, 15,700,000, and they hold about \$2,000,000,000 of mortgages.—American Manufacturer.

The following pleasant expression comes to the FARM AND FIRESIDE from Mrs. C. S. Rice, Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York: "Having been a reader of your paper for fifteen years, I do not need to learn anything new about it. I expect to send in a large list of subscribers within three weeks."

Our Household.

REST.

Have you ever reclined at the close of day,
With quivering muscle, and nerve, and
brain.

And lying at ease beyond labor's thrall
Just dreamed, too weary to think at all,
While the strain and spur into space did fall,
And you almost lost its pain?

Have you ever remembered when sore perplex
Over strange life-threads that seemed out of
place.

That the Guiding Hand could be trusted still,
His love be snffered to do its will,
And looking above all the seeming ill
See only your Father's face?

Oh, glad the soul that can trust its all
Beyond the strife, and above the pain!
Just drop to sleep as the dewdrops rest,
Absorbed in the depths of the ocean's
breast.

With storm forgotten, and wreck unguessed,
'Till He gathers His own again.
—Ella C. Eckert, in Household Realm.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

“He did come back!” So said Mrs. Bailey to her friend, as they saw a feeble old man passing the window to the side door. She let him in herself, and led the way into the sitting-room, where a bright fire was glowing on the grate. The furnace fires had gone out, but that rainy spring day the grate fire was pleasant.

“This is good,” said the old man, as he sat down carefully in an easy-chair. Mrs. Bailey went immediately up-stairs for a package of clothing she had promised the man a few days before. As she was leaving the room, he said, “Do not give me a large hundle, for my left arm is paralyzed, and my foot and leg are not very reliable. I could not walk at all without my cane, so I could not carry a heavy bundle.”

As soon as Mrs. Bailey went up-stairs, her friend, who was always studying people, said to the man:

“Do you have far to go?”

“Yes,” he replied; “about seven miles. I go as far as I can on the street-car, then I walk to the farm-house.”

“Have you a family living?” pursued this friend of Mrs. Bailey.

He answered:

“My wife died fourteen years ago. Oh, that was a loss to me! My two children were married long ago, and live quite far West.”

He kept on talking, saying that he had done a great deal of work in his time.

“I have worked for the farmers,” said he, “most all through the country.”

“Who keeps house for you?” asked the lady.

“I don't have any house to keep any more. A kind neighbor has let me stay in his home now for many years, and his wife is very good to me, but they are poor people, and I have hard work to get clothes. Mrs. Bailey is going to give me



trousers and shirts. I hope,” he added, “that during the summer I can get moucey enough together to go to my children. If I can only work some—but this cold wears on me, besides my helpless arm.”

“I hope,” said the lady, “that if you get to your children they will take good care of you the rest of your life, so you need have no further worry.”

“I don't know how it will be,” said he, “for they are very poor people. They have their families, and a hard struggle to get along.”

Mrs. Bailey came down-stairs with the package, and tied it with a strong hemp cord, so that the old man could carry it by the ends of string fixed on purpose as a short handle.

Before leaving he told them he was eighty-two years old.

After he had gone the two women sat talking it over, and dwelling upon the pitifulness of such situations. Mrs. Bailey's friend talked of the children, and said she could not imagine children leaving an old father to struggle along; that no matter how poor they were, it seemed hard after what parents do for children that in turn the children should not give support to the parents.

“What kind of children can they be?” exclaimed this friend.

Mrs. Bailey was a kind-hearted woman, but very practical, and she said:

“I think children should do for their parents, but that does not touch me as much as the idea of parents saving nothing for themselves. Now,” said she, “I do not believe in parents doing so much or sacrificing so much for their children that under any ordinary circumstances they should not have a little money laid by for a rainy day for themselves. When fathers and mothers are in middle life it seems as though they could not do enough for their children, and they always think the children will be able to care for them when they need it. But over and over again one sees the children after a time with their own families, and nothing to spare for the parents. I have often thought,” said she, “if I had any gift or way of persuading people, while I would urge honor and reverence to parents from children,



at the same time I would urge parents to think of themselves and of their own future; and I believe children would honor them fully as much, and they could not so often make parents feel themselves objects of charity, as they sometimes do as the world goes now. Yes,” said she, “parents have a duty to themselves as well as to their children.”

MARY JOSLYN SMITH.

THE FAIRY GIFT-BAG.

This pretty idea for distributing holiday-gifts has been introduced into several women's exchanges and large catering establishments which are patronized by fashionable New-Yorkers. It can be simply or elaborately carried out, according to the expense one feels like incurring. First select a number of toys to suit the children, and wrap them neatly in tissue-paper of two colors—one for the boys and the other for the girls—and tie securely with colored twine. Apple-green and pink is one of the most attractive combinations. Make a brown paper bag, or get one from your grocer, large enough to hold the gifts and room to spare. Cover this bag with green crape-paper, make two pretty bows of pink ribbon one inch wide, and fasten one on either side the bag near the lower left-hand corner.

To each parcel attach a very narrow pink or green ribbon three fourths of a yard long by tying it to the twine, then cut two pieces each of green and pink one yard or more in length, put together one end of each of these pieces, do the same with the lower ends of the ribbons, which are attached to the parcels, then tie all together—the ends of the parcels and the long ones—in one large knot. The long ends remain outside to suspend the bag. The large knot secures the parcels inside the bag when it is drawn together. First put a piece of crumpled paper inside the top of the bag to give it a shapely look when drawn together; tie very tightly with twine, having the large knot just inside—the knot will not slip if the bag is tied tight when suspended. Finish

the top with a frill of green and pink crape and loops of ribbon. The loose end can be tied in a bow, and the whole affair hung in a doorway. Let some older person tell an amusing story concerning the hidden gifts, then let the children elect one of their number who shall ask first for their own gift. Blindfold the child upon whom the choice falls, and give it a cane, by means of which it must find the bag, and strike it until the gifts drop out. They may all call “hot” or “cold” as the one seeking the bag gets nearer or farther from it. The ribbons to which they are attached will prevent the parcels from falling on their heads or being wrecked by a fall to the floor, although they will fall below the original height of the bag. They can now be cut down by the hostess or one of the children and indiscriminately distributed. So the “fairy gift-bag,” like the “Jack Horner pie,” can be made to serve at almost any party as an impartial medium for dispensing gifts.
M. E. SMITH.

BAKING BREAD.

Many of the dear old grandmothers who have baked bread for half a century would smile a little contemptuous smile if one of the granddaughters should attempt to tell her that even her very successful bread-baking could be improved upon, especially if the child should own that the knowledge was acquired by accident or experiments. An agent called one day. He was selling the Russia-iron covered meat-roaster, and extolled the pan as highly for bread-baking as meat-roasting. Methinks, two bread-tins (one used as a cover) that would fit together nicely would answer the same purpose, and the two dollars put to other use more necessary at present.

After the bread is made into a loaf, and in the tins, cover with a tin of the same size, or one larger will answer if it will leave sufficient space for the loaf to rise. When light, put into a well-heated oven, leaving the cover on the same as when the bread was raising, and bake the usual length of time, or a very little longer if there is any doubt of the oven not being hot enough at first. One hour bakes salt-rising bread very nicely, and it is so moist, and no hard, thick crust on top.

What hop-yeast I have tried is equally as nice, so that we are all very much in favor of covered bread while baking.

GYPSY.

FOR NEW-YEAR'S.

NEW-YEAR'S CAKE (an old-fashioned recipe).—Put one and one half pounds of risen light-bread dough into a large bowl, add one half cupful of sweet milk, one cupful of butter, three cupfuls of sugar, one teacupful of molasses, one half teaspoonful of ground cloves and cinnamon each, and one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in sour cream. Beat well together, add one pound of stoned raisins and dried currants each; turn the mixture into a cake-pan, set in a warm place for one half hour, and bake.

ENGLISH PLUM PUDDING.—Take one and one half pounds of seeded raisins, one half pound of washed dried currants, one half pound of candied orange and lemon peel, three fourths of a pound of stale bread-crumbs, one half pound of shredded suet, eight eggs and one glassful of brandy. Mix the dry ingredients well, add the eggs, well beaten, and the brandy, stir until thoroughly blended; turn into a pudding-bag, put into a kettle of boiling water, and set over the fire to boil for five or six hours. When done, hang up to drain, turn out on a large dish, place a sprig of holly in the center, pour a glassful of brandy around, light, and send the pudding to the table encircled by flames. Serve with sauce.

SOUTHERN PLUM PUDDING.—Beat nine eggs to a froth, mix with them sufficient flour to make a thick batter, thin with a pint of new milk; stir well, and add three fourths of a pound of brown sugar, one half pound of finely chopped beef suet, two pounds of stoned raisins, two pounds of dried currants, one half pound of shredded citron, one fourth of a pound of blanched and sliced almonds, one grated nutmeg, one teaspoonful each of ground allspice, mace and cinnamon. Beat all together, turn into a pudding-bag, and boil for four hours. Serve with rich plum-pudding sauce. This pudding will keep for six months if hung in a cool, dry place

in the bag in which it was boiled. It should be steamed for twenty-five minutes before being served. ELIZA R. PARKER.

A DAINTY LAVETTE.

The finest material one can afford should be employed in the preparation of the baby's wardrobe. The day has gone by when every garment had to be weighted with groups and groups of tucks, with insertion between and heavy embroidery as a finish, and also when the garments were laundered so stiff and smooth many a little one has slipped out of its carriage in consequence. To-day fine material



neatly made and plainly trimmed is more in taste, and the absence, if possible, of all looks of stiffness. The patterns these are cut from are known as the “Margaret” patterns, and simplify the work very much, also add comfort to the garments.

The dress is of white mull; a wide hem, with lace braid between the hem and dress, makes a very dainty trimming. The yoke and sleeve-bands are of all-over embroidery, with dainty frills of lace as a finish. It is closed in the back with gold buttons, with a chain attached to them.

The first gown is of eider-down for very cold nights, and is cut from an original and very comfortable pattern. The second is of outing-flannel. This comes in three grades, and the finest is the only kind to use for this purpose.

The barrow-coat is a very original and convenient pattern, and one that adapts itself to the growing child. It is made of one width of flannel, and by unbuttoning at the shoulder can be removed without undressing the child.

The Margaret patterns can be had by addressing Margaret Pattern Company, 119 Clifton avenue, Springfield, Ohio, inclosing price, and two cents for postage.

CHRISTIE IRVING.

DAINTY NEEDLEWORK.

A very dainty pillow can be made by using for the cover white shirt-linen, embroidered in cross-stitch in blue—a border pattern around the pillow and a center figure. Baste canvas over the linen, and after working the pattern, pull out the canvas. The ruffle for the pillow



is also of white linen, with a row of cross-stitch in blue along the hem.

A pretty finish for huckaback towels made from the piece is to work on each end, in color, a large scallop. Above this a rope in outline can follow the scallop.

MARY JOSLYN SMITH.

SINGERS AND ARTISTS GENERALLY are users of “Brown's Bronchial Troches” for Hoarseness and Throat Troubles. They afford instant relief.

TAKE HEART.

This is the summer's burial-time. She died when dropped the earliest leaves, And cold upon her rosy prime Fell direful autumn's frosty rime; Yet I am not as one that grieves; For well I know o'er sunny seas The bluebird waits for April skies; And at the roots of forest trees The May-flowers sleep in fragrant ease, And violets hide their azure eyes. O thou by winds of grief o'erblown Beside some golden summer bier, Take heart! Thy birds are only flown, Thy blossoms sleeping, tearful sown, To greet thee in the immortal year! -Edna Dean Proctor.

LITTLE COMFORTS FOR COLD WEATHER.

ANY a boy and girl suffers from cold or frosted ears or from earache because of insufficient protection during winter.

Frequently a cold in the head would be avoided if the ears are kept warm, and many times the foundations of catarrh or kindred ailments are laid by not having the ears properly protected.

Ear-muffs are easily and cheaply made, are warm and comfortable, and rarely fail to give satisfaction. The material is black cloth or velveteen, with light-weight flannel for lining. Cut outside like Fig. 1, other side like Fig. 2, with the part within the inner line cut out. Seam together all around the outer edge; turn through the inner opening. Bend a wire the shape of inner line in Fig. 2, slip inside opening after muff is turned, turn edges in over it, and fasten with invisible stitches. Attach an elastic cord to lower points to slip under the chin and hold the muffs in place. To put on, slip the ear through the opening, and it is completely and warmly covered. When finished, the muffs should be three and one half inches long by two and one fourth inches wide. The opening should be two inches long, one and one eighth inches wide at the upper part and about one half inch wide below.

If one suffers from cold knees, crocheted knee-caps to fit snugly over the knee, with a narrow crocheted strap beneath to hold them in place, are a real comfort.

If one is troubled with cold feet, a cushion filled with feathers, or better still, loosely filled with sand which may be quickly warmed by placing it in the oven or over the register, will be just the thing when one is sitting down. A long, slim sand-bag to lay in front of the door to keep out the wind that comes in from under it is another simple comfort. Another one, fully as much appreciated, is one or more large sand-bags to be thoroughly heated and placed in sleigh or carriage to keep one's feet warm while riding. These bags should all be made of heavy ticking or something similar, that the sand will not sift through; and those for house use should have covers of brown or blue

string in the top. A small sand-bag to be heated and slipped inside of this would be all the warmer. Two or three large sand-bags heated and put into the bed a few minutes before retiring would insure comfort on cold nights.

Sometimes the dining-room is not comfortably warmed by breakfast-time. Just try heating small boards or cushions kept for that purpose, and slipping them under the table for one's feet to rest on. Even a warmed newspaper is better than the cold floor.

STORM-DOOR SUBSTITUTES.—If the screen door fits snugly and closely, as it should, it may be covered with oil-cloth of a dark, inconspicuous pattern or with heavy tarred building-paper, and will answer every purpose of a storm-door.

Another substitute for a storm-door is to paste together several thicknesses of heavy paper, and over these paste a strip of dark cloth. Cut into strips about two inches wide, and tack all along the top, front and bottom of the door. When the door is closed, it will cover the cracks, and although not very sightly, will add to one's comfort and lessen the fuel bill.

CLARA S. EVERTS.

A BICYCLE SOUVENIR.

The roving wheel is put away now, and other sports absorb our energy, but with a slight variation one of Tom Moore's couplets may be applied to the jolly bicycle:

You may break, you may batter the wheel if you will, But the memories of fun will cling to it still.

A girl who can handle the needle as well as tread the pedal has fashioned a



sofa-pillow which gives much amusement to her friends. It is a good, generous pillow, almost a yard square. The material is denim, on which is embroidered the semblance of a bicycle-wheel. The hub, the spokes, the tire are realistically represented, and here and there, haphazard, at irregular intervals, are rectangles about the size of large visiting-cards. On these cards are written or embroidered the names of companions on bicycle jaunts, with the dates of special days when occurred memorable events. It is amusing to see some young man scan the names on that pillow, and hear him burst into peals of laughter as he remembers one after another the comic accidents, the sentimental situations, the breezy and breakneck episodes of the past season, and as he finishes the record, he puts the pillow behind him, leans back and says, "And next summer we'll have still more fun." K. K.

HOME TOPICS.

HURRY.—The bane of many a home is hurry. The father is in such a hurry to get to his work that if breakfast is not ready at the exact minute he is out of sorts and frowns, and fretful speeches are the result. Then to prevent this, mother must hurry to get breakfast ready, and all hurry to eat it, so there is no time for pleasant good-morning greetings and cheerful chat. After breakfast father takes his hat and hurries away. Mother is in such a hurry with her work that she has no time to sympathize with, advise, encourage or mother the children in any way, but hurries them off to school. So it goes all day long, and at night they all hurry off to bed, so they may hurry up the next morning and begin the hurry all over again. This constant hurry wears on the nerves, brings wrinkles to the face and fretful words to the lips, and robs life of half its comfort and enjoyment.

Advertisement for 'SOAP RY' featuring a large graphic of the letters 'S', 'O', 'A', 'P' and 'R', 'Y' and text: 'The tender skin of infants and children should come in contact with only the purest of soaps. 99 44/100 per cent PURE'.

BIRDS.—For hundreds of years feathers have been used for personal adornment; and there is no harm in that if only the plumage is used, which may be plucked without injury to the bird, as the tail-feathers of the ostrich, but recently the whole body of little birds has been forced to do duty in this way, and it sometimes seems as if our country would be wholly robbed of its song-birds if something is not done to check their wholesale slaughter. The Audubon Society, in New England, and many village improvement societies scattered over the country are making efforts to suppress this wholesale slaughter of the innocents; but, after all, the case rests almost entirely with the women of the country. When they refuse to wear hats ornamented with dead birds nothing will be necessary to stop the onslaught, and the little birds will be saved to fill the air with their sweet songs. Farmers and fruit-growers should know more about the birds that sing about their premises. If they knew that the wren, robin, woodpecker, thrush, oriole and most other birds, even the crow, are of more value in ridding the fields and gardens of insects than all the fruit and grain they take, they would encourage instead of make war upon them.

Kindness to birds is a good lesson to teach the children, and it can be commenced this winter. Make a shelf under a window, and every day let them put out crumbs, cracked nuts, etc. Very soon they will have many little feathered friends, who will come daily to share their bounty. In very cold weather, when all brooks are frozen over, birds suffer for the want of water, so remember to set out a saucer of water on the shelf at these times.

"He prayeth well who loveth well, Both man and bird and beast; He prayeth best who loveth best, All things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all."

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.—In the last issue I spoke of the National Congress of Mothers to be held in Washington this winter. The date decided upon for the congress to convene is February 16th, and it will continue four days. It is urged that mothers' clubs be formed in

prepared to instruct the home club as to the lines of work and study to be pursued during the year. It is the plan of the organization to hold regular annual meetings hereafter. Correspondence is invited, and upon application by the secretary of any mothers' club suggestions will be given in regard to the conduct of meetings, and any information desired in regard to the national congress. Special rates are promised by railroads, and boarding-places can be had for delegates at reasonable rates. For any other information address National Congress of Mothers, 1429 Twentieth street, Washington, D. C. MAIDA McL.

THE "MARGARET" PATTERNS

For Infants. These patterns are entirely modern and new, and consist of 2 gowns, price 10c, and 15c.; 1 barrow-coat, 10c.; 1 dress, 15c.; 1 slip, 10c.; 1 napkin-cover, 5c.; 1 bib, 5c. Address MARGARET PATTERN CO., 119 Clifton Ave., Springfield, O

12 Yards Torchon LACE Given Away. All one piece FREE to all sending 10c. for paper 3 mos. Fireside Gem, Waterville, Maine.

Advertisement for French Dye Co. featuring a graphic of a dyeing machine and text: 'You Dye in 30 minutes. Turkey red on cotton that won't freeze, boil or wash out. No other will do it. Carpets, dresses, capes and clothing made to look like new. No failures with Tonk's French Dyes. Send 40c. for six packages or 10c. for one. Any color for wool or cotton. Big pay Agents. Write quick. French Dye Co., Box 60, Vassar, Mich.'

Advertisement for 'EVERY WOMAN' featuring a graphic of a washing machine and text: 'Can buy a WORLD'S WASHER on trial and no money paid until it is perfectly satisfactory. Washes easy. Clothes clean, sweet and white as snow. Child can use it. I pay freight. Circulars free. C. E. ROSS, 10 Clean St., Lincoln, Ill.'

Advertisement for Butterick Patterns featuring text: 'We are a distributing agency for the THE Butterick Patterns. Any pattern sent post-paid at published prices. Fashion Guide sent free on request. Samples of dress goods free—\$1,000,000 stock to select from. Our Big Catalogue and Buyer's Guide has 745 pages, 12,000 illustrations, 40,000 quotations. Send 15 cents to partly pay postage or expressage on it. MONTGOMERY WARD & CO., Chicago.'

Advertisement for 'TRY IT FREE' featuring a graphic of a sewing machine and text: 'High Arm for 30 days in your own home and save \$10 to \$25. No money in advance. \$60 Kenwood Machine for \$23.00 \$50 Arlington Machine for \$19.50 Singers (Made by us) \$8, \$11.50, \$15 and 27 other styles. All attachments FREE. We pay freight. Buy from factory. Save agents large profits. Over 100,000 in use. Catalogue and testimonials free. Write at once. Address (in full), CASH BUYERS' UNION 158-164 West Van Buren St., B-7, Chicago, Ill.'

Advertisement for 'SOLD!' featuring a graphic of a washing machine and text: 'UNDER A POSITIVE GUARANTEE. to wash as clean as can be done on the 75,000 in use. washboard and with much more ease. This applies to Terrill's Perfect Washing Machine which will be sent on trial at wholesale price; if not satisfactory money refunded. Agents Wanted. For exclusive territory, terms and prices write PORTLAND MFG. CO., Box 4 Portland, Mich.'

Advertisement for 'ROCKER WASHER' featuring a graphic of a washer and text: 'NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE MERIT. The Rocker Washer has proved the most satisfactory of any Washer ever placed upon the market. It is warranted to wash an ordinary family washing of 100 PIECES IN ONE HOUR, as clean as can be washed on the washboard. Write for prices and full description. ROCKER WASHER CO. FT. WAYNE, IND. Liberal inducements to live agents.'

Advertisement for 'B&H LAMPS' featuring a graphic of a lamp and text: 'ALWAYS THE BEST. Our Little Book—mailed free—tells why, and will interest you in our line of : : : : : Art Metal Goods, 9c. B. & H. Oil Heaters, Gas and Electric Fixtures, Fireplace Furniture, Brass and Wrought Iron Grille Work and Railings. Leading Dealers will supply Our Goods. Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., Meriden, Ct. NEW YORK, BOSTON, CHICAGO, PHILADELPHIA.'



FIG. 1.

denims, with an open pattern worked with crimson Asiatic twisted embroidery-silk.

If one sleeps alone in a cold room, a foot-warmer is an easily made comfort, as it is only a bag of colored cotton-flannel or of eider-down flannel made large enough to slip the feet into, and to draw up over the knees, and is held in place by a draw-



FIG. 2.

every city, village or country neighborhood, and that meetings be held every week for a time, and everything possible be done to awaken an interest in the subject. All who can are cordially invited to attend the national meeting, but each club is urged to send one delegate at least, who can carry back a full report, and be

Our Household.

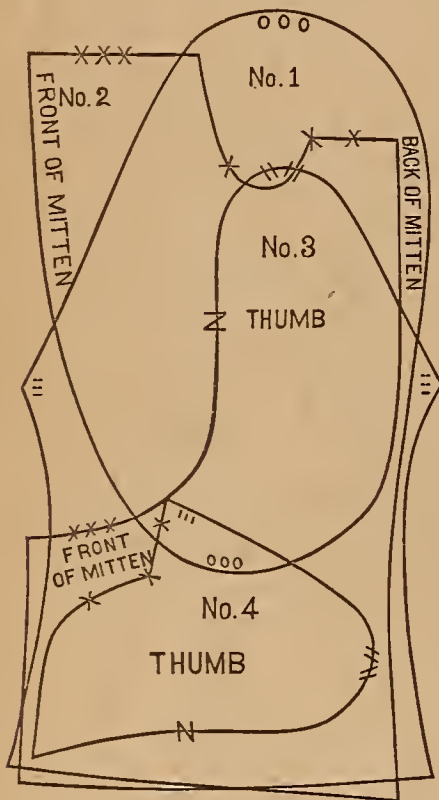
WOMAN.

Woman—God bless her, the queen of all creation. Woman—The tyrant we love, the friend we trust. Woman—The sweetest creature the Lord ever made. Woman—The source of help, happiness and heaven. Woman—She needs no eulogy; she speaks for herself. Woman—Once there was a woman, sir, and here she is. Woman—A creature "nobly planned, to warn, to comfort and command." Woman—The fairest work of the great Author; the edition is large, and no man should be without a copy.

WINTER HEATING.

In many homes modern methods have quite done away with the vexed question "How shall we make ourselves comfortable this winter?" but in many more neither furnace heat, natural gas nor steam have as yet rendered obsolete the old-fashioned stove with its accompanying coal-scuttle or wood-box. We who have the good fortune to live on the farm, or even in a country village, will yet, for years perhaps, put on our big mittens, tie up our heads and do our evening "chores" each day, the bulk of which will be as ever in connection with the fuel supply.

I cannot much wonder at the heathen who were fire-worshippers, and have heard



and if we can't be altogether comfortable, be as comfortable as we can.

We sometimes complain that our city cousins come to see us only in summer. We ought rather to bless our lucky stars it is so. If they came when their coming necessitated the keeping up of extra fires, with all the trouble that implies, we would complain loudly if we chanced to love those same cousins none too well.

The day will doubtless come when the home on the farm is just as uniformly heated and lighted as a city residence. Until that happy time arrives let us not shunt up more rooms than we must during the winter months, and let us render those that are in daily use doubly bright and cheerful. Like a great many other matters, it is as much management as money that enables us to heat our homes properly. The old idea of "tonghening" has undergone a change. We no longer, as our Puritan fathers, sit in churches as cold as the religion sometimes preached, nor think it necessary for the boys to sleep where snowflakes can drift upon their faces. We have come to believe in bodily comfort, not as an end, but as a means toward better and higher living.

BERTA KNOWLTON BROWN.

FARMERS' MITTENS.

I have been using this pattern for mittens for the men-folks on the farm, and as they are easily made, very durable and warm, I send it for the benefit of the many farmers who take this best of farm journals. I get the heaviest bed-ticking and the best Canton flannel, using the Canton flannel for lining, of course with the "fuzzy" side next the hand. Sew each separately, taking a larger seam on the Canton flannel, so it will fit the outside nicely. When slipped inside, and the edges turned in at the wrist and stitched together, they are very warm and neat. The pattern can be cut down to fit the boys as well as their fathers. In the pattern, which will fit if cut out as numbered, and put together where the marks in one pattern correspond with the same marks in another, No. 1 is the back of the mitten, No. 2, with No. 4 sewed on (which must be the first seam sewed), then joined to No. 3, is the front. All seams must be sewed so that when done there will be no raw seams—all turned inside. One can cut and make a pair in an hour at most. I keep a supply of material on hand, and the mittens when needed are always ready.

A. M. M.

SOUPS.

Every housekeeper is supposed to know how to make soups, you may say. But do they prepare it in a healthful way? I have eaten at houses where the cook was noted, but the soup was swimming in grease, which is very unhealthful. I send my way of preparing stock, which may be helpful to some of the sisters:

To every pound of meat and bone, mixed, add one quart of cold water, one half teaspoonful of salt; boil slowly in an agate kettle; remove all the scum that rises; as the water boils away, add more hot water to keep the quantity. When the meat is tender, remove it from the kettle, and skim off every particle of grease from the soup. (Or let it stand until cold, and it can be lifted off, which is the best way.) It is then ready for the vegetables, etc.

If the meat is desired to be served hot, put it into another kettle, add little of the stock to it, or serve in different ways.

The fat skimmed from the soup made from beef alone is nice to use for frying purposes and other cooking. Let it get cold, and put it into a pan. Let it fry out until all water is evaporated from it. It will then keep well. A mixture of mutton, beef, chicken, bones, trimmings, etc., unsalted, makes good stock. HELPER.

KEEPING PATTERNS.

Not all of the farm-houses can boast of its sewing-room with all necessary conveniences, and in such it would seem as if the keeping of patterns to be found on short demand was well nigh impossible. If "mother's" bedroom is below stairs it is often chosen as a sewing-room, or one near by. Cannot some member of the family make a shallow box, mounted on casters, and finished with a lid, that can be pushed under the bed or lounge when not needed? It can be made plain or fancy, covered with paper, cloth, or painted. The inside may be divided into sections,

a good nineteenth-century Christian declare that if he were a heathen he, too, would worship fire.

What is more utterly chilling and disheartening than a room in midwinter which has in it no means of heating? Even in houses where every room is supplied with a stove or grate the task of heating, say a dozen rooms, to say nothing of the great expense, makes it a matter quite beyond the majority of people.

Accepting all existing circumstances which can be in no wise bettered, how shall we solve the problem? In the first place, do as one I have in mind, who said, "If I do not save one cent of my income, I intend to be comfortable this winter," and forthwith ordered a generous supply of fuel, and a drum for an up-stairs room. In the second place, since the kitchen is of all rooms the one which must be heated, make it as cozy as possible, and even if it must serve the double duty of kitchen and dining-room no harm is done, and many steps saved. Such an arrangement is not always pleasant for the one who cooks, but is preferable to any freezing-out method in quarters less cramped.

The living-room is usually a central room from which open several doors. In moderately cold weather one hard-coal stove ought to heat the living-room in which it stands, two rooms opening off of the living-room, and at least one bedroom up-stairs by means of a drum.

If money is no object (can such a state of affairs be imagined?) another such stove ought to be kept going day and night, and with doors open between rooms the atmosphere of the whole house is tempered. However, for most of us it is necessary to economize, and then we must simply accommodate ourselves to smaller space;

Enameline The Modern STOVE POLISH. Produces a JET BLACK enamel gloss. Dustless, Odorless, Labor Saving. 5 and 10 cent boxes. Try it on your Cycle Chain. J. L. PRESCOTT & CO., NEW YORK.

and patterns of a kind kept by themselves or be left in one space.

It is quite convenient, if there are a number of people to sew for, to have each one's patterns by themselves; and if kept together in a box, much trouble and hunting is avoided.

If there is plenty of room, this pattern-box may be made higher and square in form, and when nicely covered, makes a nice seat or ottoman. This, of course, would necessitate a little more fanciful finishing than would the box, which could be pushed out of sight when not wanted.

GYPSY.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

In the repairing of cotton clothing it is very vexatious to find that the machine-stitching has shrunken, drawing the seams, hems, etc., into puckers. A teacher of dressmaking in a large institute overcomes this difficulty by soaking the spool of thread over night in a glassful of water, then standing it where it will dry until ready for use. She also says to oil colored thread with machue-oil makes it stronger, and makes it work better.

A rag carpet seen in a farm-house was made of dark blue rags mixed with white, and woven with indigo-blue warp. It made an excellent background for rugs in a blue and white room. A drab or warm gray is also a good color for bedrooms, when the room may be brightened with touches of old pink in the trimmings, wall-paper and rugs. M. E. S.

\$500 FOR A TOMATO

The Engraving shows the most wonderful Tomato ever offered, which was grown by W. M. Finley, Salem, Ill., who writes: "They grew over 7 ft. high, and I began to pick ripe tomatoes June 24, and had an abundance all summer. Was two weeks earlier than any other variety I ever had, and of the best quality. I had 11 plants, and each one produced from 1 to 2 bushels of nice fruit, many mammoth ones, not a poor one the whole season, and Oct. 15 was still loaded with ripe and green fruit." This Giant Everbearing Tomato is entirely new and a wonder to all. After once grown you will have no others. We own all the seed there is, and will pay \$500 for 1 of them weighing 3 lbs. Plant some, you may get the 3 lb. tomato. Instructions with seed and how to grow them. FIRST IN MARKET CABBAGE is the earliest kind in the world and you will have heads weeks before your neighbors. GIANT FLAT DUTCH is the largest Cabbage of all. Is all head and always sure to head, weighing 20 to 50 lbs. JAPANESE CLIMBING CUCUMBER. Wonderful variety from Japan. Will climb a trellis, wire netting or any support 5 to 8 ft. Great curiosity. GOLDEN GLOBE ONION, is a splendid variety, early, round, good quality, excellent keepers. EARLY SNOWBALL TURNIP, is the earliest in the world, easy grown, good size, white as snow. We will send a packet each of above 6 splendid varieties and our Great Catalogue for only 25 cts. If you mention this paper and send silver or M. O. we will send free for the ladies, 100 Summer Flowering Bulbs. FAIRVIEW SEED FARM, Box 51, Rose Hill, N. Y.

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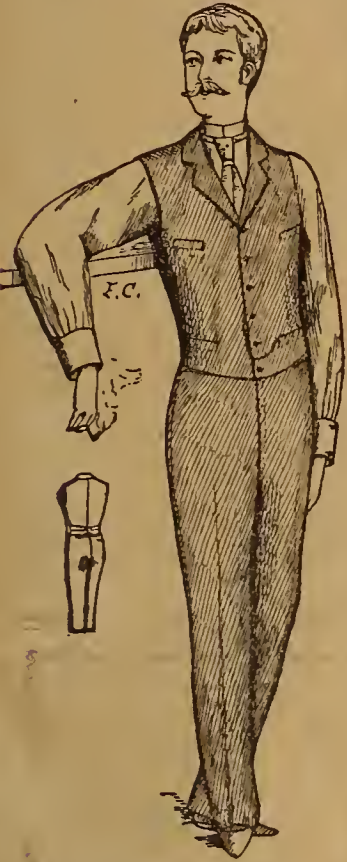
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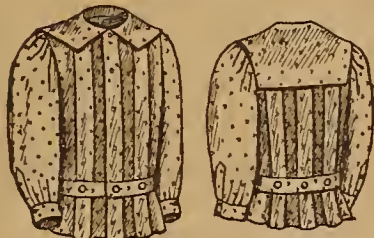
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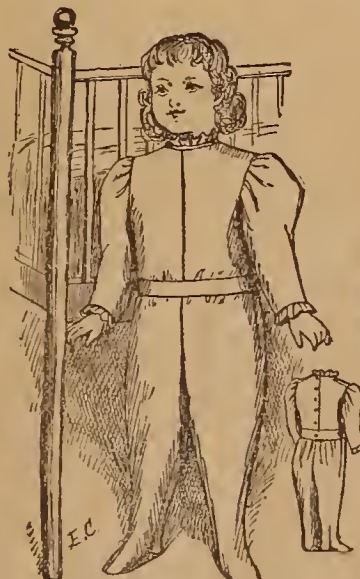
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Our Sunday Afternoon.

WATCHING AND WAITING.

When purple twilight gathers,
And friendly stars appear,
When day's long task is ended,
And quiet time is here,
I fold my hands and listen,
For I think that Christ may come,
And I want him now at twilight,
When my day's long task is done.
So I'm watching and I'm waiting
Each moment of the day,
For it may be noon or evening
When he calleth me away;
And it makes the day go faster,
And the trials easier borne,
When I'm thinking every minute,
To-day the Lord may come.

THE INFINITE.

I cannot see why some should others chide,
And call them unkind names, and set aside
Their fellow-men; for He who humbly died
Hath in his power likewise to provide
A safe retreat for those whose erring feet
In time of storms and passion's torrid heat
Forgot the beauties of his mercy-seat;
These, too, in time may find his love complete.
Who hath the mind, among us all, to say
The Lord hath not the right in his own way
To save his children? Hath he lost his sway?
And must he perfect them while here they stay?
He is the Infinite—to limit him were ill,
For hath he not a million worlds to fill
With joy? All space, all time are ever his to thrill
With love the souls sent forth to do his will.
—"Liberal Presbyterian," in Philadelphia Times.

ANARCHISM AND SALOONS.

IN Chicago we know what bombs mean. I never knew a nest of anarchists that wasn't under a saloon, over a saloon or in a saloon. Anarchy is impossible away from the saloon. The bomb we need most to fear is not such as was exploded in the Haymarket. There are rows of bombs in every saloon, and they are exploding every day and destroying families. The real anarchist is the saloonist; but instead of hanging him we license him and make him alderman. If the republic ever goes down, it will go down like Samson, the giant of old, bringing down its own destruction. The infant Hercules strangled the serpents that would have strangled him. So must this young giant.

Some say, use moral suasion only in the conflict. Moral suasion is good, but not for this kind of a reptile. Some favor what they call the restraints of high license. I don't quarrel with any.

They say, "If we cannot conquer, let us do it little by little." I respect them every way; but let me point them to New Orleans. There they pile up the levees higher and higher, and the river keeps piling the mud at the bottom, and every year the situation becomes more risky. So you may pile up dollars miles high as license fees, but you are only temporizing; sooner or later the deluge will come. I swallowed the high-license argument for a long time, but then it stuck in my throat, and I have thrown it up. For myself I cannot countenance the monster at all.—P. S. Henson, D.D.

THE AFTERNOON NAP.

The frequency with which medical men are asked whether it is harmful to indulge in the "afternoon nap" is not, perhaps, surprising, for several reasons. Most persons have had experience of the seductive charms of the somnolence which has followed the comfortable ingestion of a mid-day or evening meal. The meal finished, the diner arranges himself comfortably in an arm-chair; it may be he lights a pipe or cigar, takes up a newspaper, and prepares to make the most of the restful conditions of his mind and body. But nature soon begins to assert her sway. In time the eyelids close, the head begins to nod, the newspaper falls from the hands, the pipe, no longer supported in the mouth, falls to the floor, and the symptoms of a nap are complete. Whether the "winks" be forty or one hundred in number, the result is the same—a short, sound sleep. Then comes the question, Is it harmful thus to fall asleep after a meal? By no means; for the very obvious reason that the process is merely a physiological one, and as such, when it occurs, is quite natural.

When digestion is in progress, nature has arranged that all the available blood in the body shall be collected in and about the digestive organs. Consequently, the blood supply to the brain falls to a low ebb, and thus sleep is easily induced. On the other hand, of course, physiologically, it is wrong for brain-work to be attempted immediately after a solid meal.—Medical Press.

SINCERITY.

The origin of the word "sincerity" is profoundly interesting and suggestive. When Rome flourished, when her fame was spread the world over, when the Tiber was lined with noble palaces built of choicest marble, men vied with each other in the construction of their habitations. Skilful sculptors were in request, and immense sums of money were paid for elaborate workmanship. The workmen, however, were then guilty of practising deceitful tricks. If, for example, they accidentally chipped the edges of the marble, or if they discovered some conspicuous flaw, they would fill up the chink and supply the deficiency by means of prepared wax. For some time the deception would not be discovered, but when the weather tested the buildings the heat or damp would disclose the wax. At length those who had determined on the erection of mansions introduced a binding clause into their contract to the effect that the whole work from the first to the last was to be sine cera—that is, "without wax." Thus we obtain our word "sincerity." To be sincere is to be without any attempt on our part to mislead or misrepresent.

PRETTY IDLENESS.

Every now and then a conscience among the men and women who live easy, thoughtless lives is stirred, and some one looks up anxiously, holding up some one of the pretty idlenesses in which such people spend their days and nights, and says, "Is this wrong? Is it wicked to do this?" And when they get their answer, "No, certainly not wicked," then they go back and give their whole lives up to doing their innocent little piece of uselessness again. Ah! the question is not whether that is wicked, whether God will punish you for doing that. The question is whether that thing is keeping other better things away from you; whether behind its little bulk the vast privilege and dignity of duty is hid from you; whether it stands between God and your soul. If it does, then it is an offense to you, and though it be your right hand or your right eye, cut it off, pluck it out, and cast it from you. The advantage and joy will be not in its absence, for you will miss it very sorely, but in what its loss reveals, in the new life which lies beyond it, which you will see stretching out and tempting you as soon as it is gone.—Phillips Brooks.

THE ANCHOR AND THE OAR.

We may make great efforts in our spiritual life, and yet somehow not seem to get on at all; and not only seem not to get on, but really not get on, work as hard as we may. There were two sailors in Scotland who had been drinking, and who took their boat to pull off to their ship. They rowed away, but they made no progress, and presently each began to accuse the other of not working hard enough. Again they went at it, and after another hour's work they still found themselves no further advanced. By this time they had become tolerably sober, and one of them, looking over the side, says to the other, "Why, Sandy, we haven't pulled the anchor up." And thus it is with many now—they are anchored to something or other which they are not conscious of, perhaps, but which impedes all their efforts, even though they do their very best. Love of the world, a besetting sin, and all quite out of sight, like the anchor, may be keeping us fast fixed; and we must find out what it is, and get rid of it, before we can get on.—The Quiver.

MADE READY.

Happy is that child of Jesus who is always listening for the footfall this side of the golden gate, and for the voice of invitation to hurry home. A true life is just a tarrying in the tent for Christ until we go into the mansion with Christ. "I hope your master has gone to heaven," said some one to a slave when his master

was dead. "I'm afraid he has not gone dare," replied Ben. "for I never heard him speak of dat. When he go to the North or to Virginny Springs, he always be gettin' ready many weeks. I never see him gettin' ready for goin' to heaven." The simple negro's words are a test, an admonition, for each one of us. For let us be assured that not one of us will ever see that home unless we are made ready for it by Christ Jesus.—T. L. Cuyler, D. D., in "God's Light on Dark Clouds."

"SHALL HE FIND FAITH."

The prevalent tone of criticism and skepticism which is found both in seminary and in saloons, and which denies miracles, contradicts revelation, despises prophecy and subverts faith, and which gravitates toward the lower depths of infidelity, atheism, anarchy and nihilism, gives painful evidence that we have entered upon an age of unbelief, and warns us to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, and cast not away our confidence which hath great recompense of reward. "For yet a little while and he that shall come will come and will not tarry," and now, as then, "the just shall live by faith!"—Christian.

MOSES KNEW SOMETHING.

Sometimes it is said that Moses could not write the Pentateuch, and if he could, the Israelites of his time could not have read it nor understood it; but Professor Sayce, of Oxford, told the recent church congress at Norwich, England, that "the age of the Exodus was as literary as that of the Renaissance in Europe. Babylonian cities had libraries then, some of them six thousand years old, and when Abraham was born, a Chaldee poet was ending a long period of verse by writing a poem in twelve books."—New York Advocate.

A WOMAN'S STORY.

It Should Be of Interest to Every Thinking Woman.

Women who reason well know that no male physician can understandingly treat the complaint known as "female diseases," for no man ever experienced them.

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge.

To Remove Iron Rust.—W. H. L. Larry's Creek, Pa. A short time after applying kerosene to the iron pipes the rust can be removed by rubbing with cork.

Bologna Sausage.—F. H. W., Fostoria, Ohio. For Bologna sausage, take equal quantities of bacon-fat and lean beef, veal, pork and beef suet; chop fine, and season with salt, pepper, and with sweet herbs and sage rubbed fine.

Japan Clover.—S. K. T., Greenup, Ill. Japan clover is a low, spreading perennial, of value only in some sections of the South where other clovers do not thrive.

Holding Back Milk.—S. S., Jump, Ohio. writes: "Can you tell me what I can do to prevent a cow from holding back her milk?"

Fertilizers—Seedling Fruits.—M. M. P., Jefferson, Va., writes: "I have large quantities of wood ashes and hen-house manure from which I wish to make fertilizer for wheat."

A Fatal Disease.—J. B. P., Wappocomo, W. Va. The symptoms of your young Jersey bull and heifer, both about seven months old, as given in your inquiry, indicate a severe affection or inflammation of the brain, but also are somewhat similar to those occurring in rabies of cattle.

Lacrimal Caruncle Somewhat Enlarged.—U. W., Piqua, Ohio. What you complain of seems to be an enlargement or an uncommonly large size of the lacrimal caruncle in the median corner of the eye.

A Morbid Growth.—F. M. H., Greenwich, N. Y. The morbid growths, or tumors, occurring in the vagina of cows are not all alike. Some are malignant; for instance, a carcinoma; some are a little less malignant, and known as sarcomata; and still others are cystic tumors, and fibromyomata, and not classed among the malignant tumors, because if once removed, they are not apt to return.

A Stiff Joint.—G. V. R., Pekin, Ind. It appears from your description that last May your mare severely injured one of the joints of one fore foot, so as to open the joint, but it cannot be learned from your description whether it was the pastern, the coronet or the hoof joint that was injured and opened.

A Swelled Pastern-joint.—F. J., Chattanooga, Tenn. All that swelling which temporarily disappears when the horse is exercised you may succeed in removing permanently, if immediately after each exercise you give the swelled parts a good rubbing either with the hand or with a woolen rag, and then apply, as smooth as possible, a bandage of woolen flannel.

Looks Like Glanders.—A. L. B., Elba, Idaho. You say in your inquiry that "there are three or four around here." If you mean horses or mules, the disease you describe very much resembles glanders; therefore, if you have a state veterinarian in Idaho, I have to advise you to notify him, and to ask him to examine the diseased horses or mules.

Injured by Lassoing.—A. C., Templeton, Cal. The history of the case, together with the symptoms described, leave scarcely any doubt that your colt has been severely injured by the lassoing. It also proceeds from your description that the damage done must be in the throat, but it will require a careful examination to determine the exact nature and extent of the injury, the feasibility of a (perhaps surgical) treatment, and the prospect of ultimate recovery.

So-called Scratches.—M. H., Holden, Mass. If your horse has what is usually called scratches, make to the sores twice a day liberal applications of a mixture composed of liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts; keep your horse out of mud and manure, and avoid the use of water in cleaning his feet.

Probably Stringhalt.—W. C. K., Colfax, Ill. What you describe is either a case of stringhalt or something closely akin to it. Concerning your questions I will say: First, the probable cause consists in overexertion. Second, a treatment is very seldom, if ever, of any use. Third, essential changes for better or worse are very rare. Fourth, the worth of the horse will be precisely what the same is worth as a working-horse. Having never seen the animal, I cannot state its worth in dollars and cents.

Trouble with Calves.—A. C., Sherman, N. Y. No wonder that your calves die of diarrhea. You feed your cows with too much heavy and highly nitrogenous food. If you desire to raise calves, you will be able to do so if you feed your cows during the last six weeks before, and the first four weeks after calving, with nothing but good hay and perhaps a little bran, thoroughly clean and disinfected your now badly infected stable, and keep the calves in clean, spacious and well-ventilated quarters.

An Old Injury.—E. T., South Haven, Mich. The scar-tissue and the hard swelling left behind by the injury to the lower part of your horse's leg after a healing had been effected as long ago as a year and a half, is permanent, and cannot be removed. The stocking, or temporary swelling, is best prevented by frequent and thorough cleaning and regular exercise. The slight lameness you speak of is probably due to a permanent injury of either the tarsal-joint or of a tendon or ligament.

Probably an Exostosis.—S. M. H., Timberlake, Oklahoma Territory. I cannot possibly tell you what caused the "knot" in the face of your colt unless you give me a description of the "knot." It may be that it is a simple exostosis, which owes its existence to an injury to the periosteum (external lining of the bone); but as you give no description whatever, do not even say whether the "knot" is hard or soft, movable or immovable, large or small, etc., I cannot satisfactorily answer your question.

Epileptoid Fits in Pigs.—J. F. H., Markersville, Pa. Epileptoid fits, or symptomatic epilepsy, in pigs are often caused by worms, particularly by the presence of Cysticercus cellulosae, the cystworm of the human tapeworm (Taenia solium), in the brain and spinal cord, a disease which is known under the name of measles. This disease is produced if pigs have access to the excrements of a person that has a tapeworm, and, of course, is incurable; and not only that, but the meat of such a pig must not be used for human food.

A Barren Mare.—H. G. R., Bucyrus, Ohio. I do not see that you can do anything.

A Sick Cow.—J. B. T., Millerboro, Neb. Your cow suffers from some disease, possibly of a tuberculous nature.

Probably Fleas.—A. J. K., Diamond Hill, N. H. Your dog, which, as you say, scratches, whines and wriggles, is either affected with some skin disease or is full of fleas.

A Sick Pig.—M. L. D., Gray, Texas. The statement that your pig is stiff and does not eat, but drinks water, is not sufficient information to make it possible to draw any conclusions in regard to the nature of the ailment. Besides this you forgot to say what you wish to know.

Swine-plague.—H. G., Greenville, Ill. What you describe is swine-plague, or so-called hog-cholera. If you have yet any animals that are healthy, take them away from the diseased ones, remove them to a non-infected place, and keep them in every respect strictly separated.

Paralysis.—F. M., Mt. Upton, N. Y. According to the symptoms you give it appears that your heifer (cow) has been injured in the lumbar region of the spinal column. If she is not on her feet by this time, she is either dead or past recovery, so it will not be necessary to say any more about your case.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request.

A Barren Mare.—H. G. R., Bucyrus, Ohio. I do not see that you can do anything.

A Sick Cow.—J. B. T., Millerboro, Neb. Your cow suffers from some disease, possibly of a tuberculous nature.

Probably Fleas.—A. J. K., Diamond Hill, N. H. Your dog, which, as you say, scratches, whines and wriggles, is either affected with some skin disease or is full of fleas.

A Sick Pig.—M. L. D., Gray, Texas. The statement that your pig is stiff and does not eat, but drinks water, is not sufficient information to make it possible to draw any conclusions in regard to the nature of the ailment.

Swine-plague.—H. G., Greenville, Ill. What you describe is swine-plague, or so-called hog-cholera. If you have yet any animals that are healthy, take them away from the diseased ones, remove them to a non-infected place, and keep them in every respect strictly separated.

Paralysis.—F. M., Mt. Upton, N. Y. According to the symptoms you give it appears that your heifer (cow) has been injured in the lumbar region of the spinal column.

Looks Like Glanders.—A. L. B., Elba, Idaho. You say in your inquiry that "there are three or four around here." If you mean horses or mules, the disease you describe very much resembles glanders; therefore, if you have a state veterinarian in Idaho, I have to advise you to notify him, and to ask him to examine the diseased horses or mules.

Injured by Lassoing.—A. C., Templeton, Cal. The history of the case, together with the symptoms described, leave scarcely any doubt that your colt has been severely injured by the lassoing.

Swine-plague.—H. G., Greenville, Ill. What you describe is swine-plague, or so-called hog-cholera. If you have yet any animals that are healthy, take them away from the diseased ones, remove them to a non-infected place, and keep them in every respect strictly separated.

Paralysis.—F. M., Mt. Upton, N. Y. According to the symptoms you give it appears that your heifer (cow) has been injured in the lumbar region of the spinal column.

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, SCIATICA, CATARRH, ASTHMA,

CURED by a medicine valued at \$1.00 A DROP OR \$1500.00 A BOTTLE



Such is the value given the wonderful Remedy 5 DROPS by Mr. Edmund Castle, 1005 Wall St., Sioux City, Ia. Many hundreds of thousands of people who once suffered and were given up as incurable can testify that 5 DROPS has never failed to cure.

Nov. 9, 1896. It is with pleasure I speak of your priceless remedy and of the good it has done me. For the last eight years I have been an incurable cripple from paralysis and rheumatism.

I do not hesitate to recommend your 5 DROPS as the best and cheapest medicine I have ever taken. I suffered for ten years. No one knows the tortures of rheumatism better than I.

If you have not sufficient confidence after reading these letters to send for a large bottle, send for a sample bottle, which contains sufficient medicine to convince you of its merit.

"Five Drops" is the name and dose. Large bottles (300 doses), \$1.00. Six bottles for \$5.00. Sample bottle, prepaid, by mail, 25c. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents wanted.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 167 DEARBORN STREET, CHICAGO, ILL., U. S. A.

The Season's Work

in the garden can be done with the "PLANET JR." NO. 4 HILL-DROPPING SEEDER and SINGLE-WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR, RAKE and PLOW. The amount of work you can do with it is wonderful—and everything it does is better done than you could do it any other way.

Mention this paper when you write.

Advertisement for Beethoven Piano and Organ. Features a large circular logo with "FREE" in the center, surrounded by "INCORPORATED FOR 60 YEARS". Text includes "\$25.00 and up" for organ and "\$160.00 and up" for piano. Address: BEETHOVEN PIANO & ORGAN CO., P. O. Box 628, Washington, N. J.

Advertisement for "The Story of American Heroism" book. Features an image of the book cover with the title "THE STORY OF AMERICAN HEROISM" and "AS TOLD BY MEDAL WINNERS AND ROLL OF HONOR MEN". Text describes the book as the latest and best book on the Civil War, containing stories of personal adventures and heroic acts.

Advertisement for "UP-TO-DATE" SPRAY PUMPS. Text: "ALL BRASS. \$17.00 outfit for \$6.00. Express paid. Will spray a 10-acre orchard per day. 60,000 in use. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded." Includes contact information for P. C. LEWIS MFG. CO.

Advertisement for DeLamater-Rider and Delamater-Ericsson Hot-Air Pumping Engines. Text: "If you want water for any purpose and have not the facilities, or want to change, write for catalogue of the Celebrated DeLamater-Rider and Delamater-Ericsson Hot-Air Pumping Engines." Includes address: DELAMATER IRON WORKS, 467 West Broadway, New York City.

Advertisement for O.I.C. HOGS. Text: "SEND FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE FAMOUS TWO OF WHICH WEIGHED 2806 lbs. FIRST APPLICANT IN EACH LOCALITY SECURES A PAIR ON TIME & AGENCY. SOLD 1129 HEAD FIRST 6 MONTHS 1896 FOR BREEDING PURPOSES. L. B. Silver Co. Cleveland, O." Includes an illustration of a pig's head.

Advertisement for 14 KARAT GOLD GENTS OR LADIES SIZE watches. Text: "GET THIS OFF and send it to us with your name and address and we will send you this beautiful gold finished watch, by express for examination. You examine it at the express office; and if you think it a bargain pay our simple price \$2.75 and express charges and it is yours." Includes an illustration of a pocket watch.

Our Miscellany.

THE word "selvage" means "self-edge," or that which is an edge of itself without being hemmed.

THE old scare that the world's coal is near exhaustion is now pretty well exploded. New coal areas are constantly being opened, and the old ones are by no means near exhausted.

SAM SINGLETON—"Do you honestly mean to say that you spend less money since you married?"

Benny Dictus—"My dear fellow, I have to."—Brooklyn Life.

LITTLE JOHNNY—"What is your papa's business?"

Little Clarence—"My papa is a poet."

Little Johnny—"Huh! That ain't a business—it's a disease."

SIZE for size, a thread of spider silk is decidedly tougher than a hair of steel. An ordinary thread will bear a weight of three grains. That is about fifty per cent stronger than a steel thread of the same thickness.

JAYNE'S EXPECTORANT is both a palliative and curative in all Lung Complaints, Bronchitis, &c. It is a standard remedy for Coughs and Colds, and needs only a trial to prove its worth. The best family pill, Jayne's Painless Sugar-Coated Sanative.

SHE—"Would you love me just the same, dearest, if I were poor instead of worth a million?"

He—"I have registered a solemn vow never to discuss the financial question again."—Detroit Free Press.

ITALY has forty-eight per cent illiterate people; France and Belgium about fifteen per cent. In Hungary the illiterates number forty-three per cent; in Austria, thirty-nine per cent; and in Ireland, twenty-one per cent. In India only 11,000,000 out of 250,000,000 can read and write.

BACON—"Do you remember you prophesied that young Blowman would be heard from when he got a little older?"

Egbert—"Yes, I believe I do remember saying something like that."

"Well, your words have come true. He's moved next door to me, and has taken up the cornet."—Youkers Statesman.

5 DROPS

The marvelous curative remedy advertised by the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., Chicago, in this issue is doing a great and good work among the sick and afflicted everywhere. It is a wonderful remedy and meeting with a wonderful success. Note testimonials in advertisement on page 15.

AS YOU TAKE IT.

"All little girls," said the caller, "should have some kind of light work for their leisure hours. Of course, you do something in that way, Susie?"

"Nix."

"That's especially nice. So few children knit nowadays."—Detroit Free Press.

THIS WILL INTEREST MANY.

F. W. Parkhurst, the Boston publisher, says that if any one who is afflicted with rheumatism in any form, or neuralgia, will send their address to him at Box 1501, Boston, Mass., he will direct them to a perfect cure. He has nothing to sell or give, only tells you how he was cured. Hundreds have tested it with success.

THE largest kitchen in the world is that of the Bon Marche in Paris. This store has four thousand employees, who are furnished with their lunch. The smallest kettle contains one hundred quarts and the largest five hundred. Each roasting-pan is big enough for five hundred outlets.

THE COMPANION ART CALENDAR FOR 1897. TWENTY-EIGHT PAGE ILLUSTRATED PROSPECTUS SENT FREE—SEE OFFER BELOW

Some of our young people are showing a very handsome Calendar for 1897 which they have lately received from the publishers of The Youth's Companion. It is made up of Four Charming Pictures in color, beautifully executed. Its size is 10 by 24 inches. The subjects are delightfully attractive. This Calendar is published exclusively by The Youth's Companion and could not be sold in Art Stores for less than One Dollar. The possessors of this beautiful gift are those who are taking advantage of the special December subscription offer made by The Companion.

This Calendar is a fine piece of work, well worthy a prominent place among the choice ornaments of any home. This art Calendar is presented to every new subscriber of The Companion for the year 1897, and those who send their subscriptions at once receive the paper until January 1st, free.

A glance at the remarkable list of writers and articles for 1897 is enough to show that the response to this offer will be large. Illustrated Prospectus, twenty-eight pages, sent free to all readers who mention this paper. Address The Youth's Companion, 205 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Mass.

SMALL FARMS IN JAPAN.

Japan, and not France or Belgium, would appear to be the land of petite culture. According to a recent American bulletin, a couple of acres is considered a large tract for farming purposes. Most of the farms are smaller, and on a little plot a surprising variety of crops is cultivated—a few square feet of wheat, barley, maize and millet; a plot of beans perhaps ten feet wide by twenty feet long, a similar area of potatoes and peas, and a patch of onions "about as big as a grave;" beet-root, lettuce, turnips, sweet potatoes and other crops occupy the rest of the area. The farmer examines his growing crops every morning, just as an engineer inspects his machinery, and if anything is wrong he puts it right. If a weed appears in the bean-patch he pulls it up; if a hill of potatoes or anything else fails it is at once replanted. When he cuts down a tree he always plants another. As soon as one crop is harvested the soil is worked over, manured and forthwith resown to another crop. It is estimated that nine tenths of the agricultural land of Japan is devoted to rice; and as this is a crop requiring much water, the paddy-fields are banked up into terraces, one above the other, and divided off into small plots twenty-five or thirty feet square, with ridges of earth between them to prevent the water from flowing away when they are flooded. All farming lands are irrigated by a system that is a thousand years old. Some of the ditches are walled up with bamboo wickerwork and some with tiles and stone. Nearly half the total population of Japan is engaged in agriculture. Silk and tea, the two chief exports of the country, are raised almost by the work of women.

A CHANCE FOR SOCIALISTS.

There is no reason, in the present state of things, why socialists should not try their experiment on a small scale. All the virtues, all the restraints, all the spirit of self-sacrifice and mutual help which are necessary for its success are within their reach now, and could anywhere be brought into play without the help of the state. Any hundred men can work together, produce together, and divide the products according to any rules which they agree upon. If successful, such associations would multiply, and we should be familiarized with the idea, and be gradually prepared for the transformation of modern society. As a matter of fact, such experiments have several times been tried, and have always failed, except in the case of religious societies, with other objects than production, like monasteries, and they have failed among men devoted to the scheme and full of faith in it.—Atlantic.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

INCUBATORS. HOLIDAY BARGAINS.

Delivered to any part of U. S. Free. Bantam (50 egg) Self Regulating and 75 Chick Brooder for \$5.00. Invincible Hatcher (100 egg) Self Regulating, of world wide reputation, and 150 Chick Brooder \$15.00. Buckeye Hatcher 30 day's trial. Send 4 cents for No. 36 catalogue. Buckeye Incubator Co., Springfield, O.

DON'T BE HARD UP \$2,000 A YEAR EASY.

Plating. Gold, Silver, Nickel & Metal. Gentlemen and Ladies at home or traveling, taking orders, using, and selling Prof. Gray's Plating. Plates, Watches, Jewelry, Tableware, Bicycles and all metal goods. No experience, heavy plate, modern methods. We do plating, manufacture outfits, all sizes. Guaranteed. Only outfits complete, all tools, lathes, materials, etc., ready for work. We teach you the art, furnish secrets and formulas FREE. Write to day. Testimonials, samples, etc., FREE. T. GRAY & CO., PLATING WORKS, Columbus, O. Mention this paper.

GOLDRINGS FREE!

We will give one half-round Ring, 15K Rolled Gold plate, warranted to anyone who will sell 1 doz. Indestructible Lamp Wicks (need no trimming) among friends at 10cts. each. Write us and we will mail you the Wicks. You sell them and send us the money and we will mail you the Ring. STAR CHEMICAL CO., Box 455, Centerbrook, Conn.

SPEX BIG MONEY IN SPECTACLES. Send for our Optical Catalogue—just out, New goods. Cut prices. F. E. BAILEY, Chicago, Ill.

HAIR ON THE FACE, NECK, ARMS OR ANY PART OF THE PERSON QUICKLY DISSOLVED AND REMOVED WITH THE NEW SOLUTION

MODENE



AND THE GROWTH FOREVER DESTROYED WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST INJURY OR DISCOLORATION OF THE MOST DELICATE SKIN. Discovered by Accident.—In Compounding, an incomplete mixture was accidentally spilled on the back of the hand, and on washing afterward it was discovered that the hair was completely removed. We purchased the new discovery and named it MODENE. It is perfectly pure, free from all injurious substances, and so simple any one can use it. It acts mildly but surely, and you will be surprised and delighted with the results. Apply for a few minutes and the hair disappears as if by magic. It has no resemblance whatever to any other preparation ever used for a like purpose, and no scientific discovery ever attained such wonderful results. IT CAN NOT FAIL. If the growth be light, one application will remove it permanently; the heavy growth such as the beard or hair on the arms may require two or more applications before all the roots are destroyed, although all hair will be removed at each application, and without slightest injury or unpleasant feeling when applied or ever afterward. MODENE SUPERCEDES ELECTROLYSIS.

Recommended by all who have tested its merits—Used by people of refinement. Gentlemen who do not appreciate nature's gift of a beard, will find a priceless boon in Modene, which does away with shaving. It dissolves and destroys the life principle of the hair, thereby rendering its future growth an utter impossibility, and is guaranteed to be as harmless as water to the skin. Young persons who find an embarrassing growth of hair coming, should use Modene to destroy its growth. Modene sent by mail, in safety mailing cases, postage paid, securely sealed from observation) on receipt of price, \$1.00 per bottle. Send money by letter, with your full address written plainly. Correspondence sacredly private. Postage stamps received the same as cash. (ALWAYS MENTION YOUR COUNTY AND THIS PAPER.) Cut this advertisement out.

LOCAL AND GENERAL AGENTS WANTED. MOENE MANUFACTURING CO., CINCINNATI, O., U. S. A. Manufacturers of the Highest Grade Hair Preparations. You can register your letter at any Post-office to insure its safe delivery. We Offer \$1,000 FOR FAILURE OR THE SLIGHTEST INJURY. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.

PIANOS! ORGANS! FREE! TEST TRIAL FOR 30 DAYS IN YOUR OWN HOME, NO MONEY REQUIRED. PIANOS-ORGANS FROM \$25.00 UP. Including a Complete Musical Outfit. CASH or EASY PAYMENTS. NEW SOUVENIR CATALOGUE. A work of art illustrated in 10 colors. Worth its weight in gold. We pay charges on it and send it FREE, all you have to do is ask for it to-day please. Remember this is the old established house of CORNISH & CO., the only firm in the world selling exclusively from Factory to Family direct. A single instrument at wholesale price. We save you from \$25.00 to \$250.00. Write at once to Estab. 35 Years. CORNISH & CO., Piano & Organ Makers, Washington, N. J.

THE STANDARD COOK BOOK FOR AMERICAN HOMES. What to Cook ... and ... How to Cook It. 320 PAGES. 186 ILLUSTRATIONS. 200 PRACTICAL HOUSEKEEPERS. FROM 1,200 Practical Recipes. No matter what you want to cook, you will find recipes for it in the Standard. Beverages. Custards and Desserts. Cakes and Cookies. Sauces and Catsups. Pies and Puddings. Relishes. Meats. Salads. Soups. Vegetables. Eggs and Omelets. Invalid Diet. Candies. Bread and Biscuit. Game and Poultry. Oysters and Fish. Breakfast Dishes. Breakfast Cakes. Preserves and Pickles. Miscellaneous Recipes. All of these have been thoroughly tested, and have not been found wanting in any particular. THE STANDARD embodies all the best features found in other GOOD cook books, and in addition contains much valuable matter not found in others, and all eminently practical for the average housekeeper; being especially designed for those homes that love good cooking at a moderate expense. It will at once be noticed that there is an absence of those technical terms which render the vast majority of cook books of no practical value. The regular price of any one of the premiums named below, and Farm and Fireside one year, is 60 cents, but in order to boom subscriptions we make the following special offer: We will send any TWO of the premiums named below and TWO yearly subscriptions to Farm and Fireside for 60 cents; but when this offer is accepted, no commission will be allowed and the names cannot be counted in a club.

- No. 17. Standard Cook Book. No. 32. Titus, a Comrade of the Cross. No. 591. Silver-plated Sugar-shell. No. 40. History of the Civil War. No. 590. Silver-plated Butter-knife. No. 802. Pilgrim's Progress. No. 816. Poultry Book. No. 977. Robinson Crusoe. No. 980. Oliver Twist. No. 820. Horse Book. No. 981. Great Expectations. No. 982. Tale of Two Cities.

\$500.00 IN GOLD AND A HIGH GRADE \$100 BICYCLE (Any Make You may Choose.) FREE! To any Person who can form the greatest number of words from the letters in the word SERVANT. You can make ten or more words easily, and if you do you will receive a good reward. Do not use any letter more times than it appears in the word. Use no language except English. Words spelled alike, but with different meaning, can be used but once. Use any dictionary. Plurals, pronouns, nouns, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, suffixes, adjectives, proper nouns are allowed. Anything that is a legitimate word will be allowed. Work it out in this manner: Ant, rant, eat, sea, sat, etc. Use these words in your list. The publishers of FASHION AND FIXINGS will pay \$100.00 in gold to each of the two persons sending the largest list of words from the letters in the word SERVANT; \$50.00 for each of the two sending the second largest; \$25.00 for each of the two sending the third; \$10.00 each for the next five; \$5.00 each for the ten next largest, and \$2.00 each for the twenty-five next largest lists. Any one entitled to the second reward can have in place of \$50.00 a strictly high-grade 1897 BICYCLE, Lady's or Gent's, of any make he or she may choose. The above rewards are given free and without consideration for the purpose of attracting attention to our handsome woman's magazine, thirty-four pages, 102 long columns, finely illustrated, containing all the very latest fashions, and all original matter, long and short stories by the best authors; price, 50c. per year. It is necessary for you to enter the contest guaranteed an extra present by return mail (in addition to the magazine) of a 200-page book, "A Man in Black," by Stanley J. Weyman, a love story of intense interest. Satisfaction guaranteed in every case or your money refunded. Lists should be sent at once, and not later than Feb. 20. The names and addresses of successful contestants will be printed in March issue. We refer you to any mercantile agency for our standing. Make your list now, and addresses of successful contestants will be printed in March issue. We refer you to any mercantile agency for our standing. Make your list now, and addresses of successful contestants will be printed in March issue. THIS ADVERTISEMENT WILL NOT APPEAR AGAIN. CUT IT OUT. Address DUNCAN & KELLER, PUBLISHERS, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

RESOURCES OF THE TALLAHASSEE HILL COUNTRY.

(Concluded from December 15th number.)

THE Scottish Land & Improvement Co. is interested in town site development work. Its most important undertaking is at Lanark, five miles east of Carrabelle, and some forty-five miles south of Tallahassee, where it owns 1,600 acres of land fronting on the Gulf. In the center of this tract, through which the railroad runs, is the town site of Lanark, which contains about 700 building lots. Here a very handsome hotel has been constructed, the Lanark Inn, and it is surrounded with conditions which make it an ideally charming place, both as a winter and as a summer resort. Near the hotel is a fine spring, the water of which is pronounced by chemists to be not only remarkably pure, but to possess very pronounced medicinal qualities. Prof. E. T. Cox, formerly state chemist and geologist of Indiana, makes the following report on it:

"The Lanark spring-water contains only 8.96 grains of mineral matter to the gallon. In this respect it resembles the Poland water, so extensively sold on account of the small percentage of contained mineral matter. But it is a much superior water to the Poland, because it contains a large amount of free carbonic acid, which gives it life and exhilarant properties. Of the 8.96 grains of solid matter, a large portion is carbonate of iron; the remainder is carbonate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, chloride of sodium (common salt), sulphate of soda (Glauber salts), sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salts), traces of lithia and bromide. Its effects on the system are: Alterative, tonic, aperient and diuretic. It is to be recommended for all forms of dyspepsia, general debility, loss of appetite and persistent constipation."

The water from this spring is conveyed to the hotel through pipes, and is the only water used. The Inn is provided with all modern conveniences and accessories to comfort.

This Western part of Florida is a splendid game country. In the northern counties there are innumerable lakes that abound in fish. Along the coast of this part of the state are some of the finest fishing-grounds in America. Oysters of the finest quality, shrimp and crabs are abundant. From October to April the ponds, bayous and heaches swarm with wild ducks, geese, snipe and other choice water-fowl, and not far away a great variety of larger game can be found in abundance. All along this part of the Floridian coast, but particularly from Carrabelle well north to Pensacola, the hunting-grounds are exceptionally fine. There are localities in this section where practically aboriginal conditions prevail, and bear, deer, catamount, turkeys and other wild game are scarcely less numerous than they were 100 years ago. This is particularly true of Wakulla, Franklin and other of the coast counties. A few miles from Apalachicola is St. Vincent's Island, a beautifully wooded island of 1,100 acres, which probably is not surpassed anywhere in the United States in variety and abundance of game, including salt and fresh water fish, water-fowl of every sort, and also deer and turkeys.

Any article on this region would be incomplete without something more than a passing reference to the charming old city of Tallahassee. Tallahassee is not very big for its age and it does not glory in its census figures or boast about its clearing-house returns. Its victories have been achieved along gentler lines than those of booms and commercial strife, but it has conquered, and goes on conquering, for all who know it are its enthusiastic lovers. The stranger does not need to be told that here is the abode of culture and refinement, for it is apparent in every lineament of her being. Instinctively one longs to abide here forever, amid these shady nooks and perfumed hovers and be at rest. Possibly these same people, whom you soon come to find as graciously hospitable as you knew all along they must be, possibly they would have made a paradise wherever they might have gathered themselves together, and maybe Florida is entitled to some of the credit for the creation of this scene of enchantment; but the fact remains that somehow a combination of such people and such a place is nowhere else to be found.

Every home is a flower garden, every street a sylvan glen; all the year round the air is heavily laden with perfume, and the music of many birds fills the day and sometimes the night.

The drives about the city and beyond are pleasing features, for there is no mud in winter here; and then there are several resorts near by, lake, river and spring, one particularly interesting spot being the mammoth Wakulla spring, 150 feet deep, and so clear that a five-cent-piece can easily be seen on the bottom. A favorite pastime with visitors is to row out to the middle of the spring in a boat, and then coming to a stop, to look into the water and get the creepy sensation which would come to one if suspended in midair 200 feet above the earth.

With its wealth of beauty and the charming hospitality of its people, Tallahassee is a perpetual invitation and temptation to every dweller in a less favored clime.

THE TALLAHASSEE COUNTRY.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Nov. 18, 1896.

EDITOR FARM AND FIRESIDE:—A great number of inquiries received concerning the Tallahassee country, and the general interest at the North in the possibilities of this most favored region, lead me to believe that a general description of the "highlands," or "hill country," of Western Florida would interest your readers.

Florida is a very large state, comprising a territory of 58,686 square miles, and has the most extensive sea-coast of any state in the Union. Along both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts the harbors are numerous, deep and safe. The value of her fisheries (including sponge and oyster fisheries) is many millions of dollars. The lumber-mills and phosphate-mines of the state represent immense capital, and the employment of thousands of skilled operatives and laborers. Florida has the second largest number of registered vessels of any state in the Union. Her river, lake and canal shipping is very large, in addition to vessels engaged in coastwise traffic and fishing. The hotels of sub-tropical Florida have a world-wide reputation, and the thousands who winter here come from the colder regions of both Europe and America.

The state extends from near the twenty-fifth to the thirty-first degrees of north latitude, which gives a wide range of climate. The narrowing down of the peninsular, and the Gulf Stream pouring its tepid waters around the southern portion of the state, has a wonderful effect in maintaining an even temperature, and almost total immunity from killing frosts. In this region no general farming is done. The growing of tropical fruits and winter vegetables for Northern markets is extensively carried on. Generally speaking, the soil is very poor and sandy, but here and there on the margin of some stream or lake a small fertile hammock may be found. The climate is very favorable to plant growth, and by fertilizing large yields of delicate vegetables may be matured and marketed in midwinter. A little further north are immense stretches of pine forests, dotted here and there with small towns along the railroads and rivers. These communities are mainly supported by lumber-mills and turpentine-farms. Yet further to the north, and westward from the Suwanee River, rises with some abruptness, two or three hundred feet above the pine levels, and reaches away northward into the lower edge of Georgia, west to the Chattahoochee River, and south to within a few miles of the Gulf, "the Tallahassee country," in every respect vastly different from other portions of the state. Graceful undulations of hill and dale instead of monotonous levels, a forest growth of oak and many other kinds of hard woods, such as hickory, beech, magnolia, poplar and ash—single trees often towering to a height of more than a hundred feet, and measuring from four to eight feet in diameter, fertile soil of a rich, moldy character and dark chocolate color overlying a subsoil of great depth, a storehouse of moisture and plant-food, render the landscape pleasing and picturesque, and give promise of bounteous harvests, amply verified where the plowshare does its work.

As these elevations are reached the atmosphere grows perceptibly purer and less humid. The saline breath of the ocean, laden with healing from the pines which skirt the coast, is peculiarly grateful and beneficial to sufferers from pulmonary affections as it is gently wafted over these highlands.

Here extremes of heat and cold, droughts and flood, are unknown. No storm or cyclone has ever devastated her homes. No pest of potato-bugs, chinch-bugs, army-worms or locusts has ever laid waste her fields. In this genial clime the vine and the fig bestow their richest blessings without care or labor from the husbandman. Many of earth's choicest fruits, transplanted from North and South, East and West, find here a congenial home, and repay with rich fruitage the care of intelligent culture. Winter and summer the gorgeous bloom of her gardens charms the eye, and the delicious fragrance of flowers and scented shrubs perfumes the air.

The Tallahassee country is peopled by a generous-hearted race, ready to welcome with open hospitality all good people who come among them. There are good schools, and churches of many denominations, which are well attended.

These are all attractive features to home-seekers. But the most pertinent query is, "What are the especial advantages of the Tallahassee country to the prospective settler over other regions, from a 'bread-and-butter' point of view?" The soil is fertile, moist, friable, contains no stones and is easily tilled. All kinds of grain yield good crops. All kinds of vegetables grow to perfection. Both sweet and Irish potatoes produce heavy crops of excellent quality. Sugar-cane, sorghum, peanuts, chufers, cow-peas, tobacco, cotton and many other field crops unknown at the North are profitable both as a market and feed crop. Striata Lespedesia and beggar-weed (of the clover family) take the place of red clover, and yield more abundantly, the latter seeding itself annually and producing a mass of succulent and nutritious feed from June until November. Cut-and properly cured it makes

the most superior hay known. Peanuts or cow-peas planted between corn-rows (at the last cultivating of the corn) yield almost a full crop, and do not at all interfere with the corn crop. Beggar-weed, coming up after the last plowing of the corn, unites with the peanut or pea crop to make a pasturage for hogs, horses or cattle unsurpassed for richness, and which will remain in fine condition until the middle of November, leaving a heavy mass of sod to be turned under for the benefit of the land. Mr. G. W. Saxon, of Tallahassee, grew on three acres of land the present year 120 bushels of corn, worth in Tallahassee 40 cents per bushel, and between the corn-rows 150 bushels of peanuts, worth 75 cents per bushel, besides beggar-weed and peanut-tops that would have yielded one and one half to two tons per acre of cured hay, and this without fertilizing. Mr. Saxon had the corn husked out, and turned cattle and hogs into the field. They are still running on this field without extra feed, and are fat enough for slaughter. These three acres were part of a poor hillside, considerably below the average land in point of fertility. It is needless to say, however, that the land was well prepared and well worked.

Oats or rye planted in September will afford excellent and cheap pasturage all winter. The land will be in better condition for spring crops after the treading of stock during the winter. Sugar-beets, rutabagas and all varieties of turnips, carrots, etc., yield immense crops and grow all winter, and are especially valuable as winter feed for sheep and cattle. The large yields of root crops, including sweet potatoes, peanuts and chufers, and excellent natural pasturage, combined with grain pasturage from November until April, reduces the cost of all kinds of stock-raising away below the cost of stock-raising at the North. Owing to the large tourist travel in winter and the shipping, lumbering, fishing, mining, railroads, trucking and fruit-growing interests of the state, there is always a large local demand for good meats, dairy products, feed stuffs, etc., at remunerative prices. The mild climate does away with the necessity for expensive barns and cattle-sheds, while the good quality and cheapness of building material reduces the cost of home-making and farm buildings. Gardens growing the year round, and the favorable conditions for poultry-raising enable us to have fresh vegetables, eggs and fat, tender broilers, with plenty of milk and butter, every day in the year; and coupled with a good market for any surplus, makes living cheap and pleasurable.

Our most profitable market crop is cigar tobacco—grown from Sumatra or Cuba seed—the product being equal to the imported tobacco of these types. Care is necessary in procuring reliable seed. Tobacco requires constant attention from the seed-bed until it is packed and ready for market, but any intelligent farmer can make a success with his first crop by heeding instructions furnished free of charge by the cigar manufacturers of Tallahassee. The average yield is about 600 pounds per acre, and the average price per pound is 25 cents. Many of our best growers get from 800 to 1,200 pounds per acre, and from 30 cents to 50 cents per pound. One small farmer near Tallahassee grew 20 acres this year, setting the plants in April. In September he sold his crop, the product of 20 acres, for over \$6,000. The cost of labor, fertilizers, packages, etc., was less than \$800, leaving a net profit of more than \$5,000 from 20 acres of land.

Plug wrappers and cigarette tobaccos of fine quality are also profitable crops, yielding 800 to 1,400 pounds per acre, and selling at from 10 cents to 30 cents per pound. The cost of growing and curing these types of tobacco being less per acre than for cigar tobaccos.

The market prices for farm produce of all kinds ruling higher here than at the North and West, there is a margin of profit on all. The diversity of products is so great that the selection of field crops is largely a matter of taste, rather than necessity, with the farmer. By a succession of seasonable planting and harvesting it is possible to mature from two to four crops per annum from the same ground.

The Tallahassee country is well watered by streams and lakes fed by pure springs, affording plenty of water for stock in almost every field and pasture—a very valuable consideration in subdividing the large plantations into small farms.

While the greatest advantages are offered the small farmer, who happily combines general farming with stock-raising, dairying and fruit-growing, the opportunities for investment of large capital in agricultural lands and pursuits are very attractive.

The Owl Cigar Company, of New York, a few years ago purchased twenty thousand acres of land in the Tallahassee country. They employ a large number of intelligent farmers to superintend their different plantations and thousands of negro laborers. Their operations include the breeding of fine cattle and general farming, but their specialty is fine cigar tobacco. Of this they grow 1,200 to 1,500 acres per annum, and find it very profitable.

Mr. Randolph Eppes, one of the youngest, as well as one of the most prosperous farmers of this section, owns and cultivates

6,000 acres of land. Mr. Eppes, who is not yet thirty years of age, assumed the management of his handsome property soon after leaving college, and has only had four or five years' experience in the control of his estate. His net profits last year were \$10,000.

For many years this part of Florida has been isolated and unknown to the traveling public, owing to meager transportation facilities. This disadvantage has been largely overcome by the building of new roads and extending old lines. The Clark Syndicate, whose advertisements have appeared in the FARM AND FIRESIDE for some months, own and control a large area of the very best land in the vicinity of Tallahassee to the north and east. They have also extensive lumbering, timber, railroad and steamboat properties southward from Tallahassee, through the pine belt to the Gulf, and westward to Mobile. Through their land offices in Tallahassee they have found homes for numbers of hustling farmers from various parts of the North and West, who seem healthy, prosperous and happy amid their new surroundings. At present lands near the city of Tallahassee, extending out two or three miles, are worth from \$20 to \$50 per acre. Lands equally as good further out can be bought at from \$10 to \$20 per acre, but prices are advancing. The poorer lands in the pine belt, lying near the coast, are worth from 50 cents to \$5 per acre, according to the timber and improvements.

In conclusion I wish to disabuse the minds of many Northern people of the idea that life here is endangered and made a burden by impure water, insect pests and poisonous reptiles. We have some house-flies, mosquitoes and horse-flies, but none to compare with many places in the North. Cattle are never seriously disturbed by them. It is no unusual thing to hear people from the North express surprise at these facts. Drinking-water is pure and wholesome—obtainable at small cost from springs or wells. The latter are usually thirty-five to sixty feet deep, and afford an abundant supply. The cost of digging and curbing a well of sufficient capacity for an ordinary farm is about \$30 to \$40.

W. L. TAYLOR.

BUY A FARM IN FLORIDA.

We wish to call especial attention to the extract below taken from the "American Farmer":

"Your land yields but a small return on the investment. It is mortgaged for half of its value, possibly more. After paying your interest and taxes, nothing is left for you and your family. Is it wise to plod on an exhausting life in the weary endeavor to make both ends meet, when every decade sees you worse off? You will be an old man by and by; sell out now. The money you will get for your equity will enable you to buy and pay for as good a tract of land in the South as you are leaving. As a present with the land, you will get as fine a climate as that of Italy, and your chances of making a good living by a reasonable amount of work will be just as great as they are in the North. Then you know that nothing short of the discovery of coal or oil on your land will improve your condition. Why go ahead in the old rut? If our English and European ancestors had not shown the enterprise to leave their homes, think how much harder their lot and ours would have been! The time has come when no man without enterprise can better his condition, and enterprise means, get out of the ruts and choose the thing which, on its merits, seems the best."

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On and after this date we will pay the railroad fare one way of each and every purchaser of 40 acres or more of land, crediting the amount on their payment for the land. In this way every purchaser can visit the Tallahassee section, see the country for himself, make his own selection, have a delightful and pleasant trip, and all at comparatively little cost.

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If you cannot join our excursion at either Chicago or Cincinnati, go to your nearest ticket agent and get rates from him. Then if you will advise us when you leave, we will have our manager at Tallahassee meet you at the depot on your arrival. He will show you every courtesy and attention, and arrange free transportation for you over our railroad and steamship lines during your visit in Tallahassee.

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The Herbivorous,
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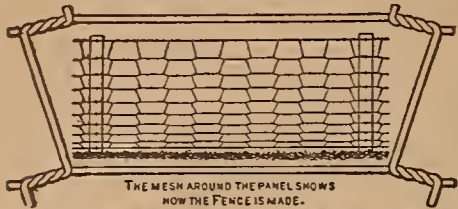
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He surpassed all orators in eloquence, all diplomatists in wisdom, all statesmen in foresight, and the most ambitious in fame.—John J. Ingalls, ex-United States Senator from Kansas.

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OUR BARGAIN We will send TWO copies of this book and TWO yearly subscriptions to Farm and Fireside for 80 cents; but when this offer is accepted, no commission will be allowed and the names cannot be counted in a club toward another premium.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| LIFE OF LINCOLN Would be cheap at | \$1.00 |
| LIFE OF WASHINGTON Would be cheap at | 1.00 |
| FARM AND FIRESIDE One Year, Cheap at | .50 |
| WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION One Year, Better than One Dollar papers, <small>(Formerly Ladies Home Companion.)</small> | .50 |
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As a special offer, we will give this great combination of both our papers and two premiums,

All Four for One Dollar

But when this offer is accepted, no commission will be allowed and the names cannot be counted in a club toward a premium.

Any one who does not want the above-named premiums may choose substitutes from the following: No. 100, "Christ Before Pilate;" No. 34, "Samantha at Saratoga;" No. 11, "People's Atlas of the World;" No. 180, Berry-spoon; No. 30, "Beauties and Wonders of Land and Sea;" No. 26, "Gems from the Poets."

Postage paid by us in each case.

For any article on this page order by the premium number and address

FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

A MAGNIFICENT WORK OF ART

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE THE MOST COSTLY PAINTING IN THE WORLD. SOLD FOR OVER \$100,000.

At a great expense we had this world-famous painting reproduced in all its beauty and richness of color, selling over 300,000, and could have sold more, but we did not have them. The unanimous praise the picture received from this host of men and women who love the Master has created such a demand that we have been persuaded by their constant appeals to reproduce a limited number of copies of the picture in the original colors.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
I saw the painting "Christ Before Pilate" in St. Paul, and can testify that the picture sent me is a perfect facsimile in every particular, especially in the coloring. I consider it an art treasure, and in view of the great value of the original, it certainly is.
MARY A. DENISON.

MUSKEGON, MICH.
I received the picture "Christ Before Pilate," and thank you a thousand times for having sent me such a beautiful picture. Would not part with it for \$20.00 if I did not know where I could obtain another. I shall give it the best place in our parlor.
CHAS. A. LINDSTREM.

NORMAN, NEB.
I received the picture "Christ Before Pilate," and would not part with it for \$15.00 if I did not know where to get another. I will have it suitably framed, and I will give it the best place in our parlor.
N. L. JOHNSON.

ST. CATHARINE'S ACADEMY, RACINE, WIS.
The picture "Christ Before Pilate" duly received, and we are delighted with it. It is an excellent copy of the original, which we have seen.
MOTHER M. HYACINTHA.

ARTONDALE, WASHINGTON.
I have received the picture "Christ Before Pilate," and am well pleased with it. I would not take Twenty Dollars for it if I could not get another one.
A. D. WRIGHT.

Premium No. 100.



The picture is 21 inches wide and 28 inches long.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAINTING

The scene chosen for the painting is the "Judgment Hall" in the palace of Pilate, and the hour "early in the morning." Around the Governor the priests are gathered, and the high-priest, Caiaphas, is accusing Christ and demanding his death. The proud and furious bigot is all alive with excitement. There is a majesty about his pose, the consciousness of power in his look and gesture, and something of dignity in the superb audacity with which he draws Pilate's attention to the execrations of the mob (who are crying out, "Crucify him!") as expressive of the national will which the Governor is bound to respect, at the same time insinuating that to let this man go will be treason to Caesar, as well as a violation of the Jewish law which demands the prisoner's death for "making himself the Son of God." Pilate is yielding to the clamor, while his conscience, aided by his wife's message warning him not to condemn that righteous man, is protesting in tones which make him tremble.

THE CENTRAL FIGURE.

And the most impressive of all, is Christ himself, clad in white, with flowing hair and bound wrists. He stands alone in the simple majesty of his own personality, without sign or symbol save his individual greatness. A heavenly submission is on his face. Never before in any painting of the Messiah has anything of his personality in pose and figure been seen. The face has been that of Jesus, the form that of other men; but here the figure is of Christ himself.

OTHER LEADING FIGURES

Are represented by the proud and confident Pharisee, the haughty and contemptuous Scribe, the Roman soldier, and the ruffian leaders of the mob. At one side a mother holds up her child to see the Savior. In the outer court the multitude is awaiting Pilate's decision.

Finer Than Some Pictures Sold in Art Stores for Ten Dollars Each

Mr. John Wanamaker, ex-Postmaster-General, paid over one hundred thousand dollars for the original painting, which has been exhibited in the great cities of Europe and America. Thousands of people paid a big admission fee to get a sight of this masterpiece.

Our reproduction of the picture is 21 inches wide by 28 inches long, sufficient in size to allow ample scope for the display of the salient features of faces and forms, while the varied expressions of hate, fear, curiosity, compassion and reverence of those assembled are shown with a startling fidelity.

Michael De Munkacsy, the painter of this remarkable picture, is one of the most illustrious painters of the age. Kings and potentates the world over have honored him for his genius. He considers "Christ Before Pilate" the greatest production of his life. It brought him both fame and wealth.

Months of patient labor were required in preparing the stones for the reproduction of this picture. The artists were instructed to be faithful and perfect in every detail, regardless of expense, and have furnished an oleograph copy of the painting equal in size and artistic merit to pictures sold in stores for \$10 each.

We will Send This Picture, and Farm and Fireside One Year, for 60 Cents.

OUR BARGAIN We will send TWO copies of this picture and TWO yearly subscriptions to Farm and Fireside for 80 cents; but when this offer is accepted, no commission will be allowed and the names cannot be counted in a club.

See offer of our two papers and two premiums, "All 4 for One Dollar," on first page.

Our New Set of Teaspoons

These silver-plated Teaspoons are entirely new—different from any spoons offered by us heretofore—also FAR BETTER. They make excellent wedding presents.

We guarantee that these spoons are made of pure and solid nickel-silver metal all the way through, and then plated with coin-silver. They can be used in cooking, eating, medicine and acids the same as solid coin-silver. These spoons cannot turn brassy, will not corrode or rust, and are so hard they won't bend.

Spoons of equal merit cannot, as a rule, be bought in the average jewelry-store for less than \$2.00 a set. In beauty and finish they are as fine as solid coin-silver spoons costing \$6.00 a set. For daily use, year after year, nothing (except solid coin-silver) excels these solid nickel-silver spoons plated with coin-silver.

MONEY REFUNDED

Any one who receives these spoons and is not perfectly satisfied with them will confer a favor upon us by returning them, when we will cheerfully refund the money. Satisfaction guaranteed.

AN ENTIRE SET OF SIX TEASPOONS COUNTS AS ONE PREMIUM. ❁❁❁

PREMIUM NO. 1.

INITIAL LETTER

Each and every spoon will be beautifully engraved with one initial letter in Old English, but no more than one letter will be engraved on each spoon. In ordering, say what initial you want.

These spoons make superior wedding presents. They are handsome, useful and durable. They will wear and give satisfaction for a lifetime, because under the plating these spoons are pure and solid nickel-silver, and are therefore silver color through and through.

To test the spoons, file one in two, and if not found as represented, we will refund your money and make you a present of the subscription, provided you agree to tell your friends about the test and what it proved. If you will return the spoon destroyed, we will replace it.

At the very low price which we ask for this excellent set of spoons, and the paper a year, it is giving the biggest value possible for the money, for we do not make one cent of profit from this offer. Our sole aim is to secure a flood of subscriptions for Farm and Fireside. ❁❁❁❁❁

This Set of Six Teaspoons, and Farm and Fireside One Year, 75 Cents

When this offer is accepted, no commission will be allowed and the names cannot be counted in a club.

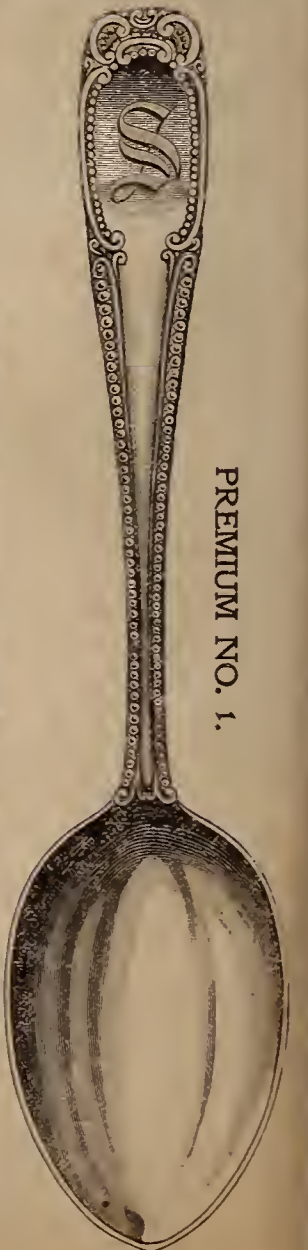
GIVEN FREE

This set of 6 Teaspoons given FREE as a premium for 4 yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside at the single subscription price, 50 cents each; or for 8 yearly subscribers at the clubbing price, 30 cents each; no premiums to the subscribers in either case.

Postage paid by us in each case.

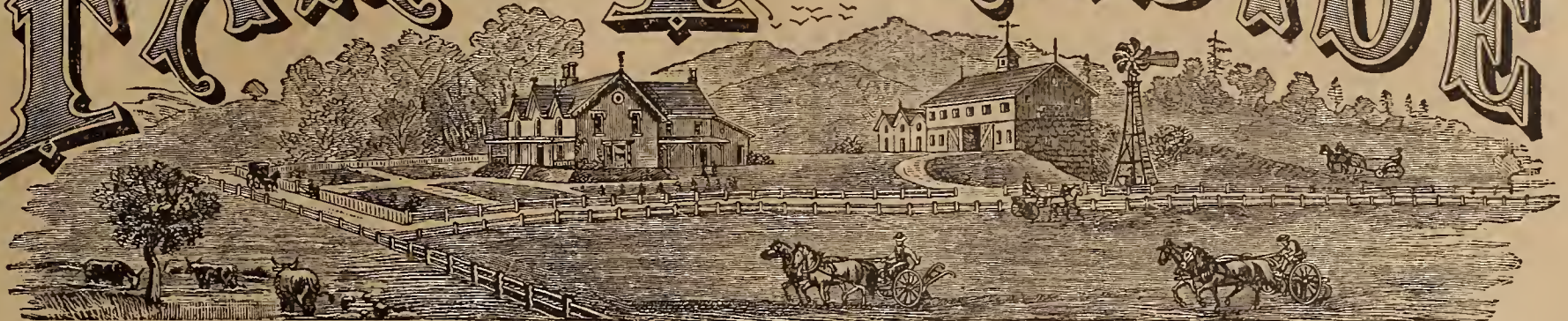
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PREMIUM NO. 1.

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EASTERN EDITION.

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JANUARY 15, 1897. □

TERMS { 50 CENTS A YEAR.
24 NUMBERS.

NEW MAP AND HISTORY OF CUBA

We are pleased to announce that we have had made a new and complete map of Cuba. Size 14 by 22 inches, printed in several colors. See full description on page 9.

We believe this to be better than the maps of Cuba found in TEN-DOLLAR ATLASES.

ONLY 5 CENTS.

We offer this map and the history of Cuba alone for 25 cents.

But we will send it for FIVE CENTS ADDITIONAL if the order is sent in connection with a yearly subscription.

FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

WITH THE VANGUARD

REFERRING to the impression that greater rates of interest are charged for money loaned upon farms than for that loaned upon other kinds of real estate, Secretary Morton states that the rate of interest charged on mortgages upon residential property other than farms averages eighty-four hundredths of one per cent less than the rate of interest charged upon farm loans. In seventeen states the average rate charged on the latter is less than that demanded for loans upon other residential property. In two states the rates are the same upon urban and rural real estate. In Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Texas and Alabama the rates of interest are less for money secured by farm mortgages than for money secured by other realty. In five states, including Kansas, the difference in favor of the farmer is from one fourth to one half of one per cent, and in Texas it is over one per cent. If a western farmer pays a higher interest than the eastern, so also does the western merchant, common carrier or manufacturer. In the western states during the last ten years there has been a steady maintenance of land values in nearly all sections, and in some an enhancement. The increase of farm-land values between 1880 and 1890, reported by the farm occupants themselves, more than offsets the entire interest charged for the decade in most of the great agricultural states of the West and South. In Kansas and Nebraska the increase of land values exceeded the entire encumbrance, principal and interest, and in the states of Washington and California was nearly twice as great. Where the interest was highest the increase in value was greatest.

ON June 1, 1893, the New York State Charities Aid Association established an agency for providing situations in the country for destitute mothers and infants. The aims of the agency, its methods and the work accomplished so far are fully set forth in its third annual report just published. The special work of this association is to provide an opportunity to every homeless mother who is strong enough and willing to support her child to do so. It aims to supplement the work of the maternity hospitals and the infant asylums by assist-

ing young mothers, who have been restored to health and taught how to care for their children, to a life of self-support and independence, and to do this in a way that will strengthen the tie between mother and child, thereby saving the life of the child, prevent either from becoming a public charge, and protect the mother from the irreparable moral injury that would follow the abandonment of her child. Its work is not limited to any one class of women; any destitute mother who gives evidence of a sincere desire to care for her child is aided to do so. The results of the work of the agency have been very satisfactory. Since it was established, seven hundred and fifty-nine situations have been provided; and its work enlarges as it becomes wider and better known. To aid the destitute to self-support is benevolence of the highest order. This agency appeals for and deserves generous aid, and those who can give it aid, or offer good situations for the constantly increasing number of homeless mothers seeking its help, are earnestly requested to correspond with the secretary, Miss Helen C. Butler, Room 501, United Charities Building, 105 East Twenty-second street, New York.

THIS hand, to tyrants ever sworn the foe,
For freedom only deals the deadly blow."

"Hereditary bondsmen! know ye not,
Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow."

Of such as poets sing and historians write was Antonio Maceo, the chief warrior in two Cuban revolutions and a martyr to the cause of freedom. He was born in Santiago de Cuba, July 14, 1848, his parents being Marcos Maceo and Mariana Grajales, both mulattoes. Near the beginning of the revolution of 1868, after a band of Spanish guerrillas had destroyed their home by fire, young Antonio, his father and several brothers joined the insurgents and devoted their lives to the liberation of Cuba from the tyrannical domination of Spain. This poor, uneducated cart-driver, by virtue of his remarkable courage and military talents, rapidly advanced from



GENERAL ANTONIO MACEO.

the ranks to the position of major-general, and became the terror of the Spanish troops. In many engagements he defeated the ablest Spanish commanders. In 1878, after ten years of war, the Cubans agreed to a treaty of peace, but General Maceo alone of the leaders refused to sign it. Protesting against the peace to another Cuban general, he said, "I think the concessions made by the Spaniards are not sufficient to satisfy the Cubans, and even if they were, our honor compels us to achieve the independence of the island or die."

During the sixteen years following 1878 General Maceo, in several different countries, studied war, and plained, with Jose Marti and other Cuban patriots, for the independence of his native country. A portion of this time he passed incognito in our own country, at West Point; and the most attentive student then at the institution was the brown-skinned hostler, of whom the cadets never even dreamed as the hero of the Cuban revolution. Early in 1895 the plans of the patriot leaders were matured, and the present revolt of the Cubans against their Spanish oppressors began. Maceo, with a band of veterans, sailed from Costa Rica to Cuba. From the day of his landing at Baracoa in March, 1895, till the day of his death last month, near Havana, his military career was a most remarkable one. With bands of patriots poorly armed and equipped, he faced and outgeneraled both Campos and Weyler, in command of large armies supplied with all the resources of modern warfare. He won battles, crossed trochas, invaded and held the western provinces, and defied Weyler's vastly superior forces for months. His heroism and military ability have commanded the admiration of the world. His death, probably an assassination compassed by the basest treachery, has intensified the interest and sympathy of all liberty-loving people in the cause of the struggling patriots. The cry of "Viva Cuba libre" sounds louder than ever, and Cuba shall yet be free.

ON page 9 of this number FARM AND FIRESIDE describes and offers to subscribers a good map of Cuba, which will be a great help to all readers of Cuban news in the daily or weekly press. With this map at hand one can locate readily the places named in the dispatches, follow the movements of the several armies, and, in brief, read understandingly of a war for independence in which all Americans are deeply interested.

IN times of trouble or danger, either from foes without or foes within, the main reliance of the republic must be in its citizen soldiery. It being the established policy of the United States to keep the regular army within very small limits during times of peace, the most abundant provisions should be made for the thorough organization, equipment and efficiency of the state militia.

In the emergency of war these voluntary citizen soldiers are the ready defenders of the nation. The regular army of the United States numbers only about thirty thousand. The organized militia numbers nearly one hundred and thirteen thousand men. These state troops are said to be usually well drilled, but in many instances so deficient of proper arms and equipment that a sudden call to active duty would find them inadequately prepared for field service. The importance of promptly remedying this condition will hardly be questioned by any fair-minded man. If a militia is maintained at all, it ought to be strong, adequately equipped, and fully prepared for any possible emergency.

The national guard has its enemies as well as its friends; but not a little of the opposition has its origin in an element that furnishes a strong argument for the existence of a well drilled and disciplined body of militia. Whenever the national guard is called out to disperse a mob or end a riot, an anarchical element (largely imported), defeated in its attempts to destroy and revolutionize, sets up the false cry that the militia is being used to oppress labor. Then socialistic demagogues repeat the cry and mislead not a few. Every honest wage-earner is just as much concerned in keeping the peace, and as much benefited by the proper use of the militia as a larger police force in quelling riots, as any business man in the land.

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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Subscribers receive this paper twice a month, which is twice as often as most other farm and family journals are issued.

Payment, when sent by mail, should be made in Express or Post-office Money-orders, Bank Checks or Drafts. WHEN NEITHER OF THESE CAN BE PROCURED, send the money in a registered letter. All postmasters are required to register letters whenever requested to do so. DO NOT SEND CHECKS ON BANKS IN SMALL TOWNS.

Silver, when sent through the mail, should be carefully wrapped in cloth or strong paper, so as not to wear a hole through the envelop and get lost.

Postage-stamps will be received in payment for subscriptions in sums less than one dollar, if for every 25 cents in stamps you add one-cent stamp extra, because we must sell postage-stamps at a loss.

The date on the "yellow label" shows the time to which each subscriber has paid. Thus: Jan 98, means that the subscription is paid up to January 1, 1898; Feb 98, to February 15, 1898, and so on.

When money is received, the date will be changed within four weeks, which will answer for a receipt.

When renewing your subscription, do not fail to say it is a renewal. If all our subscribers will do this, a great deal of trouble will be avoided. Also give your name and initials just as now on the yellow address label; don't change it to some other member of the family; if the paper is now coming in your wife's name, sign her name, just as it is on label, to your letter of renewal. Always name your post-office.

The Advertisers in This Paper.

We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

No Place

There is really no place so charmingly attractive as the happy home

Like Home.

of which the poets sing; and yet for the large majority of people, especially the younger ones, there seems to be no place that has less attraction for them than their home. The fault that poetic theory and realistic truth do not agree any better in this respect is largely in the home-maker himself. We can make our homes the very quintessence of all earthly blessings; and we also can make them a most God-forsaken place, to be shunned and despised. In a home a civilized being looks for more than a mere eating and lodging house, or a kind of shelter-barn for human cattle. Some of these mockeries of real homes consist of elaborate structures, costly mansions surrounded by park-like grounds and beautiful scenery, offering every luxury which the fertile brain of man can suggest and money can buy. They have the conveniences of the aristocratic club-house, with the real comforts of the true home sadly missing.

What makes a home a happy and comfortable one is in us rather than in our surroundings. Nicely decorated walls are all right; shade-trees and a clean, velvety lawn around the house have a cheering effect. Yet what is all that without the sunshine of love, of a cheerful disposition, of the smile, happy laughter and kind words? This sunshine given, and the home of which the poet says, "No place like it," is assured.

Such a truly happy home does not like to be hidden in darkness. Happiness likes to be seen. You will not find the direct rays of the sun shut out of the truly happy home by close blinds and heavy curtains in daytime, nor the rooms left in semi-darkness these long evenings. We cannot have too much light for our comfort and well-being. Our fathers may have taken

a good deal of comfort in the log but, dimly lighted by a pine-knot or a tallow candle, but greater comfort and home enjoyment have come with the rapid improvement of our means of dispelling darkness. The dismal darkness of these human shelter-barns drives many a boy and girl from the parental roof, and makes them seek elsewhere the cheerfulness they miss at home; it drives many a husband to the gilded halls or bells that are glittering in the brilliancy of electric lights and deceptive cheerfulness and gaiety. The cost of the best lamps, and all the kerosene necessary to keep the house lighted up in full glory and brightness from ground floor to the garret, is as nothing compared with the results—the enjoyment and contentment they give to the whole family, and especially to the younger portion. Light is life and cheer. Darkness is desolation, despair, death. I cannot make this too strong. The tendency of many home-owners to be saving in the use or quality of kerosene-oil or lamps is one of the greatest mistakes they can make. I would use electric light or gas light if I could get it. As it is, I have to be content with kerosene; but the best lamps and the best oil (175 test) are none too good for me. For a comfortable evening at home, the rooms must be lighted up at their best.

Testing

The testing of new things claimed to be great improvements over their older kin is a rather laborious and often unsatisfactory, perhaps burdensome, task. Yet we have to undertake it in order to "keep posted." In making these tests we are liable to draw hasty conclusions. We must guard against such a mistake. Prof. Bailey, in a new book just issued by the Macmillan Company, of New York City, entitled "The Survival of the Unlike" (about five hundred pages; price two dollars), says: "There are so many difficulties and uncertainties pertaining to the so-called testing of varieties that the results often possess nothing of permanent value, and there are certain reasons why the experimenter, if he derives his knowledge wholly from his own tests, is less competent to pronounce upon the merits of novelties than the grower is himself." From these words it will appear that we should not have extravagant expectations in regard to the work of experiment stations in making variety tests. I have sometimes doubted the wisdom of making such tests at the stations.

In answering the question "What constitutes a test of a variety?" Prof. Bailey says: "To test a variety for any purpose, it is necessary to actually grow it and use it for that purpose. The chief end of most varieties is for the market, but the experiment station cannot grow varieties for commercial market. One crate, or even one shipment, does not test the shipping qualities of a variety, for these qualities vary with the season, the weather, the methods of transportation and with the different pickings of one variety; and it is, therefore, impossible to give an adequate test to twenty or thirty, or even more, varieties of any one fruit, let alone the many kinds of fruits and other products with which the experimenter is supposed to deal."

A Test of

Prof. Bailey tells of his first test of strawberries. "Over forty varieties were grown, and I made the most conscientious attempt not only to make notes upon productiveness and behavior, but to personally eat every kind. I ate across the patch north and south, east and west, and backward and forward. The results of the whole test were duly published; whereupon a neighbor three miles away said it might all be very well, but the varieties did not behave that way with him."

The Test.

"What the farmer wants to know is the value of the variety upon his place, not upon the experiment station farm, and he is the only person who can find it out. To thoroughly test a variety is to introduce it. When it is once introduced, the general consensus of opinion of men who actually grow it

for the purpose for which it was desired forms the best and the only criterion of its value. Even then there may be farms, as every horticulturist knows, upon which a variety which is generally condemned may succeed; and a variety is then not a failure. Now, the discovering of this consensus of opinion, and publishing it, is just the work which the experiment stations can perform when they desire to spread information of varieties."

So far as the strawberry is concerned, I have long since become discouraged about testing a large number of varieties, which necessarily must be grown on a small scale. The tests tell nothing, simply because the difficulties in the way of making a fair test are almost insurmountable. For a fair test we need good plants that are all alike in general condition. It is very difficult to secure such uniformly good plants from any source save a patch of one's own close by. Nine tenths of the plants forwarded by mail or express, in small quantities, are worthless, either dead or so nearly lifeless that they will never fully recover their normal health and thrift. I have given it up to make such small-scale tests, and find it more satisfactory to select a few promising varieties, and test these on the market-growers' scale; then discard varieties found wanting, and substitute others, newer or more promising ones, for the ones rejected. This leaves us with a comparatively small number to test from season to season, and gives results that we can rely on so far as our own soil and location are concerned.

Buying and Selling Cows.

The value of a cow depends so wholly on the amount and quality of the milk she gives that the proposition coming from the North Carolina experiment station, namely, to sell or buy cows by the milk test, seems rather natural and good sense. "The plan is based on the yield of their milk, together with the quality of the same as determined by tests of the milk. The rule is to pay for the cow at the rate of twelve dollars a gallon of milk given a day that is rich enough to show three and one half per cent of fat. To this price add or subtract one dollar for every one fourth of one per cent of fat which is above or below the three and one half per cent. By this rule a cow is bought entirely on her merits. It is believed to be a conservative plan, and one which, if adopted (or one upon a similar plan), will certainly raise the standard of cows and increase their milk and butter production; for if they cannot be sold easily for milk-cows, they will soon be turned over to the butcher, and a better animal be kept or a willing purchaser be found. The result cannot fail to be beneficial to all parties."

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good," is an old saying that will apply to the period of depression we are just passing. I have long contended, and still believe, that seven out of every ten farmers are farming—or I should say trying to farm—too much land. The average yield of an acre of our leading cereals is ridiculously small, considering the fertility of our soil and the ease with which it can be tilled. It is very evident that there is something wrong when one man obtains a yield of thirty-five bushels of wheat an acre while his neighbor just over the fence gets only twelve bushels. Why should one man get eighty bushels of No. 1 corn an acre while his nearest neighbor gets only twenty-five bushels of No. 3 corn an acre? Evidently one knows how to cultivate his land so as to make it yield a full crop, and the other doesn't.

Some men know well enough how to farm right, but they do not put their knowledge into practice, while a vast number of others try to do more than they are able to accomplish. This is the chief weakness or failing of a large majority of our farmers. They are fond of rushing things and covering a large area. The idea of sticking to a ten-acre field until it is as thoroughly worked as a professional market gardener works his soil

would make them tired before they began. Yet that ten acres would yield more than twenty or thirty acres half tilled, as they usually are.

A young man who had served an apprenticeship with a market gardener in the East came into the northern part of this state while I was there, and bought forty acres of land. Most of his neighbors owned one hundred and twenty to three hundred and twenty acres each, and they poked fun at the little "one-horse forty-acre farmer," as they facetiously called him, and told him he would starve to death on his little "truck-patch." The second year after locating he astonished the natives by raising something over two thousand five hundred bushels of corn on thirty acres, seven tons of timothy hay on three acres, one hundred and twenty-four bushels of oats on two acres and one hundred and nine bushels of wheat on three acres. The third year he harvested a fraction over nine tons of hay off the same three acres. As long as I remained in the locality his crops would invariably average more than double those of his neighbors. Notwithstanding this fact he was regarded as a rather small potato by the large-landed farmers about him, and in matters of public interest he was never consulted. Some years later I was told that he held a five-thousand-dollar mortgage on the three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm adjoining his "little truck-patch."

He had a few good friends in the neighborhood, and to one of them he said that the soil of Illinois was able, if properly treated, to lift the biggest mortgage that could be put on it, and make its owner independent in twenty years.

"These men about me," said he, "are not farmers, in the true sense of that term; they are smatterers, land-butchers, machine-agriculturists. If they do not change their methods soon they will have to sell out and move on." And in due time most of them did.

As all of the best land—in fact, about all that is fit for cultivation—in the great West is taken up, there is no place for the Illinois farmer to move to if he has come to the conclusion that his soil is about "farmed out." For the specialty farmer there is the South and the irrigated sections near the mountains; but for the average farmer there is nothing left but—town!

This being the case, would it not be a grand, good idea to adopt a few resolutions at the beginning of this year, and stick to them? For instance, we might resolve to be more thorough in our work. Instead of scratching a large area of land over, half tilling it, we will limit our operations to a smaller tract, and prepare it for the seed as we know it should be prepared. Then we plant the best seed we can obtain, and plant it in the best manner. If it is corn, we will see that every hill contains not less than three or more than four plants, and that there are no hills missing. Then we will cultivate the field in the most thorough manner, and grow a full crop. This to some will seem like tinkering business; but what sense is there in farming forty acres to grow one thousand bushels of third-rate corn when by better tillage and more thorough work we can grow the same quantity on twenty acres?

Let's get this matter down right. If you have more land than you can farm in the most thorough manner, it will pay you to let part of it rest. Sow it thinly with oats and thickly with clover as early in the spring as it can be worked. Then turn your attention to the portion you intend to farm, and stay with it. Keep the one resolution in your mind that you will be thorough and slight nothing. Hard times or low prices for farm products tend to check the spirit of enterprise and push in a farmer, and to encourage slipshod methods; but he should keep in mind the fact that a period of low prices never lasts long, and that it has always paid, and paid well, to keep land in first-class condition and to farm it in a thorough manner.

FRED GRUNDY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

MIXED FARMING.—I confess to a liking for specialties in farming, and believe that the tendency is in that direction; but it is certainly true that diversified farming is the safest for the majority of us, especially while there is so much changing from one crop to another on the part of many, and the profits from any one specialty may be wiped out in a single year by unexpected competition. In such times the man who produces nearly everything he consumes, and who has a surplus of several products for market, seems to be on the safest ground. The specialist, knowing the needs of his crops, and equipped with all needed implements for its production, has an advantage over competitors, and should make the most money, but he also runs the greatest risk under prevailing conditions. A big crop may be nearly unsalable, and that is a serious matter to the specialist. The man who pays out little money, and supplies his needs chiefly from his farm, may not make as much money as the specialist in a term of years, but his chances for being crippled by a bad year are smaller.

THE DAIRY.—No kind of work fits into a system of mixed farming more satisfactorily than dairying. If it be a home dairy for production of butter, or a creamery is patronized and the skimmed milk is returned to the farm, the cash returns from the dairy do not represent any material removal of fertility from the farm. When hay or wheat or other such crop is converted into cash, the farm loses fertility, but a ton of butter does not contain one dollar's worth of fertility. The dairy permits one to convert much of the farm products into cash in an indirect manner by using them as feed. Cows like a variety of food, and no other stock furnishes a more complete "home market" for field crops. For these reasons—the ability of cows to convert surplus fodder, hay, straw, grain and some vegetables into cash, and the fact that their conversion into butter leaves the plant-food in these crops upon the farm—the dairy fits into a system of mixed farming in a desirable way. Good butter, marketed in a proper manner, is always a cash article, while some of the farm products that may be fed to the cows often have no particular cash value on farms remote from the best markets.

MANURE FROM THE DAIRY.—In ordinary farming the barn fertilizer is always short in amount, and cash crops suffer. With the dairy the supply is increased, and the quality is the very best, usually, because proper care of the cows demands better care of the manure than is often given that from other stock. A choice quality of butter demands cleanliness in the stable, and the owner of a little dairy herd soon learns that he needs a water-tight manure-gutter back of his cows. Absorbents must be used, and thus the supply of manure on the farm is considerable. With a dairy, the crops of vegetables and grains for market increase. In connection with the usual farm feeds, which do not contain enough protein or nitrogenous matter, it pays to feed some bran, gluten-meal or oil-meal. That is to say, the dairyman finds that it pays well in cash, obtained from increased yield of milk and butter, to use these nitrogenous feeds, and such feeds add much value to the manure. I know many farms that are growing more fertile every year since a small butter-dairy has been built up in connection with ordinary diversified farming.

DOES THE DAIRY PAY?—There has been an abnormal increase in the number of creameries that have been built in recent years. Lack of profit in sheep, cattle and small grain is responsible for this. The result is that the price of country butter is too low for profit. By country butter is meant the country-store supply, made by good, bad and indifferent methods, and then subjected to all the odors that pervade the wagon of the huckster and the cellar of the merchant. This stuff is being crowded down to axle-grease prices, and probably without injustice to any one. The owner of a neat home dairy cannot

put his product into competition with country-store butter. Butter that is free from bad odors, made from cream ripened just right, and then worked properly, is in demand, and the producer finds that this is true when he succeeds in convincing consumers that he has what they want. The man who weeds all the poor cows out of his herd, using the Babcock tester to determine just how many pounds of butter each cow produces, uses a separator or creamer, not leaving twenty-five per cent of the butter-fat in the milk, as is done by setting in crocks, and then markets a choice article, selling to private customers, is making less complaint to-day of hard times than any other class of producers.

HARROW ADVERTISEMENTS.—An Illinois subscriber to this paper writes: "In a late issue of FARM AND FIRESIDE, under the heading 'Faults of Some Harrows,' David says, 'The rational way is to have the pole for guidance only, having it attached to the harrow independently of the gang-roads, and having the doubletrees attached direct to the frame.' Now, that is the kind of a harrow I am looking for. I have looked through the advertisements in this paper, and see none of such a harrow. Our dealers here do not know where to get them. . . . I will consider it a favor if you will send me the address of the firm making such a harrow."

The above is quoted in illustration of the truth that some of our manufacturers depend too exclusively upon agents for advertising, with the result that poor implements are sold about as freely as the best. The farmer has not the facts, and the agent sells whatever implement he happens to have. Printers' ink pays the man who has a good thing. Like our correspondent, I have been surprised that a good feature of any farm implement is not brought to the attention of farmers through advertisements in farm journals. I have never seen an advertisement of an independent pole in a disk-harrow, and have no right to give any firm a free reading notice. It should advertise, and then the information my correspondent desires need not be sent him by letter, as it now is, as a matter of justice to other advertisers.

DAVID.

METHODS OF IRRIGATION.

Artificial moisture in the soil to produce crops is a practice that has been in use in the United States about one half of a century. All the western states and territories are irrigated more or less by some system adopted since 1847, when the Mormons began irrigating in Utah. Water is taken from the springs or creeks by means of canals or ditches, and distributed upon the land before it is plowed and while crops are growing. These canals and mains are cleared of trash and mud every year. The banks become solid by the growing of willows and other timber, and the diverted channel is equal to the natural.

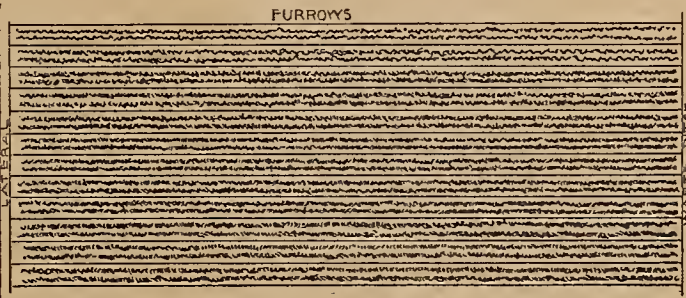
One of the most common methods of irrigation throughout the entire West is the furrow system. Water is taken from the mains into side laterals, and from there distributed, by furrows made with a small plow, to the roots of the crops. By this means from three to five acres can be irrigated in a day by one man who uses nothing but a long-handled shovel. Chinese farmers in California manage to irrigate double the area that a white man can in the same time. They were taught the many systems of irrigation when children in their native land. This furrow system is used on level or rolling land, and upon hillsides by using rocks or dams for checks in bringing the water down the hill from one furrow to another.

Seepage is a method used on black loamy flat land. Ditches are dug to the depth of three or four feet around an area of from two to five acres. The water is turned into these ditches and left to stand just at the top of the land, and percolate through the soil. This sometimes causes the mineral substances to come to the surface and destroy vegetation. It is a very effective method of supplying water to the roots of crops, and does away with the objections to surface irri-

gation. No water appears upon the top of the land, and there is no mud. The water-grass does not thrive, and choke out vegetation, and the soil is not filled with the seed of noxious weeds.

The flooding system is in use in many sections, and is highly recommended by those who till sandy soil. Instead of furrows being made across the land, small banks are thrown up, and the water turned in from several laterals and allowed to run until it covers the entire surface. In fields where there is much clay a crust is formed on top of the soil after water is stopped, and plants are killed. If the soil is loamy the water will find a few holes connected with a sub-surface drain, and will run away, leaving a large area unirrigated. The Utah experiment farm shows better yields from the flooding system. There is less work with this than the furrow method so widely used throughout the West.

Subirrigation, or underground methods of supplying water, is being adopted in many sections. This consists of pipes buried beneath the surface, or some drainage system carrying the water between the surface and sub-surface stratas. Tile-pipes are excellent for use in subirrigation. The water is carried about in the pipes, and small openings are made where necessary. Dams are put in by dropping boards or metal slides through holes made in the pipe. Small machines are made for taking the water from pump-nozzles or other forces, and driving it beneath the surface near the roots of trees. This subirrigation was at first a fad, but has be-



come one of the most acceptable methods of applying water to orchards and small-fruit vines.

A basin plan of irrigation was practised years ago in South America, and was brought to this country by the Spaniards. By this method a small puddle of water is put around the roots of trees and plants. The surrounding soil is not irrigated, and the trees are practically individual oases in the desert. Many successful horticulturists use this method, and would not exchange it for any of the more general practices. This necessitates the digging of little trenches around each tree, and, of course, cannot be adapted to general farming or gardening. All methods are used with success in some parts of the West, and the land of irrigation has become famous throughout the world.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

SWINE-BREEDING.

Many farmers value the hogs above all other live stock on the farm. The porker has come to be regarded as the creature to be relied upon for the rent. Many farmers have grown up from the ownership of a solitary pig to be proprietors of hundreds of acres on which roamed hundreds of the pigs. In this industry, as in many others, the swine breeder and feeder has applied his thought and energy to the accomplishment of a fixed purpose. He has planned from the lowest foundations the realization of an ideal which required many years to culminate. The fancy of the progressive breeder sees far down in the future the finish of a purpose, and views in advance many probable difficulties as well as the tedious details of many intervening issues. The breeders, however, who are possessed of this foresight are not very numerous. Occasionally some who have the acumen to look ahead and recognize great possibilities have not the steady purpose and physical endurance combined to apply themselves to such an end.

Remarkable results have been accomplished by experts in handling the hog. In a number of instances males have been sold for breeding purposes for one thousand dollars or more each. A considerable number of females also have been sold at prices ranging from five hundred dollars each upward. It is well for those who view these remarkable sales, with the purpose of accomplishing the same results, to

bear in mind that the occasion of such sales rarely comes to a breeder. It is true that some parties have made good profits out of such purchases, and that there was, of course, immediate money to the seller at such prices. Such business, however, must be characterized as speculative, and involving, on this account, great risk.

The usual purpose of the buyer of high-priced breeding-stock is to sell the produce at exceptionally high figures, because of the merit evidenced by the high price of the parentage. The buyers of youngsters at several hundred dollars a head, because of the fact that the dam and sire are reported to have been sold for four-figure prices, forget at times that the purchase of the high-priced parents was made on the judgment, perhaps, of one man who may have made a mistake in his estimate of value. It is true, however, that under right management and favorable conditions there are hogs of both sexes, in these times of depression even, that are worth one thousand dollars each. The men who pay such prices, however, should have resources enough to be in position to take risks of death and of failure in fertility.

This creature so much despised by a class of people is eminently the poor man's friend. While there are risks of loss, there are again advantages not found in any other domestic animal. There is a litter of youngsters, a half dozen or more of them, instead of the single offspring of other domestic animals, and in case of the death of half of them, enough remain to insure a little profit for the season. In the case of aged sows two litters a year give the breeder a double chance, as compared with other live stock.

When the industry is depressed, the small profits may be thus multiplied, and when values are high, the profits are greatly increased. The value of a hog as a scavenger as well as a grazing animal makes it possible to grow and mature on a good portion of cheap food; and, on the whole, the cost in many instances for growth and finish is comparatively slight, where the feeder is an expert in furnishing the different varieties of perishable food.

The great trouble in most cases of failure in the management of swine is lack of variety of food. So many farmers try to avoid care in handling swine by fencing them within a dry lot, and feeding dry corn almost exclusively, and are then surprised that success does not follow such a policy. The thoughtful, industrious and painstaking breeder furnishes abundance of grazing throughout the year where blue-grass is available for winter, thus insuring strong constitution and vigorous powers of digestion.

In the absence of grazing during the winter season, the progressive feeder will have provided root crops, vegetables or fruit which, with other succulent foods, will prove good substitutes for grazing. Thus it is that cheap and perishable foods may be made to displace one half of the more valuable corn, oats and other cereals, and the animals are usually healthier because of the judicious use of such food. By right management, too, the root and vegetable crops may be produced on the same ground which has furnished an early crop of winter wheat or rye. Pumpkins, turnips and other crops can be readily grown on such ground. As a rule, too, such perishable foods must be fed on the farm and used promptly, while the permanent grains may be held over for years, if necessary, to be used in the emergencies of occasional crop failures.

M. A. R.

Food

Must be well digested and properly assimilated in order to nourish the body. Indigestion and dyspepsia cause terrible suffering. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures these difficulties by toning the stomach and digestive organs and purifying the blood.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

The best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

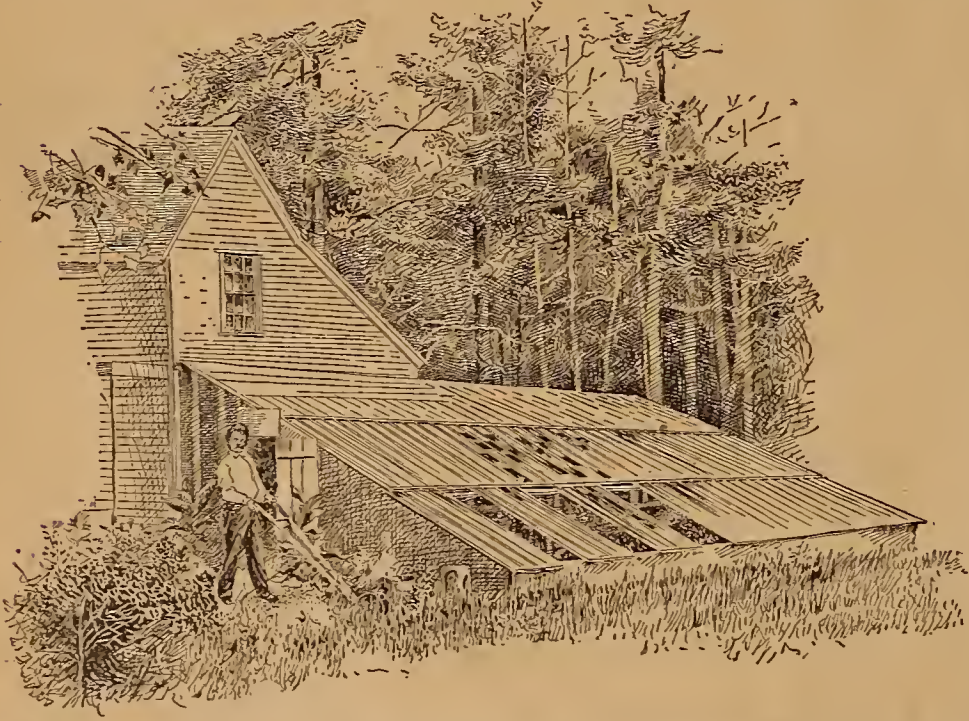
Hood's Pills act harmoniously with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

CHEAP GREENHOUSES.—I have had frequent inquiries about cheap forcing-houses, houses suitable for growing some of the more hardy vegetables, like lettuce, spinach and radishes, during the fore part of winter, and vegetable-plants from latter part of February on until spring. To satisfy such inquirers who do not wish to invest the money needed for a more elaborate house or one detached from a building, I herewith give an illustration (from photo) of a forcing-house built by one of my correspondents in Maryland. It is a lean-to, and is (at least partially) built against the south side of the dwelling-house, and in such a way that the whole structure can be taken down in spring, and sash and sides safely packed away until the approach of cold weather in the fall.

It will be seen that almost the only expense of the structure is in the sashes, and as the wooden portions of the sashes are home-made, the outlay is in reality only in the glass. The little frame which supports the roof is easily put up by any one with ordinary mechanical skill, and where wood is plenty and cheap, without a cent's outlay. The expense for the few boards that are needed is hardly worth mentioning, either. I do not know how this greenhouse is heated, or whether it is heated at all. I suppose a flue could easily be laid through the center of the house, ending in a chimney at the higher side, and having a furnace for wood or coal (whatever may be cheapest or most accessible) at the other. For spinach-forcing in Maryland, and even as far north as central New Jersey, artificial heat may be dispensed with; but it will be found safe and more convenient to have it.



My friend grows in this house a number of crops in succession every winter, such as radishes, lettuce, strawberries, etc., and then he raises a good lot of vegetable-plants, after which the house is taken down and the ground cropped with closely planted vegetables. The airing and tillage which the land thus receives seem to keep it free from aphid and plant diseases, so that his winter crops, although grown right along on the same soil, do not suffer from these enemies. I am sure, too, that he makes gardening quite remunerative. He never grumbles about "hard times."

READING THE CATALOGUES.—I have had quite a number of letters from people who want to know where the seed of certain varieties of vegetables (mentioned by me and others in these columns) can be obtained. A day or two ago, for instance, came such an inquiry from California, about the Seminole watermelon spoken of in FARM AND FIRESIDE of October 1, 1896. This melon variety has been catalogued by seedsmen for some years, I believe. I find it offered in the catalogue of Wm. H. Maule, of Philadelphia, of which a copy happens to lie on my desk. Other leading seedsmen also offer seed of it. It seems to me that it is an easy and interesting task to keep track of the newer varieties of vegetables as they are

offered by the seed trade. In order to do this, however, we have to read, and even study, the leading seed catalogues. They represent a vast deal, not only of advertising skill, but even of artistic taste, of really valuable information and practical suggestions. Reading and studying seed and nursery catalogues these long winter evenings is for me just as necessary and profitable a part of garden work as plowing or planting are in spring. The first step is to look over the advertising columns of the FARM AND FIRESIDE, or other agricultural journals. Then make a list of the advertising seedsmen, and apply to them for a copy of catalogue. All seedsmen forward a copy to their old patrons without asking, and many send it on simple request written on a postal. A few require new applicants to send a few cents' worth of stamps, as a token of good faith. At most, the cost of the copy to recipient is only a fraction of its cost to the seedsman who issues it, and you are always at liberty to deduct the amount of stamps sent from remittance for first order of seeds. So far as description of varieties given by the catalogues is concerned, every intending purchaser must measure them by the light of his own experience and judgment, and make some allowance. But that one has to do just the same when buying dry-goods, hardware or groceries. T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

ORCHARDS.

(Continued from last issue.)

Apple-trees in one commercial orchard have been pruned in three different ways: One lot as before stated; another had laterals all cut back and the leader left uncut; in a third lot all the branches, including the leader, were cut back at planting. Of

sawdust, tobacco-stems or tan-bark about six inches deep, for a space four to five feet in diameter. This keeps the earth moist and of even temperature. Still, our experience is that constant, deep, clean cultivation, keeping a mulch of fine soil, is better than any other mulching.

Labels off always; after planting, remove all labels, or the wires, cutting into the trees as they grow, will ruin them.

In a family orchard, during the first few years, you can grow small fruits, vegetables and sweet corn, if careful culture is given. Small fruits may be continued ten or twelve years with careful cultivation to keep out weeds and grass, and with enough barn-yard manure added from time to time to keep up fertility. After this time seed to clover for two or three years, and then plow up and cultivate without crop for two years, and then seed down again, and so on alternately.—Stark Bros.' Catalogue.

(To be continued.)

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Apple Freaks.—Editor FARM AND FIRESIDE writes: "Professor Samuel B. Green—Dear Sir:—The specimen apples marked 'A' accompanying this were brought to the FARM AND FIRESIDE office by Mr. H. G. Marshall, of Springfield, Ohio. They are 'second-crop' apples from a Maiden Blush tree. Early in August appeared the blossom from which the russet apple was produced; later came the blossom from which the red apple grew. Mr. Marshall states that these two were the only August blossoms noticed on the tree, and that the growth of the fruits was watched with interest until the apples were picked. The tree bloomed normally in the spring, and produced a crop of Maiden Blush apples. There are no signs of grafting or hudding on the tree. What explanation can you offer as to the remarkable variations in the fruit? The specimens marked 'B' are from Mr. J. H. Gower, who lives about six miles east of the city. About September 1st the top twigs of a Pippin tree, which was bearing a full crop of apples, bloomed abundantly. At the same time a cherry-tree and a pear-tree near by also blossomed, and Mr. Gower watched developments. The cherry and the pear set no fruit, but the elongated specimens are samples of the product of the apple-blossoms. As you will notice, they come from the terminal multiple bud of this season's growth of wood. The specimens sent to you some days ago were 'second crop' from early varieties. These are from a winter variety, and were taken from the tree when the normal crop was gathered. A specimen of the latter is also sent. You can imagine the appearance of the tree with a full crop of finely developed Pippins and its topmost twigs bearing immature, malformed fruit."

REPLY:—The package of apples duly received by express, and I have looked them over with much interest, and in reply account for them on the principle of bud variation. Every one knows that seedlings are liable to sport, as the gardeners sometimes say, and as a matter of fact there are no two seedling plants exactly alike. But comparatively few people, even gardeners, are aware to what an extent bud variation may manifest itself under some condition, and to make it more plain, I will cite a few that I have met with or known of: The Bride (white) rose is a sport from the Catherine Mermet (pink) rose. The Sunset (deep yellow) from the Perle des Jardins (light yellow). The coleus Fair Oaks (golden green) came from a red-leaved variety; the snow-hall from the high-bush cranberry; the golden-leaved elder from Sambucus Nigra; the curly-leaved willow of our nurseries (*Salix Babylonica annularis*) was found showing itself each year on an old tree on one branch. There are many cases of bud variation among potatoes; the variety known as Polar is said to be a bud variation from the Early Rose, and Carriere mentions a large number of them. The European grape has produced a large number of varieties by bud variation, and almost all who are familiar with American grapes know that occasionally a cane will produce fruit quite different from the variety on which it is borne. These are bud variations, and not seed variations. Theoretically, then, any bud may produce a bud variety as surely as any seed may produce a seed variety, and no limit is known to it. These bud varieties are much more common among plants that have been cultivated very many years, as in the case of the European wine-grape, than with our American grape, which has been in cultivation but a few years. Almost all the perennial plants with variegated foliage offered by our nurseries are bud variations that have been saved, and come true from the bud. But all bud variations fail to become constant, the same as all seed variations fall to come true from seed. In fact, few bud variations are constant. The case where a russet and a red apple appeared on a Maiden Blush tree, and where the Pippin tree bore elongated apples in clusters on the end of the summer's growth must, I think, be explained on the principle of bud variation. I think that perhaps the unusually favorable weather for the growth of fruit this year resulted in such vigor that these abnormal specimens were produced. I have met similar variations in apples in other years. I am also inclined to think that the pear-shaped apples often produced are not necessarily hybrids, but since the pear and apple are nearly allied, and we believe came originally from the same source, it could easily happen that a bud variety could be produced bearing pear-shaped fruit. In fact, the elongated apples in question that grew on the summer's growth of the Pippin and Red June apples are shaped much like a Lawrence pear. Bud varieties are most apt to appear when plants are exposed to very unusual conditions, and they often appear on water-sprouts or shoots coming from a knar, but may appear anywhere that buds are produced.

THE KAVA-KAVA SHRUB.

A Strange Botanical product with peculiar effects upon certain diseases of the Kidneys, Rheumatism, etc.—Free to All Readers.

The discovery of Alkavis, the new product of the Kava-Kava shrub, or as botanists call it *Piper Methysticum*, and the many accounts of its wonderful properties are exciting much attention in medical circles, as well as among sufferers from diseases of the Kidneys. Leading doctors now declare that Alkavis performs its remarkable cures by removing from the blood, the uric acid, which is the cause of these diseases. Alkavis also acts directly upon the kidneys and urinary organs, soothing and healing them. It will be remembered that this new remedy was first found in use by the natives of India, where on the marshes of the Ganges river, they are peculiarly liable to diseases which clog up the kidneys and load the blood with the waste products of the system. Like the discovery of quinine, this remedy, first found by ignorant natives, has proved a true specific for disease, and has become the most valuable known weapon in Kidney and Bladder disorders, Bright's disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy and allied ailments. It is in short a true specific cure for all diseases caused by the derangement of the kidneys or by uric acid impurities in the blood. The best proof of the remarkable curative powers of Alkavis is seen in its phenomenal cures of many hopeless cases, when all other means had failed, and death seemed at hand. We have records of many such cases, some of which we give below that our readers may correspond with them and learn further particulars if desired.



THE KAVA-KAVA SHRUB, (*Piper Methysticum*.)

Rev. Albert B. Richardson, the well-known pastor of the first Methodist Episcopal Church of Hoboken, New Jersey, testifies that Alkavis restored his daughter to health, from Bright's Disease, when her physicians had almost lost hope of her recovery. He writes as follows:

HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY, October 5, 1886.

Gentlemen:—Several motives prompt me to send you this testimonial concerning your Kidney Cure Medicine, "Alkavis."

1st.—Its wonderful effect upon my daughter whose recovery from Bright's disease is largely due to the use of Alkavis. She was regarded by several prominent physicians, including specialists, as well nigh incurable. I saw the notice of Alkavis in the *Christian Standard* and immediately procured a bottle. The effect was marvelous—hope was awakened. She continued taking it until now we regard her restored, all symptoms indicating recovery.

2nd.—We have recommended it to several, all of whom speak of it in terms of highest praise. Truly it is a wonderful discovery.

3rd.—We urge all who have any Kidney difficulty to try it at once. I bespeak for you an immense sale as every one who uses it will become a voluntary advocate for it.

Very truly,
ALBERT B. RICHARDSON, D. D.
Pastor First Methodist Episcopal Church,
Mr. Erasmus Marshall, a leading citizen of Wadena, Minnesota, 60 years old, writes that Alkavis cured him of Rheumatism and severe Kidney disease, from which he suffered 25 years.

Mrs. Sarah Vunk, of Edinboro, Pa., 65 years old, fifteen years a sufferer from Rheumatism and Kidney disease was entirely cured in four weeks by Alkavis; Mrs. James Young, of Kent, Ohio, writes that she had tried six doctors in vain, that she was about to give up in despair, when she found Alkavis, and was promptly cured of Kidney disease. Mrs. Alice Evans, of Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Mary A. Layman, of Neel, West Va., twenty years a sufferer; Mrs. L. E. Copeland, Elk River, Minn.; and many other ladies join in testifying to the wonderful curative powers of Alkavis, in various forms of Kidney and allied diseases, and of other troublesome afflictions peculiar to womanhood.

Mr. R. C. Wood, a prominent attorney of Lowell, Indiana, was cured of Rheumatism, Kidney and Bladder disease of ten years' standing by Alkavis. Mr. Wood describes himself as being in constant misery, of ten compelled to rise ten times during the night on account of weakness of the bladder. Alkavis cured him in a few weeks.

Perhaps the following letter from Rev. A. C. Darling, the well-known minister of the gospel at North Constantia, Oswego County, New York, will give the best view of the scope of this new botanical discovery. He writes:

"I have been troubled with kidney and kindred diseases for sixteen years and tried all I could get without relief. Two and a half years ago I was taken with a severe attack of La Grippe which turned to pneumonia. At that time my Liver, Kidneys, Heart and Urinary Organs all combined in what seemed to me their last attack. My confidence in man and medicine had gone. My hope had vanished and all that was left to me was a dreary life and certain death. At last I heard of Alkavis and as a last resort I commenced taking it. At this time I was using the vessel as often as sixteen times in one night, without sleep or rest. In a short time to my astonishment, I could sleep all night as soundly as a baby, which I had not done in sixteen years before. What I know it has done for me, I firmly believe it will do for all who will give Alkavis a fair trial. I most gladly recommend Alkavis to all. Sincerely yours,
(REV.) A. C. DARLING."

While Alkavis is well-known in Europe, its only importers in this country so far are The Church Kidney Cure Company, of No. 418 Fourth Avenue, New York. They are so anxious to introduce Alkavis and prove its great value that they will send free one Large Case, prepaid by mail, to Every Reader of FARM AND FIRESIDE, who suffers from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's disease, Rheumatism, Cystitis, Gravel, Female Complaints and Irregularities, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. All readers should send their names and address to the company and receive the Large Case by mail free. To prove its wonderful curative power, it is sent to you entirely free.

Our Farm.

SOME SOURCES OF LOSSES IN FARMING.

FEW, if any, farmers can look back over the record of their transactions and operations without seeing some heavy losses they have sustained that might have been avoided. I am convinced that it would be profitable for farmers to spend a share of the thought now given to means and methods of production to studying how the products of their labor may be better utilized.

The course of the development of farming has been, first, larger production through clearing, draining and enriching the land; second, cheapened products through employment of machinery and specialization. The next step that is now being forced upon farmers is the lessening of expenditures. Expenditures that it was once safe and wise to make it is not now; others made in expectancy of more favorable conditions have resulted in loss.

It is commendable to plan for the future, making each transaction and operation prepare the way for something else. But when this forward look merges into speculation and chance-taking, it is to be discouraged. It is not so much speculation in the way of investing for a rise in price to which farmers are addicted as it is to buying new machinery when it is first offered, which they could do without; to buying new breeds or strains of animals, paying dearly for the pedigrees and the owner's reputation, and buying new seeds.

Were the amounts thus annually spent to be published, they would be appalling. Could the farmers have back to-day what they have recklessly spent during the past year, even they would feel as if their favorite political party had gotten into power and the whole country was prosperous.

Machinery must be used to be a profitable investment. What may be profitable for my neighbor may not be for me. An implement used only a few days in the year, and perhaps allowed to stand in the open weather much of the time, is certainly a bad investment.

I believe the greatest occasion of loss with farmers is that they attempt too much, so that the details of their work that determine the profits have to be neglected. We get in such a hurry in our work that the little repairs to machinery are neglected. They are run with loose nuts or without oiling, with the result that a new machine is to be bought in less than half the time that it should be necessary. Then the amount of machinery that is allowed to stand in rain and sun where it is last used is as disastrous as fires. One ought to consider where an implement is to be housed as much as the service it is to perform before purchasing it.

Do I not speak the truth when I say we as a class overdo in our planning? We put out more crops than we can attend to as we know they should be, and we are compelled to see partially completed products lost for the want of attention at the proper time.

Again, in our attempt to find something that will pay, we put out some crop which we have not implements to care for. If we purchase the implements, the possible profits are spent before secured. If we do not, the crop is a partial failure. We buy fine stock, and are not able to care for them as they require. In many cases I have known valuable animals that have been injured or lost through forced neglect.

Other instances of losses that are constantly about us are stock damaging crops through neglected gates and fences, and perhaps injuring themselves; overstocking of the farm, and consequent loss of growth in young stock; failure to breed animals at the most advantageous time; failure to make proper provision for young animals—sows are allowed to farrow where the pigs perish; young colts are injured for the want of proper accommodations; young lambs die for the want of attention; cows shiver, and fail in flow of milk from neglect to keep under proper and often possible shelter.

The nursery agents get a share of the hard-earned money of the farmers, from which the latter never realize the promised profit and pleasure. This is due in part to too large promises and in part to inability and neglect on the part of farmers to give their investments the required attention.

Think of these things, my fellow-farmers, and let us save thousands of dollars this year.

H. C. MILLER.

NOTES ABOUT DRESSING POULTRY.

A good deal of poultry is coming into the market poorly dressed. A well-dressed fowl will, of course, command a higher price than a poorly dressed one, and it is evident there must be quite a loss to the growers and shippers of poultry on this account, and it might not come amiss to give a few hints on dressing fowls properly, as there does not seem to be any need of dressing them poorly.

First of all, crops of all fowls to be killed for market should be entirely empty.

A mistake is generally made by not hanging the fowl up while stripping off the feathers, but holding it with one hand and picking it with the other. One can work rapidly when the bird is hanging, as both hands are then at liberty; the cuticle, a transparent outside covering of the fowl, is very easily injured, particularly of a scalded bird, and when the bird is held while picking it, this membrane is often rubbed off in spots; and although this injury does not seem to show much at first, afterward these spots turn dark, giving the bird an unsightly appearance. Over-scalding also loosens the cuticle, therefore we should exercise great care not to keep the birds in the hot water for too long a time when scalding them.

Have the water at the boiling-point, yet not actually boiling. Take the bird by the head and feet, and immerse it, lifting up and down in the water three or four times, then hang up by the feet, as shown in the illustration; the head should



never be immersed, as it turns the comb pale, and gives the eyes a shrunken appearance. Now remove all the feathers, letting the small ones drop into the barrel beneath and keeping wing and tail feathers by themselves. The small feathers may afterward be spread out and dried if deemed of value.

The feet of all fowls should be scrupulously clean; wash, or still better, brush them. I have seen the advice given to scald the feet and then skin them; but I never practised this myself.

All clotted blood should be removed from the mouth, and all traces of blood washed from the head.

To give scalded poultry a better appearance, it should be "plumped;" after being picked clean, dip for two or three seconds into hot and nearly boiling water, then at once into cold water, and leave it there for fifteen minutes, then hang up to dry and cool.

The animal heat should be all out and the fowls perfectly dry before packing. Do not wrap the birds into old newspapers, but use new white paper; it will pay. Have some clean, bright straw or swale hay in the bottom of the boxes and barrels, and pack poultry back up, legs not doubled under, snugly, so they may not shake about in transit. Straw may be used between the different layers, and also on top before putting on the cover.

With ducks and geese I have had little experience; but good authorities say they should be scalded like other poultry, then wrapped up in a cloth for two or three minutes and let steam. Thus treated the down will all come off with the feathers.

Good fat poultry will present a better appearance when dry-picked. Although most people think that dry-picking is much more difficult than when first scalding, however, when done properly, there is

little difference. Hang the (live) bird up as in the case of scalding, with legs pretty well spread apart. Kill with a sharp-pointed knife by cutting across the roof of the mouth. If the cut is made right, it should bleed freely. Now run the knife up into the brain of the bird, thus paralyzing it and relaxing the muscles; the feathers will then come out easily. Before going any further, attach a small-mouthed pail, well weighted down, to the lower part of the fowl's bill, adjust the barrel, and now strip off the feathers as quickly as possible. It is better for two persons to work together, so as to finish each bird in the shortest possible space of time. If one is slow, part of the feathers may become set, and then cannot be removed without tearing the skin. Should one be so unfortunate as to tear the skin of a fowl, sew up with needle and white thread.

When one has a good deal of poultry to dress yearly, it will be found of advantage to have a room for that purpose. A lean-to to the hen-house will naturally be most convenient. If this is furnished with a skylight, all the better. It should be light, and large enough to give sufficient room for a stove to warm the room, as well as to keep the water hot for scalding or other purposes. The floor should be smooth and tight. A scantling should be put across the room at a convenient height, with a few spikes driven in to hang the birds while dressing; another one or two along the sides to hang the dressed poultry to let cool and to wash heads and mouths.

During the greater part of the season this room may be used for storing feed, chicken-coops, etc.; the stove will be handy for boiling up potatoes and other vegetables for the fowls, etc. F. GREINER.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

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Mention this paper.

The newspapers throughout the country are brimful of news portraying the herculean efforts of the little band of Cuban patriots in their desperate struggle for independence. Are you familiar with the geography of Cuba? Likely not. Then by all means get our new map of Cuba—the latest and best out, and printed in several colors. See full description and terms on page 9.

Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR.

No farmer can expect to be successful with poultry unless he knows what he is doing. He may be gaining or losing, according to circumstances...

FOOD AND WARMTH.

The hens now require care, as they are not capable of existing during a severe winter and producing eggs at the same time...

HATCHING TOO EARLY.

If pullets are hatched too early they may molt in the fall, and for that reason it is not the practice to hatch them before March...

VARIETY AND GREEN FOOD.

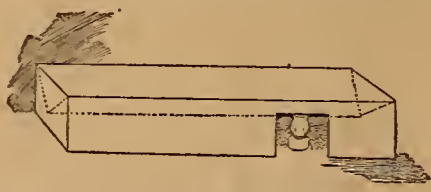
January and February are cold months, and a variety of food will be difficult to obtain. It will be necessary, however, to give the hens a chance of some kind...

ROOM FOR A FLOCK.

Fifty hens have been profitably kept in one flock, but it is conceded that in order to do so each hen must have about five square feet of space or more on the floor of the house...

NON-FREEZING WATER-TROUGH.

The illustration is intended to show some kind of contrivance for preventing the freezing of water in winter. A small night-lamp will answer, as it is not necessary to "warm" the water...



low or near the freezing-point. The shape of the trough is of no consequence, and the lamp may be placed at either end or in the middle of the trough...

OLD HENS AND PULLETS.

The practice of hatching out pullets every year to take the place of hens is not always a good plan. Bear in mind that before a pullet becomes serviceable she must be raised...

THE LARGE HEAD-LICE.

The term roup is used to apply to canker in the throat, to bronchitis, cold on the bowels and to lung affections. There is another difficulty in winter, which is that the large head-lice are always at work in winter and summer...

drinking-water for a week—no longer—and feed them on nourishing food, such as meat or liver, cooked to a froth, and thickened with ground oats and bran...

THE EARLY SPRING SUPPLY.

Prices for poultry are much better now than for several months, old hens being the favorites; but they are not plentiful, because of being retained on farms for winter laying...

CHARCOAL.

Charcoal is not used as grit, being too soft for that purpose. It has been found excellent, however, as a corrective of bowel disorders, especially when indigestion from overfeeding exists...

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROFITABLE BREEDS FOR FARM OR TOWN.—I have experimented with quite a number of kinds of chickens, and find that the Plymouth is the best breed for size and winter laying that I have ever tried...

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"See here, Cupples. Come with me to-night and see the man." If you heard him talk you would see the inhumanity—"

"Tush! I'm not fool enough to mix up in such a matter; and look here, you'll have to work it pretty slick if you get yourself out. The man will be caught as sure as fate; then, knowingly, or through fright, he'll incriminate you."

"What would you do if you were in my place?"

"My dear sir, don't put it in that way. It's a reflection on both my judgment and my legal knowledge. I wouldn't be in such a scrape. But as a lawyer—minus the fee—I'll tell you what you should do. You should give the man up before witnesses. I'll be one of them myself. Get as many of the cabin passengers as you like out here to-day, and let the officers search. If he charges you with what the law terms support, deny it, and call attention to the fact that you have given information. By the way, I would give written information and keep a copy."

"I gave the man my word not to inform on him, and so I can't do it to-day, but I'll tell him of it to-night."

"And have him commit suicide or give himself up first and incriminate you? Nonsense! Just release yourself from your promise. That's all. He'll trust you."

"Yes, poor wretch, I'm afraid he will."

About ten o'clock that night I resolved to make another appeal to Roger Cupples to at least stand off and hear the man talk. Cupples' state-room, number ninety-six, was in the forward part of the steamer, down a long passage and off a short side passage. Mine was aft the cabin. The door of number ninety-six was partly open, and inside an astonishing sight met my gaze.

There stood my stowaway.

He was evidently admiring himself in the glass, and with a brush was touching up his face with dark paint here and there. When he put on a woe-begone look he was the stowaway; when he chuckled to himself he was Roger Cupples, Esquire.

The moment the thing dawned on me I quietly withdrew and went up the forward companionway. Soon Cupples came cautiously up, and seeing the way clear, scudded along in the darkness and hid in the aft wheel-house. I saw the whole thing now. It was a scheme to get me to make a fool of myself, some fine day, before the rest of the passengers, and have a standing joke on me. I walked forward. The first officer was on duty.

"I have reason to believe," I said, "that there is a stowaway in the aft wheel-house."

Quicker than it takes me to tell it a detachment of sailors was sent aft under the guidance of the third mate. I went through the saloon and smoking-room, and said to the gentlemen who were playing cards and reading:

"There's a row up-stairs of some kind."

We were all on deck before the crew had surrounded the wheel-house. There was a rattle of folded steamer-chairs, a pounce by the third mate, and out came the unfortunate Cupples, dragged by the collar.

"Hold on! Let go! This is a mistake!"

"You can't both hold on and let go," said Stalker, of Indiana.

"Come out o' this," cried the mate, jerking him forward.

With a wrench the stowaway tore himself free and made a dash for the companionway. A couple of sailors instantly tripped him up.

"Let go of me; I'm a cabin passenger," cried Cupples.

"Bless me!" I cried in astonishment. "This isn't you, Cupples? Why, I acted on your own advice and that of revised statutes number whatever-they-were."

"Well, act on my advice again," cried the infuriated Cupples, "and go to—the hold!"

However, he was in better humor the next day, and stood treat all around. We found, subsequently, that Cupples was a New York actor, and at the entertainment given for the benefit of the sailors' orphans a few nights after, he recited a piece in costume that just melted the ladies. It was voted a wonderfully touching performance, and he called it "The Stowaway."—Robert Barr, in Waverley.

BREAKING THE NEWS GENTLY.

The doctor came into the room rubbing his hands and smiling.

"Everything all right?" asked the man, who was anxiously waiting for him.

"Couldn't do better," returned the doctor.

"Good!" said the man, with a sigh of relief. Then when he saw that the doctor intended to say nothing more, he asked, with some hesitation, "Er—ah—boy or girl?"

The doctor stopped rubbing his hands, and looked a trifle uneasy, as if the task before him were not just to his liking.

"Well," he said at last, "you'll need a tandem wheel for it."—Chicago Post.

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Premium No. 27.

It is the Newest and Most Popular Premium of the Year.

We are proud to announce that this is our own History and Map of Cuba. We went to great expense to make it the best thing of the kind on the market, for there is nothing too good for readers of Farm and Fireside. It will be of invaluable help to teachers and pupils in following the war for the independence of Cuba; also valuable to the public in general, for how many are acquainted with the history and geography of Cuba? Perhaps not one in a thousand, yet the newspapers teem with dispatches from this theater of bloody war going on almost in our own dooryard. Cuban news is the all-absorbing topic in every community in this broad land. Millions of hearts beat faster at the mention of news from the struggling band of patriots which has so far been more than a match for over 200,000 of Spain's best soldiers and millions upon millions of her gold. Hurrah for Cuba!

HISTORY OF CUBA

Our history is a highly interesting and valuable descriptive, statistical and historical account of Cuba, the "Gem of the Antilles," from the date of its discovery up almost to the present hour. The causes of the wars between the native Cubans and Spanish are given special space and attention, as reliable information on this subject is very much in demand just now. The cities and people of Cuba, also the climate, surface, soil, mines, products and leading industries, as tobacco, sugar, etc., receive attention. The text, written by Lieut. E. Hannaford, is written in an entertaining style, and while the facts are full and clear, yet care was used not to get the matter on any one point so long as to be tedious. It is a concise yet complete, accurate and up-to-date historical account of all the principal events in the history of Cuba, and throws a flood of light over the whole of the Spanish-Cuban question.

MAP OF CUBA

Our map of Cuba is 14 inches wide by 22 inches long, and printed on fine map-paper in SEVERAL COLORS. It was drawn from government surveys and new and important information from reliable sources. Every caution was exercised to get it accurate, complete and up-to-date. It was engraved with extra care, with lettering, boundaries, railroads, etc., brought out very distinctly, thus making it especially satisfactory to consult. This new map of Cuba shows clearly all the provinces, mountains, railroads, cities, towns, rivers and harbors. With this map any school-boy can locate the trocha, forts and battle-fields as they are reported by the newspaper correspondents. It also shows the southern part of Florida, the location of the Bahama and other islands round about Cuba owned by England. This map will not only satisfy the demands of the most careful student of history and geography, but delight everybody.

Our map of Cuba is better than any we have been able to find in any atlas which costs Ten Dollars or more.

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The price of the History and Map of Cuba when ordered alone is 25 cents a copy; but when any of the offers named below are accepted, we will send the History and Map of Cuba for ONLY 5 CENTS ADDITIONAL.

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Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

FEMININE LIFE IN A LIGHTHOUSE.

Boston has a lighthouse-keeper's daughter who, perhaps, has not emulated Ida Lewis, yet she is an accomplished oarswoman, as well as a versatile writer. Miss Louise Lynden has lived with her father on that beautiful headland for nearly fifteen years, and although a graduate of the Boston Girls' High School in 1879, she has preferred to keep herself on the island summer and winter, ever since her father was appointed as keeper of the light, in 1880. Miss Lynden is an accomplished photographer, and many of her charming stories are illustrated by her own pictures.

GOOD NEWS FOR ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

It is announced that the Kola Plant, recently discovered on the Congo River, West Africa, has proved itself a sure cure for Asthma, as claimed at the time. It has the testimony of ministers of the gospel, doctors, business men and farmers, all speaking of the marvelous curative power of this new discovery. Hon. L. G. Chite, of Greeley, Iowa, writes that he could not lie down night or day from Asthma, and the Kola Plant cured him at once. Rev. G. Ellsworth Stump, pastor of the Congregational Church at Newell, Iowa, was cured by it of Asthma of twenty years' standing, and many others give similar testimony. To prove to you beyond doubt its wonderful enervative power, the Kola-Importing Co., No. 1164 Broadway, New York, will send a large case of the Kola Compound free by mail to every reader of FARM AND FIRESIDE who suffers from any form of Asthma. In return they only ask that you tell your neighbors of it when cured yourself. This is very fair, and all Sufferers from Asthma are advised to send for the case. It costs you nothing.

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Our Household.

LIFE'S SCARS.

They say the world is round, and yet
I often think it square,
So many little hurts we get
From corners here and there.
But one great truth in life I've found,
While journeying to the West—
The only folks who really wound
Are those we love the best.

The man you thoroughly despise
Can rouse your wrath, 'tis true;
Annoyance in your heart will rise
At things mere strangers do;
But those are only passing ills.
This rule all lives will prove—
The rankling wound which aches and thrills
Is dealt by hands we love.

The choicest garb, the sweetest grace
Are oft to strangers shown;
The careless mien, the frowning face
Are given to our own.
We flatter those we scarcely know;
We please the fleeting guest;
And deal full many a thoughtless blow
To those who love us best.

Love does not grow on every tree,
Nor true hearts yearly bloom.
Alas for those who only see
This truth across a tomb.
But, soon or late, the fact grows plain
To all through sorrow's test—
The only folks who give us pain
Are those we love the best.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

A QUEER GAME.

A QUEER game we children used to play on dismal, rainy days we called "S'posin'." Closing the blinds, we would pull down the curtains to make the room scarefully black and dark; then huddling together on the bed, we would conjure up all the dreadful things which might happen, beginning with "s'posin'."

When the rain dripped gently on the roof and the clock ticked steadily in the hallway, then it would be:

"S'posin' a great black bear is coming tiptoe, tiptoe, softly up the stairs; s'posin' he opens the door with his great black nose, and s'posin' he eats ns all up!"

If it happened the wind howled wildly around the house, and rattled the windows in their casings, then it was:

"S'posin' a great hungry giant is abroad who will pull up the trees, and roar in the chimney, and tear down the horse, and carry the children all away in his waistcoat pocket."

When the storm had died away and only the little crab-apple tree could be heard tapping its branches on the south window, then the fancy would be:

"S'posin' tap, tap, tap, like a rattle of bones on the window, and around and around the house goes a black glove. S'posin' tap, tap, tap, like a rattle of bones on the window, and around and around the house goes a white glove, then in an awful whisper, 's'posin'."

If we were all frightened, trembling, and crying with terror by this time, the game was considered a jolly success.

What a silly game it was, to be sure, and yet how industriously we grown-up people keep on playing it. Not satisfied with the trials and afflictions which Providence has seen fit to bestow upon us, we delight to reckon over the misfortunes which may possibly be in wait for us, to think up imaginary evils which may carry us away.

Supposing the expected letter should not come, or supposing it bring bad news, or supposing our friends' love has at last failed. Supposing the children should catch cold, or take the whooping-cough, or come down with the measles. Supposing the horse take fire, or burglars break in, or the cook gives warning. Supposing John lose his position, or make bad investments, or wild extravagance send the family to the poorhouse.

So we go on counting over our miseries as religiously as a devotee counts his beads, and they are not our miseries, after all. The expected black bears never appear, while the storms which beat around us bring us blessings as regularly as the ticking of the clock brings around the hours, or the falling of the rain increases the bounty of the harvest.

Seventy times in the Word of God we are told to be not afraid, then why should we draw all these unreal cares and anxieties about us and tremble in the darkness of our thoughts. If we suppose anything at all, why not suppose that

something bright and glad and cheerful is going to happen—suppose that we are in the immediate care and protection of our Divine Father, who never takes any gift from us without giving us others unspeakably rich and precious in their place?

When we begin to suppose the best things of ourselves, of our neighbors, of our Heavenly Father, then will the full, rich meanings of life break upon us; then will His joy remain in our hearts.

FRANCES BENNETT CALLAWAY.

CATS.

Why of all domestic animals the cat should be so despised I could never understand. Raised right, and treated right, they are much nicer about the house than a dog, and yet hours of valuable time are spent teaching dogs, while nothing but the broom or a stick awaits poor puss at every tarn, and the little they eat is begrudged them. After kittens are weaned they often have a serious time teething, and from being fed injudiciously. I raised one very successfully on malted milk until it was old enough to eat bread, of which they grow very fond. Meat should be given them sparingly and only cooked.

As an ornament a handsome cat quite fulfills its mission, and if well trained, is never any trouble.

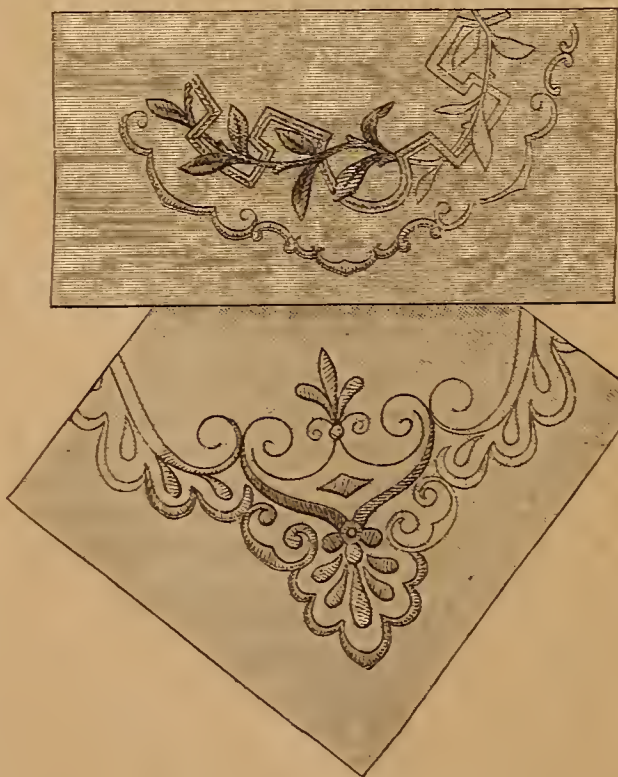
Their affections and dislikes are very marked. I had one that lived to be nine years old, whose opinion of strangers I was more willing to take than my own. She always knew when she was talked about, and if it was appreciation, she generally made her mind known to us; and if it was fault-finding, she laid back her ears and looked away, as if she didn't care to hear any more about it. She was intensely jealous, and would even box one of her own kittens over the ears if it attempted to usurp her place on my lap. All they ask is a warm place and a little bite to eat and peace and quiet.

It is a wonder they are not extinct, with the war of persecution and abuse that is heaped upon them.

Poor things! Be more merciful to them, and give at least one a comfortable home.
L.

BULGARIAN EMBROIDERY.

This work, comparatively new, is very available for large articles, such as sofa-pillows, table-covers, large mats for lamps, and carriage-ropes. The material used is very heavy ecru art linen, and either the colors in silks or cottons, as both are used. The colors are deep-toned, heavy blues, dark reds, intense yellows, some black and strong greens, old pink. When successfully combined, it is quite gorgeous



and very effective. The stitches are mostly heavy ones, and filling is first run in the wider parts of the pattern.

The two patterns given are worked, the one being a table-cover, the other a lamp-mat. Size and quantity of material govern the price, a pillow-top costing about three dollars partly worked, with material to finish. It is much easier than silk-work and much more rapid.
LOUISE.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" are a simple and convenient remedy for Bronchial Affections and Coughs. Carry them in your pocket.

STARCH-BAG.

A starch-bag made in the way described below is a useful gift. Purchase two ounces of Columbia zephyr, AA quality, and one skein of Japan silk, and you can make a showy little gift.

First row—Ch 4, join.

Second row—14 t c.

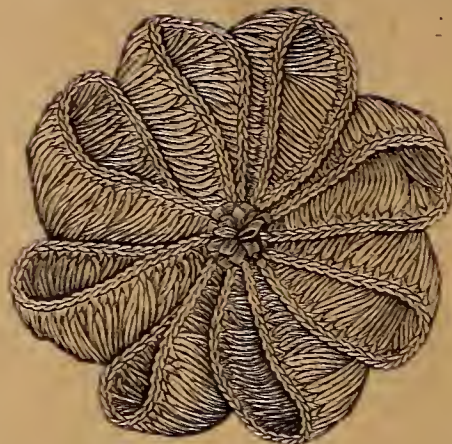
Third row—Take up each stitch with s c.

Fourth row—Put 2 s c in each s c of third row.

Fifth row—One s c in each stitch of fourth row.

Sixth row—2 t c in each s c of the fifth row.

Then make four rows of s c stitches.



One row of t c and four more rows of s c, widening just enough now and then to keep the mat from cupping. This little mat is always made of white.

You can use the white, or now attach another color, and make the l t c. The yarn must be pulled through two and one half inches before you work off the stitches. Put five of the l t c s (two and one half inches deep) in each stitch around the little mat already made for the bottom of starch-bag. It is pretty to finish the l t c with each top-stitch taken up with a s c of silk.

Then divide this frill around starch-bag in half; then halve and quarter each half, and join these points together. This makes the top of the starch-bag. Finish with rosette or little bow of satin ribbon.

The thin bag containing the perfumed starch can be slipped in between the fluffy top and lower part of starch-bag, or can be put in before fastening the top with the rosette. Try this suggestion, and you will be pleased with the result.

PATTIE HANGER.

SWEET POTATOES, AND HOW TO USE THEM.

In the South the sweet potato reaches a high state of excellence, and southern cooks know how to prepare them to perfection.

Here it is the standard vegetable, as the Irish potato is in the North, and is served at least twice a day. If baked, they do not have first to parboil them, as is frequently done in the North, and they are much sweeter and richer without parboiling, being simply washed perfectly clean (a cloth or brush is better to wash them with than the hand), placed in a moderate oven, and slowly baked for about an hour or more, according to size or variety. For breakfast they are usually served fried. Peel and slice lengthwise of the potatoes about an eighth of an inch thick. Put a heaping tablespoonful of lard into a frying-pan; when hot, put in the potatoes, salt them, cover closely to prevent escape of steam, fry slowly, turning frequently to prevent scorching. When tender and delicately browned they are properly cooked, and are delicious.

SCALLOPED SWEET POTATOES.—Pare medium-sized potatoes; cut into halves or into three slices, according to size, place a layer in a baking-pan; add bits of butter, pepper, salt and a generous sprinkling of sugar—at least twice as much sugar as salt—then another layer of potatoes and seasoning. When all have been used, add enough boiling water to show through them, but not quite cover them. Cover the pan, and bake one hour in a moderate oven. Remove cover, and bake one half hour longer until the potatoes are nicely

browned on top. Serve in the dish in which they are baked.

SWEET-POTATO CURRY.—Pare, and cut into dice about an inch in size; sprinkle with curry-powder, and brown in two tablespoonfuls of butter. When they are half cooked, salt and pepper, cover with soup stock, and boil until tender.

CROQUETTES.—Boil, peel and mash six large sweet potatoes; season with salt, a tablespoonful of butter, one of sugar and a little pepper. When cold, mold into croquettes, dip into beaten egg, then into finely rolled bread-crumbs, and fry brown in hot fat.

Sweet potatoes are frequently utilized by southern cooks for making desserts, and most delicious pies and puddings result.

POTATO CUSTARD.—Boil, peel, and mash perfectly free from lumps six large sweet potatoes. Make into a custard with one quart of milk, six eggs, three teacupfuls of sugar, nutmeg or other spices to taste. Bake with under crust only. Serve hot or cold.

SWEET-POTATO PUDDING.—Peel and grate the potatoes. To one quart of them add two eggs, two tablespoonfuls of butter, three fourths of a cupful of sugar and one cupful of sweet milk. Cream the butter and sugar, add the eggs, stir well, then the other ingredients, stirring completely. Bake one hour. Serve hot without sauce. Is delicious.
C. S. E.

THE DELFT CRAZE.

Delft is a sleepy old town in Holland. It is intersected with canals which are spanned by bridges, and look whichever way you will, you can see a windmill. Many years ago it was celebrated for its pottery, a heavy kind of ware decorated in dull blue. Recently fashion has smiled on these old blue and white dishes. The result is a revival of their production. The stores are full of clocks in delft blue, lamps with bowls and shades of the same, plaques, platters, pitchers, cups and saucers. Delft blue is adopted by the ladies in their embroidery on linen, and it is pretty, too. Have you an old blue-and-white dish on the back shelf of your cupboard? If so, take it down, rub off the dust, and set it in your parlor cabinet. Are you so lucky as to have more than one specimen? Group them, and have a delft corner. Do you paint china? Then select an old-fashioned plate, and with one of your dark shades of blue imitate the Holland style of decoration. Your scene should have the essential features of water, bordered by flat banks, a bridge, a windmill.

A bright little woman who can turn her hand to anything lately made a party where prizes were bestowed for some kind of success, and being always up to the latest fad, she decided to have her gifts in accordance with the delft craze. She painted little pictures in water-color, using deep blue in various degrees of intensity. These little scenes she had framed with white mats and white molding. They were very dainty, and the cost was slight. A few days after the party I called on a lady who had won a prize. She had hung it on the wall under a delft plate. You don't know how pretty was the combination.

Not only dishes and embroidery are embellished in delft style, but furniture shares the craze. I have seen a bedroom-set painted white, with blue landscapes on the bureau drawers and on the backs and seats of the chairs. If you care to convert your home into a bit of Holland, these hints are sufficient.
K. K.

CLEANING FUR ROBES.

"Oh, mother, I am afraid I have ruined our new robe! Indeed, I would not have taken it out if I had thought it would thaw so much before I got back."

Well, it was a sight! Just so full of little fine mud-spatters that every hair seemed tipped with one. Spread it out, and dry thoroughly, then take a coarse comb, and with a little care and patience every spot can be removed, and no dust to settle into the fur, as would come by trying to brush clean.
GYPSY.

SUPPOSE IT DOES COST ONE DOLLAR? Don't be pennywise and pound foolish! through taking for your cough, medicine that you know nothing about, when one of long-established reputation and proven quality like Dr. Jayne's Expectorant can be had. The best family pill, Jayne's Painless Sugar-Coated Sative.

TUMBLER-DOILIES.

A nice way to utilize scraps of linen and collected bits of embroidery filé is to make a set of tumbler-doilies. Cut the linen four and one half inches square, draw four or five threads a little over one half inch from edge; hemstitch the fringe with No. 120 thread (if your linen is fine), and do not ravel until after your doilies are washed. With your pencil carelessly draw four forget-me-nots in each corner of the doilies, like the illustration. Work a little leaf wherever your judgment suggests, using the four fern-green shades. You can use a little vine or bow-knot on each doily in a different shade. If you



use bow-knots, work them in white. Doilies made in this way are dainty and pretty, and are made at comparatively no cost.
PATTIE HANGER.

A SCRAP-BASKET.

A butter-bucket, the large covered pails that artificial butter comes in, can be converted into a useful and pretty scrap-basket by screwing into the bottom four small casters; hinging the lid with a bit of leather if a cover is desired, and cushioning the top. Cover the sides with any pretty material, making a fringe around the top and bottom. This can be utilized as a shoe-box, and omit the lid, paper the interior with pretty glazed paper, and the outside with common matting laid on in plaits so that it will fit to the slight flare of the bucket, tacked in place, and held by a couple of manila ropes as thick as your thumb, put on like the hoops of a bucket. The uses to which these buckets may be put are many. They make pretty receptacles for kindling and coal, or a storage-place for small articles in the nursery or chamber. One of the nicest coverings is a mat such as come around chests of tea, and can be had at a tea-store for the asking or a small sum. The matting cover can be enameled, gilded or left plain, as one prefers, and according to the use to which it is to be put.
M. E. S.

HOME TOPICS.

FRINGED CELERY.—A few days ago I had company come unexpectedly to dinner. I had a few large stalks of nicely blanched celery, but not enough to serve in the usual way. I cut off the tops, and then cut the stalks into three-inch lengths, and with a sharp knife split each end for nearly an inch into fine shreds, and threw them into a pan of very cold water to curl. Served in a low glass dish this celery looked very pretty, and was enough to serve all.

RUBBER BOOTS.—Rubber overgarments of any kind are not healthful, if worn for any great length of time. This is especially true of rubber boots. They cause a very free perspiration, and at the same time prevent its evaporation, thus in cold weather exposing the wearer to danger of becoming severely chilled. There are times, in very wet, muddy or snowy weather, when rubber boots, if only worn while exposed to the wet, are a protection. A pair of very thick socks should be worn over the stockings. I have seen felt ones for this purpose. On no account allow a child to wear rubber boots to school, and sit in them all day. After taking off the boots and socks, the latter should be put where they will dry, and the boots where they will be warm when they are again put on to go home.

THE YEAR'S SUPPLY OF WOOD.—Is there any home topic of more every-day importance to the housekeeper than this? In many school districts a rule is enforced that the wood must be delivered at the school-house the winter preceding the one when it is to be used, thus insuring plenty of good, dry wood for the school stove. This is right, but I have won-

dered if these same farmers who made this rule are particular to have their home supply of wood prepared a year in advance. I am afraid that in a good many homes the kitchen oven has to do duty a good deal of the time in drying green wood so it will burn. This isn't economy of either wood or time, and certainly not of the patience of the cook. Some men go so far as to have the year's supply of wood cut into four-foot lengths, and piled up near the house, saying they can cut it to fit the stove at any time. During the winter the cutting is done pretty regularly, but spring and summer work comes on, the farmer is hurried, and every hand is needed in the field. Now is the time when, if she does not speak about it every morning, the busy housekeeper finds herself with dinner to cook, perhaps bread to bake or clothes to iron, and not a stick of wood ready. Men and boys are all in the field, and so she takes the saw or ax, and prepares the wood herself. Such work is not suited for her strength, and besides, she doubtless has more to do already than any woman ought to do. Men are not heartless, but I must admit they are often thoughtless, and

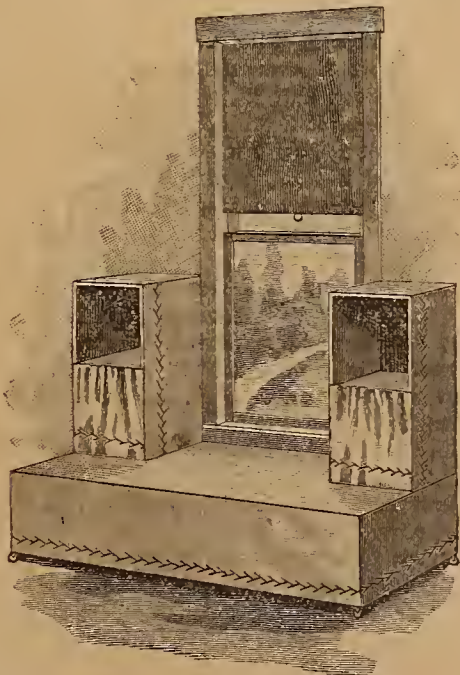
"Evil is wrought by want of thought,
As well as by want of heart."

I hope every man who reads this will make a resolution to try this winter to get his supply of wood for the coming year all prepared and stored near at hand. Do this, and you will save the little wife many an hour of worry and hard work, and thereby brighten the home, besides saving yourself the annoyance of having to stop when work is crowding to prepare wood for the day.
MAIDA MCL.

CLOSET SUBSTITUTES.

When Mrs. Clayton moved into a house devoid of closets she set her wits to work to devise some means of substituting for closets that would at the same time be decorative. So successful was she in her efforts that we chronicle them for the benefit of others similarly situated.

Her husband made for her a box eighteen inches high, eighteen inches deep and about sixty inches long, mounted on casters, and with a hinged cover. This was neatly lined with white paper procured at the office of the county newspaper. The top was lightly padded with an old comfort, and covered with crimson cashmere that had once done duty as a dress. Across the bottom it was embroidered in a conventional pattern with golden-yellow Roman floss. At the grocery she procured two boxes, each fifteen inches deep and wide, and about twenty-four inches long. These each had a shelf put in half way of the length; were lined and covered with the cashmere, and fastened to the wall on each side of the window about twenty inches above the floor, their lower edges even with the window-sill. Before the covering was put on it had a border similar to that on the long box



worked with the Roman floss along the edge or front. A curtain of the same, with narrow golden-yellow border embroidered upon it, was hung in front of each box, extending from the shelf downward. The long box was then rolled directly under these and the window. By the addition of two or three pretty cushions or square pillows that portion of the long box under the window, between the two upper ones, made a comfortable win-

The tender skin of infants and children should come in contact with only the purest of soaps.

99⁴⁴/₁₀₀ PERCENT PURE

dow-seat; while the entire box made an admirable receptacle for best dresses, being long enough to hold both skirts and bodices without folding. The other boxes behind their curtains held hat and shoe boxes and all such things. On the shelves was room for work-basket, glove, handkerchief and veil cases and such things, while a pretty cushion and some bric-a-brac were on top.

Across one corner of the room, about four feet from the floor, was put up a large three-cornered shelf. Two feet above it was another, two inches wider; and twelve inches from the floor was a third shelf, an inch narrower than the lower one above. From the upper shelf was suspended a long full curtain of heavy unbleached muslin, across the bottom of which was a large scroll pattern of crimson put on with a buttonhole-stitch of the yellow Roman floss. A row of clothes-hooks was fastened to the wall under the shelf for clothing, while the two shelves under the curtain held bedding, etc. The upper one accommodated boxes and such things, and after all was complete, Mrs. Clayton felt well satisfied with her work; particularly when to the back of the light bedstead she put a few hooks to hold night-robe, aprons, morning gowns, etc., fastening a curtain over them to exclude dust.
CLARA SENSIBAUGH EVERTS.

CHAPPED HANDS.

These may be from several causes—using poor soaps, not drying the hands sufficiently, wearing mittens where the skin is thin and delicate.

For several years we have used the following lotion, and found it very healing: One ounce of gum tragacanth, two pints of strained soft cold water. Allow this to stand in a stone jar for two days, then heat it well to break all lumps, and strain it through cheese-cloth. To this add one half ounce of powdered alum, the same of boracic acid, three ounces of glycerin, four ounces of witch-hazel, six ounces of alcohol; heat this well, and then add enough water to make it the consistency of thick cream. Procure either two or three ounce bottles at the druggist's, with screw-tops, and bottle it.

This recipe will make enough for several families, and if it is put up in attractive form, can readily be sold for ten cents a bottle. If a perfume is desired, use the very best extract. A half ounce of crap-apple blossom will be sufficient for the entire amount. There is no use to abuse the hands in winter. The utmost care should be taken of them.
CHRISTIE IRVING.

SOAP-BARK.

There are few housewives that do not have old dresses to make over; not only out of style, but soiled if not worn, and we all want them to look just as nice as new, of course.

Get five cents' worth of soap-bark at any drug-store, put to soak in a quart of warm water for twenty-four hours, then strain through thin muslin into a tub, and add a couple of pailfuls of warm water; put in the goods, which has been all ripped apart, and new goods, if there was some left when the dress was made, so it will all look alike; wash as usual, and rinse in warm water which has been made very hne, unless the goods is very light-colored.

Do not wring the cloth, but rinse up and down, and hang over the line to drip dry; if freezing weather, it must be dried in the house, as freezing always shrinks flannel for me, though some of my neighbors claim that it will not. Take from the line before quite dry, and press on the wrong side.

Some of my friends have washed very delicate-colored dresses, even silk, with this soap-bark, and the colors did not seem damaged in the least.
GYPSY.

CREAM COOKIES.

Too much cream to use sweet, too little cream to make butter, is often the winter complaint. It makes delicious cookies when sour, though. Two cupfuls of sugar, two cupfuls of sour cream (thick), two eggs, two teaspoonfuls of soda, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, season with nutmeg. Soda and cream of tartar are reversed in quality, but that is all right unless the cream is very, very sour, when the cream of tartar can be omitted. Have omitted eggs when very scarce.
GYPSY.

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ASK THE DEALERS FOR THEM.

If not found at the stores send six cents for sample collar and cuffs, naming style and size. A trial invariably results in continued use. Reversible Collar Co. 43 Milk St., Boston, Mass.

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The Rocker Washer

has proved the most satisfactory of any Washer ever placed upon the market. It is warranted to wash an ordinary family washing of **100 PIECES IN ONE HOUR**, as clean as can be washed on the washboard. Write for prices and full description.

ROCKER WASHER CO.
FT. WAYNE, IND.
Liberal inducements to live agents.

Mention this paper.

SOLD!

UNDER A **POSITIVE GUARANTEE**

to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard and with much more ease. This applies to Terriff's Perfect Washing Machine which will be sent on trial at wholesale price; if not satisfactory money refunded. Agents Wanted. For exclusive territory, terms and prices write **PORTLAND MFG. CO., Box 4 Portland, Mich.**

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EVERY WOMAN

Can buy a **WORLD'S WASHER** on trial and no money paid until it is perfectly satisfactory. Washes easy. Clothes clean, sweet and white as snow. Child can use it. I pay freight. Circulars free. **G. E. ROSS, 10 Clean St., Lincoln, Ill.**

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Turkey red on cotton that won't freeze, boil or wash out. No other will do it. Carpets, dresses, capes and clothing made to look like new. No failures with Tom's French Dyes. Send 40c. for six packages or 10c. for one. Any color for wool or cotton. Big pay Agents. Write quick.

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Our Household.

LIFE.

Forenoon and afternoon and night,
Forenoon and afternoon and night.
Forenoon and what;
The empty song repeats itself no more?
Yea, that is life; make this forenoon sublime,
This afternoon a psalm, this night a prayer,
And time is conquered, and thy crown is won.

PAPER NAPKINS.

WHEN our literary club was preparing to give a banquet we had a great discussion about the linen. You may smile at the idea of such a trivial subject arousing an agitation which deserved to be called great, but any topic which consumed the time allotted to an entire business meeting was deferred until we convened again, and then was referred to a special committee, would seem to be of importance. The most formal of the ladies thought it would be so undignified as to be almost disreputable if we served our guests with any but linen napkins. Mrs. Quickly was one of the special committee. She has a very independent way, and doesn't hesitate. She said, "Ladies, we shall need twelve dozen napkins. Perhaps we can't get more than half that many plainly marked. After the banquet is over we shall have no end of trouble in sorting the linen. The napkins, although not soiled, will be mssed so that they will have to be laundered. If the committee agrees, I will take the responsibility of this matter."

The other members of the committee were glad enough to let her manage. She went to the stores, and found a place where they had paper napkins that were a revelation to us. They cost but a trifle. Some of them had an edge like lace, those were of American design, and others, which were said to come from Japan, were painted and folded in fantastic ways, so that they resembled grotesque faces and comical animals. The napkins made fun, and were so cheap, pretty and convenient that all were converted from the prejudice against them.

Sometimes a little experience in life provides one with a text for future thought and practice. When I remember how our banquet was simplified in labor and thus increased in pleasure, I say to myself, "Paper napkins!"

When I see so many persons with neat little unpretentious homes who deny themselves the joy of genial hospitality. I think, "If they only understood the philosophy of paper napkins!"

When I see a woman who has a chance to take a little journey into the world where she would refresh and enlarge her mind, but she won't go because she lacks fashionable clothes, then I exclaim, "Oh, if she would only dress on the principle of paper napkins!"

When I observe the fret and worry bestowed on a desire to make a show and an effort to conform with the tedious and wearisome formalities of life, I remember that the very stupidest dinners I ever sat through were those of stately expense, and the jolliest were those where the bill of fare was plain, and we wiped our merry lips on paper napkins.

AUNT GRISELDA.

ABDOMEN-BELT.

A great many people, late in life, are troubled with colic and severe pains in the bowels much as an infant is.

This can be corrected by constantly wearing a woolen bandage. The best are knit or woven to fit the person. Very nice ones are manufactured, but if these cannot be obtained, the following directions will help some one to knit one:

Use heavy saxony, in white or blue. Two sets of steel needles will be necessary, a coarse set and a fine one.

Commence by casting one hundred and twenty-eight stitches on one of the coarse needles, purl one and knit one stitch for fifty-four rows, then change to the fine needles, and knit fifty-four more rows the same way, beginning with the twenty-seventh row to widen two stitches on every row at one side only until you have one hundred and seventy-four stitches on your needle; then change to the coarse needles, and knit one hundred and sixty-eight rows without widening.

Change to fine needles, and begin narrowing for twenty-seven rows at the same

side you widened before, then twenty-seven rows without narrowing; then change to the coarse needles, knit fifty-four rows, bind off, and sew up in a seam. L. L. C.

CHAMOIS-SKIN.

So many beautiful things are made of chamois-skin, and its durability and flexibility make it a very good material to work with. The bag illustrated is used for carrying knitting-work, or can be used for shopping when one has a number of small articles to carry.

The top has a doubled fold of silk to carry ribbons for the handles. It is trimmed in cat-stitching in colored silks, and silk tassels. One lady who uses one constantly calls it her "memory," as into it goes everything that must be attended to down town. Only the housekeeper knows the numberless little things and little details that must be remembered every day. Two pieces doubled and pinked around the edges, with a band of ribbon across the inner one, make a very pretty case for spoons or knives and forks. A very small case can be made to carry one's jewelry when traveling.

Two skins will make an under-jacket which will be a great protection during a cold snap or during a cold ride. A piece



put across the shoulders of a dress between the lining and outside is a great protection against taking cold. Its uses are so many I could not take the space for them all. PEARL.

EDGE FOR QUILT.

Cast on 35 stitches.

Row 1—Knit 3, over, narrow, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 1, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 2—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 6, knit 1, purl 1, knit 1, purl 1, knit 1, purl 6, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 3—Knit 3, over, narrow, knit 5 (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), purl 1 (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), over, knit 5, over, knit 2, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 4—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 3, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 8, knit 1, purl 8, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 5—Knit 3, over, narrow, over twice, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1 (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), over, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over twice, knit 2, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 5, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 6—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 3, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), purl 2, knit 1, purl 7, knit 1, purl 3, knit 3, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 7—Knit 3, over, narrow, over, knit 1, over, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 3, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 7, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 8—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 7, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, narrow, purl 5, knit 1, purl 5, knit 1, purl 5, knit 2, narrow, knit 1.

Row 9—Knit 3, over, narrow, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 3, over, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 9, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 10—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 9, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 6, knit 1, purl 1, knit 1, purl 1, knit 1, purl 6, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 11—Knit 3, over, narrow, over, knit 5 (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), purl 1 (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), knit 5, over, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, the rest knit.

Row 12—Bind off 10 stitches, knit 5, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 8, knit 1, purl 8, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 13—Knit 3, over, narrow, over twice, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), over, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over twice, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 1, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 14—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), purl 2, knit 1, purl 9, knit 1, purl 2 (purl 1, knit 1 in loop), knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 15—Knit 3, over, narrow, over, knit 1, over, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 3, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over, knit 1, over, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 16—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 3, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 5, knit 1, purl 5, knit 1, purl 5, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 17—Knit 3, over, narrow, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 3, over, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 5, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 18—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 5, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 6, knit 1, purl 1, knit 1, purl 1, knit 1, purl 6, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 19—Knit 3, over, narrow, over, knit 5, over (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), purl 1 (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), over, knit 5, over, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 7, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 20—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 7, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 8, knit 1, purl 8, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 21—Knit 3, over, narrow, over twice, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over (slip 1, narrow, pass slip stitch over), over, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over twice, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 9, over twice, narrow, over twice, narrow, knit 1.

Row 22—Knit 2 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 1 (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), knit 2, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow (knit 1, purl 1 in loop), purl 2, knit 1, purl 7, purl 2 (purl 1, knit 1 in loop), knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Row 23—Knit 3, over, narrow, over, knit 1, over, knit 1, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 3, narrow, purl 1, narrow, knit 1, over, knit 1, over, knit 2, narrow, knit 1, over twice, purl 2 together, knit to end of needle.

Row 24—Bind off 10, knit 5, over twice, purl 2 together, knit 3, over, narrow, purl 5, knit 1, purl 5, knit 1, purl 5, knit 2, over, narrow, knit 1.

Repeat from beginning of edge. Eight squares in length and width, with insertion and edge, make a good-sized quilt. Shams can be made to match, three squares in length, and width is good size. Mrs. M. R. WHITNEY.

From time immemorial eggs have been the resort of the housekeeper surprised by unexpected guests. An excellent way to serve them is with a cream sauce. After the eggs are hard-boiled, dash cold water over them, and when cooled, take off the shells. The cream sauce should be seasoned with chopped parsley or with curry-powder.

I not only named, but first offered
Mastodon Corn
Freeman Potato
Prizetaker Onion

as well as dozens of others of the most popular Garden and Field Seeds of to-day. If you wish an
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You must sow
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\$500 FOR A TOMATO

The Engraving shows the most wonderful Tomato ever offered, which was grown by W. M. Finley, Salem, Ill., who writes: "They grew over 7 ft. high, and I began to pick ripe tomatoes June 24, and had an abundance all summer. Was two weeks earlier than any other variety I ever had, and of the best quality. I had 14 plants, and each one produced from 1 to 2 bushels of nice fruit, many mammoth ones, not a poor one the whole season, and Oct. 15 was still loaded with ripe and green fruit."

This **GIANT EVERBEARING** Tomato is entirely new and a wonder to all. After once grown you will have no others. We own all the seed there is, and will pay \$500 for 1 of them weighing 3 lbs. Plant some, you may get the 3 lb. tomato. Instructions with seed and how to grow them.

FIRST IN MARKET CABBAGE is the earliest kind in the world and you will have heads weeks before your neighbors.

GIANT FLAT DUTCH is the largest Cabbage of all. Is all head and always sure to head, weighing 20 to 50 lbs.

JAPANESE CLIMBING CUCUMBER. Wonderful variety from Japan. Will climb a trellis, wire netting or any support 5 to 8 ft. Great curiosity, round, good quality, excellent keepers.

EARLY SNOWBALL TURNIP, is the earliest in the world, easy grown, good size, white as snow.

We will send a packet each of above 6 splendid varieties and our Great Catalogue for only 25 cts. If you mention this paper and send silver or M. O. we will send free for the Ladies, 100 Summer Flowering Bulbs.

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FOR VARICOSE VEINS, WEAK KNEES AND ANKLES, LAME AND SWOLLEN JOINTS.

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FOLDING VAPOR BATH CABINET. Hot Springs at Home. \$5 a Day to Ladies and Gent. Selling Quaker Cabinets to Families and Physicians. Everybody hurts, sick or well. 50,000 sold. Turkish, Russian and Medicinal Baths at home. No more bath tubs, or Dr. bills. Renovates your system, prevents Obesity. Cures, without medicine, Colds, Rheumatism, La Grippe, Neuralgia, Eczema, Catarrh, Bright's Disease, Malaria, Headaches, Female Complaints and all Blood, Skin, Nerve and Kidney Diseases. BEAUTIFUL Complexion. Guaranteed. Made of Best Antiseptic Rubber Cloth. Price \$5. Wt. 5 lbs. Wholesale to agents. Book Free. B. WORLD MFG. CO., COLUMBUS, O.

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Our Miscellany.

WE shall treat our friends just as we wish them to treat us.—Epictetus.

CHARACTER gives splendor to youth, and awe to wrinkled skin and gray hairs.—Emerson.

QUEEN VICTORIA now rules 367,000,000 people, a greater number than has ever before acknowledged the sovereignty of either a king, queen or emperor.

THE newest fad in autograph-books is one of cooking-recipes. Each formula written in the book has the signature of the contributing friend under it.

AN ouyx stairway in the mansion of a Fifth Avenue (New York) millionaire cost something over \$300,000, and is the finest thing of the kind in the world.

OF all the nations of importance England and Germany have been friendly with each other for the greatest length of time. They have never indignified in open warfare.

A GERMAN statistician has recently found that the Bulgarians lead the nations in longevity, having a centenarian to every thousand inhabitants. In 1892 alone there died in Bulgaria 350 persons of more than one hundred years.

THE greatest corporation on earth is the London and Northwestern Railway Company of England. It has a capital of \$395,000,000, and a revenue of \$8,500 an hour; has 2,300 engines; employs 60,000 men. Everything used is made by the company—bridges, engines, rails, carriages, wagons, coal-scuttles, and even artificial limbs for its injured employees. Repairs to the permanent way cost \$130,000 a month.

THE divorce laws of Iceland form a guarantee for the best protection of women against the caprices of "changeable man." If for any reason husband and wife cannot live harmoniously together and decide to separate, they go before a clergyman, who uses every power of logic and persuasion to induce them to reconsider their determination. Failing in this, they are granted a letter of separation, and each goes his or her own way. If there is but one child, this goes to the mother; if more than one, they are equally divided, unless one of the parents is regarded as unfit to train them, in which case they are all given to the other. After they have lived apart for three years, and are still inclined to remain separated, the injured party may apply for a divorce; and if the application is based on scriptural grounds, it will be granted, leaving each free to marry again. The fact that there is no "social evil" on the island shows the high moral status of the women.—Woman's Home Companion.

A LOYAL CLANSMAN.

The MacLean was being exarained by his pastor prior to his being admitted to the kirk. It should be noticed here that the MacLean had one article of belief not insisted upon dogmatically by any theologian, the MacLean excepted, and this was that his clan was the most ancient in Scotland, and, consequently, in the world. By and by they plunged into the deluge.

"In the self-same day entered Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark," quoted the minister. "And all flesh died."

"Na," interrupted the MacLean, positively, "there was ane ither na drowned."

"The record is explicit, Mr. MacLean," argued the minister, stiffly. "No one was saved but those who went into the ark."

"There was ane ither," reasserted the MacLean, imperturbably.

"What do you mean, MacLean?" demanded the minister, explosively. "Whom do you mean?"

"I dinna richtly kenna his given name," explained the MacLean, cautiously, "but you mon was a MacLean."

"Tut, tut, man," expostulated the minister. "You very well know that no MacLean went into the ark; so, granting that a MacLean existed, how could he have been saved?"

"Hoot, mon, minister," retorted the MacLean, disdainfully, "did ye iver ken a MacLean who didna own his own boat?"—Truth.

A LARGE CURRANT.

Although no American garden in the northern half of our continent is considered complete without some currant-bushes, it is rare we hear tell of them growing anywhere to the perfection that they do in England, although it is quite possible that they may successfully contend for the palm of superiority in Canada. The currant does not like long spells of warm, dry weather; under these circumstances the leaves become a prey to parasite fungus, and we all know that injury to leaves is the first step toward deterioration. At a recent meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society in England the red currant called the Comet was exhibited, in which the bunches were six inches long and some of the berries half an inch in diam-

eter. With these figures we may be able to decide how near American currant-growers can come to this excellence of their English brethren.—Meehan's Monthly.

OLD PEAR-TREES.

Indiana and Illinois claim that they have the oldest pear-trees in the West in their respective states. There is one near Springfield, Ill., known locally as the great Sud-duth pear-tree, which is fifty feet in height and ten feet in circumference. It is said to be fifty years old. This does not begin to compare with some of the old pear-trees planted by the early German and Swedish settlers in the vicinity of Philadelphia, but it is remarkable for a country settled so comparatively recently as what was but a few years ago known as the "far West."—Meehan's Monthly.

HORSE-POWER ON GOOD AND BAD ROADS.

On an ordinary dirt road, according to the Philadelphia "Record," "a horse can draw three times as much weight as he can carry on his back. On a good macadamized road the animal can pull three times as much as on a dirt road; while on an asphalt pavement the power of the horse is multiplied to such a degree that he can draw eleven times as much as on a dirt road, or thirty-three times as much as he can carry on his back. What the road traffic of cities owes to the street-railways is illustrated by the computation that on metal rails a horse can draw one and two thirds times as much as on the best asphalt pavement, four times as much as on Belgian blocks, nine times as much as on

cobblestones, twenty times as much as on an earth road, and forty times as much as on sand."

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

Catalogue of Landreth's American-grown Seeds. D. Landreth & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa.

Annual Catalogue and Price List of Des Moines Incubator Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

What to Plant—How to Plant It. The Pomona Nurseries, the Griffing Brothers' Company, Macclenny, Fla.

Roller Bearings and Light Draft, being catalogue of the Deering harvesting machinery, made by the Deering Harvester Works, Chicago, Ill. One of the handsomest and best implement catalogues yet issued.

\$75 MONTH AND EXPENSES; experience unnecessary; position permanent; self-seller. PEASE MFG. CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

FREE Catalogue of Speakers, Dialogues, Plays, Drills, Teachers' Aids, Letter Writers, Amusements, Fortune Tellers, Dream books, etc. Dick & Fitzgerald, 24 Ann St., N.Y.

A BARGAIN Send Me, Silver and three 2-cent stamps to Wm. A. Ritchey, 195 W. First St., Mansfield, Ohio, and get by mail 25 Good Recipes, any one worth a dollar. Money in it.

At Groveport, Franklin county, Ohio, resides an enterprising lady agent, who has already sent us several lists of subscribers for Farm and Fireside and Woman's Home Companion. Her last letter says: "Send me more sample copies of both papers. I will have another good list for you next week. Am doing better than ever."

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HON. W. J. BRYAN'S GREAT BOOK, "The First Battle." Exclusive territory granted good agents. Write quick. W. B. CONKEY CO., PUBLISHERS, CHICAGO, ILL.

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Standard Gold Watch, \$6

Consisting of a Guaranteed Gold Filled Case and a New York Standard 7-Jeweled Movement.

A \$15 WATCH

This identical watch sells in jewelry-stores at retail for fifteen dollars and upward, usually eighteen and twenty dollars. As jewelers aim to make 100 per cent profit or more on watches, it is evident that they only pay about \$7.50 for this watch at wholesale, and then they buy in small lots of a dozen or so, and on credit; so, of course, they do not get near as low wholesale prices as the firm which buys ten thousand watches at a clip.

BOUGHT AT PANIC PRICES

For a long time we negotiated with big manufacturers for just such a watch, but they seemed to have about all the business they wanted selling to jewelers in small lots at high prices, so would not come down to the prices which we offered. But finally the panic came, and came so suddenly that it caught the manufacturers with big stocks on hand. Soon they began to cut prices, which went down and down. Here was our chance, and by arranging for an enormous quantity we got the lowest prices ever known for American gold filled watches.

In order to run these watches out rapidly, we offer them at a very little profit over what we had to pay for them. Our prices are less than half jewelers' prices, and absolutely the lowest prices at which standard gold watches were ever sold at retail, and it is likely to be many a day before they are offered as low again. While we have a great number for sale, yet they are certain to go fast, so all who want gold watches at a great bargain should not delay in ordering. No discount or commission allowed to any one.



Price \$6.00

Men's Watch.

FULL SIZE

The manufacturers of these watch-cases and movements are among the LARGEST and OLDEST concerns in America. They have an ESTABLISHED REPUTATION for turning out only HIGH-GRADE WORK; hence, under NO CONDITION would they dare to send out a poor article. The watches are ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE and perfect IN EVERY RESPECT, and backed by the manufacturers' guarantees.

Description of the Cases

They were manufactured by the Philadelphia Watch-case Company. Each case is numbered and registered, and their guarantee is placed on the inside of every back. These cases are made like those of all standard gold watches now, that is, by laying two sheets of solid gold over a hard composition metal, called gold filled cases, and warranted to wear equal to solid gold and to give perfect satisfaction. All are "Hunting" cases, beautifully engraved.

Description of the Movements

The movements were manufactured by the New York Standard Watch Company, and are as fine as skill and brains can make. They are stem-wind and stem-set, have seven jewels, nickel-finished works, hard enamel dials; in short, they are perfect, and guaranteed to keep accurate time. Among jewelers it is known as the standard watch movement of America. As this sale marks a new era in the watch business, we had each movement branded "New Era."



Price \$6.50

Ladies' Watch.

FULL SIZE

Price of Men's Watch, Six Dollars. Price of Ladies' Watch, Six Dollars and Fifty Cents.

These watches are good enough for a present to any one on any occasion, though it be to a sweetheart on her wedding-day. To pay more is wasteful. A \$50 watch will not look any better, will not keep any better time, and for all practical purposes will not be any better. This is a rare chance to present yourself and friends a gold watch which will make you glad as long as you live. It is marvelous, but true.

FREE BY EXPRESS

To those who wish to see the watch before they buy, we will send it to your express office and let you examine it. If you want it, send us \$3 (if a ladies' watch send \$6.50) through the express agent; if you don't want it, the agent will return it to us. It costs you nothing to examine it with your own eyes. We pay express charges on the watch.

The cases are engraved in different designs—Stag, Shell, Starred, Fancy and Engine-turned. When no choice is made, we will send one of our own selection. A year's subscription given with each watch.

Either watch given free as a premium for a club of 20 yearly subscribers to this paper at 50 cents each; or for a club of 50 yearly subscribers at 30 cents each, without premiums to the subscribers.

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge.

Mushroom Spawm.—H. L., New Bedford, Mass. Some seedsmen list mushroom spawm. Send for catalogues.

Cow-peas.—F. C. K., Hanover, Ill. Elbert G. Packard, seedsmen, Dover, Del., makes a specialty of cow-peas.

Hop Culture.—C. F. R., Millboro Springs, Va. For book on hop culture write to Orange Judd Company, New York.

Scab on Potatoes.—H. G. R., Bucyrus, Ohio. To prevent scab on potatoes, roll the fresh-cut seed in flowers of sulphur.

Rennet Extracts.—J. B., Centralia, Ill. For rennet extracts used in making cheese write to Chr. Hansen's Laboratory, Little Falls, N. Y.

Book on Sheep Wanted.—C. C. S., Revillo, S. Dak. Send \$1.75 to Orange Judd Company for "The American Merino," by Stephen Powers.

Hemp.—E. J., Charleston, Ill. Send to United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for special report on the culture of hemp and jute.

Coal Ashes.—R. C., Adrian, Mich., asks: "Will coal ashes hurt a garden?"

REPLY.—No. Coal ashes are of little or no value as a fertilizer. If the garden soil is heavy, they will improve its mechanical condition.

Frost Injuring Cabbage-plants.—N. T., Eureka Springs, Ark., writes: "Can you tell me whether my cabbage-plants are permanently injured? They got frozen so badly this last cold spell that some of the outer leaves are killed."

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—Time will tell. If the plants had been unduly forced and made sappy and tender, even a light frost may ruin them. Cabbage-plants to be wintered in cold-frames (or in open ground further south) should be grown slowly, in order to be stocky and resistant, when they will be found comparatively hardy.

Horse-radish for Profit.—J. J. G., Ogden, Utah, writes: "Please mention the best way to raise horse-radish on about two or three acres of land. Where can I get good sets, and about how many pounds can be raised to the acre?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—The best way to raise horse-radish is to raise it. Any seedsmen or plant-grower can furnish you the sets. Have rows three feet apart, and plant the sets fifteen to eighteen inches apart in the row. The hole is made with a long, slim dibble or a light iron bar, and the set inserted square end down. Press the soil against the set. Yield depends on soil and climatic conditions, and may reach a number of tons to the acre. The crop is often a very profitable one.

Onions Turning Scallions.—V. C., Grand Junction, Col., writes: "Please tell me the reason why my onions all turn out scallions. I planted Yellow Danvers seed, as I did last year. Then had a good crop; this year, with the very same treatment, there was only an occasional good onion. Will the scallions be of any good another year? I have left them in the ground."

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—There is a possibility that the fault is in the seed. Usually, however, the condition of soil has more to do with making scallions than has any other thing. Perhaps the soil was too loose and too moist. Onions are very apt to grow thick-necked in wet soil, or an excessively wet season, especially when the soil is very largely composed of organic matter, like muck. Of course, the scallions are worthless for next year.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Hog "Gets Stopped Up at the Nose."—E. H. S., Prairie City, Ill. Unless you describe the case, and also give other symptoms, I cannot answer your question. It often happens in swine-plague.

Salty and Purple (?) Milk.—E. W. C., Crows Landing, Cal. If by purple you mean reddish, or a color produced by a slight admixture of blood, the answer given to G. W. B. under the heading "Salty Milk" will apply to your case.

Tympanitis.—F. C. J., Grand Junction, Col. Tympanitis, or bloating, in cattle is a frequent occurrence if leguminous plants (clover, alfalfa, etc.), and also grass of a rank growth, but especially such as has grown in the shade, are fed while wet, sandy, wilted or in a fermenting condition. Of course, the danger is the greater the larger the quantity that is fed at one meal. New hay in which the fermenting or curing process is not yet completed also is more or less dangerous, especially if fed in too large quantities. In such a case the danger can be considerably lessened if a pinch of salt is given with each meal, and if some old hay is yet available and is mixed with the new before the latter is fed. Avoiding the causes constitutes the prevention.

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who will know how to relieve the animal either by means of a catheter or otherwise. In the diet of your horse hard water and bran must be eliminated from his bill of fare.

Troubled with Sore Eyes.—F. C. J., Grand Junction, Col. You say you have a horse that is constantly troubled with a sore eye, that the eye discharges pus which sometimes is bloody, that the lower eyelid is nearly gone, and that you have used burnt alum, which seemed to lessen the amount of the discharge. The latter, I have no doubt, is true enough, but at the same time the burnt alum undoubtedly aggravated the case and caused destruction. Your case may require an application of caustics, but the same, if required, should be applied only by a competent veterinarian, who knows how to handle such things. If not, invariably much more damage than good will be the result. If your horse suffers from an ulceration of the eyelids, as is indicated by your remarks, the ulcerated parts should be touched with a stick of nitrate of silver, and then immediately be washed with a weak salt solution, but I cannot advise you to undertake that yourself, instead of having it done by a competent veterinarian.

All Kinds of Questions.—F. E. K., Hawkinstown, Va. 1. The operation of tapping a horse in a case of wind-colic (bloating) is seldom necessary; and where it is necessary it is too delicate and too dangerous an operation to be performed by anybody but a very competent veterinarian, therefore it is to your own interest not to answer your first question. 2. In regard to your second question concerning the use of a trocar on a cow with tympanitis, the case is a little different, because there is far less danger, and gross mistakes are easier avoided. The proper place is on the left side equidistant from the external angle of the ilium (hip), the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae and the last rib, where the trocar should be inserted in a right angle to the skin. 3. As to your third question about lampass, you make inquiry about an imaginary disease. The gums of young horses, and even of older ones, especially if pastured, are always succulent and protruding, and anybody who applies a hot iron or a jack-knife should be prosecuted for cruelty to animals. If horses do not eat well or have not sufficient appetite, the cause consists in something else. 4. Concerning your last question I have to say that bots, as a rule, do not kill a horse, except it be that the same have fastened themselves in an uncommon place, for instance, in the larynx, or in the pyloric opening of the stomach, etc., and possibly also if the bots from some cause

or another have become detached in the anterior portion of the stomach and have attached themselves in the pyloric portion or in the pyloric opening, and thus effected a closing of the passage. It is also possible that bots may cause the death of a horse if at a time at which the bots are already stroung and vigorous the mucous membrane of the stomach, from one cause or another, ceases to perform its functions, and the bots, for want of sufficient food, work their way through the wall of the stomach and land in the abdominal cavity. Still, in such a case it will always be very difficult to decide whether the existing morbid processes or the bots constitute the cause of death.

Attacks of Colic-Worms.—J. T. B., Grants Pass, Oregon. Your horse, of which you say that he is troubled with his water, has frequent attacks of colic, caused undoubtedly by the existence of an aneurism and the presence of small worms (the larvae of Sclerostomum equinum) in the anterior mesenteric artery, a place where they (the worms), of course, cannot be touched. The only thing by which the frequency of the attacks may possibly be decreased is to feed such a horse as regularly as possible, and to give the same no water to drink except from a good, deep well. Still, horses suffering from habitual colic usually succumb to an attack that continues a little longer than the preceding ones, or which is produced by the closing up of one of the larger intestinal arteries. The worm-brood is picked up by horses by drinking surface-water out of stagnant pools, ditches, etc. The only way to prevent such attacks consists in not allowing horses to drink such water. Medication is useless, and giving medicines by drenching, especially if force has to be used, is absolutely dangerous. In that respect your horse in refusing to be drenched shows excellent good sense.—Your other horse that is troubled with worms undoubtedly picked up the worm-brood in the same way, and if in the future prevented to do so may recover, because nearly all worms pass off when arrived at maturity. Worms in the intestines can be expelled, but as you fail to give any description of the worms, I have no idea what kind of worms your horse may be troubled with, and cannot prescribe for the same.

WASHINGTON, D. C. I saw the painting "Christ Before Pilate" in St. Paul, and can testify that the picture sent me is a perfect facsimile in every particular, especially in the coloring. I consider it an art treasure, and in view of the great value of the original, it certainly is. MARY A. DENISON.

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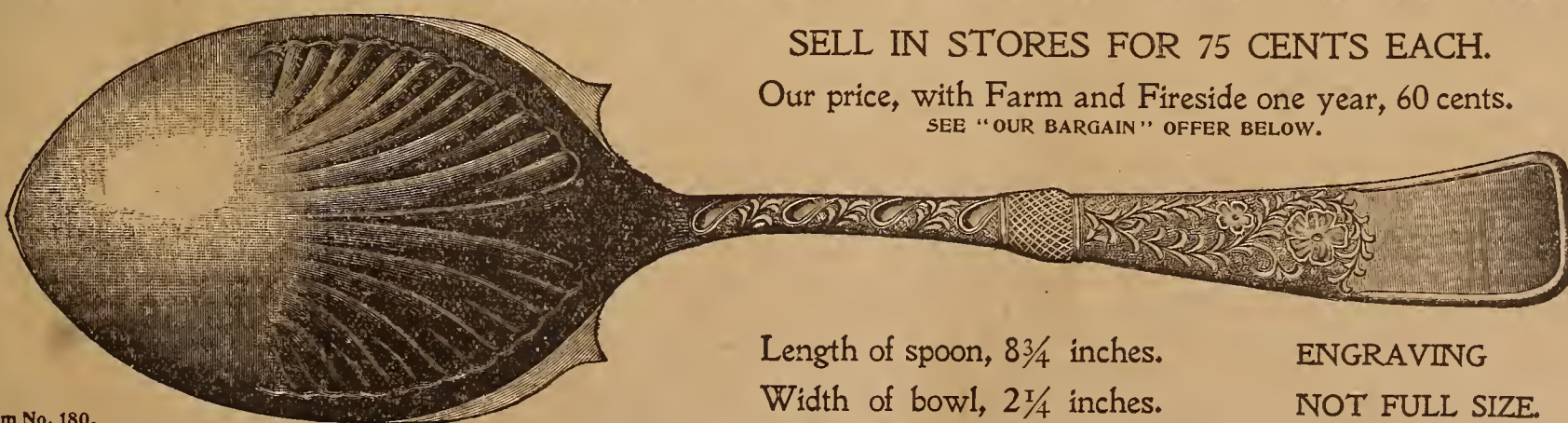
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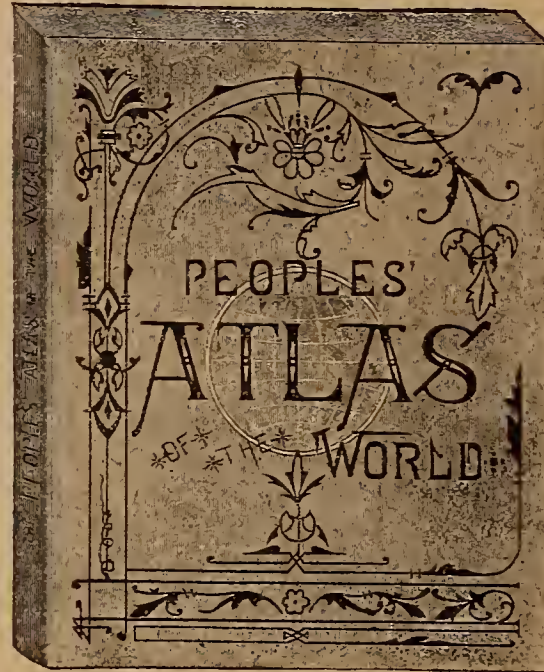
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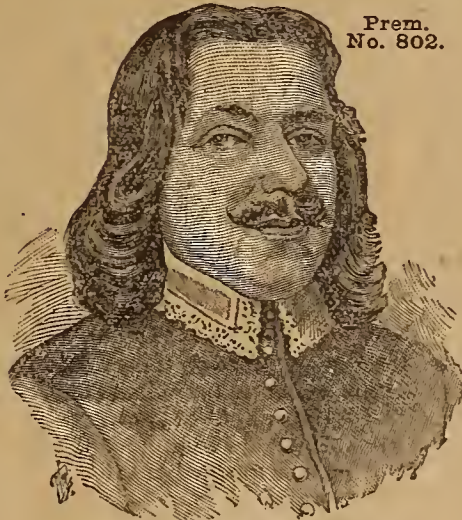
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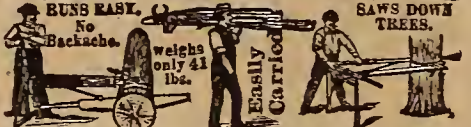
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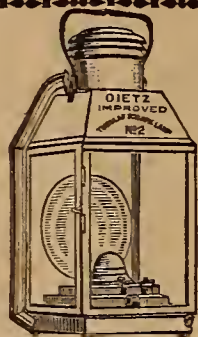
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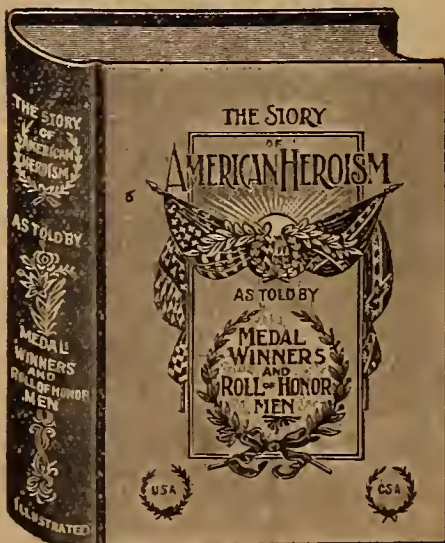
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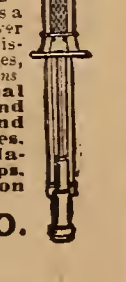
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ship in philosophy in 1877. He then spent one year in study in Paris and Edinburgh, receiving his doctor's degree in philosophy and winning the Hibbert Traveling Fellowship in 1878. The next two years were spent in study in Heidelberg, Berlin and Gottingen, where he enjoyed the instruction and friendship of the foremost philosophical teachers and writers in Germany.

From 1880 to 1882 Dr. Schurman was professor of English literature, political economy and psychology at Acadia College, Nova Scotia, and from 1882 to 1886 professor of metaphysics and English literature at Dalhousie College. On the recommendation of President Andrew D. White, with whom, when American minister to Germany, he had become acquainted in 1880, he was elected to a chair in Cornell University, and from 1886 to 1892 was at the head of the philosophical department. During this period he declined the presidency of several American colleges, feeling that he was at work in his best field of labor, and when the office of the presidency of Cornell became vacant in 1892, it seemed to be the unanimous feeling of students, alumni, faculty and trustees that he was the man for the position.

During President Schurman's administration Cornell has prospered greatly in spite of coincident hard times. The number of students increased; five libraries, con-



DR. JACOB G. SCHURMAN.

prising thirty-eight thousand five hundred volumes, were donated; Hiram W. Sibley gave fifty thousand dollars for a building for mechanical engineering and mechanic arts; Hon. H. W. Sage presented a fine museum of casts of the sculpture of classical antiquity, and endowed a chair of Semitic languages; and New York state erected and equipped a building for instruction in dairying at a cost of fifty thousand dollars, and established the State Veterinary College at Cornell, with an annual appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars for its maintenance, erecting seven buildings at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. There has also been a reorganization of the university, and Cornell now has eight departments and colleges, as follows: The Graduate Department, the Department of Arts and Sciences, the College of Law, the College of Civil Engineering, the College of Mechanical Engineering, the College of Architecture, the College of Agriculture and the New York State Veterinary College, each under a full faculty.

Besides doing thorough academic work with large and enthusiastic classes, Dr. Schurman has always taken an active interest in public affairs. He has delivered many addresses and lectures on educational, religious, philosophical, social and political themes, has been a contributor to foreign philosophical reviews and to American magazines, and is the author of four books, entitled "Kantian Ethics and the Ethics of Evolution," "The Ethical Import of Darwinism," "Belief in God," and "Agnosticism and Religion."

THE House recently passed the anti-oleomargarine bill introduced by Representative Grout, of Vermont. The bill provides that all articles known as oleomargarine, butterine, imitation butter, or cheese not made exclusively of pure, unadulterated milk or cream, upon arrival within the limits of a state or territory shall be subject to the operation and effect of the laws of such state or territory in the same manner as though such articles had been produced in the state or territory, and shall not be exempt by reason of being introduced in original packages or otherwise.

Of seventy million pounds of oleo, the amount estimated to be sold annually in this country, very little reaches the consumer under its own name. The sale of oleo as butter, and filled cheese as cream cheese, is a gigantic fraud, injurious to consumers and to the producers of genuine dairy products. These compounds are put into a form and condition to cheat the public. If they were manufactured and sold in such a manner as would advise customers of their real character, the business would amount to very little. It can thrive only under fraud and deception.

In rendering a decision on an oleo case brought up before it in 1894, the United States Supreme Court said: "The Constitution of the United States does not secure to any one the privilege of defrauding the public. The deception against which the statute of Massachusetts is aimed is an offense against society; and the states are as competent to protect their people against such offenses or wrongs as they are to protect them against crimes or wrongs of a more serious character. And this protection may be given without violating any right secured by the national Constitution, and without infringing the authority of the national government. A state enactment forbidding the sale of deceitful imitations of articles of food in general use among the people does not abridge any privilege secured to citizens of the United States, nor in any just sense interfere with the freedom of commerce among the several states."

NEWS of greatly increasing distress comes from India, now under the double curse of plague and famine. In districts including a much larger population than that of the United States a severe famine prevails, and millions of human beings are literally wasting away to death. Relief work of the greatest magnitude so imperatively needed is now fairly under way. Urgent appeals for help have been made to England and the United States.

Several months ago the bubonic plague, or black death, was introduced into Bombay from Hong-Kong, China. Until a few weeks ago it was apparently under control, and confined within narrow boundaries, but since then it has been spreading over the country with alarming rapidity. The inhabitants of Bombay became paucified at the fatality of the disease, and fleeing from the city carried it into many districts heretofore uninfected.

The situation is appalling. The most drastic quarantine measures may not now be sufficient to prevent the plague from adding millions to the long roll already made by the famine.

WITH THE VANGUARD

DR. JACOB G. SCHURMAN, president of Cornell University, was born May 22, 1854, at Freetown, Prince Edward Island. He lived on his father's farm until twelve years of age, attending school uninterruptedly. After clerking in a general store for two years he resolved to have an education. He entered the grammar school at Summerside, attended one year, and won a scholarship which gave him two years' living and education at Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown. In 1873 he entered Acadia College, Nova Scotia, where he remained a year and a half, winning several money prizes. In 1875 he won the Canadian Gilchrist scholarship to the University of London, at which he graduated with high honors and the university scholar-

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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OFFICES:
108 Times Building, New York City. Springfield, Ohio. 1643 Monadnock Block, Chicago, Illinois.

Subscriptions and all business letters may be addressed to "FARM AND FIRESIDE," at either one of the above-mentioned offices; letters for the Editor should be marked EDITOR.

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Silver, when sent through the mail, should be carefully wrapped in cloth or strong paper, so as not to wear a hole through the envelop and get lost.

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We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

The Sparrow Once More. I have to apologize to the reader for touching once more upon the topic of the English sparrow. A letter which the FARM AND FIRESIDE has received from a reader in Center county, Pennsylvania, reads as follows:

"I am surprised that T. Greiner can offer a shadow of excuse for the English sparrow. From my knowledge of and experience with this pugnacious, destructive pest I could find no proper place for it near the habitations of men. According to Professor Roddy, in November 'Pennsylvania School Journal,' it has no good side; it eats no caterpillars, and should have no place in America. He estimates the annual loss to Americans occasioned by this bird at one million dollars; and says that, with a little knowledge of bird life, we would never have admitted this bird with a seed-crushing beak into America. The United States Department of Agriculture is authority for the assertion that the sparrow destroys grape-buds in early spring, and pecks the ripening grapes more than he eats. When I commenced to make a home in the suburbs of a thriving town, I said I would furnish homes for all the birds that would nest on my premises. I kept my promise until about twenty-five pairs nested in boxes and others on trees; when the sparrows made their advent. As long as they were few they were peaceable, but as they increased in numbers they began to show their pugilistic disposition. One day I heard a wren screaming piteously; I hastened to see what was the matter, supposing a cat had hold of it, but no, a sparrow had hold of it, and held it until I interposed. A neighbor told me that he saw one kill a native bird. Robins were permitted to build, but their nests were always destroyed before the brood was reared.

"I had no crops for them to destroy, but I declared unyielding hostility to the English sparrow, and not a pair has been allowed to nest on my place since. From early spring until late fall my 'Flobert' and a box of cartridges (shot) are at hand,

and I shoot hundreds of them. I tried hard to protect and keep the other birds, especially the bluebirds, but the sparrows annoyed them so that they left. They return every spring, and we try to keep the sparrows away, hoping that they will remain, but after sorrowfully viewing their old homes and singing a few mournful tones they are gone to the forests, where the sparrow disturbeth not; and woe to the sparrows that attempt to occupy these homes. There are three poultry-yards on my place. The fowls are fed outdoors, and the sparrows, by hundreds, if permitted, would feed with the fowls. I tried at different times to feed them where the fowls could not reach them, but they were too suspicious to take it.

"Their sagacity is wonderful. This season I had a crop of buckwheat on swampland that I am trying to reclaim. The sparrows, for weeks, came from town in flocks of hundreds, if not thousands, and fed on my buckwheat. There is a mawkish sentimentality, in towns especially, that says, 'Shame, to kill the innocent things.' It costs the towns nothing to breed them, but it will soon cost the farmers something to feed them, and the question will come up with emphasis, 'What will we do about it?'" DAVIS.

We are very apt to exaggerate when we want to make our story good. But we should remember that we cannot strengthen our side of the case by telling things that are not true. Let us give the devil his dues. Whoever says that the "English sparrow has no good side; it eats no caterpillars," and may he be even a professor writing in a school journal (all the worse for him), makes a false and misleading statement. Every good observer knows that the English sparrow does eat caterpillars and insects of various kinds, and moreover, that he feeds his voracious young almost exclusively on an insect diet. Have you never seen him pick the caterpillars out of your cabbage, or catch and devour May-beetles and other bugs and worms? I have many times, and I have known the bird, intimately, too, from my earliest infancy.

On the other hand, I confess that the adult bird lives mostly on grains if he has access to such food. He likes wheat, and undoubtedly does considerable damage in our grain-fields, where he often appears in large numbers. He also is a bad pilferer in our fruit-gardens, and sometimes, apparently merely for the sake of mischief, picks the buds off our fruit-bushes and trees. This charge has been proven time and time again. I do not know how near the estimated amount of damage which the sparrow annually causes to the American farmer (one million dollars) may be correct. But what does it signify? How much is the damage which the robin and the cedar-bird, and the golden oriole, and the crow, etc., do to our agricultural interests? The robin, for instance, has always destroyed more fruit, especially cherries, for me in one week than all the injury that I can figure out to have been done to me by the English sparrow in a month; yes, even in six months. Yet I am the robin's friend, in so far at least as I abstain from doing him harm, although I hardly ever encourage him very much during the summer-time any more than I encourage the English sparrow. I simply "live and let live" by letting them alone. I like to have the lively little things around me to add life and poetry to the landscape, and during winter the English sparrow is almost the only one of the feathered tribe which remains with us right along. Sometimes they pick up a few kernels of wheat when we feed our poultry; but this does not bother particularly me.

A few years ago, while editor of a horticultural journal, I invited correspondence on the subject of the English sparrow, and received the opinions and observations of a great many of our leading and most observing farmers and gardeners. I wanted to have direct evidence only, no hearsay—nothing what the neighbors thought or had seen of the bird. I was really astonished to find so much sentiment and evidence in favor of the much-abused bird, and have come to the conclusion that it has more friends in this country than one would believe from its general denunciation in the papers. In short, I believe that the matter may well

be left with each individual person. He who suffers no particular injury from the English sparrows will do well to let them alone. But if these birds become mischievous, for instance, by going into grain-fields, the victim of their depredations may protect himself as best as he knows how with shot-gun, traps or otherwise.

The Lesson of the Daisies.

In recent years the ox-eye daisy has spread at a rapid rate over the meadows in many sections of the country. Last summer, for instance, on some of my trips I saw whole fields as white as snow, apparently a mass of daisies and nothing else. Now, farming in these days is not so profitable that we can afford to give up field after field to a pestiferous weed. The question is how to subdue it. "Garden and Forest," in a recent editorial, gave the reply "by better farming." As the substance of the editorial remarks are applicable also to a number of other weeds, let me quote from it, as follows:

"The daisies have not conquered the meadows; they have merely stepped in to occupy and possess the soil which the grass had abandoned. The worst of it is that the great majority of the tillers of the soil do not apprehend the true condition of things, and while they bewail the fate which forces them to harvest daisies instead of grain or hay, they do not realize the fact that they have invited the attack and encouraged the invaders. . . . What farmers need to comprehend is that without some radical mistake in the management of their land the daisies never would have gained such a foothold. All plants, including weeds, settle and thrive where the competition for life is such that they can enter into it and prosper. A good stand of grass leaves no room nor any hope for weeds. It is not in well-tilled fields that Canada thistles flourish, but in neglected pastures and by the roadsides. In the contest with the best agricultural practice they cannot prevail. It is in the untilled plains of the West or in the tilled regions where there is mile after mile of plowed land producing only eight or nine bushels of wheat to the acre year after year, without any rotation, where the Russian thistle is a natural and inevitable intruder. The remedy for weeds is to keep the land busy with a good crop on it, and this means that the farmer must give persistent and connected thoughts to his business. If the daisies crowd out the grass, it is because the meadow has been neglected and the grass has begun to fail, and wherever there is a vacancy by the failure of the grass every enterprising weed finds a rightful opportunity to establish itself. Weeds find nourishment and a home wherever there is waste ground, which means ground not profitably occupied. Widespread areas of daisies, buttercups, wild carrots, mustards and the like are, therefore, the types and measures of the prevailing ignorance of farmers respecting the very fundamental principles of their calling."

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

The Illinois State Horticultural Society held its fortieth annual convention in the state capitol building in Springfield, December 29, 30, 31, 1896. Only a moderate number of the horticulturists of the state were present, but every one of these was an earnest seeker after facts—hard, practical facts relating to the management of fruits from tree and vine to market. The moderate attendance was attributed to the prevailing low prices of agricultural and horticultural products, rather than to lack of interest in the proceedings of the society. There was a very fine show of all the best varieties of apples and pears, especially of those varieties which have proved most profitable to grow for market. And the growing and marketing of these varieties was discussed by men who understand the business thoroughly.

At these annual meetings one meets the foremost horticulturists and entomologists of the state, as well as many from adjoining states, and as he is at liberty to ask any question relating to fruit-growing and marketing or insect pests, the opportunity to have matters that perplex him unraveled is a grand one. Another thing, The young fruit-grower is very often led

to plant varieties of fruit that are worthless or next thing to it—worthless for yield or selling qualities. He is led into these blunders by the glowing descriptions of those who have trees or plants to sell at high prices. If he will attend these meetings he will have the pleasure of hearing many pretty bubbles exploded by the practical men who grow fruit for the money there is in it. He will there learn that most of the highly lauded, gaudily pictured fruits that are described by some nurserymen as superior to all others are utterly worthless.

One thing brought out most prominently at this meeting was the fact that there are several varieties of fruits that succeed well in some localities, while in others they are a complete failure. In some sections of the state certain varieties of pears are long-lived and very productive, while in other sections they blight the first year they are planted. By attending these annual conventions the beginner in fruit culture, either for home use or market, can learn what varieties these are. He will here learn that it does not pay to be guided by the catalogues of tree and plant sellers in setting out an orchard or fruit-garden. He will learn the best methods of pruning and cultivating fruits, as well as of keeping up the fertility of the soil in which they are grown. It was very evident that the fruit-growers attending the meeting had no inclination to listen to theorists and dreamers. They wanted practical facts, and unless a speaker could give them he had to sit down.

If our farmers could be induced to become members of this excellent society fraudulent tree-agents would not be able to make a living, and Brodingnagian new fruits and vegetables would cease to draw thousands of dollars out of the garden planters' pockets every year. The one paper on potato-growing and experiments with new varieties was worth the dollar required to secure an annual membership and the report for 1896. I would advise all who are interested in fruit-growing, either for market or home use, to get a copy of this report from the secretary, Henry M. Dunlap, Savoy, Ill. It will be issued some time this month, and all who are planning to set out an orchard of apples, pears, peaches or plums or a garden of small fruits will find in it information of the greatest value, while those who grow potatoes for market will find in it some very interesting reading concerning varieties and the management of the crop.

My attention is called to the matter of buying seeds for the garden by the many really excellent catalogues I am receiving. Some of these catalogues contain as much practical information as the average fifty-cent book on gardening, while some are filled with extravagant illustrations and delusive descriptions of new varieties of seeds and plants. In making purchases of seeds I have found it advisable to give these latter a wide berth. I would not advise farmers to reject all new varieties as frauds, but I would earnestly advise them to touch them very lightly, and only in an experimental way. As in the case of fruits, a variety of garden vegetables will succeed in one locality and prove almost worthless in another. I remember a farmer once telling me that he could not grow good radishes on his soil. The following season I sent him a few seeds of eight different varieties from packages sent me by different seedsmen, and that summer he told me that three of them produced the best radishes he had ever seen. From that time on he always had good radishes. Of twenty-three varieties of strawberries I once tried, only eight yielded enough berries to pay for growing them. Of ten varieties of melons tried, only three proved worth growing on my soil. Of fourteen varieties of radishes, none have proved superior to the Long Scarlet Short Top. All of the above varieties were described by seedsmen and plant-sellers as far superior to anything that grew. It is a good plan to test promising new fruits and vegetables in a small way, because some of them may prove to be peculiarly adapted to your locality, and some men have made small fortunes by growing an extra fine variety that proved to be especially adapted to their soil or locality. Don't plant largely until you have tested thoroughly.

FRED GRUNDY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

USE OF LIME.—Farmers differ widely in their estimate of the value of lime for agricultural purposes. In some sections lime is used extensively and is regarded as a valuable aid in agriculture, while in other sections its use is condemned. There are reasons for this difference of opinion, and a consideration of them may help us to reach the truth of the matter.

WHAT LIME DOES.—Lime may perform any one of three offices, in the soil:

First, it may serve as a needed plant-food. All plants require some lime, making use of it in their composition. It is the rule, however, that soils contain an abundance of lime for this purpose, and the cases are probably rare in which an application of lime to serve as plant-food is required.

Second, it produces a mechanical effect upon soils. In the case of clays, lime serves to render them more open and tractable. A particle of lime joins with several particles of clay, and a larger particle is thus formed that does not lie as close to adjoining particles, and instead of a close and intractable clay we have one more open and of better texture.

Third, it produces a chemical effect, acting as a solvent, releasing some of the plant-food in the soil that has been resting there in an insoluble form.

DOES LIME IMPOVERISH LAND?—This third effect of an application of lime is most common of all, and we can see that an improper use of this material would quickly lead to bad results. When we bear in mind the fact that lime is rarely needed as a plant-food, and that its chief function is to act as a solvent of the plant-food in the soil—or we may say as a stimulant—it is clear that its continued use under improper conditions could lead only to impoverishment of the soil. But a solvent may be a good thing. Lime works upon the mineral and the vegetable matter in the soil. Of the former the supply usually is liberal; of the latter it is small. Continual liming burns out the humus, and the practice is safe only when the most liberal supplies of vegetable matter are returned to the soil to replace the store exhausted by the lime as it supplies soluble plant-food to growing crops.

ITS SAFE USE.—Liming land cannot be condemned merely because it has led to unproductiveness in reckless or ignorant hands. The practice is justifiable when it is attended by the plowing under of sods and manurial crops sufficiently freely to produce an increase in the supply of humus, despite the action of the lime upon it. Lime paves the way for clover on much land that otherwise refuses to grow clover. A dressing may thus lead directly to an increase of organic matter in the soil. In many sections it has been treated as if a fertilizer, dependence being put in it as a manure merely because an increased yield followed its application. It quickly rendered the organic matter in the soil available for use by plants, and without a new supply the soil in time failed to respond, and the blame was placed upon the lime. Bearing in mind that it is a solvent, it may be used profitably. If treated as a manure, and depended upon without stable manure or abundant vegetable matter, disappointment and loss finally occur.

QUANTITY TO THE ACRE.—In quantity used there is a wide variation in practice. If needed for mechanical effect upon light soils a larger application is required than when its chemical effect only is needed. To improve the mechanical condition of a soil a dressing of one hundred to two hundred bushels of unslaked lime—say two hundred to four hundred bushels of slaked lime—is not infrequent in limestone sections, and many farmers hold that a smaller application is less effective. For chemical effect, however, the best farmers now believe that a dressing of thirty or forty bushels of unslaked lime—sixty to ninety bushels when slaked—is sufficient, and safer than a larger quantity. When this smaller quantity is used, the lime may be slaked with water and ap-

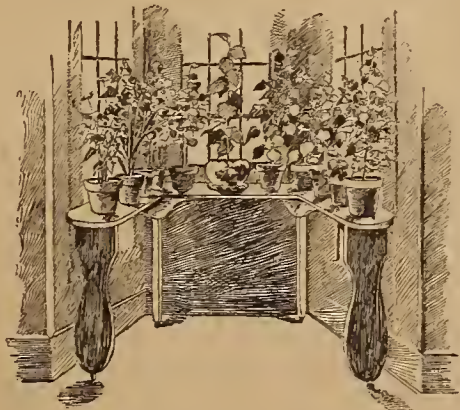
plied with a grain-drill. The effect of the caustic lime is probably greater when it is incorporated with the soil at once instead of being left exposed to the air upon the surface, where its chemical character undergoes a change.

COST OF LIME.—The estimates of cost of burning lime vary much, due to the degree of ease with which the stone is obtained and the value put upon the labor. Where the stone is close at hand, requiring little or no stripping, and the labor is done by the farm force in the winter, many place the cost of a bushel of lime at a very low figure. Little or no cash is paid out, and in that respect it suits the farmer better than his commercial fertilizers. Probably six to eight cents a bushel is a low average for unslaked lime applied to the land, and no farmer would furnish it to others for much less than ten cents. Estimating the cost at seven cents a bushel, the usual old-time dressing of two hundred bushels to the acre cost fourteen dollars. A modern application for chemical effect—as a solvent—can be made for less than three dollars an acre, estimating cost of lime at seven cents a bushel. It is believed that a light application made frequently is preferable to a heavy application at longer intervals, when only chemical effect upon the soil is desired.

LIME AND GRASS.—A dressing of lime upon land that does not make a catch of grass or clover readily usually is very beneficial. The cost of the lime, when it must be brought by rail from a distance, prevents extended use. South Carolina rock contains a considerable per cent of lime, and it is possible that this lime acts in slight degree as a solvent, though it is in too small quantity to accomplish much. The acid, however, is doubtless a solvent, acting in part as lime. Whenever lime can be obtained at a figure less than twelve cents a bushel, an occasional dressing should be given soils that respond to its application, care being taken that it be followed by clover, to supply more humus. It is a remarkable fact that limestone soils are benefited by applications of lime more frequently than other soils. They need caustic lime for mechanical effect, and it is such soils that are most benefited by the heavy applications of several hundred bushels to the acre. The use of lime alone leads to poverty, but its use with manure and manurial crops is often good farming. DAVID.

BAY-WINDOW FLOWER-STAND.

The flower-stand which our illustration represents combines the advantages of a stationary window-shelf and a portable flower-stand. The space of the bay-win-



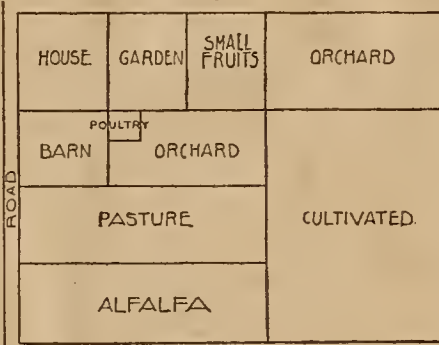
dow is nearly all left vacant for other furniture, such as sewing-machine, sewing-chair, etc. When extremely cold spells make it necessary to move the plants to warmer quarters toward the middle of the room, it can be easily done by taking hold of the two wings, lifting them slightly from the floor and drawing the whole, wheelbarrow fashion, in any direction. The same operation with reversed motion will push it back to its place when danger from frost is past.

It is made of one-and-one-eighth-inch boards, pine being preferable, as this is not so liable to warp out of shape, mitered at the corners, and about six inches narrower than the bay-window is wide. This gives three inches play on each side, which is necessary to keep it from binding when being moved. The posts, or legs, are of one-and-one-half-inch plank, and can be carved to suit the builder's fancy; they are simply nailed to the top and braced in some way to give sufficient support. The

braces of the stand illustrated are made of the same material as the top, cut similar to a shelf-bracket, and nailed in the corners. To give the corner-joints of the top additional strength, the posts are nailed right under and in the same direction of the joints, and the braces run at right angles to the same, reaching nearly clear across the top on each side. Casters, of course, are needed to make moving easy. G. C. GREINER.

A TWENTY-ACRE FARM.

Intensive soil culture has become the rule in some sections of the West. One man cannot irrigate and cultivate more than a twenty-acre tract. This area must be carefully handled to make a good income, yet many farmers are learning that there is more on twenty acres than formerly on a quarter-section. The twenty-acre farm is destined to be the future home of independence. Men who attempt more than this will be speculators, with the chances for or against success, according to the market fluctuations. The day of specialties in farming has passed, and



the man who seeks a comfortable home must produce some of everything possible on the very smallest area.

A twenty-acre farm might be divided into seven very convenient lots. The house and lawn should occupy one acre, and be inclosed by a neat picket or wire fence. One acre should be fenced separate and kept for a garden. The barnyard and corral need not occupy but one acre. An orchard of five acres, with a small corner set out for a poultry-house, would be sufficient. Three acres sown to grass to be cut each season for hay would yield an abundance. A similar tract of three acres fenced separately should be a meadow for pasture. The remaining six acres will make enough of a field for the cultivation of corn, wheat, potatoes and root crops.

The products of six acres under cultivation in the West where irrigation is practised may safely be estimated as follows: Two acres of wheat, 100 bushels; one acre of corn, 50 bushels; one acre of oats, 70 bushels; one half acre of potatoes, 150 bushels; one quarter acre of beans, 15 bushels; one quarter acre of onions, 100 bushels; one quarter acre of barley, 60 bushels; one acre carrots, turnips and rutabagas, 1,000 bushels. These figures are not an average in Utah, where small farming is practised. The yields are reported almost double the figures given, in some instances. Of this six-acre yield there would be a surplus of each product to sell.

Three acres in alfalfa will yield two crops of hay and one of seed. The hay will average two tons an acre each crop, ported almost double the figures given, in tating, making twelve tons of hay. A three-acre alfalfa pasture will keep two cows, two horses, twenty sheep, twenty hogs, with several calves. The pasture and hay field should be rotated each year. After a few years a part of the cultivated area should be planted to alfalfa, and one of the grass-plots plowed. Fences could be made of woven wire, and be easily removed from one tract to another.

The five-acre orchard should have one acre devoted to strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries and currants. A half acre should be planted to about four varieties of grapes. The balance of the orchard area should contain choice trees of various fruits, with the outer row composed of nut-bearing trees. These serve as a protection against wind and storm, and are as valuable as the fruit-trees. The yield upon these several tracts cannot be estimated, as so much depends upon proper culture and the market.

Experienced farmers in Utah who practise intensive cultivation give the following figures on yields to the acre: Strawberries, \$600 to \$1,000; small fruits, \$300 to \$800; apples, 400 to 600 bushels. The

stone-fruits produce in proportion to other varieties. One man with three acres of grapes reports an average yield of \$650 an acre every year. The grapes are sold green, made into wine and raisins. Peaches are sold as green fruit and evaporated.

The twenty-acre farmer can pay all his expenses, ride in nice carriages, wear good clothes, support and educate his family, and save from \$500 to \$1,000 a year for the time of need. This cannot be accomplished by wild speculation. It requires a careful attention to the details of the little farm. No hard, slavering physical labor is required. Why should men toil and worry over their thousands of acres and come out behind at the end of the year when the new agriculture shows them how to live happy and contented on a twenty-acre farm? JOEL SHOMAKER.

DAIRY GOSSIP.

We find some peculiar customs among dairymen just as we do among all other classes of individuals. One that appeared to be rather undesirable from a humane point of view was that of compelling the cows to eat large quantities of salt, in order to get them to drink much water, which was supposed to find its way into the milk-pail, and save the owners the humiliating necessity of making up a possible shortage from the spring. This custom was common among the dairymen around New York City.

The plan is to mix the salt in large quantities with the grain or ensilage, and thus the cow must eat the salt in order to get her allowance of food. I do not doubt that a proper allowance of salt may make the feed more palatable to the animal, and perhaps they may even consume more salt in this way without injury to the cow than when given alone, but when a cow is dosed on salt three times a day, with the avowed purpose of seeing how much she may be made to eat, it becomes another question, and I venture to say that to this fact is due the short period of usefulness of the average dairy-cow where such practice is in vogue. Cows that should be persistent milkers, with a good flow of milk throughout the entire period of lactation, gradually fall off in quantity, until in five months, or possibly six, they are only strippers.

Many careful farmers believe that it is better to give only a small allowance of salt in the feed, simply as seasoning, and then provide a supply either in separate boxes in the stalls or in the yards under shelter where the cows may have free access to it at all times.

The co-operative creameries of Ohio appear to have been established on an unstable basis, for they are going to the wall very rapidly. It is only in exceptional cases where they are proving to be the boon to the farmers that they were represented to be. In many cases it is due to the fact that operators who are really competent to make high-grade butter under the conditions usually found existing are scarce; but oftentimes the real cause of the trouble is with the patrons themselves, in not handling the milk in a systematic manner, and failing to observe the utmost cleanliness in every operation. It is a difficult matter to place the responsibility where it belongs, but every patron of the factory must suffer the loss caused by the neglect or carelessness of a single individual. JOHN L. SHAWVER.

Build Health

Build up your health by properly nourishing every part of the system with pure, rich blood. Only in this way can you gain strength of nerves and muscles. The wonderful building-up effect of Hood's Sarsaparilla makes it especially valuable after serious illness and also to prevent pneumonia, bronchitis, coughs, colds, fevers.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills act harmoniously with Hood's Sarsaparilla. 25c.

Our Farm.

A FROST-PROTECTOR.

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Times-Union," writing from Orlando, Florida, says:

"A party of Orlando gentlemen visited Stevens' pinery, northeast of the city, one day last week, and Mr. T. I. Arnold, the general manager and superintendent, showed them the plan originated by one of the Stevens brothers, of Citra, Marion county, to protect orange-trees or pineapples from frost. Following is a description of the process:

"Buckets, made of three thicknesses of heavy hardware wrapping-paper, holding six pounds of crude rosin, with a small quantity of tow saturated with kerosene-oil placed on top, are set about the grove or pinery at desired intervals. These, when lighted, will burn for two hours, making a dense smoke, which is a positive protection from cold. In the experiment shown to the gentlemen, only three such buckets were used; but they produced more smoke than would have come from a railroad locomotive burning pitch-pine, and the cloud hung over the pinery for hours. The buckets are made by Messrs. Stevens, and the whole cost, with contents, is only five and one half cents. The buckets cost three and one half and the rosin two cents. The paper burns down evenly with the contents, all around, allowing proper ventilation, which cannot be had with metal buckets. In case of severe freezes, the buckets should be replaced two or three times during the night, in order to maintain the favorable condition desired. The Messrs. Stevens, during the freeze of February, 1895, placed such buckets in a one-and-one-half-acre grove at Citra, and the result was that not only the body of the trees, but the limbs, nearly up to the new growth, were saved, and to-day that grove is bearing, while others in the same locality, not so treated, were killed nearly to the ground. The aggregate cost of protecting an acre of trees or pineapples by this process will be \$2.50 to \$3."

BERRY SOILS.

The ideal berry ground would be, first, a rich sandy loam with clay subsoil; second, a dark loam or gravelly loam mixed slightly with clay, and a clay subsoil, all having a southerly or eastern slope.

Any of these mixed soils will make good berry-gardens by applying good barn-yard manure, which contains all the essential elements required.—Thayer's Bulletin.

A LEAP-YEAR PRIZE.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS OFFERED FOR THE BEST ANSWER TO A DELICATE QUESTION—SOME WOMEN ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.

"How far may a woman go in encouraging a man to propose marriage?" A great metropolitan newspaper gives a prize of a hundred dollars for the best answer to this question. Some women will laugh over it; others will consider it quite seriously. The brightest women will see that the real answer is a pretty simple one: The strongest, most "fetching" sort of encouragement that a woman can hold out to mankind is the irresistible attraction of thorough womanliness; no other influence is quite so captivating; no other characteristic so awakens the deepest admiration of men and moves them to express that admiration sincerely. It is not only a woman's privilege, but her positive duty to increase by all means at her command her charm of genuine womanliness.

Now, what does womanliness mean; what does it consist of? It isn't beauty; beautiful women are not always womanly, and the most womanly women are seldom beautiful in the sense in which the word is commonly used. It isn't intellect or talent; some women who are brilliant scholars and vastly clever are not a bit attractive to mankind, but often, on the contrary, distinctly discouraging. Womanliness doesn't mean being timid and sentimental and sickly; that's the very last thing that could pass nowadays for womanliness.

Health is the foundation of womanliness: health makes a woman good-natured; it smooths her temper, helps her to ignore little vexations and worries, makes her patient and cheerful. That is the beginning of womanliness; a bright, healthy, happy girl indicates a good wife and

mother, and this indication is what attracts and encourages a true man, at the start.

It isn't saying too much to declare broadly that health is womanliness: It is the foundation and the cap-sheaf of woman's attraction; a healthy woman is an attractive woman; she is in herself the true and simple and everlasting answer to the interesting newspaper question.

MANLY MEN ATTRACTED.

Manly men are most attracted to a woman by these qualities which make her a companionable, helpful wife and a capable mother. A wife and mother is called upon to bear a tremendous share of the domestic burdens and responsibilities. It is astonishing how lightly and cheerfully a healthy woman will fulfill the duties and carry the burdens of her position; but when her constitution is undermined by nerve-draining, life-sapping weaknesses or derangements, every duty becomes a heavy load of care and anxiety. When her health is impaired her womanly qualities degenerate: She loses a large share of her attractiveness.

WOMEN'S POSSIBILITIES.

There is no need of the suffering and weakness which most women undergo

directly upon the delicate internal organism; it arrests all debilitating drains; prevents and cures inflammation, congestion and ulcerated conditions; restores functional regularity and imparts inward, permanent health and vigor to the entire reproductive system of women.

PROSPECTIVE MOTHERS.

For prospective mothers, the "Favorite Prescription" is unequaled in promoting the most healthful and favorable condition of the organs concerned in parturition. By commencing the use of the "Prescription" early during the period of gestation, confinement is deprived of every danger; labor is made shorter, easier and far less distressing. A good supply of healthy nourishment for the child is promoted and the mother is provided with a fund of recuperative energy against supervening weakness or relapse. The "Favorite Prescription" is the best and most invigorating tonic in the world for nursing mothers.

It should be remembered that Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the only medicine on the market for women which is prepared by a regularly graduated physician, a skilled specialist, who has given a lifetime to the study of the intricate reproductive physiology of women. During

majority of cases are perfectly useless if not absolutely harmful.

Mrs. Corda Culpepper, of Tanks, Cottle County, Texas, writes: "I took Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription previous to confinement, and never did so well in my life. It is only two weeks since my confinement, and I am able to do my work. I feel stronger than I ever did in six weeks before."

Mrs. Nancy Meeker, of Dunraven, Delaware County, N. Y., writes: "My daughter, Miss Meeker, was sick and we called in one of the best doctors here. She got so weak that I had to help her out of bed and draw her in a chair. She then tried some of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. In less than a week she was out of bed and has been working about five weeks now, and looks the picture of health. As for myself I am much better of my female complaint. Before taking the 'Favorite Prescription,' I suffered most of the time from catarrhal inflammation."

Miss G. F. Crawford, of Limestone, Me., writes: "For years I suffered monthly from periodic pains which at times were so acute as to render life a burden. I began using Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I used seven bottles in as many months and derived so much benefit from it and the home-treatment recommended in his Treatise on Diseases of Women, that I wish every woman throughout our land, suffering in the same way, may be induced to give your medicines and treatment a fair trial."

Mrs. A. D. Simmous, of Emporia, Lyon County, Kan., writes: "I recommend Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription to every one who is having a family—taken as directed, it works like a charm in confinement."

C. Strong, of Byron, Ogle County, Ill., writes: "As I am sending for your 'Common Sense Medical Adviser,' I take this occasion to say that we have used your family medicines and with good results. My daughter was very weak and all run down. We tried our local doctors, but they did not seem to help her. Then we tried extract of hops and various other remedies, but she continued to grow weaker. We commenced to give her Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. From that time on she began to improve, and she is now quite strong and able to work considerable. We gave her two or three bottles, and think it saved her life. I never had much faith in patent medicines, but think differently in regard to Dr. Pierce's."

Matt W. Venable, Esq., of Ma'ins, Harrison County, Mo., writes: "My wife had neuralgia of the stomach for a number of years. I tried all the doctors in reach of me, but they could not do her any good. They said the trouble could not be cured. I was reading in your pamphlet one day in regard to what your 'Favorite Prescription' would do. Although not once mentioned as a remedy for neuralgia, I told my wife that I believed I had found out the medicine that would cure her. So I procured one bottle in order to give the medicine a trial. To our utter astonishment, one bottle cured her. Now she keeps the 'Favorite Prescription' on hand all the time; and she hasn't had a doctor or a hired girl since. People have come for miles to find out what cured her, and she always gets her bottle and shows it to them."

Women ought to possess the knowledge about themselves which is given completely and plainly in Dr. Pierce's free book, "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser." It is a large volume of one thousand and eight pages, with over three hundred illustrations and several chapters devoted to the special physiology of women in health and disease; telling them how to preserve health and regular conditions at all periods of their development. The earlier editions of this great book reached the enormous sale of six hundred and eighty thousand copies at \$1.50 each. The profit on this sale enables Dr. Pierce to print the present edition of half a million and send it out as an absolutely free gift to any one who will send 21 cents in one cent stamps to cover the expense of mailing only. This book is exactly the same as the book which was sold at \$1.50, except that this is bound in strong paper covers. If French-cloth, embossed binding is desired, ten cents extra should be sent (31 cents in all), to defray the extra cost of this handsome and durable binding. Send to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., of which Doctor Pierce is President; and do not fail to inclose in your letter the little numbered coupon printed above.



A LEAP-YEAR PRIZE.

because of "female complaint." It isn't right, it isn't natural. The assurance that it ought to be and could be overcome was felt thirty years ago by Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y. It came upon him as a settled conviction that the women of America might be made a stronger, healthier, happier and far more attractive race of women. They are so to-day largely because of this conviction and what Dr. Pierce has done to carry it out in practice.

He devoted the best years of his life to the study and cure of the diseases peculiar to women; he became eminent in his profession as a specialist in this particular branch of practice; through wide experience he discovered new remedies to cure disorders of the feminine organism. After careful research and thorough tests in his extensive practice, he invented and put upon the market the medicine which has since become famous as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

The "Favorite Prescription" is for all "female complaints" and for strengthening and reinforcing the organs distinctly feminine during every condition of weakness and every critical period in the life of women. It acts in a perfectly natural way

nearly thirty years as chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., Dr. Pierce, with his staff of specialists, has successfully treated more than two hundred and fifty thousand women largely by correspondence—unquestionably by far the most extensive practice enjoyed by any physician in America.

The sales of the "Favorite Prescription" are larger than the combined sales of all other medicines for women. This fact clearly indicates the confidence which women place in the "Prescription" above all other remedies, and its almost invariable success.

In any instance of complicated and long-neglected difficulty requiring special individual treatment, Dr. Pierce will send, free of charge, to any woman who will write him the particulars of her case, good sound professional and fatherly advice which will enable her, by common sense home-treatment, without the aid of a physician to cure herself completely and permanently if her case is curable. At the same time avoiding the dreaded "examinations" and "local applications" so repugnant to modest women, and which in the

COUPON
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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

SELLING CORN WITH THE EGGS.

ONE pound of corn converted into eggs will quadruple the value of the corn, and pay for the labor used in feeding it to the fowls. The fowls on a farm open a way to larger profits, because there is always a certain proportion of waste food that can be utilized by poultry which will not be of much value as food for large stock.

MINERAL MATTER IN FOODS.

In addition to the foods which largely provide the muscles and fat, as well as that which warms the body, there are certain materials which abound more largely than others in those substances which are devoted to the production of bone, shells of eggs, etc., and they should be used to assist in balancing the rations, especially for laying and molting hens and young fowls that are growing.

WARM WATER IN WINTER.

When the hens come off the roosts in the morning, after being quiet over night, they may be quite chilled. To drink ice-cold water only adds to their discomfort. To invigorate them, give a pan of warm water, and give no food for an hour, throwing a few millet-seeds in litter, so as to induce them to work and exercise.

CHANGING TO NEW LOCATIONS.

It is known that when a hen is changed from one location to another she ceases to lay for a time. The question is whether this is because she has control of the matter or whether due to excitement or refusal to partake of food.

trne that when a hen is removed from one location to another there is a cessation of laying, but it is only temporary—a suspension for a brief time only—and then she begins again. Something depends on the stage of progress of the embryo eggs, but the natural instinct to deposit the eggs in a place of safety is such that until the hen is satisfied with her new surroundings she will defer depositing eggs; but she can only withhold them for a short time, when she must begin again, in the fulfillment of the natural law of reproduction.

CROSSING DUCKS FOR MARKET.

Every attempt made to procure choice ducks for market by crossing the breeds has resulted in dissatisfaction compared with the use of the pure-bred Pekins. The Cayuga and Pekin cross is an excellent one, but the black pin-feathers of the Cayuga make picking more laborious. Crosses of Rouens and Pekins have not given any advantages, and the same is true of the Aylesbury and Pekin cross.

SOFT FOOD AND LABOR.

Feeding soft food is a regular routine, and when there are many fowls it becomes as laborious as the feeding of cattle. To mix a large quantity of bran and ground food, moistening with milk or water, is more than should fall to the women to perform, and for that reason the keeping of poultry in large numbers is a duty devolving on men.

SOFT SHELLS AND THE FOOD.

Whenever a hen lays an egg with a soft shell it is an infallible indication of over-feeding. The remedy is to separate the hens from the males and give only one meal a day for two weeks, consisting of one pound of lean meat to twenty hens; and as soon as the hens can forage, give no food at all. Work (exercise) is what the fowls require in order to be brought into good condition, as medicine will not avail.

GROUND OATS FOR CHICKS.

An objection to the use of ground oats for chicks is that they contain a large proportion of the chaff, or hulls, which are not beneficial. Ground oats are superior to all ground grains for chicks, and to avoid the difficulty it is only necessary to sift the oats after they are ground, which removes the objectionable portions.

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GRADING UP A SCRUB FLOCK.—The foundation of my present flock was made three years ago by the purchase of twelve White Leghorn fowls. They were handsome birds, good layers, splendid foragers, and fairly hardy, but not thoroughbreds. I added to them a Langshan hen and also a Golden Poland, and by a setting of eggs I secured eight Plymouth Rocks. This was in summer. That winter I mated them with a so-called pure-blooded White Leghorn male.

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Clipping the Wings.—S. T. W. Gay, Ill., writes: "Will hens lay as many eggs with their wings clipped as when the wings are complete? I wish to keep my hens confined." REPLY:—The hens will not be affected so far as laying is concerned, but will not as easily hover their chicks.

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Our Fireside.

THE SONG OF THE LEAVES.

The dead leaves sighed to the passing wind:
 Carry us
 Far, far from here on thy mighty wings!
 Away to realms of forgotten things,
 Where the unwept dead a grave may find,
 Carry us!

The dead leaves sighed to the flying dust:
 Cover us!
 That the butterflies flitting overhead
 May see us not, unlovely and dead;
 Hide us from sight, for decay we must,
 Cover us!

The dead leaves sighed to the chilling rain:
 Weep for us!
 For we shall blend with the roadside slime,
 And they who saw us in summer's prime
 Shall, passing by, know us not again,
 Weep for us!

The dead leaves sighed to the falling snow:
 Bury us!
 Bury us deep in untrodden ways,
 Far from the glory of bygone days,
 Far from the summer of long ago,
 Bury us!

So the keen wind blew them far away;
 The dust wrapped them in clouds of gray;
 The rain wept over their early doom,
 And the white snow silently built their tomb.
 —Beatrice J. Prall, in the English Illustrated.

PHIL KENT'S EXPERIENCE.

BY MILLER PURVIS.

CHAPTER I.



PHIL KENT threw down the paper he had been reading, and walked to the window, and stood there looking at the dreary, rain-splashed view for a few minutes, tapping the glass with the tips of his fingers, reflectively.

"I'll do it," he said, presently, looking across the room at his sister, Kate, who, dressed in black, was silently sewing at some dainty feminine trifle.

"What is it, dear?" Kate asked, looking up, rather startled by the sound of Phil's voice and its explosive quality.

"I'm going to sell this place and buy the Pearson place, and go for a farmer. I've tried to find something decent to do in every other line, and there is no opening that will allow us to keep together, and I'll take to farming. Jake Long told me this morning that he would give a thousand dollars for this house and lot, and I see by the 'Independent' that the Pearson place is going to be sold by the administrator. I'm going to buy it."

"Oh, Phil!" said Kate, plaintively, "you would not sell our nice home, and go out to live in that tumble-down old Pearson house, would you? And let those awful Long children come here to 'spoil this house?'"

"That's so," answered Phil, despondence in his voice; "I had entirely forgotten that you are half owner of this place, and must be consulted in the matter. Never mind; we can stand it a little while longer, and if nothing else turns up, I am big and strong enough to keep us both, even if I must turn ditcher." And he turned again to the window, while silence fell between the two.

Kate was too much interested in her brother to allow the matter to drop in a manner so unsatisfactory to him, and presently she began to ask him questions about his new project. In the course of an hour or two she had willingly consented to the sale of their home, and the purchase of the farm that was to be sold within a few days by the administrator of the estate of Abijah Pearson, deceased.

Phil Kent and his sister, Kate, were the only children of Dr. Kent, a man of blessed memory, who had died a few months before this story begins.

Dr. Kent had been a country physician with a large practice, but he had not been a man to accumulate property, as he quite as frequently put his hand into his pocket to take money from it for the benefit of some one as he did to place in it his hard-earned fees.

He had given his children a good education, and had provided for them a home that was elegant, as such things go in a country town, but after the death of his wife he had clung to both of them with the tenacity of a man who is left alone, and who loves his own better than himself.

Phil had talked vaguely of entering some of the professions, but his father had put the day of parting off from time to time, telling him that there was time enough yet, and so the young man had dallied for a year or two, until one day the old doctor had been compelled to refuse to respond to a call from a sick-bed, and had laid down to rest as one weary with heavy and long-continued labor.

From this resting in this life the good old man passed to the everlasting rest that re-

mains for those who have done their whole duty, and Phil and Kate were left to mourn a father who had left behind him a good name, which we are told is better than great riches.

Except a comparatively small sum of money, and a smaller amount of good accounts, the young people had nothing beyond the home they lived in and the grounds it occupied, scarcely two acres in extent.

Jake Long, the village storekeeper, had been a peddler and a trafficker in merchandise of all sorts, and with a genius for that sort of merchandising, and a disposition toward economy, had accumulated money until his little store had grown to be a place where one could buy anything that was demanded by the inhabitants of the village of Farmdale or the inhabitants of the country around.

From a trader he became a capitalist, in a way, and from the profits of his store he got money to lend to those who could give him substantial security, and he had now got to the place where a desire to put on a better appearance animated him and his sharp-tongued wife. When Dr. Kent died, he began to look longingly at the beautiful home the latter had built, and to speculate in his crafty way as to how long it would be before Phil and his sister would be compelled to sell it and look for another home.

Jake knew that Phil could not keep the place and live there without means, and he knew of nothing to which the young man could turn his hand to make a living in that community, and was satisfied that sooner or later he would have an opportunity to get the property at practically his own figures.

He said nothing about this until a day or two previous to the time when we introduce Phil and his sister to our readers, and then he had asked Phil what the house and lot

owners of the neighborhood of Farmdale. Without ambition or thrift he had bought forty acres of land when he settled there, and had managed to hold it until his death, leaving it worn out to a degree and in a very bad condition as to improvements of every kind. The fences were old and ruinous, and the building shabby and out of repair. During the era of high prices, when crops sold well, he had managed to build a house of some pretensions, but it had never been kept in repair, and at the time of his death was not a slightly dwelling-place, by any means.

The dreary surroundings of their home had nothing about them to keep the children of Abijah Pearson on their father's farm, even if there had been room for them, and as they grew up they had gone away to other places. At the death of the old man the farm was left to be sold, as some of the children were as unthrifty as their father had been before them, and others had no love for the place, and preferred to let it pass into the hands of strangers.

An administrator was appointed, and the farm was ordered sold by the court, and was now offered at an appraised value of two thousand dollars, which meant that it must be sold for at least two thirds of that amount when the time came for its sale.

Farmdale is a type of those villages scattered all through the midwest which were laid out by ambitious men on a scale large enough for a city, but whose founders lacked the foresight to locate them in such a place as modern commerce has decided a town must occupy.

The founders looked at the picturesque, and located the town with this in view; but commerce looks at the practical, and when the railroad came, its builders declined to climb the hill to Farmdale, preferring to cling to the lowlands four miles away, and

the quiet and calmness of the home of their boyhood, only to long for the life beyond the hills and to go back to it refreshed, the intervals between their visits becoming longer as the years went by, until at last they grew out of the life at Farmdale entirely, and were only heard of rarely, if at all.

It was not a promising place for an educated man to settle down for life, as Phil Kent proposed to do, nor was it a place that promised to lead to any definite results for any plans of reform that might have had vague form in his brain.

From his father he had inherited a love for the place of his birth, and no one but himself knew what a pang it cost him to give it up; but he felt that his sister must be looked after and cared for, and he knew that the wild life of a pioneer was not such a one as she was fitted for. He bravely determined to make the experiment of becoming a farmer, thinking that failure could not leave him in a very much worse position than that in which he found himself at the beginning of it.

If failure did come, he was resolved that it should only be after a hard fight for success, and should find him among friends instead of in a far country and among strangers.

His natural bent was for farming, and when a boy it had been his greatest desire to become a farmer. Many times he had helped the farmers of the neighborhood with their work, not so much for the money he received for his services as because he really liked the occupation.

Combining many good qualities with a few faults, Phil Kent was a hearty young fellow filled with the pride of life, and with nothing of the sluggard about him, and it was wholly owing to the entreaties of his father that he had not long ago chosen a profession.

He never thought of blaming the memory of his father because of his unprepared condition when the problem of existence faced him, for he knew it was because of the love of his parent that he had been kept at home. And now that the worst had come, he faced it with unflinching courage, hoping for the best; and if he feared the worst no mortal, not even his sister, knew of it.

CHAPTER II.

The post-office at Farmdale is kept in Jake Long's store, and Jake is postmaster. This office is not of first importance, but it serves as an excuse for the presence of idlers at all times, and is the general rendezvous for the village and the country around. Here in the evenings gather the villagers and the farmers from the neighborhood, together with all the small boys who are not well governed, and their conversation drifts about in the aimless manner characteristic of assemblies made up of men who do not think deeply, and whose lives are confined to narrow interests.

This narrowness of environment and thought does not prevent these assemblies from discussing matters of grave import, but the manner of the discussion is such that a grave dissertation on the great questions of governmental policy will be dropped at once if something of local importance comes to the front.

It was Phil Kent who first called these informal but very regular meetings the "Never Sweat Club," because, as tradition explains, they were always marked by the presence of those who did the least work of all in the country around.

This nickname was at first spoken in a way that conveyed the impression that it was not a complimentary one, by any means, but it was not long before it became common, and at last was looked upon as the most fitting one that could be applied to the meetings, and in the end it was really something of an honor to be known as a member of the Never Sweat Club.

History does not say who first called Jake Long's store "Cobweb Hall," but that was its common name; and it was not at all out of keeping with the place, for the variety and size of the stock of goods that filled the store, even to the littering of the floor and the occupation of hooks fastened in the ceiling, made it a matter of great labor to undertake to keep the room tidy. The result was that the grime of the dust of many months settled over it all except a small part of the floor, which was given a perfunctory sweeping at such times as Jake or one of his small boys could be persuaded to devote to it, which was not often.

The next morning after Phil Kent had decided to sell his home he walked into the store and inquired for his mail. After looking it over he looked up at Jake, who was watching him idly.

"I have concluded to accept your offer for our house and lot," he said.

"Le's see," answered Jake, as if the matter had entirely escaped his mind, "what was it I offered you?"

"You ought to have offered me fifteen hundred," said Phil; "and then you would have been five hundred to the good."

This reply refreshed the mind of the storekeeper very quickly, for his eyes shone in anticipation of making a good bargain, as he said:



AND STOOD THERE LOOKING AT THE DREARY, RAIN-SPLASHED VIEW.

had cost originally. Phil had heard his father say that it had cost him more than two thousand dollars, and then Jake had remarked on the decreased value of real estate and the depreciation of buildings in general, together with some comments on the hard times, winding up by saying that he would not mind giving a thousand dollars for the place, as he must soon build if he could not buy, and would rather pay more than a place was worth than to go to the trouble of building.

Phil had not paid much attention to the talk of Long at first, but when it was renewed, he began to think how he could use such a sum of money to advance his interests; and when Long unequivocally told Phil that he would give him a thousand dollars in cash for the home, the young man had made up his mind that if nothing else presented itself he would sell and go to some other place to begin life anew.

Going home, he had picked up the county paper, and noticed the advertisement of the administrator of Abijah Pearson offering the farm known the country around as the "Pearson place" for sale, and he had concluded to sell his home and buy it at once.

Abijah Pearson had been one of the pi-

save cost. A station was placed on the line, and this left Farmdale four miles from the nearest outlet to the world beyond its horizon; and from the day the first locomotive shrieked and rumbled through the valley the fate of Farmdale was decided, and its period of decay began. The more enterprising of its business men soon went over to the new town on the railroad, and newcomers to that part of the country preferred it naturally, and in the course of time the old town became sleepy and non-progressive, and slumbered quietly on the hill in summers, or shivered in gray and gloomy decadence through the storms of the winters.

The older families lived there because their homes and lands were there, and the old men gathered in the warm afternoons and mumbled of former times while watching from the wide shade of the trees before the Eagle hotel the play of village children on the greensward of the square in the center of the town.

The young men went out into a wider world, except the dullest of them, and sought the favors of fortune in the rush and swirl of to-day; coming back occasionally to woo or wed some fair damsel and carry her away with them, or to spend a few brief days in

MARY AND THE MORTGAGE.

Mary Anderson was a Scandinavian girl who had been brought up to an economical life in her native country. She removed with her parents to the Snake river valley, in Idaho, where a small tract of land was purchased. The second year after their arrival the father, Ole Anderson, died, leaving a mortgage upon the farm. Mary knew but little of the ways of the world, and her mother was not able to talk the English language. The man from whom the farm was purchased had removed to California, where he bought a piece of land, expecting the payments from the old home in Idaho to meet similar obligations in the land of oranges.

The last payment for that year had been made in October, just a few days before her father's death, and Mary had one year in which to raise another instalment. She did not weep or wring her hands in anguish, but proceeded to lay out a plan of action. The tract consisted of forty acres, but she decided to keep it all and farm only a part. Some day, she argued, she might get married and need a part of the farm herself, while her mother would keep that part containing the house and barn. She hired a man to plow, harrow and roll ten acres that fall. During the winter she planned out a campaign. Several seed catalogues were sent for, and their contents were carefully studied. The land she had was new, and contained but few weeds. A canal carried abundant water by the door. She had two horses and some farming implements.

In the spring she made a hotbed, and sprouted vegetable-plants. Among them were several hundred sweet-potato sprouts, the seed of which cost Mary one dollar. The ten acres were plowed in the spring as early as possible. Furrows were made with a good plow, about thirty inches apart, and the water run through every one before any seed was planted. Having convinced herself that every particle of the ten acres could be successfully irrigated, Mary proceeded to plant her seed. She had found it necessary to sell one of the horses after the work of a team had been finished, in order to get the cash to purchase seed. Several sacks came to her address from an eastern seed-house, but she had the money to pay the freight.

She planted two acres to white corn and an acre to pop-corn; the space of two acres was planted to white navy-beans; one acre was occupied by the white mammoth peanuts; one half acre was set to sweet potatoes, and a similar-sized tract was planted to red onions; one half acre of potatoes, and the same-sized patch of melons was planted; a few rows of cabbages; rutabagas, turnips and carrots were planted between the melons and a pumpkin and squash patch. The whole ten-acre field was planted alike in two rows between the furrows first made in the spring for irrigation purposes.

When the plants were ready to cultivate, Mary hired a man to plow between the rows. She and the five younger children followed the plow, and pulled out all the weeds, and straightened up the plants. Every one had a hoe and a crooked greasewood stick for a weeder. Three times during the summer this cultivation was repeated, and every time was followed by Mary and the children, with their hoes and weeding-sticks. On the last day of June she began to irrigate, and in three days had the whole field evenly supplied with moisture. She turned the water into ten furrows from a lateral, and opened three laterals at a time. The rows were forty rods long, but the water passed through very well. As soon as the lower ends of the furrows were all watered, she changed to another set of ten furrows. This irrigation was repeated on the last of July, and the crops left to mature.

The new sandy land did not have many weeds, but Mary and the children were kept busy all summer. Not a weed grew and seeded on that ten-acre tract. The field was a beautiful sight. Great ears of corn nodded with the wind to massive pumpkins. Big melons ripened, and were sold to the cowboys and travelers for as high as fifty cents apiece. The old settlers from the states came for miles to buy some real sweet potatoes, for which they willingly paid eight cents a pound. Such a crop of onions was never seen in Snake river valley. The peanuts spread all over the ground between the furrows, and seemed delighted with the warm sand in which they were growing.

Harvest day came, and the work began. The corn produced eighty bushels an acre, which readily sold for one cent a pound. A fine yield of pop-corn was shipped to Butte City, and brought ninety dollars clear money. Over fifty dollars' worth of melons had been sold, besides many that the children and neighbors feasted upon. The six thousand sweet-potato hills yielded over ten thousand pounds in addition to many sacksful that had been grabbed. Four cents was all they would bring, but more than the mortgage was netted from this half acre. The Irish potatoes were not very good, but she dug ninety bushels of fine tubers. The peanut-patch turned out seventy bushels, which readily sold at ten cents a pound, or two dollars and twenty cents a bushel. There was a great big stack of beans, which, when

threshed out, measured one hundred and twenty bushels. These sold for one dollar and eighty cents a bushel. A great big pile of onions was not measured.

It took all of two months to harvest and care for the crop. The man who held the mortgage returned on the fifteenth of November, one month behindhand, expecting to take back his farm. He had written a friend to call upon the Danish family, and give them warning to get out. Mary was waiting for him. There were two payments of one hundred dollars each and the interest to be made, one this year and one the next. She had enough in hand to buy the farm outright. The man came in one evening, and stated he was a little late in arriving from California, but they had as well prepare to get out before cold weather.

"Let me have the two notes and cancel the mortgage," said Mary.

"Oh, no; not by a long shot!" exclaimed the man. "I didn't prove up on this land to give it away to a Scandinavian gal. Not much. You can't come any funny dodge on me."

"Nobody asked you to give it to a Scandinavian," indignantly hissed Mary. "I have the money, and I want the notes. Can you understand that?"

"Well, well, pardon me, madam; I—I never thought you had the money. Jes' hand it over and git yer receipt. I was jes' a-funnin'," he said, as he tried to pacify the girl.

The money was paid, the notes destroyed, and the mortgage canceled. Mary had a good sum left, with which she clothed all the children, and made some improvements on the farm, and fixed up the house for winter. A young man in the neighborhood had been watching the farming operations, and saw the big harvest gathered. He thought Mary a treasure, and decided to go a-courting. The next Sunday he dressed in his best store clothes and called at the Anderson ranch. The evening was pleasantly whiled away popping corn and roasting peanuts, after having a nice supper, where bacon and sweet potatoes, corn-bread and pumpkin pie were a part of the delicacies.

Several trips were made to the house of the Danish girl. Frank Jones felt her his superior, but decided to find out what she thought of him. One night as they were strolling out in the moonlight and talking about the value of peanuts as a crop, he stopped suddenly. Looking steadfastly into her lovely face, he stammered:

"Mary, I love you. I don't suppose you love me; can't I hope for the future? Some day will you not allow me to call you mine?"

She took his outstretched hand, and grasping it tightly, remarked, in clear, earnest and forcible manner:

"Frank, I love you now. I don't want anything to do with future promises. A mortgage does not stand in my way. If you love me, take up the wedding notes now, and pay off the mortgage on single life. Next year may be too late."

He understood her language. The day was named, and they became man and wife. The farm was divided into two twenties. Mary and Frank have a nice home, and a little boy and girl. No mortgage exists on any part of the old forty, and never will so long as Mary can handle the lines, and dictate to Frank what crops to plant.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

IT IS FREE TO ALL.

THE METHOD OF A GREAT TREATMENT FOR MANKIND WHICH CURED AFTER EVERYTHING ELSE FAILED.

When a man is slowly wasting away with nervous debility, rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, lame back, kidney complaint, stomach, or liver ills, or any form of weakness, the mental forebodings are ten times worse than the most severe pain. There is no let up to the mental suffering day or night. Sleep is almost impossible, and under such a strain men are scarcely responsible for what they do. For years the writer rolled and tossed on the troubled sea of despair until it was a question whether he had not better take a dose of poison and thus end all his troubles. But providential inspiration came to his aid in the shape of a combination of medicines that completely restored his general health to natural strength and vigor, and he now declares that any man who will take the trouble to send his name and address may have the method of this wonderful treatment free. Now when I say free, I mean absolutely without cost, because I want every man to get the benefit of my experience.

I am not a philanthropist, nor do I pose as an enthusiast, but there are thousands of men suffering the mental tortures of diseases who would be cured at once could they but get such a remedy as the one that cured me. Do not try to study out how I can afford to pay for the few postage stamps necessary to mail the information, but send for it and learn that there are a few things on earth that although they cost nothing to get they are worth a fortune to some men and mean a lifetime happiness to most of us. Write to Thomas Slater, Box 517, Kalamazoo, Mich., and the information will be mailed in a sealed envelope.



THOM. SLATER.

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Our booklet, "Paint Points," tells of the different kinds of paint, tells what is good paint, what is bad paint, tells how to paint and what to paint, tells how to take care of your brushes. It can be had for the asking. You may not be thinking about paint to-day, but send for "Paint Points" anyway—it will keep.

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS are sold by over 10,000 dealers, and are the best paints for all paintable things.

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We equip this machine with our **SPECIAL SHOVELS FOR TEXAS SOIL**—one that will positively clean in "Black Wax Land." An important feature is **The Parallel Movement** of the shovels which always keeps them squared up to their work and at **RIGHT ANGLES** with the row.

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Our Household.

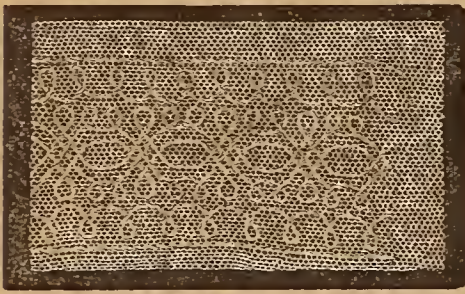
"DOE YE NEXTE THYNGE."

[From an old English parsonage.]

Down by the sea
There came in the twilight
A message to me;
Its quaint Saxon legend,
Deeply engraven,
Hath, as it seems to me,
Teaching for heaven;
And on through the hours
The quiet words ring,
Like a low inspiration—
"Doe ye nexte thyng."

THE SPRING SEWING.

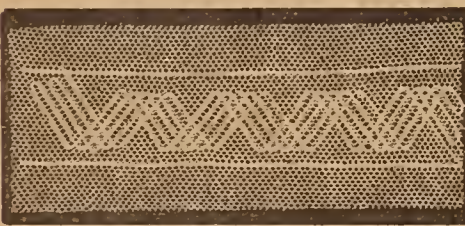
THE three-handed woman—she who is right-handed, left-handed, fore-handed—begins her spring sewing in January or February, that she may, without overworking, have it done and in readiness for the first warm days before house-cleaning and the rush of spring work comes. When the air is filled with the soft, delicious fragrance and balmy breezes of early spring and all nature is springing into new life, it is



hard indeed to be confined to the house and listen to the tiresome whirr and buzz of the sewing-machine, intent upon tucks, ruffles and almost endless seams, when without the bursting buds and happy bird-notes are constantly calling to us to come out and renew our acquaintance with the goddess of nature; and happy the woman who has her sewing done before that time comes, and can dally a little amid the brightness of outdoor scenes, enjoying the ever-changing beauties without feeling that work that must not be neglected is constantly calling her within doors.

Table-linen, bedding and underwear usually receive the first consideration. For much of the latter there is nothing now on the market that equals tennis-flannel or outing-cloth. For a busy woman, the making, washing and ironing of a garment is more than the cost of the material; and any material that possesses extra good wearing qualities is the cheapest in the end, even though it cost a trifle more.

Tennis-flannel is as cheap as muslin, will wear much longer than muslin costing the same, washes so much easier, and "in a pinch" does very well without ironing. I first used it for night-dresses for the children and morning wrappers for the baby five years ago. The first night-dresses were of the six-cent quality, and for children then three and five years old wore over two years. I then purchased the ten-cent quality when necessary to make new ones. They have now seen three years' steady service, and are apparently "as good as new." Three of them can be more easily laundered than one muslin one, and if hung straight and smooth on the line to dry, I do not have them ironed, which, of course, tends to lengthen their usefulness, as the pressing with a very hot iron is as hard, if not harder, on most clothing as ordinary wear. Of soft texture, they do not possess the



icy chill of muslin in winter, hence seem warmer. Being of open weave, they more readily allow the heat to pass from the body than muslin, so are cooler in summer. They may be lace-trimmed or finished with fancy stitches of Asiatic wash embroidery-silks, and be as dainty or elaborate as muslin; and many wealthy and stylish ladies use them exclusively.

I remember of once calling on two friends who were ill. One looked so uncomfortable in a fresh, stitily starched

and much-betrimmed muslin night-dress. Indeed, she said, "Nurse insists on my having a fresh robe each day, and I suppose it is best; but as mother insists on their being starched, so they will look nice, they are dreadfully uncomfortable at first, and by the time I get the stiffness wore off, along comes the nurse with another one." The other invalid was attired in a pink and white tennis-flannel robe, the yoke laid in tiny plaits cut-stitched down with white Asiatic twisted embroidery-silks, the collar and cuffs trimmed with white lace. She looked so dainty and comfortable, with none of the glaring white look that most invalids have. Remarking about it, she said, "How I wish every sick one could enjoy the luxury of these soft, inexpensive robes."

Finding the night-dresses so satisfactory, I tried the same material for drawers and summer skirts for little people, and an equally well pleased. Three pairs of drawers for each child, of eight-cent material, have worn three summers, and are good enough for perhaps two mouths' more wear next summer.

In very delicate colors or in cream white it makes soft, easily laundered sheets for the beds of very small children.

The new fleece-lined tennis-flannel, or flannelette, as it is commonly called, is soft and warm, said to launder well, and is just the thing for children's dresses or for ladies' waists and wrappers for fall and winter. It is also an admirable material for home-made jackets for the little ones to slip on mornings and evenings about their play, or for cool days in the early summer, when they are so apt to take cold without some extra protection and after winter wraps have become burdensome. If these jackets are finished with fancy stitches of bright-colored Roman floss or medieval embroidery-silk, either of which launder so nicely, when necessary, they will be as attractive as they are comfortable and serviceable.

CLARA SENSIBAUGH EVERTS.

THE INVALID'S TRAY.

Many a housekeeper of years' standing has experienced a feeling of consternation when obliged for the first time to cater to the taste of a sick or convalescent person.



The first thing to be considered is the doctor's command. Even if a delicacy seems perfectly harmless, and is craved by the patient, it must not be allowed if disapproved by the attending physician. When this matter is understood, we may turn our attention to the tray itself. The first point is absolute and immaculate cleanliness. Often a meal is spoiled for a nervous invalid by a soiled napkin, a stained tray-cloth, or a cup rough to the touch.

Closely following cleanliness come the dainty touches that may arouse a flagging interest and induce the sick one to eat. Oatmeal served in a common saucer might go untasted, while if in a prettily decorated bowl the chances are it may be relished. Try taking in the tea in a different cup; all houses contain several of the fancy china ones. Use a daintily embroidered doily, and tuck a geranium-blossom or a carnation among the folds of the snowy napkin.

Be sure the food you prepare is rich in nourishing properties. This does not mean that it is rich in the common acceptance of that word among cooks, but that it contains the things necessary to supply strength to the weak body. Then remember that an invalid tires very easily of the same articles of food, and provide a variety. Not many different articles for one meal, but the same articles at rare intervals.

If fruit is not interdicted by the physician, give it freely. Even in winter, canned and a small amount of preserved fruit may be reinforced by a mellow apple, pared, quartered, cored, and served on a pretty plate. Then there are baked apples, dates, figs, oranges and bananas.

Don't overdo the toast matter. A slice of cream or milk toast, a poached egg served on a thin slice of delicately browned bread or a bit of hot buttered toast may do, but beware. Many an invalid finds the dish so often confronting him that the word causes a feeling of disgust. Hot buttered crackers prove an agreeable substitute. Or a wee sandwich made of finely minced meat may prove acceptable.

Broths and soups afford a wide range of variety. The crackers served with broth may sometimes be replaced by bits of bread. A little tapioca or rice cooked slowly for a long time in broth adds both to its nourishing qualities and to its flavor. A bit of onion or celery will often impart an agreeable taste, and can be removed by straining before the dish is taken to the invalid. When meat may be safely given, a bit of rare steak, a thin slice from a mutton roast or the wing of a chicken will be enjoyed. Oysters are rich in nourishment, and can be prepared in various ways.

Oatmeal and rice are valuable articles of food. Tapioca soaked in warm water, sweetened and poured over fruit, the whole to be baked slowly for a long time, may prove a novelty.

As to drink, if milk meets the approval of both physician and patient, the path of the cook is cleared of many difficulties. Cocoa or chocolate made of two thirds milk and one third water, sweetened slightly, and a spoonful of whipped cream added, is a delicate dish. Make the coffee strong, and dilute it with hot milk, using cream as usual. Lemonade, hot or cold, may often be substituted for tea. A glass of cold water in which two teaspoonfuls of acid jelly have been dissolved will be gratefully accepted by a feverish invalid. Fruit syrups, especially those made at home and bottled for keeping, are invaluable in illness.

HOPE DARING.

STYLE IN SOCIETY LETTERS.

Rich white paper is always in the best taste, though it is sometimes restful, when one has many letters to write, to take up a sheet of different hue. Fashionable stationery comes this year in brown, ivory and parchment tints. A very pretty style is called Emperor Napoleon. It is a soft-finish paper, and the color is copied as nearly as possible after Napoleon's chambray vest. Another is in beryl-blue, and cut in the Titian shape.

Very wide margins are affected, extending sometimes half way across the sheet. This is only suited to a fine, small hand, and could never be adopted by the "two-words-to-a-line" correspondent.

In speaking of this matter of style, we are too apt to forget that style means character. The fair correspondent who is weak in character will write in a diffuse, rambling style, as she has not the strength mentally or physically to concentrate her thoughts. She will fill her letter with all manner of flimsy excuses, and complain about everything. She feels that the world is not unhappy enough already, so she must add a little to the general misery. When she has finished writing her letter, she is utterly tired out, and her correspondent reads the letter with the same tired feeling.

The dear correspondent who is strong in character begins with a few moments' meditation, in which time she concentrates her thoughts, and decides what is worth while to say and what is best unsaid. Then she begins clearly and directly, and progresses with quick, warm feeling. There is no need of excuses when love writes. The character which has the most power and force is that which looks for light and not darkness, and a friend who has no other strength than that of looking for the bright, cheery side of things—the strength of joyous convictions—has a power over us in their letters which is irresistible. We are sure that they were written in a spirit of buoyancy and gladness, and we read such letters with delight, feeling somehow as if the dismal rain and low-hanging clouds had suddenly been changed to roses, and as if the whole world were full of sunshine.

A letter written with a kind heart is written in the best style, and a sunny, bright letter always makes the world a better and happier place to live in.

FRANCES BENNETT CALLAWAY.

FOR IRRITATION OF THE THROAT caused by Cold or use of the voice, "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are exceedingly beneficial.

MASHED POTATOES.

There are sometimes a few weeks in a year when even the farmer has to go without milk or cream. The housewife has to rival her city friends in devising ways to cook without that convenient article in abundance.

One of the conundrums was mashed potatoes. When mashed ready for milk or cream, use a beaten egg to about a quart or less of potato instead, and beat thoroughly. When cream is used, the potatoes are very much nicer if beaten until light and creamy, and not left a soggy or a dry mass.

GYPSY.

LACE-WORK.

With the introduction of thin materials lace once more has asserted its supremacy. During the long winter evenings one could arrange all the trimming for one's summer dresses.

A piece for front use over a colored silk could be made of silk run upon Brussels net, which, when finished, would be quite as effective and much cheaper than the material could be bought ready-made at the stores. As high as ten dollars a yard is asked for perishable trimmings upon women's dresses, which are so beau-



tiful one can scarcely resist the temptation, and after one season's wear they are perfectly worthless. Lace made by hand is always more durable, and can be used upon many occasions.

We give some very effective patterns. Black upon white can be used, or yellow and white combined, with here and there black introduced to accentuate the pattern.

L. L. C.

CARE OF THE TOOTH-BRUSH.

The care of tooth-brushes is not sufficiently observed. In our city houses, a writer properly remarks, they stand in their cups or hang on their racks above the set toilet-bowls day and night, absorbing any disease germs that may be floating about. They should be washed frequently—at least about twice a week—in some antiseptic solution, strong salt and water or bicarbonate of sodium and water being two good and readily provided cleaners. Tooth washes and pastes should also be kept carefully covered.

PASS THE SALT.

A writer in one of our medical journals calls attention to the fact that the excessive use of salt is a most common dietetic error, and yet one which, curiously, is seldom referred to by writers upon dietetics. The conclusion drawn from observations made by Foussingault is that the use of chlorid of sodium, or common salt, by human beings is rather a matter of habit than of necessity, nature having probably exhibited the same wisdom in regard to the amount of chlorid of sodium placed in our food as with reference to the other salts required by the system.

BOOK-COVERS.

The covering of books with chamois, silk or fine linen has come to be an art. By means of it a paper-bound volume may



be transformed into something rich and dainty by a pair of clever hands at home. A volume copy of "Old Love Letters" was seen not long ago which had been decorated by the outer slip, which was made of what is called "sad-colored" silk. On it the title had been embroidered in subdued tints. A true-lover's knot encircled the words, and from it a few scattered forget-me-nots were drooping. The effect was exquisite, and yet it was done by no experienced embroiderer.

Our Household.

THE IRISH GIRL FOR ME.

BY CARRIE O'NEAL.

The English girls we all admire;
They're sweet, and learned, too;
They've rosy cheeks, and figures firm,
And eyes of honest blue.

Chorus:

But the Irish girl you're sure to love;
Just meet one once and see.
The Irish girl—her heart is true,
Oh! the Irish girl for me.

Her face is fair, her figure trim,
Her hair is chestnut brown;
Her eyes are gray, her heart is light,
And the truest heart in town.

The German girl can bake and brew;
The Spanish girl can sigh;
And men with admiration gaze
In Yum-Yum's almond eye.

HOME TOPICS.

A NEW HOLDER.—Among my Christ-
mas presents not the least appre-
ciated was a holder to hang by
the stove and use in turning
things or taking them from the oven.

MAKING OVER CLOTHES.—A knack for
making new clothes out of old ones is
certainly a valuable accomplishment where
money is not very plentiful.

The buttons that adorn the front of this
little coat are of steel, which had reposed
in the button-bag for the last fifteen years.

VELVET SPONGE-CAKE.—My friend Mrs.
T called to see me a few days ago and
brought me the following recipe for
sponge-cake.

- 6 eggs,
2 cupfuls of sugar,
1 cupful of boiling water,
2 1/2 cupfuls of flour,
1 heaping teaspoonful of baking-
powder,
2 teaspoonfuls of lemon extract,
1/2 teaspoonful of salt.

Separate the whites from the yolks of the
eggs, and save the whites of two for
icing. Beat the yolks and sugar together,
long and hard, using about one fourth
cupful of the water gradually to soften
the sugar.

A FANCY CORNER, CROCHETED.

ABBREVIATIONS.—Ch, chain; tr, treble;
st, stitch; sl st, slip-stitch; d c, double
crochet.

Materials: No. 40 Barbour's Irish flax
thread and No. 4 steel crochet-needle.

The figures are worked first, and may
be joined at the base or at the scroll part,
as the pattern calls for, as you make them,

The figures are made as follows: Ch 10,
and join in a ring. Now chain 44 st, and
with a slip-stitch fasten back to the eighth
ch st (from the needle).



TATTING DOILIES.

It has often been said it is well not to
depart from the customs of our fore-
fathers. In the same spirit I will suggest
that we do not depart from the work of
our grandmothers.

Tatting that was used a half century
ago is the same tatting that is used
now, but some new ideas have crept in as
to how this tatting may be effectively
used.

I give the design of a salt, tumbler or
sauceur doily; can be used for either. It is
quite convenient to have these, with the
plate-doilies, which, of course, are much
larger.

This tatting is made of No. 40 spool-
thread. The little wheels are tied to-
gether, and made to form a circle around
a piece of linen lawn. Use Japan wash
silk in confining tatting to linen lawn.

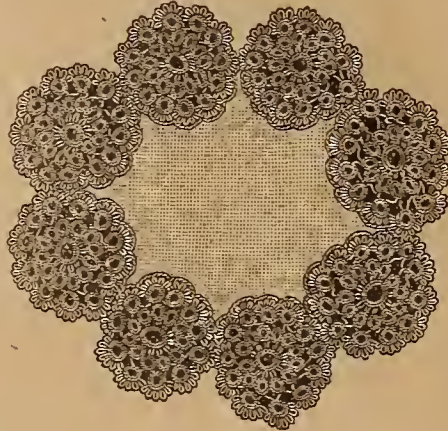
LEMON TOAST.

A dainty to serve at a luncheon is lemon
toast. Take the yolks of three eggs, beat
them well, and stir them into a breakfast
cupful of milk; cut some stale bread into
slices, and soak them for a minute in the
milk and eggs, then fry to a delicate brown

the coat was made from the skirt of an
old camel's-hair dress, worn when skirts
were very narrow. It was black, but
striped, a plain and a hairy stripe alter-
nating. Pattern No. 6,902 of FARM AND
FIRESIDE pattern was used.

stem. Now 2 sl st on stem again. Turn,
13 tr in first space, 8 tr in each of next 4
spaces, 13 tr in last space, join to first tr;
now ch 2 and fasten back in third tr, and
work 40 tr around the string and 20 tr
and 1 d c in the little ring on the end.

SAVE MONEY AND HEALTH by using Dr. D.
Jayne's Expectorant. If you have a Cough, a
Cold, or any Lung or Throat trouble, it is
the oldest and surest remedy known. The
best family pill, Jayne's Painless Sugar-
Coated Sative.



For the heading, work the front row of
spaces, making the stitches to suit the
spaces, treble extra trebles and d c, so that
the line will be even. Over this work
spaces again at the corners, always miss-
ing 2 spaces; then over these spaces work
roll st (thread over 10 times); and last row,
over them work 2 d c between each roll.

nothing succeeds like merit.

Enameline The Modern STOVE POLISH. Produces a JET BLACK enamel gloss. Dustless, Odorless, Labor Saving. J. L. PRESCOTT & CO., NEW YORK.

\$500 FOR A TOMATO. The Engraving shows the most wonderful Tomato ever offered, which was grown by W. M. Finley, Salem, Ill. GOLDEN GLOBE ONION, EARLY SNOWBALL TURNIP.

Do you want in 1897 THE BEST GARDEN in your neighborhood? If you do you must sow Maule's Seeds. OUR New Seed Book is pronounced the most complete and condensed Seed Catalogue of the year.

GREGORY'S HOME SEEDS CROWN SEEDS are known the country over to be exceptionally reliable. They have a reputation of forty years back of them.

DANDY ROSES The easiest roses to grow are the celebrated D. & C. roses. The easiest way to grow them, as well as all other flowers of worth is fully explained in the 'New Guide to Rose Culture.'

nothing succeeds like merit. The Rocker Washer has proved the most satisfactory of any Washer ever placed upon the market. It is warranted to wash an ordinary family washing of 100 POUNDS IN ONE HOUR.

The following pleasant expression comes in the Farm and Fireside from Mrs. C. S. Rice, of Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York: 'Having been a reader of your paper for fifteen years, I do not need to learn anything new about it. The paper speaks for itself. I expect to send in a large list of subscribers within three weeks.'

Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge.

Note.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons.

A Very Lame Cow.—S. M. Your cow, it seems, has one or more of the pelvic bones fractured.

A Hard Milker.—T. M. A., Mountaine, Pa. What you complain of is not easily remedied, but it can be considerably improved by vigorous milking.

A "Lump".—M. E. L., Guthrie, Mo. If you will kindly describe the "lump" on your cow's neck I may be able to comply with your request.

A Peculiar Ailment.—L. McD., St. Mary's, Kan. I am not able to make out from your description what may all your cow.

Sore Feet.—G. V. G., Altamont, Ill. Make twice a day to the sores on the feet of your cows a liberal application of a mixture of liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts.

Pig-eating Sows.—E. W. F., Salina, Kan. If sows eat their pigs there is usually something wrong with their diet before plying; but a sow which has done it once is apt to do it again the next time.

Probably Lung-worms.—J. S. G., Le-rado, Kan. The coughing and wheezing of your hogs, which, you say, are otherwise healthy, may be due to the presence of lung-worms in the bronchii.

Either a Fistula or a Morbid Growth.—T. M. R., Hazen Ark. What you call "a bad sore" in the face of your pony, and which, already existing ten months, cannot be brought to healing, is either a fistula or a morbid growth of perhaps a cancerous character.

Does Not Keep the Tongue in the Mouth.—E. Y., Wynore, Neb. The habit of your horse of sticking the tongue out of the mouth when hitched up is probably induced by an ill-fitting and therefore incommoding bit.

A Lame Horse.—J. B. McC., Ligonier, Ind. Your last communication gives an entirely different description of the case. Of course, I cannot know what ails an animal I have never seen, and cannot form an opinion except from the description furnished me.

Yellow All Through.—A. S., Elmer, N. J. If your fat sow, perfectly well and healthy during life, was found to be "yellow all through," which probably means that all the intestines and the interior surface of the abdominal cavity were yellow.

Fetid Discharges from the Nose.—J. G., Colechester, Ill. There is probably a fistulous opening from the socket of the decayed tooth to the maxillary sinus, which latter communicates with the nasal cavity.

Probably an Obstruction.—H. L. B., Prlimrose, Iowa. According to your description of the case it must be supposed that the rattling sound attending the breathing of your horse, especially when exercised, is caused by some obstruction in the respiratory passages, probably a morbid growth, and most likely situated in the nose.

Parturient Paralysis.—J. C. V., Frankfort, N. Y. Your cow died of parturient paralysis, also called milk-fever, calf-fever and a good many other names. It is an infectious disease, which almost exclusively attacks cows which are first-class milkers.

Arthritis in Pigs.—J. H., Titusville, Pa. What you describe appears to be a case of so-called "rheumatic arthritis of young animals," a disease formerly erroneously looked upon as of a rheumatic character, but now considered by the best authorities as infections.

Habitual Luxation of the Patella.—E. H. G., Wyocena, Wis. In such a case as you describe the patella is apt to slip out of its place every time the horse lies down or gets up.

Corns—Knee-sprung.—C. H. C., Petaluma, Cal. As to the corns of your horse, have them first cut out, and then have your horse shod in such a way that no pressure will be brought to bear upon the sore place.

Possibly Coenurus Cerebralis.—L. E. F., King City, Mo. Unless the disease of your sheep is caused by the presence of a cystworm, Coenurus cerebralis, in the brain, I cannot answer your question.

Worms in Sheep.—J. S. M., Moulton, Ala. Your sheep must have been pastured on low and swampy land surrounded by brush; or if the land was not low and swampy, the same must have access to water of stagnant pools and ditches.

184 YEARS OF SUFFERING

Relieved by a Wonderful Discovery.

One hundred and eighty-four years of agony was endured by the following eight people, who have kindly allowed us to use their names, as endorsing in the highest terms the great remedy "5 Drops."

- 49 years Mrs. D. T. Carver of Winslow, Stevenson Co., Ill., suffered from Rheumatism and a weak heart.
30 years Mr. W. Kellems of Siberia, Perry Co., Ind., was helpless from Rheumatism and Catarrh.
16 years the wife of Rev. L. Von Wald of Millbank, S. D., was tortured by Catarrh and Hay Fever.
12 years Mrs. L. H. Mercer of Nashport, Ohio, was an invalid and helpless from Neuralgia.
12 years John Collins of Ludington, Mich., was a helpless cripple from Rheumatism.
11 years H. J. Gelser of 12 Sunset Ave., Utica, N. Y., was bedridden with Rheumatism.

Below, published in full, is the letter of the seventh. DEAR SIR:—For 20 long years my wife suffered untold tortures from Sciatica and Neuralgia, and I thank God for the day that your heavenly-sent remedy fell into my hands, for it completely cured her.

Below is the letter of the eighth invalid whose years of suffering make up the awful total.

January 2, 1897. DEAR SIR:—Over 34 years ago I had typhoid fever, and barely escaped with my life. It left my system so shattered that I have had ever since Rheumatism and Throat Trouble, which gave me a terrible cough. I had been unable to find any relief for these diseases, until I learned of your "5 Drops," which I commenced taking only two months ago, and my cure has been indeed wonderful.

I am more thankful to you than words can tell and I want everybody to know what "5 Drops" has done for me. Although I am over 70 years old, I am feeling better than I have in years.

IF YOU HAVE NOT SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE AFTER READING such letters to send for a large bottle, send for a sample bottle, which contains sufficient medicine to convince you of its merit.



SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 167 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

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Are you a smart spell'er? We give \$100 away in prizes to those able to make the largest list of words from the word RESPONSIBLE.

next five largest lists; \$3 each for the 4 next largest, and \$1 for each of the next 13 largest lists. We want you to know our paper, and it is for this reason we offer these premiums.



This is a Genuine Hunter's Knife. Has two blades. Fine stag handle. Good cutter and always reliable. Lined with brass throughout.

THIS FENCE 50-in. high can be made on our automatic machine for 18c PER ROD.

When you plant seeds, plant FERRY'S Always the best. For sale everywhere. D. M. FERRY & CO., Detroit, Mich.

\$8.00 for a MACHINE to weave your own fence of Coiled Hard Steel Spring Wire.

DAISY SPRAY PUMPS. Bucket-barrel. Continuous stream 50 ft. Best for orchard, garden, house. 175,000 sold.

Our Miscellany.

"Do not think they will allow us to scorch in the next world?" asked the bicycle crank "Some of you will get a permit, sure," answered his little wife, who had long been jealous of his wheel.—Detroit Free Press.

LETTERS FROM FARMERS

In South and North Dakota, relating their own personal experience in those states, have been published in pamphlet form by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, and as these letters are extremely interesting, and the pamphlet is finely illustrated, one copy will be sent to any address, on receipt of two-cent postage stamp. Apply to R. C. Jones, Traveling Passenger Agent, 40 Carew Building, Cincinnati, O.

MOTHER GOOSE ADAPTED.

The poet of the West Baden "Journal" sings thus: "Sing a song of penitence, a fellow full of rye, four and twenty serpents dancing before his eye. When his eye was opened he slouted for his life, wasn't he a pretty clump to go before his wife? His hat was in the parlor, underneath a chair, his boots were in the hall, his coat was on the stair. His trousers in the kitchen, his collar on the shelf, but he hadn't any notion where he was at himself."

A NEW CURE FOR ASTHMA.

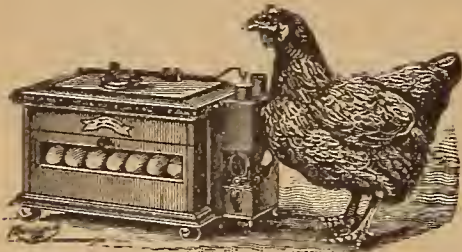
Medical science at last reports a positive cure for Asthma in the Kola Plant, found on the Congo river, West Africa. So great is their faith in its wonderful curative powers, the Kola Importing Co., 1164 Broadway, New York, are sending out large trial cases of the Kola Compound free to all sufferers from Asthma. Send your name and address on postal card, and they will send you a trial case by mail free.

A CLOSE FINISH.

Daughter—"George says he fears he can't support me in the style I'm accustomed to." The father—"Marry him, ayhow. I can't keep it up much longer myself."—Town Topics.

"THE WOODEN HEN."

The little illustration shown herewith is small only in size, but really large in magnitude, when we consider that the "Wooden Hen" is no larger than a live hen, yet has double the capacity. It weighs only fifteen pounds, has a capacity of twenty-eight eggs,



and while not a toy, is just as amusing, besides being instructive as well.

We doubt if a more acceptable or more valuable present could be made to the farmer boy or girl, and we suggest that every one of them who read the FARM AND FIRESIDE write Mr. Geo. H. Stahl, Quincy, Ill., and ask him for a copy of his handsome little booklet describing the "Wooden Hen," also his large catalogue of the Model Excelsior Incubator. Tell him you write at the suggestion of the FARM AND FIRESIDE.

UNDER THE GAS-LIGHT.

"There is one thing I notice about Goppinger," observed Gluppins. "He doesn't shine in society any more. He wears a wig."—Chicago Tribune.

FREE TO ALL READERS—THE NEW CURE FOR KIDNEY AND BLADDER DISEASES, RHEUMATISM, ETC.

As stated in last issue the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, is proving a wonderful curative in all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disordered action of the Kidneys and urinary organs. The "New York World" publishes the remarkable case of Rev. A. C. Darling, minister of the gospel at North Constatia, N. Y., cured by Alkavis, when, as he says himself, he had lost faith in man and medicine, and was preparing himself for certain death. Similar testimony to this wonderful new remedy comes from others, including many ladies suffering from disorders peculiar to womanhood. The Church Kidney Cure Co., of No. 419 Fourth Avenue, New York, who so far are its only importers, are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of FARM AND FIRESIDE who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. All sufferers are advised to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. To prove its wonderful curative powers, it is sent to you entirely free.

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

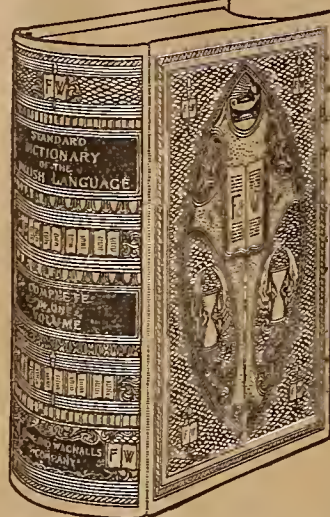
C. E. Whitten's Nurseries, Bridgman, Mich. Catalogues of best varieties of small-fruit plants. L. B. McCurdy & Co., Ann Arbor, Mich. Descriptive circular of the Conrath raspberry. J. W. Miller Company, Freeport, Ill. Annual guide and catalogue of thoroughbred poultry, in beautifully colored cover, and handsomely illustrated. Harrison's Nurseries, Berlin, Ind. Fruit catalogue—ten million strawberry-plants, one million five hundred thousand peach-trees and five hundred thousand asparagus roots. Greening Bros., Monroe, Mich. Fruit and flower catalogue of rare beauty, illustrated and printed in colors. Among choice specialties described are the Winter Banana apple and the New Prolific peach. Coles' Seed Store, Pella, Iowa. Annual of garden, field and flower seeds for 1897. Novelty—Keeney's Rustless Golden Wax bean and New Imperial tomato. McMullen Woven Wire Fence Company, Chicago, Ill. Descriptive catalogue of woven-wire fencing, poultry netting and gates. W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Market gardeners' and florists' price-list of the best seeds that grow. Iowa Seed Company, Des Moines, Iowa. Catalogue of garden, flower and field seeds. Specialty—Iowa Silver Mine corn, of which a crop of two hundred and fifteen bushels on one acre was grown in 1896, and for the best yields of which in 1897 five hundred dollars in prizes are offered. Watkins & Simpson, seed merchants, Exeter St., Strand, London, England. Wholesale catalogue of garden and flower seeds. James J. H. Gregory & Sons, Marblehead, Mass. Catalogue of home-grown vegetable and flower seed. The Johnston Harvester Company, Batavia, N. Y. Beautifully illustrated and printed catalogue describing mowers, reapers, binders, headers and disk-pulverizers and cultivators. Robert Buist Company, Philadelphia, Pa. Buist's garden guide and almanac for 1897. Buist's seeds are from selected stocks, and noted for purity and superior quality. Frank Ford & Son, Ravenna, Ohio. Systematically arranged book for busy buyers of choice tested seeds, plants, trees, potatoes, etc. Peter Henderson & Co., 35 and 37 Cortlandt street, New York. Jubilee edition. Eighteen hundred and ninety-seven is the golden anniversary of the great horticultural house founded by Peter Henderson in 1847. This catalogue, one of the largest and handsomest of the kind ever issued, is mailed free to customers; new applicants are requested to remit twenty cents, which may be deducted from the first order amounting to one dollar or over. F. E. Myers & Bro., Ashland, Ohio. Illustrated hanger of pumps and hay-tools. This well-known firm makes a large line of force and lift pumps, several kinds of spray-pumps and hay-carriers. E. W. Reid's Nurseries, Bridgeport, Ohio. Catalogue of everything for the fruit-grower. Among specialties described are the Koonce pear, Bourget quince, Walter Pease apple, Superlative raspberry, Eldorado blackberry, Lorentz peach and Campbell's Early grape. L. L. Olds, Clinton, Wis. Catalogue of field, garden and flower seed. Novelty—Success barley, beardless, early, stiff-strawed and productive. D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich. Seed annual for 1897, a handsome, comprehensive and businesslike catalogue. Ferry's seeds are grown from carefully selected pedigree-stock seed, and are of the highest purity and quality. S. J. Wilson, Flint, Mich. Michigan Dairy Book, containing program and premium list of the thirteenth annual convention of the Michigan Dairymen's Association, to be held February 2d, 3d and 4th, in Charlotte, Mich.

DISSTON'S

It will pay you to buy a Saw with "DISSTON" on it. It will hold the set longer, and do more work without filing than other saws, thereby saving in labor and cost of files. They are made of the best quality crucible cast steel, and are FULLY WARRANTED. For Sale by all Dealers. Send for Pamphlet, or "Saw Book," mailed free. HENRY DISSTON & SONS, Philadelphia, Pa.

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ENTIRELY NEW. It is not a reprint, rehash, or revision of any other work, but is the result of the steady labor for five years of over twelve score of the most eminent and authoritative scholars and specialists in the world. Nearly 100 of the leading universities, colleges, and scientific institutions of the world were represented on the editorial staff; 20 United States Government experts were also on the editorial staff. Over \$960,000 were actually expended in its production before a single complete copy was ready for the market. Never was any dictionary welcomed with such great enthusiasm the world over. As the St. James's Budget, London, declares: "It is the admiration of Literary England. . . It should be the pride of Literary America." The highest praise has come from all the great American and British newspapers, reviews, universities, and colleges, as well as all classes of intelligent men and women everywhere.

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\$25 Cash Prizes given away October 30, 1897, for the largest Corn and Potatoes grown from our seeds. Send 5c. for 2 pkgs. seeds, or 2 stamps for Circular and Price List telling how to win these Cash Prizes. One pkg. Golden Ring Watermelon, 15c. a new thing. Try them. Write to-day. Address HUNTER BROS., Box 132, Savannah, Missouri. Mention this paper when you write.



"UP-TO-DATE" SPRAY PUMPS ALL BRASS. \$17.00 outfit for \$8.00. Express paid. Will spray a 10-acre orchard per day. 60,000 in use. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Illustrated Catalogue and Treatise on Spraying free. Ag'ts wanted. Exclusive territory given. Rapid sellers. Many of our agents are making from \$5 to \$10 per day. P. C. LEWIS MFG. CO., Box 88 Catskill, N. Y.

To quickly introduce into new localities Dr. Horne's New Improved Electric Belts and Appliances, THE BEST ON EARTH, warranted to cure without medicine all chronic and weakening diseases of both sexes, we shall give away FREE OF ANY COST for advertising purposes, one hundred Dr. Horne's No. 4 Best \$20.00 Electric Belts to sufferers from any of the following diseases:—Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Catarrh, Asthma, Headache, Neuralgia, Paralysis, Epilepsy, Deafness, Nervousness, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Torpid Liver, Throat Troubles, Epileptic Fits, Spinal Diseases, Heart Troubles, Sleeplessness, Nervous Debility, Female Complaints, Cold Extremities, General Debility, Kidney Complaints, Pains in the Back, Head and Limbs, and all weaknesses of Men and Women. We shall not give away more than one belt to any one person, and not more than one in any locality, and shall give to such persons as we think are worthy sufferers. We mean just what we say, FREE OF ANY COST. There are no charges of any kind to be paid by you. We are making this offer to introduce our Electric Belts and Appliances into new localities, believing that it will pay us in the end. If you are, in our opinion, a worthy sufferer we will give you one free. Send us your name and address with your waist measure and state nature of your disease. Answer at once. All answers must be sent through the mails and received by us not later than March 1st, 1897, as that is the date on which we shall give away the belts and answer all letters received. Address Dr. Horne Electric Belt & Truss Co., Dept. 112 Chicago, Ill. \$1000 Reward paid to any person proving this advertisement is not honest in every word it contains. Mention this paper.

HOLD YOUR HORSE. We guarantee that with the Imperial Bit the most vicious horse can be driven by a lady. It will prevent tongue lolling and side pulling. Sample sent post-paid upon receipt of price. In tin or rubber finish, \$1.00 each; in fine nickel plate, \$2.00 each. IMPERIAL BIT AND SNAP COMPANY, No. 519 Wisconsin St., Racine, Wisconsin.

\$8 PAID PER 100 FOR DISTRIBUTING SAMPLES of Washing Fluid. Send Geatspa. A.W. Scott, Cohoes, N.Y.

Buy a Buggy. a carriage, a phaeton, or a vehicle of any sort from us and you get the benefit of first price, and a personal guarantee of reliability. We sell only our own work, and stand responsible for every vehicle that leaves our factory. You can buy direct by mail as safely as you can deal with the U. S. Treasury. Illustrated Catalogue and price list free. Send for it to-day. The Columbus Carriage Mfg. Company, Box G, Columbus, Ohio.

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Washington and Lincoln AMERICA'S CROWNED HEROES Every patriotic home should own these two peerless books, the complete lives of the nation's two greatest statesmen and presidents. The books are so interesting and thrilling that they read like fairy tales, yet they are facts, not fiction. The events stand out in the minds of youth as a living vision of a bright and successful future, guiding their thoughts and aims to highest rounds of usefulness. These books are unsurpassed for inspiring the youth of our land with high ideals and lofty ambitions, and parents who induce their sons and daughters to read them will be sowing good seed in fertile places. OVER 200 SPLENDID ILLUSTRATIONS Either One of These Books, and This Paper One Year, 60 Cents. POSTAGE PAID BY US IN EACH CASE. Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

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Premium No. 34.

By JOSIAH ALLEN'S WIFE.

Illustrated by over 60 drawings by F. Opper, the greatest comic artist in New York City.



Reception of Ardelia's verses at the printer's. Page 35.

Over 100,000 copies of the agents' edition in expensive binding were sold at \$2.50 each. This premium edition contains 374 pages, and gives ALL the reading matter and ALL the illustrations found in the copies which sold at \$2.50 each. Over 200,000 copies of the premium edition have already been sold. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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Children and grown-up people alike read with rapturous delight the story of Samantha's "tower" to Saratoga, accompanied by her "wayward pardner," Josiah Allen. It is written in a vein of strong common sense, as pure and innocent as the prattle of a child, which keeps the reader constantly enjoying an ever fresh feast of fun. You commence to laugh upon reading the preface, and never stop until the end of the book is reached, and then you will think about it and laugh again.

We desire to impress upon the minds of our readers the fact that this is a new and much better edition of this funny book, containing many more pages and illustrations than that formerly offered by us.



"Wall, he wuz a strugglin' with it and with his feelin's, for I kep' on a sayin', 'Josiah, do be calm! Do be careful about usin' a profane word so nigh home, and at this time of day, and you jest home from a tower.'" Page 371.

This Paper One Year and Samantha at Saratoga, 60 Cents.

BARGAIN OFFER If you will let your neighbors see what splendid bargains we offer, we will, in order to advertise it, send "Samantha at Saratoga," and Farm and Fireside one year, for 50 cents. When this offer is accepted, no commission will be allowed and the names cannot count in a club.

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| SAMANTHA AT SARATOGA, Agents sold them for \$2.50 each, but say | \$1.00 | } To all those who send now, we will give |
| THE BERRY-SPOON, Usual price | .75 | |
| FARM AND FIRESIDE One Year, Cheap at | .50 | |
| WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION One Year, Better than One Dollar papers, | .50 | |
| Total Value, | \$2.75 | ALL 4 FOR ONE DOLLAR |
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Will be given FREE AS A PREMIUM for 3 yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside at the single subscription price; or for 5 yearly subscribers at the clubbing price, 30 cents each, without premium.

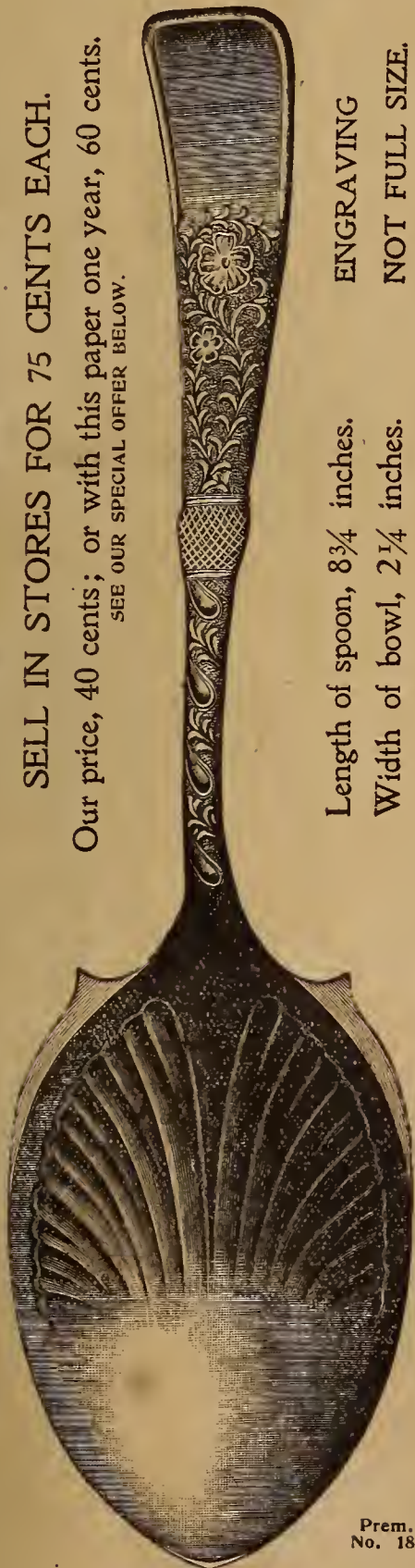
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The silver and gold plating is excellent. We guarantee perfect satisfaction or money refunded.

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SEE OUR SPECIAL OFFER BELOW.



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This History and Map will be a great help to teachers and pupils in following the war for the independence of Cuba; also valuable to the public in general, for how many are acquainted with the history and geography of Cuba? Perhaps not one in a thousand, yet the newspapers teem with dispatches from this theater of bloody war going on almost in our own dooryard. Prem'um No. 27.

HISTORY OF CUBA

Our history is a highly interesting and valuable descriptive, statistical and historical account of Cuba, the "Gem of the Antilles," from the date of its discovery up almost to the present hour. The causes of the wars between the native Cubans and Spanish are given special space and attention, as reliable information on this subject is very much in demand just now. The cities and people of Cuba, also the climate, surface, soil, mines, products and leading industries, as tobacco, sugar, etc., receive attention. The text, written by Lieut. E. Hannaford, is written in an entertaining style, and while the facts are full and clear, yet care was used not to get the matter on any one point so long as to be tedious. It is a concise yet complete, accurate and up-to-date historical account of all the principal events in the history of Cuba, and throws a flood of light over the whole of the Spanish-Cuban question.

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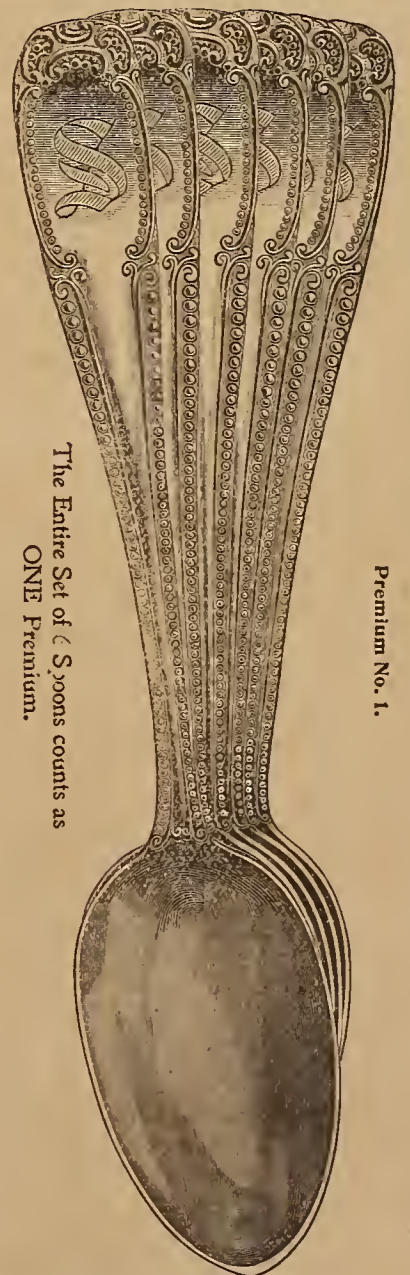
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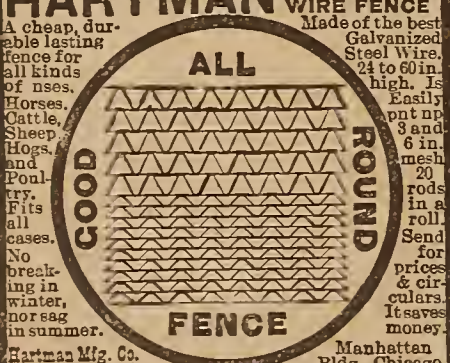
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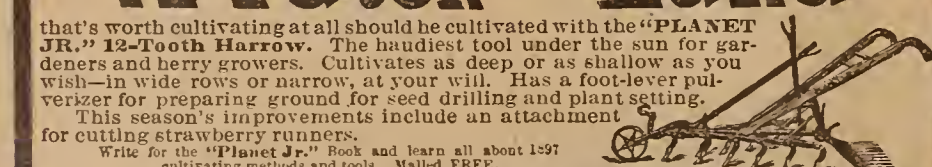


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Our readers should turn to page 19 and read the description of our New Map of Cuba. Such a map will be a great help to school-teachers and pupils, and highly appreciated by the reading public in general.

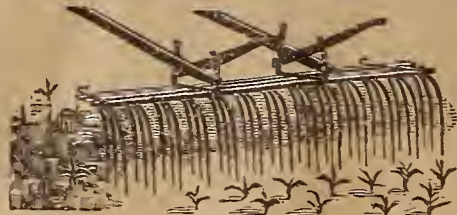
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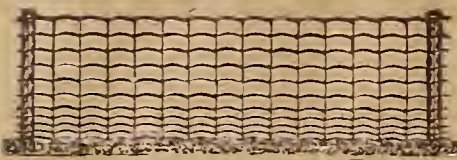


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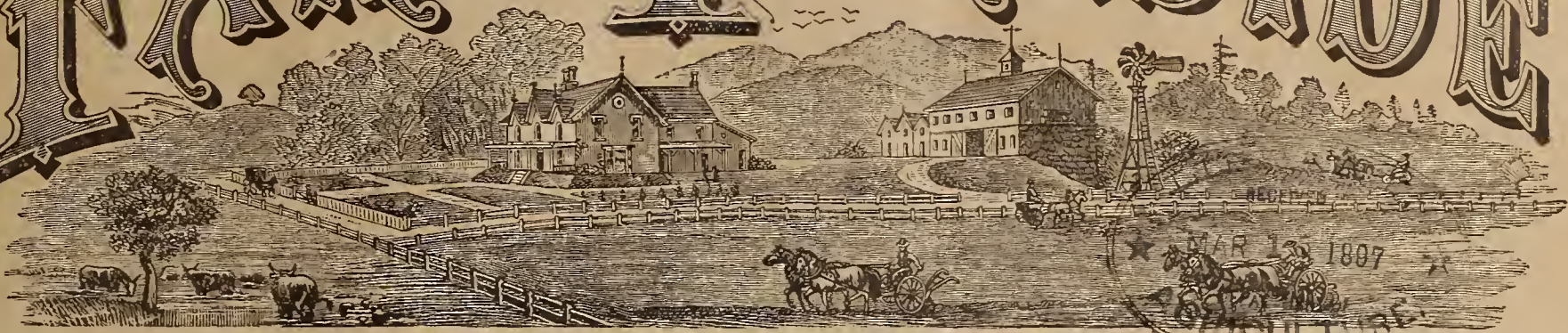
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VOL. XX. NO. 10.

FEBRUARY 15, 1897.

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thized with him in his desire for a collegiate education, it was impossible for them to render him any financial assistance. His preparation was completed at the end of one year by arduous study in the Denmark Academy, Iowa, and he entered the University of Michigan in the fall of 1857, where, after supporting himself four years by manual labor, by teaching and by assisting in the administration of the library, he graduated in 1861. Remaining for a graduate course of study, he took the master's degree in 1862, and immediately thereafter was appointed instructor in Latin and history. In 1863 he was made assistant professor, a position which he held until 1867, when he was advanced to full professorship, with the privilege of spending a year and a half in Europe. After studying in several of the universities of Germany and France, and spending about two months in Italy, he entered upon his work as professor in the autumn of 1868.

Soon after his return to the university he established a historical seminary, modeled after the methods pursued in Germany. On the establishment of a school of Political Science at the University of Michigan, President Adams was appointed its dean, and at the same time he was made non-resident lecturer in history at Cornell University. These positions he continued to hold until 1885, when he was called to the presidency of Cornell University, a position, which he occupied until the summer of 1892. During the seven years of his incumbency of that position the number of students was increased from 560 to more than 1,500; and the endowment of the university was increased by nearly two million dollars. In 1892 President Adams resigned the presidency of Cornell University, with the purpose of devoting his life henceforth to the writing of history; but in the course of the summer he received several invita-



CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS.

tions to resume educational work, and accepted the call to the presidency of the University of Wisconsin. He entered upon the duties of the office at the opening of the college year in September, 1893.

In 1872 President Adams published "Democracy and Monarchy in France," a volume which soon went into a third edition, and was translated into German, and published at Stuttgart in 1873. A few years later he published the most important of his works, the "Manual of Historical Literature," designed for students, librarians and general readers. A third edition, much revised and enlarged, was published in 1883. He also edited, with

historical and critical notes, three volumes of "British Orations," designed to show the characteristics and importance of the greatest English orators. In the summer of 1892 he published the "Life and Work of Christopher Columbus." He was editor-in-chief of Johnson's Universal Cyclopedia, recently completed, having as his associate editors thirty-five of the most prominent scholars in the country. The degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon President Adams by Harvard University in 1886. He is a member of many learned societies, and in 1890 was president of the American Association.

THERE is now a widespread interest in the development of a most promising agricultural industry—the beet-sugar industry. Having passed the experimental stage, it is already successfully established. That this country has the soil and climate necessary to obtain profitable results is proven by the seven factories now in operation, in California, Nebraska, Utah, New Mexico and Wisconsin, producing 75,000,000 pounds of beet-sugar a year. The important work now is to expand this industry judiciously to its utmost profitable limits.

It needs no argument to show that the United States should produce, what it can do, all the sugar consumed by its people. Over one hundred million dollars' worth of sugar is now imported annually, and at present rate of increase in consumption this amount would double in a few years. Give the American farmers this market, and not only agriculture, but the whole country will be greatly benefited.

Congress is to be called in extra session next month for the purpose of passing a tariff bill. One of the most important things to be considered in the framing of a new measure, designed to furnish both revenue sufficient for the needs of the government and adequate protection to American industries, is some certain method of defending the sugar industry against foreign competition, and encouraging its development. The United States is the best market for sugar in the world, and foreign sugar-exporting countries will endeavor to hold it, but now is the time to wrest it from them for the benefit of our own country. It takes nearly all of our exports of bread-stuffs to pay for the sugar we import. We are sending abroad the product of several acres of grain to pay for the product of one acre of sugar-beets. The \$100,000,000 should be spent for American labor. It is estimated that the home production of the sugar now imported would employ, in factories and fields, a total number of men representing a population of 2,500,000 people.

Broadly speaking, sugar-beets will grow wherever wheat grows; but sugar cannot be produced profitably from them over such a wide area. Certain conditions of climate and soil are requisite for the growth of beets rich enough in sugar for profitable manufacture. Some climatic conditions are much more favorable than others for the economical handling and working of the beets after they are grown. It does not now pay to manufacture sugar on a small scale. A large outlay of capital is required; factories of sufficient capacity, with necessary equipment, cost from \$250,000 to \$400,000 or \$500,000. Therefore, even under encouraging legislation by Congress, the beet-sugar industry should be promoted only in such regions of this country where there is a combination of the most favorable conditions. In face of the tremendous struggle certain to be made by foreign sugar-exporting countries to hold the American market, it will be folly to boom the business indiscriminately and build factories in localities lacking proper conditions and unable to stand severe competition.

With the price of sugar steadily declining under increasing European production, increased domestic production means low prices. It will be prudent to give such facts careful consideration when planning for the expansion of the industry, and estimating the probable returns to both growers and manufacturers from proposed new factories.

WITH THE VANGUARD

CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS, president of the University of Wisconsin, was born at Derby, Vermont, on the twenty-fourth of January, 1835. The first ten years of his life were spent in a village, but from the time he was ten until he was twenty years of age he lived upon a farm, attending a district school during the winter months. In the course of these years, however, he showed considerable aptitude as a student of mathematics, mastering Davies' algebra, geometry, trigonometry and surveying before he was eighteen. From 1852 to 1855 he taught school during the winter months. In the fall of 1855 he moved to Iowa, whither he was followed the next spring by his parents. It was not until after he had passed his twenty-first birthday that he decided to fit himself for college by taking a complete course in Latin and Greek. Though his parents earnestly sympa-

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Feeding Cows for Milk.

Some of our readers seem to want more information on the subject of feeding dairy-cattle. One of my friends has "plenty of wheat-bran, corn-meal, linseed-oil meal, corn fodder and nice, bright oats straw." I think in that case his task of feeding for milk in the most economical manner is easily accomplished. Indeed, I greatly doubt that there is any feeding stuff in existence which would give better results at less cost. The only thing that I would like to add yet is an occasional feed of beets, turnips or carrots. Silage, of course, would answer the same purpose for people who have it. The question is, then, in what proportions should the grains and oil-meal be mixed and fed? In this, I think, common sense should rule. The farmer cannot always feed with the scales; neither can he always hold to exactly the same proportions. Variations will be necessary in accordance with the materials he may happen to have, or be able to purchase at comparatively the lowest cost.

In the first place, I find it a great mistake to make a cow gorge herself with coarse stuff. I feed a bushel crateful (well packed) of cut corn-stalks three times a day, and but little hay or straw in addition. But the corn-stalks, moistened, are well mixed with meal. I make the following mixture of ground grains: About five hundred pounds of coarse wheat-bran, one hundred to two hundred pounds of corn-meal, one hundred pounds of oil-cake meal, two hundred pounds of ground oats. Of this mixture I feed about ten pounds a head a day (cows weighing about eight hundred pounds each), partly in the cut feed and partly in slop, besides a peck of roots beets and turnips cut in a root-cutter. The cost of feeding a cow, therefore, might be figured out, approximately, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Cost. 500 lbs of bran, \$0 a ton, \$2.25; 100 lbs of corn-meal, \$12 a ton, 1.20; 100 lbs of oil-meal, \$20 a ton, 1.00; 200 lbs of oats, \$12 a ton, 1.20; 1,000 lbs. costing, \$5.65.

This quantity is sufficient to feed one cow one hundred days, at a cost of five dollars and sixty-five cents. I do not think that the cost of the coarse stuffs consumed by my cows added to the above figures of cost of grains would bring the entire cost of food up to ten cents a head a day. At least I raise my own corn fodder, and grow the beets and turnips so cheaply in odd corners and patches in the garden and orchards that I make but little fuss over the expense.

In return for this food I receive from my cows, on an average, during winter not less than one pound of butter a day each, besides some milk and cream that is used in the family or sold to neighbors. Therefore, the income from each cow a day during winter is not less than ten to fifteen cents, besides a quantity of good manure, which to the gardener is also an item of some consequence. During the summer, with a greatly decreased cost for the cow's keep, the returns are surely no less, even if butter then is somewhat cheaper. But on the whole, I am fully convinced that I am doing "a little something" with my cows, securing some profits, even if I don't expect to get rich from the business.

Cattle Individuality. Cows have their individuality somewhat as people have theirs. Some require a little more of one thing and others of another. One cow may be able to digest a great deal more food, or food of another kind, than can another cow. This is why I say common sense should rule. Get acquainted with your animals, and learn to know their particular or individual needs. Find out for yourself the eating and digestive capacity of each animal, and then give the rations accordingly. When the cow gives her full ration of milk without either losing in flesh or getting fat, and as long as to all appearances she is in good health, and her functions perfect, your ration must be all right and properly balanced. If the animal gets fat, you will have to reduce the amount of corn-meal in the grain mixture; if she gets thin, you can add corn-meal, and also increase the number of pounds in the daily allowance of the meal mixture. If the cow's bowels are too loose, reduce the quantity of oil-meal, adding more bran (feeding dry); if the animal is rather costive, you can give more oil-meal, and the bran in the form of mash or scalded slops. If the cow eats her ration, then lies down contentedly to chew her cud, she probably receives as much as is necessary. If she remains standing, apparently waiting or calling for more food, you can somewhat increase the ration. All these are general rules, but they are safe ones if applied with good judgment. A cow that has as much of the meal mixture as she can make good use of for best results may be given all the good, bright straw she wants, and she will not be likely to eat more of it than is good for her. Of course, a cow should have water several times a day—and surely it would be an advantage if she could get at it any time that she desires. I like to give the water slightly warmed during very cold weather.

From the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, Guelph, Ontario. I have just received a copy of Bulletin No. 104 (December, 1896), which treats on "Rations for Dairy-cows, and Other Matters of Interest to Dairymen." It contains a large number of rations both for summer and winter feeding, and the results obtained from them. The bulletin is compiled by Professor G. E. Day, the agriculturist of the institution. Copies may be obtained by addressing Director James Mills, Guelph, Ontario. I cannot desist from quoting this "conclusion," as follows:

"No standard of feeding can be blindly followed, and it may be quite possible that some of the suggestions offered above will prove impracticable for the dairyman using the ration. A farmer must make the best possible use of the fodder at his disposal, and he may sometimes find that it pays him better to use a comparatively poorly balanced ration, rather than sell the grain he has on hand in order to purchase fodders with which to form a balanced ration. The suggestions and criticisms, therefore, may be taken for what they are worth, as they are intended merely as helps to those who may decide

to copy any of the rations mentioned. Considerable variety is offered, and a study of the table, in connection with the study of the rations represented therein, will be a help in making an intelligent selection.

"Another very important point must not be overlooked. Feeding is only one side of the question, and though it may do much, it cannot do all. The value returned for the food consumed depends upon the cow; and a good cow fed upon a poorly balanced ration will do better for her owner than a poor cow fed in the most scientific manner. Feeding, breeding and weeding are inseparably connected in the successful maintenance and improvement of a dairy herd."

Wild Growths. Prof. Bailey's "Suggestions for the Planting of Shrubbery" (Bulletin No. 121, Cornell experiment station) speaks of the use of wild growths as follows: "The common roses have very little value for landscape planting, because the foliage and habit of the rosebush are not attractive, the leaves are inveterately attacked by bugs, and the blossoms are fleeting. Some of the wild roses and the Japanese Rosa rugosa, however, have distinct merit for mass effects. Wild bushes are nearly always attractive when planted in borders and groups. They improve in appearance under cultivation, because they are given a better chance to grow. In wild nature there is such fierce struggle for existence that plants usually grow to few or single stems, and they are sparse and scraggly in form; but once given all the room they want, and a good soil, and they become luxuriant, full and comely. In most home grounds in this state (New York), the body of the planting may be very effectively made by the use of bushes taken from adjacent woods and fields. The masses may then be enlivened by the addition here and there of cultivated bushes, and the planting of flowers and herbs about the borders. It is not essential that one know the names of these wild bushes, although a knowledge of their botanical features will add greatly to the pleasure of growing them. Neither will they look common when transferred to the lawn. There are very few people who know even the commonest wild bushes intimately, and the bushes change so much in looks when removed to rich grounds that few people recognize them. I have a mass of shrubbery which is much admired, and visitors are always asking me what the bushes are; yet I dug the roots in the neighborhood."

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

One of my neighbors seeded a young orchard to clover last spring and secured a splendid stand. As the season progressed, and the clover began to cover the ground with a fine mat of green, the white grubs began their work. The first indication of their presence in the soil was numerous patches, two to ten feet square, of dead clover. Examination showed that the pests had eaten the roots of the plants, and in many cases even bored out the crown. A few spadefuls of the soil turned over disclosed the fact that it was full of them, and that the clover was doomed. The owner then turned in two sows with seventeen sucking pigs. The riugs were removed from the noses of the sows, and they were not long in discovering the grubs. Then the dirt began to fly. The little pigs soon learned how to use their noses, and as the soil was deep and mellow, they could rip open a furrow in an incredibly short time. All summer and fall those swine rooted and rerooted the soil in that orchard, and thrived. At this writing the ground looks as if it had been torn, ripped and scattered by dynamite, and most of the pigs have gone to market. I think it will be perfectly safe to seed the orchard to clover next spring, for there's hardly enough grubs left in the soil for seed. The owner will harrow the ground well, level it down with a plank scraper, harrow again, and then seed.

Rabbits are more than numerous this winter, and every young apple-tree that is not protected is skinned from the ground up a foot or more. Mine are protected with plastering-lath woven together with fine wire. The lath are cut in half. This makes the pieces two feet long. They are then woven together with wires at each end. Five pieces are required for each

guard, and when woven they are half an inch apart. When placed about the trees the ends of the wires—which are left an inch long—are twisted about each other. This holds the guard secure until the growing tree bursts them open the third or fourth year. I have used these guards several years, and never had a tree injured by either rabbits or borers. The guards seem to be quite as effective protection against borers as rabbits.

Up to the middle of January the winter was quite mild, and we had several wet spells. Those who covered their strawberry-plants with a heavy mulch will be apt to lose them. A few spells of mild, wet weather in winter will rot heavily mulched strawberry-plants, sure. I mulch rather heavily between the rows, and lightly over the plants, and have never lost any by rot in the last fourteen years, nor ever had any injured by hard freezing. Some of my neighbors lost all they had one mild, wet winter we had a few years ago. They were very much surprised to find every plant rotted when they removed the mulch in the spring. Strawberries will stand hard frost better than a heavy coat of soggy mulch.

I think that young pigs (shoats) stick closer to their beds now than at any other season of the year. Brood-sows now becoming rather heavy do the same. This makes it necessary to look after their bedding more closely. We have found by experience that oat straw is the worst material one can use for a pig's bed. Wheat or rye straw or shredded fodder is good. The thing to avoid is dust, and this will accumulate rapidly unless the bedding is changed frequently. If the shed is very dusty, it should be well sprayed with water after the old bedding is thrown out and before the new is put in. And it is a good idea to add a few drops of carbolic acid to each pailful of water sprayed in the shed. Brush down the cobwebs, and spray floor, walls and ceiling while you are about it. You will doubtless be surprised at the fresh, clean smell it will give the place. A dusty shed and dusty bedding make coughing pigs, and a coughing pig is not a healthy, thriving pig.

Because corn is abundant and cheap is no reason why it should be wasted or cribfuls left exposed to the weather and allowed to rot. I see a large number of long rows of rail pens heaping full of splendid corn without any cover of any sort. Of course, it is not likely that corn thus exposed to the elements will keep in good condition long. I would advise the owners of such cribs to cover them with something. Straw will do well enough if it is well piled up in the middle and weighted down so it will not be blown off. A few days ago I saw an old farmer covering a row of such pens carefully with boards. He was as particular about it as though corn were worth fifty cents a bushel. Said he: "I have been farming forty-one years, and in that time I have seen corn worth twelve cents and one dollar and twenty cents a bushel. I've had so much of it that I threw it about like straw, and it would hardly pay the cost of husking and hauling to market. Then, within five years thereafter, I've paid as high as one dollar and fifty cents a bushel for good seed—not a new, fancy sort, but common corn. Some of my neighbors are telling me they have corn to burn. I've heard that before. Let 'em burn it if they wish. I am cribbing and protecting mine as carefully as I know how. I've been through the mill, and know what I am about. I'll sell seed to those fellows that have 'corn to burn,' you see if I don't!"

I notice that all of the old, careful farmers are as saving of their corn now as when it was worth fifty to seventy-five cents a bushel. It is the young farmers who are throwing it about. These old men seem to feel confident that they will yet get a good price for it. One tells me that he grew two big crops of fifteen-cent corn, and one of eighteen-cent corn, kept the three crops in good cribs two years longer, and sold the whole for seventy cents a bushel. Don't waste your corn! FRED GRUNDY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

ANALYSIS OF SOILS.—The suggestion is frequently made that farmers should be chemists in order that they might be able to analyze their soils, and thus learn just what fertilizers are needed. One hears this from men who are accounted intelligent, and changes are rung upon it until the whole matter grows very tiresome. In the first place, if analyses were valuable, the work would naturally fall into the hands of trained chemist. No farmer could afford to spend the money and time required to become a chemist, if analyses of soils and foods were the only object in view. In the second place, soil analyses are usually valueless, so far as the practical farmer is concerned. The idea of analyzing soils to learn their needs is a failure, as a rule.

CAUSES OF POOR SOILS.—Years ago the conclusion was jumped at that poverty of a soil, judging by the product or crop, was due to a deficiency of some element in it, but we learn from analyses that ordinary soils contain large amounts of all needed minerals. The question is not one of quantity of the elements, as a rule, but of their availability for use by growing plants. Here science fails. Analysis cannot determine what kind of plant-food, nor what quantity, will give returns when applied to any given soil. We are left at sea in this matter. A soil may be unproductive because it needs available mineral plant-food, or because it needs organic matter in it, or for any one of several reasons. Once for all, until science makes an advance along this line, we must be content to experiment and study the results. Money paid for soil analyses is usually wasted.

NEEDS INDICATED.—Quite often one can make a close guess in regard to the needs of a soil by observing the growth of plants. Where there is a rank growth of straw or vine the chances are that an excess of available nitrogen already exists, and the expenditure of money for that element in a fertilizer would be worse than wasteful. Many clay soils are deficient in phosphoric acid, and an application of South Carolina rock gives returns in increased yield of grain. Sandy soils are frequently deficient in potash. Where stable manure is used freely some phosphoric acid often pays well. We may make some good guesses about the particular needs of our soils, and then experiment; we cannot get at the facts without experiment.

RED CLOVER.—While we are in doubt regarding the requirements of many soils in the matter of mineral fertilizers, we do know that any worn soil is benefited by a growth of clover; and if we can get a heavy growth of clover, there is no need to be concerned about the supply of mineral plant-food. The clover-plant makes the minerals available in sufficient quantity to feed a future crop. Any manurial plant accomplishes this result in some degree, but red clover is especially desirable. Farm products are low in price now, and no greater work could be done by any farm paper than that of inducing its readers to seed heavily to clover this spring. Such practice would help settle some puzzling problems. There is too little net profit from half of our cultivated fields. We want cheap plant-food and fewer plowed fields. More seeding to clover this spring would help a majority of farmers.

INSURING A STAND.—Much has been written on the subject of clover-growing, but there is no way of making absolutely sure of a stand of plants. I do think, however, that some of the many failures with clover are due to carelessness. The first thing to do is to secure good, clean seed. A farmer should be able to recognize the seed of every weed that is found with clover. He should acquire the habit of examining all weeds that are maturing seed until he is able to name the seed of all common and bad weeds. Many clover-fields are ruined by weeds that were introduced in clover-seed some previous year. The seeding should be done early in the season. More stands of clover are lost in midsummer droughts than severe spring frosts. The late seedings do not

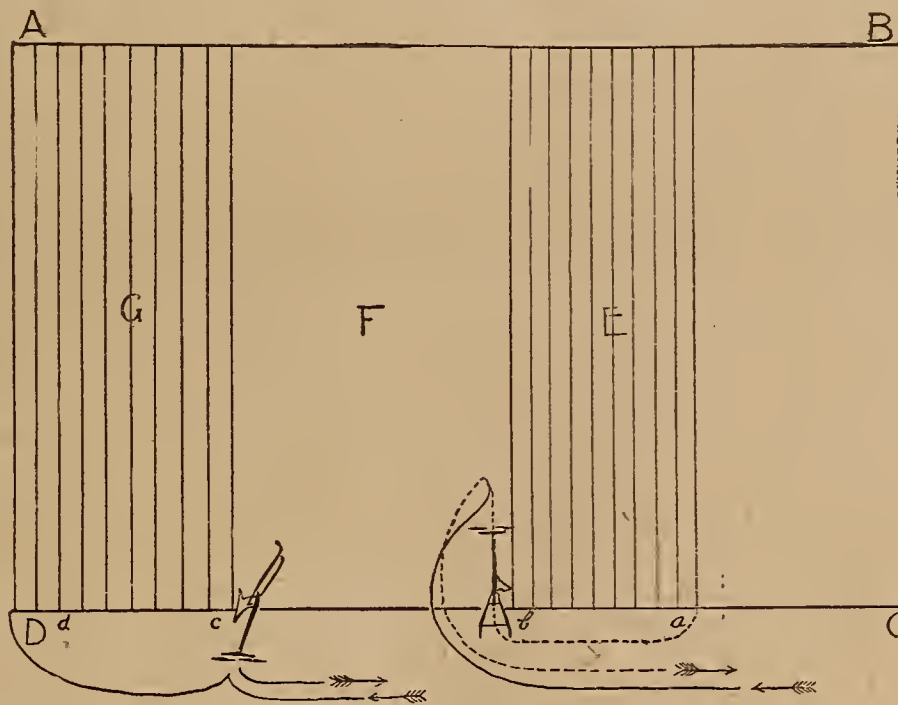
get sufficiently rooted to stand a hot and dry August, and experience teaches that very early seedings are not killed by March freezes one year in every ten.

MULCHING.—Nothing more certainly insures a stand of clover than a top-dressing of stable manure, but this cannot always be obtained. A very light application of strawy manure on thin, light land is worth much to a seeding of any kind of grass or clover. When wheat straw is abundant, it can be used with profit on thin land. Spread it even more thinly than usually recommended—say one ton to the acre—and as a protection and mulch it may be worth the difference between failure and a fair stand of clover. It is a help, but in no wise equal in value to stable manure as a mulch for young plants.

This country needs richer soils, cheaper plant-food and a smaller acreage of plow-crops. Now is the time to seed to clover. Think this matter over, friends, and seed a large acreage to red clover this spring, if practicable. DAVID.

WHEN AND WHERE TO UNHITCH.

It is a favorite habit with many farmers and farm-hands when working a team, whether on plow, harrow, drill or any other implement, to turn around and start on a new track or furrow before unhitching at noon or at night. I have also noticed this same practice when one-horse tools are used, such as cultivators, shovel-plows, markers and the like. The reason for this is, as one plowman explains it, to be ready to go to work again. This may be very commendable in the individual, but it is an expensive notion, and when circumstances are just right, it may become very expensive. A case of this kind



came to my notice recently, and to show the principle more plainly, let us examine the accompanying illustration for a minute.

A B C D represent a partly plowed field; the land E is back-furrowed and ready to leave for the land F to be plowed by going around it or turning to the left. Before turning out, in coming down the last furrow, the team turns the corner a, travels across the back-furrow land, E, which is about ten paces wide, turns the corner at b, travels up the furrow until the plow is started, and is here stopped and unhitched. It is then turned clear around, comes down around the plow, turns the corner at b, travels back across the same land, and is then ready to start for the stable, the direction indicated by the arrow. After dinner, when the team arrives at a, it travels across the same land, and makes the various turns a third time, all for the purpose of "being ready to go to work."

The proper way would be, as shown at G, to stop and unhitch at c as soon as the plow is thrown out, follow the direction marked by the arrow, and after taking our nooning come back to c, hitch to the plow, and go to work.

In comparing the two methods we notice that all the travel marked by the dotted lines at a and b is entirely useless; all that is necessary to accomplish the same object is the travel indicated by the full lines at c and d. This may seem like a small matter, but when work is crowding, time is money, and these daily repeated wastes amount to something in time and help to make us think that farming don't pay.

G. C. GREINER.

AGRICULTURE IN COMMON SCHOOLS.

The subject of this article is being discussed in the eastern and middle states to a considerable extent. All seem to agree upon the advisability of furnishing the farm youths with better instruction than they are now getting; but there is a great diversity of opinion as to the best means to be pursued to accomplish so desirable an object. A few professors of agriculture, and nearly all the non-professors, who have spoken upon the subject are in favor of at once adding to the common-school curriculum the study of the first principles of practical scientific agriculture.

But a majority of the learned professors oppose this very emphatically. They would have the natural sciences, or "nature studies," or "rural affairs," taught in the schools as "leading up to agriculture;" but that apparently low, hateful word they would not have mentioned in the schools until the pupils' literary stomachs shall have become so inured to "nature's" affairs that they would not rebel against the reception of the word "agriculture," and incontinently disgorge it. In other words, they would have nothing introduced into the schools under the name of agriculture.

It seems to me that the majority of professors err sadly in their expressed views. Let us consider the general condition of agriculture in the United States to-day. It will not average one farmer in ten that is a good one, for the reason that they have never had any agricultural instruction. All have attended the common schools; but nothing at all is said of agriculture there. They can learn but little

Some object to the introduction of the study of agriculture into the schools, saying that they are already crowded with studies. This may be the case; but the study of the principles of reading and its practice is pursued, is it not? Then why not throw the old readers out of school and supply their places with agricultural readers? The pupils would learn just as much about reading, and in addition would get a large fund of agricultural knowledge. The texts of the reading-books now are made up of scraps of biography, history, "literary gems," light literature, poetry, etc., all disconnected and of very little value to the pupils; while the texts of the agricultural reader are parts of a grand whole, and lead on to a mass of knowledge of vital importance to the farmers of the future. The old system has been practised long enough. It does not improve or elevate agriculture. If we are ever to have better farmers and farming, the preparation for it must commence with the children at school. "As the twig is bent," etc. But in this case the twig is trained upright, as it should grow. The "bent twigs," and consequently bent trees, can be seen in every neighborhood all over the land in the persons of farmers who let their manure run down the gutters, ditches and ravines every rain-storm; who leave their farm implements and machinery exposed to the weather at all seasons; who do not know enough to feed their animals in a manner to keep them in a healthy condition; who do not cut their timothy until it is ripe, "because the hay lasts longer," and who do or fail to do a thousand other things that would be for their interests to do. Friends of agriculture in common schools do not claim deep, thorough instruction, but only sufficient to give the pupils a start in the right direction. It is hoped readers will bring this question before every farmers' institute they attend, and see that it is fully discussed.

DR. GALEN WILSON.

EARLY POTATOES.

Early varieties are the only ones that are very successful in Oklahoma, so we must plant early. But early planting-time is only a relative period. What would be early in one section would be late in another. Then there are sections where the soil is too damp for stirring very early in the spring, though the soil might be warm enough for planting. In such a place I never could have as early potatoes as a neighbor who had a lighter and sandier soil.

In sections where there is deep freezing or cold, wet soil, of course, planting cannot be until danger of deep freezing or probability of rotting in the soil is past.

Here our soil is usually rather dry, and not likely to be frozen more than three inches deep. Quite frequently potatoes have done well that have lain in the ground all winter, having been overlooked in digging, and come earlier than any of the regularly planted ones. Last year I thought I was planting quite early, but I found volunteers just coming through the ground, so this year I am making an experiment.

I planted a half bushel each of Early Ohio and Red Triumph in the usual way, January 13th, and then mulched lightly with straw to protect in the event of any unexpected freeze. When they begin to show in the spring I will mulch to the usual depth. Other plantings will be made at the usual time, so that a comparison of results can be had. J. M. RICE.

Warm

Rich Red Blood, which flows in a pure, nourishing, life-giving stream to every organ of the body, keeps the whole system in vigorous, robust health during winter weather. Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies, enriches and vitalizes the blood. It is therefore the best winter medicine. It prevents sickness, wards off fevers and keeps the system in health and vigor.

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The policy—or rather, want of any definite policy—of the common schools has been the entire exclusion of agriculture, and poor farming generally prevails in consequence. Now, would it not be eminently advisable to change this policy to some other that promises good results? Why not give the agricultural youth a start in the right direction? For a start is all there is opportunity to grant at the district school. Elementary agricultural textbooks have been gotten up by professors specially for use in district schools, and those qualified to judge say they are admirably adapted to such purpose. They are so simplified that one who can teach the ordinary school studies can teach these works. They are designed to interest the pupils in farm subjects, and to instil into their minds a desire to investigate further when their school-days shall have ended. Pupils so trained to think will not sit down at the close of their school-days with folded arms, or be content to follow, parrot-like, the faulty farming ways of their fathers, but will pursue original investigations to learn better and better methods.

Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

THE KIND OF MALES.

OUTSIDE of the object of hatching out a lot of chicks there is no necessity for the use of males at all, as the hens will lay as many eggs without their presence as with them.

As the hatching of broilers is just now in progress, and the time is here for mating the flocks for producing early pullets, a few words on mating will no doubt be of interest.

THE CAPITAL AND MANAGEMENT.

Too limited an amount of capital will usually lead to failure, because too much is attempted with it. If the poultry-house in a cold climate must be complete, it is a waste of funds to build a cheaper one, yet there are many who economize on the poultry-house in trying to make one dollar do the work of two.

close position, but when they come off the roost then is the time that they need the room. A proper beginning in business is important, and to raise the hens means that they will be hatched from selected stock, and that as no birds will be brought on the farm from outside, there will be no contagious diseases.

FEEDING AND THE WEATHER.

Good advice and excellent suggestions may be given, but it is only when the time arrives for performing certain essential duties that one understands what is required. Corn is one of the best of foods for winter, yet there are periods during the winter season when the days are quite warm, and the needs of the fowls are fewer.

THE EARLY BROODS.

The early broods of chicks should be kept warm; that is more essential than food. In addition to grain, such as rolled oats, cracked corn, screenings, etc., little chicks should have meat. The cheap portions of beef, liver, blood or any refuse parts may be used.

POULTRY AS A SPECIALTY.

Use the farm for poultry by giving the flocks plenty of room, and work with a view to making the hens pay, the same as is done for the cows, and the results will be satisfactory. Fifty hens on one acre could give at least a clear profit of one dollar a hen, or fifty dollars to the acre.

JUDGMENT IN FEEDING CORN.

While corn is an essential in the winter to assist in producing heat to ward off the cold, it is not the best grain to use after the weather begins to moderate. The question then is which of the grains should be used. The difference in the several grains, so far as the proportion of fat and starch is concerned, is but very little, and it then becomes a matter of how to feed grain rather than which or how much should be used.

OPPORTUNITY FOR EXERCISE.

It will be noticed that as soon as the weather opens the hens will gladly accept the privilege of being outside the poultry-yards, as liberty is to them the highest enjoyment. Plenty of room, with opportunities for exercise, is their natural condition, and they will keep in health and lay more eggs when the long winter confinement is ended.

POTATOES FOR POULTRY.

Potatoes are mostly starch, and are not suitable as an exclusive food for poultry, but if they are fed in connection with some kinds of foods to balance them they are excellent. They should be boiled, but require no washing, as the smallest chick could pick them to pieces.

WARMTH AND EGGS.

As soon as spring opens the hens will seem to be unanimous on laying, and many persons will no doubt attribute the change to a greater variety of food and an abundance of green material, which no doubt will assist greatly, but the real stimulus to laying in the spring is due to the warmer weather.

PROTECTING AGAINST STORMS.

Severe storms show that a great amount of work is necessary in keeping a large number of fowls. It is useless to turn the fowls out at any time during the winter, because there is nothing to gain by it if they have a large space for scratching. It is better to keep them busy inside of the poultry-house than to permit them to be exposed to the winds and storms in the effort to give them fresh air outside.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Cut Bone.—B. H. H., New Haven, Conn., writes: "How many pounds of cut green bone is sufficient for twenty-five hens one day, whether fed clear or mixed with soft food?"

LETTERS FROM FARMERS

In South and North Dakota, relating their own personal experience in those states, have been published in pamphlet form by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, and as these letters are extremely interesting, and the pamphlet is finely illustrated, one copy will be sent to any address, on receipt of two-cent postage stamp.

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Horse Carts 12 STYLES. NARROW & WIDE Tires. Popular Prices. Wheels made of freight from our works, Tatamy, Pa., to all points. HOBSON & CO., No. 19 Hobson St., New York.

Our Fireside.

INDIAN CRADLE-SONG.

Swing thee low in thy cradle soft,
Deep in the dusky wood;
Swing thee low and swing aloft—
Sleep as a papoose should;
For safe in your little birchen nest
Quiet will come, and peace and rest,
If the little papoose is good.

The coyote howls on the prairie cold,
And the owl hoots in the tree;
And the big moon shines on the little child
As it slumbers peacefully;
So swing thee high in thy little nest,
And swing thee low and take the rest
That the night-wind brings to thee.

The father lies on the fragrant ground,
Dreaming of hunt and fight,
And the pine-leaves rustle with a mournful sound
All through the solemn night;
But the little papoose in his birchen nest
Is swinging low as he takes his rest,
Till the sun brings the morning light.
—Detroit Free Press.

PHIL KENT'S EXPERIENCE.

BY MILLER PURVIS.

WHEN the sale of the Pearson place came off, as advertised in the "Independent," Phil Kent was in attendance, and the only bidder, and it was knocked down to him at two thirds the appraisal. Phil found himself the owner of forty acres of the most unpromising land in the county, if the judgment of his neighbors was to be taken as final.

As the farm had been appraised at two thousand dollars, Phil's bid had been one thousand three hundred and thirty-four dollars, and of this he was required to pay four hundred and forty-five dollars at once. Upon doing this, and obtaining the receipt of the administrator pending the formalities of getting the deed through the order of the court, he and his sister, who had accompanied him to Riverside, started back to Farndale, neither of them in a jesting mood, by any means.

Their way home did not take them past their new acquisition, but when they came to the turn in the road that led that way, Phil turned the horse's head in the direction of the Pearson place, and before long it came in view, lying in desolate loneliness against the background of the woodland further away.

This desolation was the more marked by the fact that the neat and tidy Meade farm, which Frank Meade had just decided to leave, was next to it, a picture of what care can do in the way of making a farm.

The unpainted house, the ruinous barn and the broken-down fences of the Pearson place were not calculated to raise the drooping spirits of Phil and his sister, and for a minute his heart failed him, and he doubted the wisdom of the move he had made. A side glance at his sister showed him that she felt more keenly than he the change that they were about to make in their home, and he resolved to make the best of it, and not allow his heart to fail at the very beginning of the battle.

Drawing up before the house, he stopped the horse, and for a moment he could not think of a single thing to say. Silence, however, became an oppression that must be overcome at any cost, and he said:

"I don't believe there is a farm in the country that can grow such big burdocks in the front yard as ours can."

This was not funny at all, but Kate smiled, and presently said:

"If the front yard can produce such a crop as that, we can certainly grow something on the fields."

"Sure," answered Phil, "and we'll astonish the natives with the crops that we produce here, and people will come out of their way to see the place when we have made the desert to blossom as the rose."

"It will take a lot of work to make it look respectable," said Kate, doubtfully, "and you have taken a pretty big contract."

"I'm equal to it," responded Phil, "and these October days are the very kind to work in."

"We'll have to fix up the house and barn, and rebuild the fences, and dig up those big weeds, and prune the orchard, and put a new pump into the well, and—"

"One minute, please," cried Phil; "you are laying out a lot of work. I would like to ask, who is going to do all this?"

"Oh, you'll do the work, and I'll superintend it," answered Kate, who, now that she was facing the work she had to do, did not dread it nearly as much as she had when she had looked at it from afar.

Then the two started on for their old home, and as they rode along they fell a-planning what they would do. By the time they ended their journey neither felt as if they were very badly used by fate.

Kate went in to prepare the evening meal, and Phil stopped to care for the horse.

Going in presently, he stopped at the kitchen door long enough to say:

"Katie, dear, hurry up the supper, will you? This farming makes me dreadfully hungry." And Kate's responsive laugh proved to him that she had fully recovered her spirits.

It was the middle of October when Phil Kent bought the Pearson place, and he at once began the improvements suggested by his sister. The house was not in condition for painting, not to mention the cost of it, but it was given a coat of whitewash that improved its appearance very much. The broken windows were replaced, and the village jack-of-all-trades patched up the broken plastering, rebuilt the toppling chimney-tops and repaired the roof, while Phil devoted himself to clearing out the weeds in the yard, and pruning the orchard behind the house.

In the meantime Kate, instead of being an idle superintendent of the work going on, engaged the wife of Dan Collins, who was the charwoman of the village, and with her help scoured the floors and papered the walls, and later laid carpets and hung curtains with an energy that made as great a change in the interior as the men had made on the outside. This work of renovation changed the tumble-down house into one that made quite a respectable appearance, and if people did not fulfill Phil's prophecy of coming out of their way to see it, those who happened to pass that way were certainly very

to have some chickens, and one thing and another of that sort."

Kate laughed at his way of ending the list of necessary live stock.

"I wish we could have two more Jerseys and a flock of pure-bred chickens," she said, "for I would like to start out well, so as to get the most profit we can. We must farm scientifically, you know, Phil, for I heard a man say over at the post-office yesterday that times are awfully hard, and getting worse all the time, and the farm papers all say that pure-bred stock is best all the time."

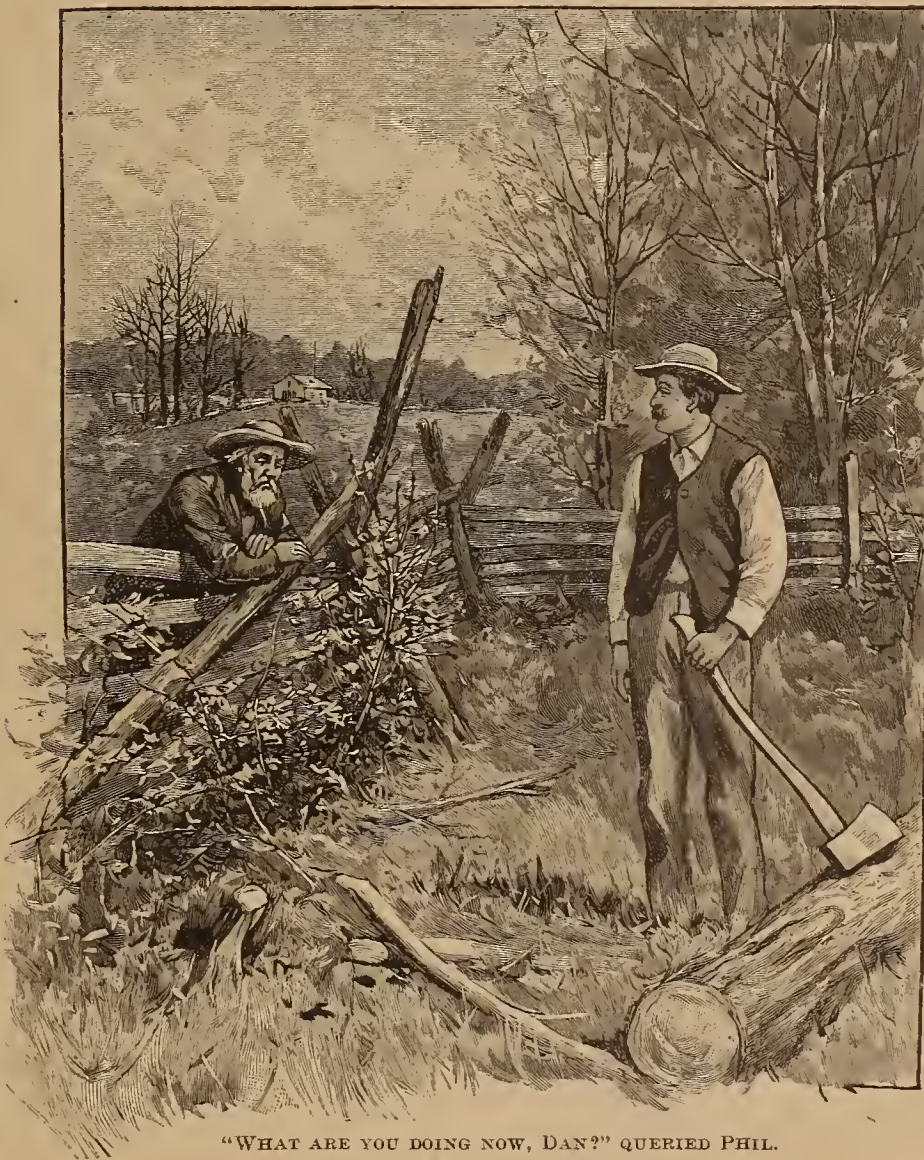
"What do you know about what the farm papers say?" inquired Phil, rather loftily. "I didn't suppose that you ever looked inside of one, unless you wanted to find a recipe for another new cake with which to make further experiments on my powers of digestion."

"I know a lot of things about farming," asserted Kate, "and I am learning more every day. I read all the papers that come to us, and I believe that is more than you can say."

"It is," acknowledged Phil. "I read what interests me, and the rest I don't look at."

"I suppose we couldn't have some sheep," said Kate, tentatively.

"I think sheep are not to be thought of just now," answered Phil, "but we can have the cows and the chickens. I think I can buy a couple of cows at Frank Meade's sale next week, and the chickens, too. The cows are Jerseys, but the chickens are just chickens, and in my opinion they are just as good



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW, DAN?" QUERIED PHIL.

much surprised at the improvement in the appearance of the house and its surroundings.

It was well into November before Phil and Kate gave up the home of their childhood, and went to the new one to live. Both of them were rather serious that day, but neither gave expression to any feeling of regret, and the change was made amid the solemn head-shaking of the inhabitants of Farndale, who looked upon Phil's experiment as certain evidence that he needed a guardian to take charge of his affairs.

The work of improvement was kept up in the way of repairs, and by the end of November Phil had the barn repaired, and had built a poultry-house that answered every purpose, though he willingly acknowledged that it was not architecturally a thing of beauty.

The fences were rebuilt, and the bare places in the outlots seeded to grass, and gradually out of chaos order began to appear. The two young people began to feel quite at home, and each helped the other with cheerfulness in the work that was to be done.

Up to this time the only live stock that Phil had about him was the faithful old horse his father had owned, and the Jersey cow that had been kept when they lived in the village.

"I think, Kittle, that we must invest in some live stock pretty soon," he said one evening, as he and Kate were discussing the future.

"I want a team of work-horses, and you will want a cow or two more, and we ought

as the bluest-blooded ones. Pure-bred cows are all right, but I don't see the advantage when it comes to chickens."

"I'll teach you better some day, then," answered Kate.

"That brings me up to the main point," said Phil, presently. "We have the largest part of a year to live before we can expect to receive any returns from our farm, and it behooves us to take up the question of ways and means to provide the necessary bread and butter, with an occasional piece of pie, for that time."

"I had been thinking of that, too," said Kate. "It doesn't cost us two very much to live, and I have figured out that we shall not have very much to use for that purpose after you have bought the team and tools and cows and chickens."

"I shall not need any clothes myself," said Phil, with a grave air of speculation, "and I suppose you can make enough butter and sell enough eggs to furnish money for what flummery you need."

"Flummery, indeed!" sniffed Kate, derisively; "that's just like a mau. If a girl has anything nice it's 'flummery,' but I am thankful to be able to say that I know a young gentleman who used to be rather particular in the matter of ties and gloves, and other flummery of that sort."

"You needn't take me up so short, sis. I couldn't think of the word I wanted to use, and the one I did use seems to have been perfectly intelligible to you. What I meant was that I could get along if I did happen

to get a little shabby, but I want you to look nice all the time and always. You understand that you must do the ornamental for the whole firm, while I rustle around after the more material things."

"I understand," said Kate; "and know you are the dearest fellow in all the wide world, but I wouldn't allow myself to put on gaudy raiment, as you would say, while you were looking shabby. We are going to share, and share alike, in this business, and I think it would be better not to sell those eggs before we get the hens."

For answer Phil walked over and kissed his sister, and said good-night, for days of hard work made early hours the rule with him since he became a farmer.

He continued to work at improving appearances, which was the best that he could do because of the lateness of the season when he began; but as the days came and went he began to make a showing, and instead of growing weary of well-doing, as the villagers had freely prophesied he would do, he astonished them by keeping steadily at his work, hardly taking time to go to Jake Long's for his mail twice a week. Whenever he did go he was the recipient of sarcastic inquiries about the crop of pennyroyal that was supposed to be the one his farm was best adapted to.

The thrust he met good-naturedly, and returned by inquiring if any member of the Never Sweat Club had been expelled for breaking the principal article of the constitution.

When Frank Meade auctioned off his live stock and chattel property of various kinds, Phil was on hand, and bought the farm-horses, two mild-eyed and big-shouldered Jerseys, together with half a hundred chickens, and took them home to occupy the quarters he had prepared for them. Kate immediately took charge of the dairy-work, even going so far as to insist on doing the milking; but this Phil would not consent to, and they compromised on that point by agreeing that Kate might feed the chickens while Phil was milking the cows.

The cows were well fed and carefully groomed by Phil, and repaid his care by producing a large amount of milk, which Kate's deft fingers and willing hands made into golden rolls of butter, the surplus of which was sold to Jake Long for cash, or traded for such things as they needed from his stock.

Of the poultry Kate took the best of care. The house that Phil had built for them was warm, if rather rough in appearance, and Kate carefully attended to their wants in the way of food and water, giving them a variety of grain and all the milk they could consume. They repaid this care by producing eggs at a rate that astonished the less progressive neighbors, who did not believe in trying to learn how to keep chickens by reading the farm papers.

Phil and Kate worked steadily on, and found that farm life was not the worst fate that might befall two young people with brave hearts, and that it did not shut them off from enjoying visits with neighbors, nor communication through books, magazines and papers with the outer world. They were young, and good health was theirs, and they began to think that they must succeed in the end, and their hearts were light with the joy of hope.

In Jake Long's store they were talked of more than any other family in the country, and gloomy prognostications were indulged in by the members of the club, who predicted that Phil could never earn his salt on the sterile acres of the Pearson place, and that disaster would come when the deferred payments on the farm came due.

So the winter wore along and spring came, and the real struggle with barren soil and nature's whims was to begin; but Phil faced the future bravely, and had no thought of failure in the end. He was living in the golden age that comes to youth, which, having no past to regret, has no regret of evils to come.

CHAPTER IV.

Abijah Pearson had cleared the farm that Phil now owned. His method had been to clear first those parts of it which were the most free from underbrush and could be cleared with the least labor. After this was done he built a fence around the cleared space, no matter what the shape of it might be, and planted it to some crop. As the years passed he gradually cleared up all of the forty acres, but the fences were never straightened, and the fields were only enlarged as the first fences decayed until they were beyond use for the purposes for which they were originally built. Sometimes a fence caught fire from carelessness in burning rubbish in a dry season, and in that case the old fence-row was pretty well cleared out. If this did not happen, the line of the original fence was marked by a row of scrubby trees and briars, which grew in undisturbed freedom in the fence-corners, and remained there in most of the fields, gradually spreading out year by year, until at the time Phil bought it at least one third of the land had gone back to its original state of uncultivated wilderness. The plow-land that was left had been scratched over, and less than half cultivated, until it was not a very great stretch of imagination that caused

NAVAJO BLANKETS.

Exactly the most perfect blanket. Neither Ottoman fingers nor British machines have ever produced its peer.

The Navajo Indian of New Mexico and Arizona cannot vie with the modern Turk in rugs, nor with the extinct Yunca in fringes, but when it comes to blankets he can beat the world.

There are still Navajos (twenty thousand of them), and there is still vayeta, and as there are people who would give five hundred dollars for an absolutely first-class vayeta blanket, you might fancy that the three things would pool.

The art of the Navajo blanket is as old as Plymouth Rock—and almost as bigoted. You can tell a genuine just as far as you can see it. It is a curious fact, known to the student, that, when left to himself, the Indian never blunders in color.

Of course, at all times these gems were comparatively few. Not every Navajo weaver was a master, and not so many could afford a blanket whose thread cost six dollars a pound as could "staud" the natural wool at thirty cents.

LANDS FOR SALE.

AT LOW PRICES AND ON EASY TERMS. The Illinois Central Railroad Company offers for sale on easy terms and at low prices, 150,000 acres of choice fruit, gardening, farm and grazing lands located in SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

THE UNUSUAL FIGURE.

By this term we mean one that is shorter, taller or stouter than the average. The over-portly must avoid conspicuous things. They should turn a deaf ear to salesmen who urge them to invest in large figures, wide stripes, bright colors, plaids, queer novelties and thick-looking materials.

Elderly ladies must not think that they must always wear black. Women with silver hair look beautiful in silver gray. Navy-blue, dark green, brown and fawn are usually becoming to middle life.

For summer elderly ladies may be attractive in small-figured muslins, lawns and narrow-striped gingham. White goods like dimity, striped or cross-barred, are neat and pretty. Black lace may be used abundantly. Pretty ribbons are becoming. Ruffles dropping over toil-worn hands conceal the withered appearance, and give a softening effect to age.

OUR HEAVEN-BORN BANNER.

The wondrously beautiful picture entitled "Our Heaven-Born Banner," issued in eight colors by the Big Four Route in honor of the G. A. R., has now reached its seventh edition, and is without any exception the finest and most artistic conception of Drake's immortal ode to "Old Glory" that has ever been published.

Send ten cents, to cover bare cost of postage and packing, to E. O. McCormick, Passenger Traffic Manager Big 4, Cincinnati, Ohio, and secure a copy.

A PEOPLE WITHOUT A GOD.

A people has recently been discovered in the Congo basin, Africa, that, so far as can be learned, has no religion, and no conception of a Supreme Being. There is also very little indication of superstition among them. They are the Banziris, and the territory occupied by them is mostly on the northern shore of the Oubanghi.

The only feature in adornment to which these people devote any attention is the head-dress. This is built up with both the true and false hair until it becomes an elaborate affair, the work being done by the women, who show much good taste and dexterity in the performance.

Fish afford their staple food; but the men are fond of dog meat, which, however, is denied the women. Other food is bananas and a little corn and millet.

These people differ in language, appearance and customs from the neighboring tribes, except one that they resemble in some respects. Altogether they may be considered as the finest and most philosophical savages of the present day.—Cleveland Leader.

A good Poultry Farm is Better than a Gold Mine. There's Millions in it, but nine out of ten fail in it because they do not know how to get The Money in Hens.

EVERGREENS. Largest stock in America, including Colorado Blue Spruce and Douglas Spruce of Colorado. Also Ornamental, Shade and Forest Trees, Tree Seeds, Etc.

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DON'T BE POOR \$2,200 A YEAR EASY. Folding Vapor Bath Cabinet, 50,000 sold. Everybody, sick or well, buys. Business Men, Families, Physicians, Turkish, Russian, Sulphur, Medicated Vapor Baths at home.

SPEX BIG MONEY IN SPECTACLES. Send for our Optical Catalogue—just out. New goods. Cut prices. F. E. BAILEY, Chicago, Ill.

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BREED'S UNIVERSAL WEEDER AND CULTIVATOR AGENTS WANTED. Ask Your Dealer For It. Write for Circulars. The UNIVERSAL WEEDER CO., BOSTON, MASS.

The WONDERFUL TREE TOMATO. A PERFECT MARVEL. THE BEST TOMATO IN THE WORLD and just what everyone wants. It is EXTRA EARLY and bears abundantly and continuously through the entire season.

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EXPANSION is what destroys most wire fences. CONTRACTION We have a way of completely overcoming this difficulty in the construction of the KEYSTONE FENCE. That's one reason why it outlasts all others.

FLY SHUTTLE CARPET LOOM in the world, 100 yards a day. Catalogue free. EUREKA LOOM CO. 4059 W. Main St., Battle Creek, Michigan

Robert Luther, Whitehall, Illinois, is a hustler of long experience in agency work. He says: "Peerless Atlas is alone worth the dollar asked, without including the year's subscription you furnish free to Farm and Fireside or Woman's Home Companion."

Our Household.

HER LOVER.

A dear little girl by the fireside bright
Was eating an apple one winter night,
And the apple-seeds, when she was through,
She counted over, as children do.

“One I love, two I love, three also, I say,
Four I love all above, five cast away;
Six she loves, seven he loves, and eight, you
see,
Both love each other well—that’s you and
me.”

Her brother laughed, merrily. “Dear little
sis,
That is not what they mean. Give me a
kiss.
When girls count their apple-seeds, you may
depend
It’s for some other girl’s brother, or that
brother’s friend.”

“Well, I’ll count my apple-seeds just as I
choose,
And if I love you best, you won’t refuse.
Of course, while I’m little I don’t want to
marry.
So I’ll count my apple-seeds for you, brother
Harry.”

A. M. M.

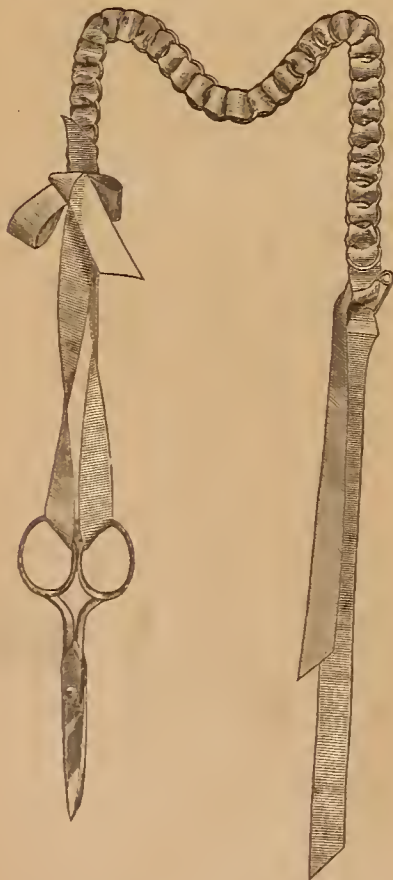
HOME TOPICS.

SOUPS.—I do not believe that many
of our housekeepers appreciate
the value and economy of soup in
their home cooking.

A few spoonfuls of highly seasoned,
clear soup is an excellent appetizer before
an elaborate dinner, but a generous bowl
of good home-made soup is dinner of itself
almost.

If the children come home from school
for their noonday lunch, a bowl of nour-
ishing soup is the best of anything. In
our neighboring city, by the influence of
the teachers, a lunch-room has been
started opposite the high-school, where, at
the noon recess of thirty minutes, the
pupils can be served with a nice bowl of
steaming soup for three cents; and it is
well patronized by both teachers and
pupils.

At our house soup is eaten, at the mid-
day lunch instead of for dinner, and all
odds and ends of cold vegetables, gravies,
bones from roasts, steaks, chops, etc., go
into the soup-pot. All the outside stalks
and leaves of celery are saved for soup,
and the variety of flavors that can be
given soups prevents one tiring of them.
One day the carcass of a roast fowl, a
little rice and some stalks of celery, with
a pint of boiling milk added just before
serving, furnishes a white soup. Another
time the liquor in which a ham was boiled
furnishes the stock for a black bean or
dried pea soup. Cook the beans or peas
a long time in clear water, after soaking
them over night, then when they are soft
rub them through a colander, and add
enough stock to thin for soup.



A little cabbage or turnip is good in
beef soup. Sometimes I put in only rice
to thicken, a half can of tomatoes and a
whole onion, into which I stick five cloves.
Browned flour when used to thicken soup
gives it flavor different from anything
else.

One rule should be observed always in

making soup; namely, it never should
boil, only simmer slowly for several hours,
and be covered tightly.

Toasted bread to eat with soup is a
pleasant change from crackers. Slightly
butter slices of stale bread, cut them into
“fingers” or little squares, lay them on a
pan, and set them in a hot oven long
enough to toast a light brown.

OVER NIGHT.—These short winter days
it is a great help to have the breakfast
commenced over night. The oatmeal or
other grain can be cooked while getting
the evening meal, and left in the double
boiler, needing only time to heat in the
morning before it is ready to serve. Slice
the ham or bacon, or chop the hash, or
make fish-balls or croquettes. Slice or
chop the potatoes to be warmed; and if
muffins or other hot bread is to be baked,
mix all the ingredients except the milk
over night. Then, if the dining-room is
also the family sitting-room, pick up the
books, papers and work, and brush up
any litter there may have been made on
the floor, then set the table for breakfast.
These preparations will be doubly ap-
preciated on a dark morning when one is
apt to oversleep, and it is a very com-
fortable feeling when one takes the night-
lamp to go to her bedroom to feel that
the rooms are in order and everything
ready for the early breakfast.

RAISING CHICKENS.—It is time we were
getting our broilers started if we expect
to have them for early use. My hens laid



too late last fall to begin very early in
the winter, and now I am afraid none of
them will want to sit early, so I am going
to try a plan which has been highly recom-
mended to me, that of setting the hens’
eggs under turkeys. I am told a turkey
can be made to sit at any time by put-
ting three or four china eggs or nest-egg
gourds in a nest, and fastening the turkey
on the nest for a few days. Some say
give her a feed of corn soaked in whisky,
but my informant says this is not neces-
sary. Make the nest in a box, and have
a slat top that can be fastened on it, then
put the turkey on the nest at night. Take
her off every day and feed her, then put
her back, and fasten the box. As soon
as she sits quietly and seems broody, take
out the false eggs, and give her from
twenty to thirty fresh eggs. Take her off
the nest every day and feed her, and as
fast as chickens hatch, take them away,
and put under more eggs. I am told that
a turkey will sit continuously for eight
or nine weeks without injury, and then
she can be put in a yard with chickens,
and will mother all you give her. It
seems to me this plan is far better for
small poultry-raisers than to try to use
an incubator, and by setting two or three
turkeys they will soon hatch all the chick-
ens one wants to raise. I intend to set
two in a few days now, so they will settle
down to business by the first of March,
and will tell of my success or failure later.

MAIDA McL.

A DOUBLE GAIN.

We had greatly desired to take a week’s
outing upon the mountains, and had our
plans almost perfected, but were deterred
from undertaking the journey for a time
by hearing that the roads were “perfectly
awful.”

At last, however, knowing that others
had gone over the same ground, and feel-
ing the necessity of a rest and change,
we set out. And right glad we were that
we did, for we gained renewed strength
and vigor, saw most magnificent scenery,
besides learning many valuable lessons.

It is true we found places that were
extremely difficult of driving over, and

yet how foolish we would have been to
have remained at home because of them.
Deep gulches must be crossed; broad,
rocky roads lay in our course; narrow and
sliding ones were not infrequent. More
than once did we hold our breath as we
passed over some of these places. But
oh, the beauties on either hand more than
compensated!

No pen can describe the picturesque
views we were privileged to behold. No
orator could do justice to the theme who
endeavored to describe the mountain
breezes, the crisp, mild air, delightfully
cool water bursting gleefully from the
sides of the mountains or dancing along
in its narrow bed, revealing the rounded
pebbles at its feet. Now we are passing
through one of nature’s wonderful cre-
ations—a canon—where massive rocks rise
hundreds of feet on either hand. Again
in an open space, with friendly peaks all
about us, do we find ourselves. These
nearest spurs are verdant and inviting,
those at a distance jagged and rugged.
Huge rocks overhang our path or pro-
ject from the mountain beyond.

The scenery at times partakes of a
weird and grotesque appearance, then
grand and awful. Odd forms of rock, re-
sembling some mammoth animals, appear
ready to leap down upon us from their
caves, dens, lairs, or perchance from the
bald face of the peak itself.

And over all this magnificence, enhanc-
ing the picture to a marvelous degree,
shines the azure vault above.

We might have made ourselves mis-
erable thinking of the bad roads, but we
did not, for instead of looking beneath
we looked about and above us, and thor-
oughly enjoyed each step of the way.

It is wonderful how we magnify difficul-
ties when we view them from a distance,
and surprising how they lessen in size as
we approach the nearer unto them. Many
a time while on our trip would we see a
wash or gulch directly across our pathway
some distance ahead of us. So extremely
deep and narrow did it appear as to be
impassable. Sometimes a steep moun-
tain-side appeared to form the opposite
bank of the ravine. Upon approaching
nearer, however, and getting down from
the high seat of the spring-wagon we al-
ways could see a way out. The banks
were not nearly so steep nor the bottom
so narrow as it had appeared; the moun-
tain even seemed to have taken a step
backward, leaving us ample room to pass.
A steady nerve, an obedient team and a
good brake were all that was needed to
carry us safely over.

We took this lesson home to ourselves.
Many a steep, narrow place in life could
be crossed much more easily if we marched
up to it boldly, calmly measuring its size,
calculating the strength necessary for us
to cross, then first going to the source of
all strength for the needed supply, pro-
ceed steadily forward.

Do we not miss rare opportunities in
this work-a-day world, and deprive our-
selves of many mental and spiritual views
through our entire lives, because we fear
obstacles in the way?

Many a beautiful sight we fail to see
because we are continuously looking
down instead of above. Many a harmo-
nious sound do we fail to hear because we
are ever listening to the wheels upon the
rocks along our pathway. There are melo-
dies all about us, if we hut open our ears
to hear them. And there are heavenly
breezes, fragrant flowers, crystal streams
and magnificent scenery all around, if we
allow ourselves to realize the fact and
open our eyes that we may truly see.

ELLA BARTLETT SIMMONS.

SEWING ACCESSORIES.

When one wants to take her silk em-
broidery and sit an afternoon with a
neighbor, the thimble-bag will be found
very convenient to carry both thimble,
scissors and a few silks. It is made of
five eighths of a yard of brocade ribbon
three inches wide. Cut this in two, turn
up the lower edges over a piece of card-
board to make the needle-book end; then
put flannel leaves between, and stitch on
the machine just above the cardboard. At
the other end turn down enough to run
in a casing, through which silk cords are
drawn to close it. Then buttonhole-stitch
the sides together from the needle-book
to the casing to form a bag.

To avoid dropping your scissors, run
narrow ribbons through brass rings to
form a chain, attach the scissors at one
end, and a safety-pin at the other to fasten
it to the belt.

A very dainty handkerchief-hag is made
of pale blue leather for the bottom, padded
inside with pale blue silk, and around the
circle a piece of Dresden silk or ribbon
is put on with brier-stitch. A casing for
a silk cord is made at the top, and finished



with wide lace. These are very exquisite
on one’s dresser, and a handkerchief is
always in ready reach.

CHRISTIE IRVING.

SNAPS THAT WILL SNAP.

CINNAMON-SNAPS.—One cupful of gran-
ulated sugar, one cupful of molasses, one
cupful of butter, one half cupful of sour
milk, one tablespoonful of ground cinna-
mon, one teaspoonful of soda, and flour
enough to make a smooth dough; roll
very thin, and bake in a moderate oven.
They are soft when first out of the oven,
but as soon as cold are hard and crisp, and
remain so until used, unless the weather
is very damp. They are a favorite with
every one who has tried them.

GINGERSNAPS.—Boil together one pint
of molasses and one teacupful of butter.
Let it stand until cool; add two table-
spoonfuls of ginger and one teaspoonful
of soda; flour to roll. Bake quickly in
thin rounds.

Another: One pint of molasses, one
teacupful of butter (or butter and lard
mixed), two even teaspoonfuls of soda dis-
solved in two thirds of a cupful of boiling
water, two tablespoonfuls of ginger; mix
as quickly as possible with flour enough
to roll out soft and thin. Bake quickly
to a light brown. Sorghum molasses is
preferred.

Another: One pint of molasses, one
cupful of sugar, one cupful of butter or
lard, one tablespoonful of ginger and
cloves each, one teaspoonful of cayenne
pepper, one teaspoonful of soda, flour
enough to roll very thin, and bake in flat
tins.

ROLL JELLY-CAKE.—To three well-
beaten eggs add one teacupful of powdered
sugar and one of flour, stir well, add one
teaspoonful of soda dissolved in three tea-
spoonfuls of water. Bake in two long
pie-pans; spread as evenly as possible.
Have ready a towel, and as soon as done,
turn the cake on it, bottom side up, then
spread evenly with jelly, roll up quickly,
and wrap in the towel.

MARBLE-CAKE.—White—Two cupfuls
of white sugar, one of butter, one of
sweet milk, whites of eight eggs, two
teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, one of
soda, three and one half cupfuls of flour.

Black—Two cupfuls of brown sugar, one
of molasses, one of butter, one of sweet
milk, five of flour, two tablespoonfuls of
ground cinnamon, one of cloves, one of
allspice, yolks of eight eggs, one teaspoo-
nful of pepper, one of soda. Bake in a
well-greased pan, dropping the dough in
in alternate spots of dark and light. When
done, frost the top. This also makes a
very nice layer cake, with chocolate icing
between.

COOKIES.—One heaping teacupful of
sugar, three fourths of a cupful of butter,
one fourth cupful of sweet milk, two eggs,
two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, salt,
nutmeg and cinnamon to taste, flour to
roll; roll thin, and bake quickly.

UNION CAKE.—Two cupfuls of powdered
sugar, one cupful of butter, one of sweet
milk, three of sifted flour, one half cup-
ful of corn-starch, whites of four eggs
beaten to a froth, two teaspoonfuls of
lemon extract, one half of soda, one of
cream of tartar.

A. M. M.

“BROWN’S BRONCHIAL TROCHES” are of
great service in subduing Hoarseness and
Coughs. Sold only in boxes. Avoid im-
itations.

THE DELICIOUS BIVALVE.

The ease with which oysters may be prepared for the table, and the great variety of ways in which they may be cooked and served, render them a great favorite with housekeepers.

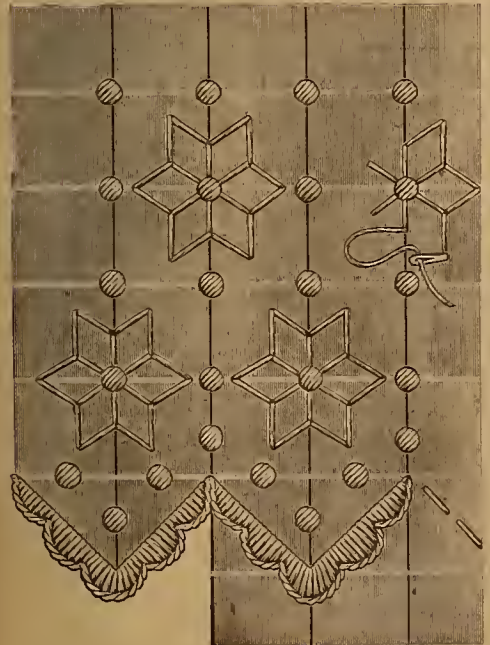
When buying them in the shell, be sure it is firmly closed; if open, the oyster is dead and unfit for use. If in the can, one must trust to the dealer as to freshness, but one is safe in not buying a can with bulging sides.

In cooking oysters, the less they are cooked the more delicate the flavor. In stews they should not be put in until the liquor is boiling; then left in only long enough for the edges to curl.

CAPPED OYSTERS.—Make a rich, rather thick cream crust with cream, flour, salt and a very little baking-powder, roll out very thin, and cut with a round, scalloped cake-cutter, spread with softened butter, add a little pepper, salt and powdered celery, place a fine fresh oyster in the center of each, fold up over it, lay each on a square of buttered writing-paper, fold the corners, and pin.

OYSTER FRITTERS.—Drain all the liquor from a quart of oysters, and dry them on a towel. With a cupful of sweet milk, one pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, a pinch of salt and two well-beaten eggs make a batter as for batter-cakes.

OYSTERS, WITH EGG SAUCE.—To a large spoonful of butter add one half cupful of oyster liquor; when it boils, add a dozen oysters, and cook until the edges begin to curl; remove from the fire, add salt and pepper, and pour into a hot, shallow dish. Have ready a dressing or sauce made from two well-beaten eggs, one half cup-



ful of cream, a pinch of salt and a dash of pepper; put over the fire, stirring constantly until it is of a thick, creamy consistency. Pour over the oysters, and serve immediately.

OYSTER OMELET.—To one dozen oysters add four well-beaten eggs, two tablespoonfuls of sweet milk, a pinch of salt, a dash of pepper, and enough very fine bread or cracker crumbs to thicken; put into a small, well-buttered baking-pan, spread butter on top, and bake until brown. Serve hot in same dish.

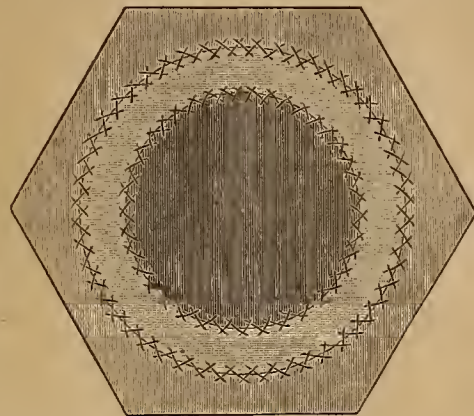
OYSTER CROQUETTES.—Scald and chop fine the hard part of oysters (the other part may be used for soup), add an equal amount of mashed potatoes; to a pound of the mixture add butter the size of an egg, a quarter of a teacupful of cream,

and salt and pepper. Mix thoroughly, mold into small, round cakes, dip into beaten egg, then roll in very fine bread or cracker crumbs, and fry quickly in very hot fat. Garnish with parsley or celery-tips, and serve immediately.

CLARA SENSIBAUGH EVERTS.

RUG PATTERN.

As rugs are very useful as well as ornamental, they are much in demand, and if one gets an oversupply they make very acceptable presents to some busy friend who does not have time to make them. In almost every home the worn-out garments of the men-folks have a good deal of cloth in them that will wear a long time in a rug.



groundwork, usually made of dark cloth; the other two are set on the edges, basted down and worked with common cross-stitch, with coarse white or black thread, as preferred. Each block must be finished before they are sewed together, then the seams pressed, lined with some suitable material (some use oil-cloth) and the edge of the last round left projecting beyond the lining, which is scalloped, notched or pinked, according to fancy.

EMBROIDERED GINGHAM.

This embroidery adapts itself to all materials and conditions, being equally effective worked in white or colors, in cotton, silk or linen, and on almost any kind of goods. The design can be varied to suit the style or need of the worker, can be used as edge or as all-over embroidery for yokes, sashes, belts, cuffs and collars.

The unfinished star in the sample shows the manner of working them, which, it will be seen, is quite simple, and indeed the whole design can be worked very rapidly. It makes a very desirable trimming worked in fast colors, red or blue, for a gentleman's night-shirt, and a neatly embroidered monogram on the pocket is an agreeable addition.

HANNAH WARREN PERRY.

OAK-LEAF AND ACORN LACE.

ABBREVIATIONS.—Th o means put thread over to make a stitch; n, narrow; p, purl or seam; k, knit. Cast on 31 stitches, and knit across plain. First row—Th o, n, k 7, o, k 3, n, p 1, n, k 3, o, and n twice, k 3, o, n, k 2.

IVORY SOAP advertisement with decorative border and text: 'The wind and dust cause painful chapping of the skin. Those who are so affected should use only a pure soap. 99 1/100 PER CENT PURE.'

Fourth row—K 4, p 1, o, k 1, p 11, o, and n twice, o, k 1, p 1. Fifth row—Th o, n, k 9, o, k 2 in each of next three stitches, o, k 2, n, p 1, n, k 3, o, n, o, k 3, o, n, k 2.

ICRANBERRIES. When the cellar is so plentifully stocked with apples one thinks it poor economy to buy much material for sauce, and yet one may tire of "apple sass" three times a day for three hundred and sixty-five days in succession.

DON'T LEAVE JELLIES UNCOVERED. "My husband," said the physician's wife not long ago, "chanced to see one day some molds of jelly set to cool outside the window. They were uncovered, as they were out of reach of anything. He asked me: "Is it your custom to cool your jelly uncovered?"

THE "MARGARET" PATTERNS advertisement for infants' clothing patterns, including gowns, dresses, and slippers, available by mail.

STUDY AT HOME advertisement for correspondence schools in electrical engineering, mechanical drawing, and other technical fields.

\$500 FOR A TOMATO advertisement for the Giant Everbearing Tomato variety, featuring an illustration of the plant and details about its yield and characteristics.

ALFRED PEATS WALL PAPER advertisement for 1897 prize-winning designs, offering samples mailed free and agents wanted for commission.

SOLD! POSITIVE GUARANTEE advertisement for a washing machine, highlighting its effectiveness and offering a money-back guarantee.

Our Household.

BRILLIANTS.

"What God appoints, enjoy—
What he withholds, forbear—
Each care a hidden blessing brings,
Each blessing brings a care."

"I cannot read His future plans,
But this I know:
I have the smiling of his face
And all the refuge of his grace
While here below.

"Enough; this covers all my wants,
And so I rest;
For what I cannot, he can see,
And in his care I safe shall be,
Forever blest."

LAUNDERING FINE SHIRTS.

THE home laundering of fine shirts has become much simplified, and is no longer the dread that once it was, since the following method has become known to me:

Washed, scalded and carefully rinsed and dried, and by repeated wettings in clear warm water, bleached by freezing or hot sunshine, according to season, they are put aside in a close drawer (not a clothes-basket) until the hour for giving them the finishing touches has arrived.

If the bosom is to be spotlessly white, it must be folded down into the folds of muslin, and every particle of dust kept from it: The irons must be clean to perfection, heated to the right degree (neither too hot nor too cool, and every good housewife becomes here her own judge), and the ironing-board scrupulously clean.

To starch, dip the bosom and cuffs into a starch preparation made as follows: To three quarts of fresh soft water add one fourth of a pound of best starch, two teaspoonfuls of powdered borax and two table-spoonfuls of turpentine. Put all into a stone jar with close-fitting cover. When needed for use, stir the starch from the bottom of the jar until all is dissolved again. It settles and becomes quite stiff at the bottom of the jar. Pour off what will be needed to wet the articles to be ironed, using a bowl or other earthen dish for the purpose. Do not wring very dry, roll tightly, and leave but a few moments, when they will be ready for the irons.

Bosoms and cuffs will be stiffer if the starch be whipped into them by taking between the two hands and with a quick, snapping movement beating the folds of linen together. This method tends to dry away a portion of the moisture, and a second dipping into the starch-water, attended by a second beating, proves advantageous.

With a soft, white cloth, wrung from very warm water, rub briskly and thoroughly the entire surface to be ironed and polished. This removes all starch that may be upon the outside of the linen, and though this starch seldom or never sticks to the irons, the polishing will be the smoother and glossier for this additional care.

When perfectly dried, if dampened over with a cloth wrung from warm water, and again polished over with a not too hot iron, one will be repaid for the extra exertion and time.

White skirts wrung from this starch-water, and ironed in fifteen minutes while still wet, will do up beautifully. A rustle and polish is obtained that under the old methods of laundering is never seen. The full, wide skirts of present times require full skirts underneath them. And for summer wear nothing could be prettier for light-colored dresses to fall over than the well-laundered skirts of white. Out of favor they never can be to any great extent, or at all, for any great length of time. Thus laundered, they retain their

freshness much longer than when dipped into hot starch, dried and then dampened and ironed. And it is but little more trouble to launder well from this manner of cold starching than when the former method is employed. *ELLA HOUGHTON.*

HOW FARMERS' DAUGHTERS MAY EARN PIN-MONEY.

We read a great deal about how girls in a city can be self-supporting or earn their pin-money, but we seldom see any advice or suggestions as to how a farmer's daughter can better her condition without having to leave her home.

In this article I wish to show girls how they can make their pin-money, and perhaps enough to dress themselves without assistance from their father or mother. I do not expect them to be entirely independent of father or mother, but with only such assistance as every parent is willing to give to a daughter.

The first requisite in any undertaking is to understand well the business you are going into, and to get all the information possible from the papers, and there is no reason why you should not succeed.

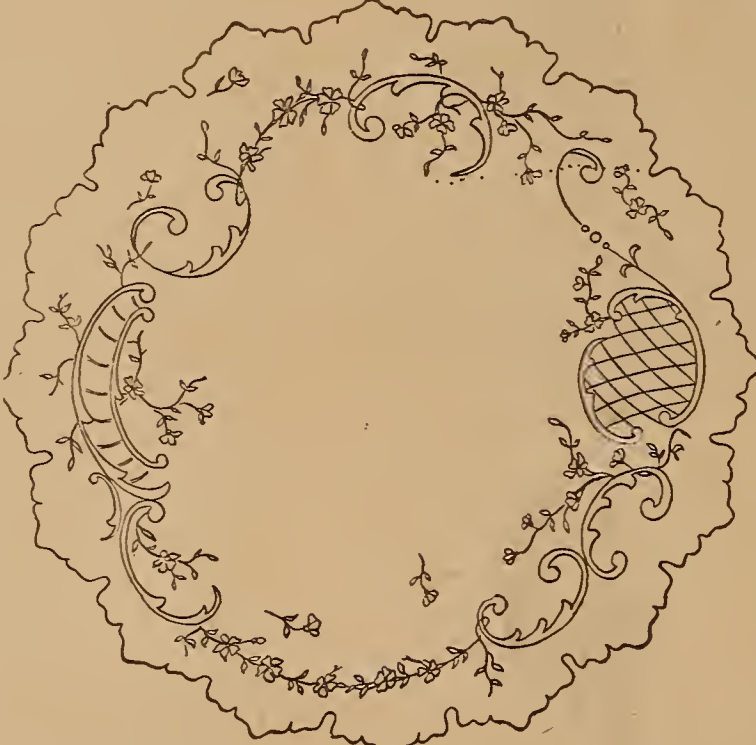
There are but few farmers who cannot spare a few rods of ground or some three-cornered lot inclosed by a good fence, somewhere near the house.

First, get it well broken up, then get a dozen or more plants of the red currant, set them out, and attend to them well the first year. If you have no bushes on the place, you can easily get them from some neighbor for the asking.

The second year you will have some berries to begin with. As they are easily propagated, you can soon have as many as you wish. The currant has but few

enemies, and the worst is the bug, which is easily killed by sprinkling hellebore on the leaves while wet, when needed. In all the large cities the demand for currants exceeds the supply. Begin with them in the green state when used for pies, which by many is considered equal to any fruit. Green currants are easily put up for winter use. My mother used to put them up in bottles. They are easily kept in glass jars, and some sweeten them ready for tarts or pies, while others do not sweeten or put any sugar in them when canning. The green currant is the only small fruit not sold in the groceries, and hence there should be no difficulty in disposing of all that are put up. Ripe currants are often sought for in vain in cities by housekeepers who wish to make jam of raspberries and red currants, the noted English preserves.

If you are too far from the city, you can make them into jelly, using only the ripe currants and best sugar, as epicures and fastidious housekeepers seem to prize it above every other jelly, and if yours is ever compared with the currant jelly usually sold in the groceries, which is made from dried apples, cores and peelings, and flavored to represent currant jelly, they will readily see the superiority of home-made currant jelly. Then, too, if you live near a village or town of any size, you can dispose of it to your friends. Most of the jellies that are sold are so insipid that you could not tell what they are made to represent, if you happen to misplace the label on the jar.



If you have a sister on the farm, let her start at the same time with raspberries. The two fruits go together, and if not convenient to market, you could join together in jam-making.

A good idea would be to buy a one-pound jar of the English make of jam, and experiment, and you will soon make jam equal to the imported; and a name once established either at home or abroad, your success is assured. *S. H. HENTON.*

VIOLET AND SCROLL CENTERPIECE.

This centerpiece worked in violets and scrolls, with a rococo edge, is a very graceful design. The scrolls can be worked in various ways—in outline, couching, or by introducing lace into them. The violets are worked in the violet shades, and the leaves in green. The edge looks best in long-and-short stitch in the heavy floss.

We offer this piece (Premium No. 596), stamped on elegant linen eighteen inches square, mailed to any address, for thirty cents; or with FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, fifty cents. Price of piece alone, with silk to work it, sixty cents; or with FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, seventy-five cents. When this offer is accepted, the name cannot count in a club.

TUTTI-FRUTTI.

A delicious preserve, which seems to have escaped the notice of many housewives, is tutti-frutti. It is very simple as to ingredients and preparation, requiring no cooking, and yet is rich and tempting enough to necessitate being kept under lock and key.

Into a large stone crock or jar, which will hold from two to three gallons, pour a pint of good brandy. To this add, from time to time, as the fruit seasons come and go, a pound each of the different kinds of fruit and a pound of sugar to every pound of fruit. For instance, into the crock containing the brandy put one pound of sugar and one pound of pineapple cut into small squares or cubes (about one half inch). Stir well, and keep covered.

The strawberries should be medium in size; blackberries and cherries the same. The currants, raspberries, huckleberries and gooseberries (in fact, all the fruit) should be fresh and solid. The peaches should be cut up into half-inch blocks like the pineapples; also the pears, oranges, bananas and lemons. (Apples are not included).

It is understood, of course, that the fruit, where customary, must first be pared or peeled.

To the pound of lemons it is better, owing to the acidity of the fruit, to add two pounds of sugar instead of one.

Like all preserves, this must be kept covered up and in a cool place, and stirred well as each fruit is added.

It is not required that every one of the different kinds of fruit be used; nor must one necessarily wait until all have been added before serving. On the contrary, tutti-frutti is a very accommodating preserve, and can be used for the table from time to time, and fresh fruit and sugar added to make up the deficiency. When, however, the thirteen different kinds of fruit (or the equivalent in weight, by the duplication perhaps of certain fruits) and the thirteen pounds of sugar have been added to the pint of brandy, another pint will be necessary before starting the second or third or fourth (as the case may be) batch of fruit and sugar, the brandy being used as a preservative.

The above is so simple a recipe that even the novice may feel perfectly safe in trying it, and equally sure of turning out a delicious and healthful preserve.

EMMA LOUISE HAUCK.

MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA.

Comprehensive and truth-telling Illustrated pamphlets describing the agricultural and industrial resources of Missouri and Nebraska, giving experiences of farmers in these states will be sent free by the undersigned. *L. W. Wakeley, G. P. A., Burlington Route, St. Louis, Mo.*

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 CUT THIS OUT and send us with your name and address and we will send you this beautiful gold finished watch, by express for examination. You examine it at the express office, and if you think it a bargain, pay our sample price \$2.75, and express charges and it is yours. It is magnificently engraved and equal in appearance to genuine Solid Gold watch. A guarantee and beautiful gold plate chain and charm sent free with every watch. Write today, this may not appear again; mention whether you want gents' or ladies' size. **THE NATIONAL MFG. & IMPORTING CO.**
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Full descriptions and directions—as the number of yards of material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by. These patterns are complete in every particular, there being a separate pattern for every single piece of the dress. Your order will be filled the same day it is received.

For SKIRT pattern, give WAIST measure in inches. For misses, boys, girls or children, give both BREAST measure in inches and age in years. Order patterns by their numbers.

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Our Sunday Afternoon.

WHEN I HAVE TIME.

When I have time, so many things I'll do To make life happier and more fair For those whose lives are crowded now with care.

When I have time, the friend I love so well Shall know no more these weary toiling days; I'll lead her feet in pleasant paths always, And cheer her heart with words of sweetest praise.

When you have time! The friend you hold so dear May be beyond the reach of your sweet intent; May never know that you so kindly meant To fill her life with sweet content,

Now is the time! Ah, friend! no longer wait To scatter loving smiles and words of cheer To those around whose lives are now so dear; They may not meet you in the coming year— Now is the time.

-Indianapolis News.

"BE YOU A LADY?"

LITTLE acts of courtesy put the sunshine into life. Who has not felt the day brighten from a kindly act done them, or even from a cheerful 'good-morning?' The following pretty anecdote speaks for itself: As a young lady walked hurriedly down State street on a bleak November day, her attention was attracted to a deformed boy coming toward her, carrying several bundles.

One or two richly dressed ladies drew their skirts aside as they passed; one of them exclaimed, "How awkward!" A lad stood grinning at the mishap, and a school-girl, amused by the boy's look of blank dismay, gave vent to her feelings in a half-suppressed laugh.

All this increased the boy's embarrassment. He stooped to pick up the sausages, only to let fall another parcel, when in despair he stood and looked at his spoils. In an instant the bright-faced stranger stepped to the boy's side, and in a tone of thorough kindness said: "Let me hold those other bundles while you pick up what you have lost."

In dumb astonishment the cripple handed all he had to the young Samaritan, and devoted himself to securing his cherished sausages. When these were again strongly tied in the coarse, torn paper, her skilful hands replaced the parcels on his scrawny arms, as she bestowed on him a smile of encouragement, and said, "I hope you haven't far to go."

The poor fellow seemed scarcely to hear the girl's pleasant words, but looking at her with the same vacant stare, he said, "Be you a lady?"

"I hope so; I try to be," was the surprised response.

"I was kind of hoping you wasn't," "Why?" asked the listener, her curiosity quite aroused.

"Cause I've seen such as called themselves ladies; but never spoke kind and pleasant to boys like me, cepting to grand unns. I guess there's two kinds—they as thinks they's ladies and isn't, and them as what tries to be and is."—The Presbyterian.

THE SIN OF FRETTING.

There is one sin which, it seems to me, is everywhere and by everybody underestimated, and quite too much overlooked in valuation of character. It is the sin of fretting. It is common as air, as speech, so common that unless it rises above its usual monotone, we do not even observe it.

bad faith somewhere has resulted in discomfort. There are plenty of things to fret about. It is simply astonishing how much annoyance may be found in the course of every day's living, even of the simplest, if one keeps a sharp eye out on that side of things.

LIVING IN A HURRY.

Nowadays a large number of people suffer from unnecessary excitement. A physician, who is a specialist in nervous difficulties, declares that a young woman under his charge was literally killing herself by too rapid movements.

"She is not satisfied," he said, "with going about and doing things in a quiet, ordinary way, but actually rushes through with her work, and continually overtaxes herself. She cannot be convinced that a little more deliberation might accomplish just as much, and save her strength.

The doctor's prescription was: A good deal more deliberation; a large amount of rest and occupation.

The world is full of people who are rushing themselves to ruin of health as fast as they can go. They not only rush, but worry, and between these two subject their nervous systems to more wear and tear than anything short of wrought steel could endure.

DON'T MARRY A DRUNKARD.

A young lady in Iowa, against the earnest wishes of her parents and the advice of her friends, married a man addicted to the use of liquor. He had promised her he would reform, that after they were married he would not touch a drop of liquor, and she believed him.

IT IS FREE TO ALL.

THE METHOD OF A GREAT TREATMENT FOR MANKIND WHICH CURED AFTER EVERYTHING ELSE FAILED.

When a man is slowly wasting away with nervous debility, rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, lame back, kidney complaint, stomach, or liver ills, or any form of weakness, the mental forebodings are ten times worse than the most severe pain.

I am not a philanthropist, nor do I pose as an enthusiast, but there are thousands of men suffering the mental tortures of diseases who would be cured at once could they but get such a remedy as the one that cured me.

The above books are published in neat pamphlet form, many of them handily illustrated, and they are printed from clear, bold, readable type on good paper.

A LITTLE PAINT THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS are made for every purpose. A paint for houses, another for floors, another for barns, still another for furniture and decorative work.

TYPEWRITER HEADQUARTERS, 102 Fulton St., New York, sell all makes under half price. Don't buy before writing them for unprejudiced advice and prices.

FREE TO BALD HEADS. We will mail on application, free information how to grow hair upon a bald head, stop falling hair and remove scalp diseases.

SENT FREE Unitarian publications sent free. Address: P. O. M., Unitarian Church, Jamaica Plains, Mass.

WALL-PAPER Samples mailed free. Prices from 24c. to \$3 1/2 a roll, 8 yds. KAYSER & ALLMAN, 832-34 Market St., 418 Arch St., PHILADELPHIA.

SCHOOL OF WATCH REPAIRING We teach watch repairing and make absolutely no charge for instructions, tuition, bench room, etc.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color.

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AMERICAN GOLD FILLED CASES Warranted 20 Years, are the best for service money can buy. Return this advt. with order and we will send you by express prepaid, this beautiful Filled, hunting case, full jeweled, \$14.00.

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Sore Eyes Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Afflicted with SORE EYES USE DR. ISAAC THOMPSON'S EYE WATER.

40 VALUABLE BOOKS FREE! Examine the List—The Books are all New, Not the Same as those Offered Last Year! Read this Gigantic Offer by an Old-Established and Reliable Publishing House!

Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Rations for Dairy-cattle.—O. N. A., Olean, N. Y. Additional notes on this important subject will appear from time to time.

Fish Culture.—J. W. N., Bristol, Ind. For the information desired about fish write to the United States Fish Commission, Washington, D. C.

Transplanting-machine.—F. J. D., Winoski, Vt., asks for information about the Bennett transplanting-machine. This is a rather complicated implement, in so far as it sets the plants and waters and fertilizes them all in one operation. Those who grow cabbages, etc., on a large scale, and have used the machine, speak well of it. More about it hereafter. Cost of machine, seventy-five dollars.

Japanese Husk Tomato.—L. B., Riverland, Texas, writes: "You spoke of the Japanese Husk tomato. Have you seed of them, or can you tell me where to get it?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—Seed can be had from Wm. Henry Maule, Philadelphia, who introduced the Japanese Husk tomato last year under the name of Physalis Francheti. I shall give my experience with it in my regular notes soon.

Grasses for Poultry.—W. S., Tomales, Cal., writes: "Please tell me which is the best grass or clover that I could sow for my poultry. I have about two acres that I wish to sow for a poultry-run, and also to keep the land from washing out during our hard winter rains."

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—If the soil is rather light and well drained, I should think alfalfa would be just the thing for a poultry-run. It is a perennial and of quick growth. Here we want red clover for a summer pasture, turnips or rape for fall and rye for winter.

Killing Trees.—W. B., Jefferson, Kan., writes: "I would like to ask how to kill spruce trees and stumps? I have tried girdling the trees in both summer and winter, and failed. I have sprouted stumps for four summers, and they are still alive."

REPLY:—Probably failure was due to not cutting off the young sprouts as fast as they appeared. Dig away some of the earth around the base of the stump or girdled tree, cut off the exposed roots, and apply salt liberally. Or if you desire to clear the land immediately, use a good stump-puller. Stump-pullers are now made of sufficient power to remove green stumps.

Earthworms.—A. M., Oswego, Kansas, writes: "Tell me what to do for a garden that is filled with angleworms. They are so thick and work the ground so nothing will grow. The soil is black upland prairie and rather wet."

REPLY:—Land rather wet is not good for a garden, and a very good place for the earthworms. Remove the surplus water from the subsoil by tile-drainage, and you will have a better garden and will likely not be troubled any more with the worms. If convenient, let some pigs, without rings in their noses, run in the garden for awhile after it is plowed. Heavy applications of fresh air-slaked lime are also recommended.

Paint for Roofs.—W. S. R., Akron, Ohio, writes: "Is there a really good, cheap paint for old roofs or the preservation of new ones—one that is worth putting on?"

REPLY:—Your question was referred to a practical painter of large experience, and here is his answer: Use Prince's metallic paint. Seven pounds of this paint mixed with one gallon of raw or boiled linseed-oil will cover five hundred square feet of iron, tin or planed wood. For shingles or rough wood use about three pounds of dry paint to each gallon of oil. The paint should be thoroughly mixed, and let stand for at least twenty-four hours before being used. It is a fire-proof paint, and adheres closely to wood and metal. It is retailed at four cents a pound. If you cannot obtain it at a drug or paint store in your city, write to Prince Manufacturing Company, 71 Maiden Lane, New York.

Sorghum.—G. W. P., Toulminville, Ala., writes: "Please tell me something about planting and cultivating sorghum. I expect to try it in a small way for feeding."

REPLY:—Select land as free as possible from weeds. Prepare the ground well with plow, harrow and roller, leaving the surface fine and level. Plant at the time you plant corn. There are two ways of planting sorghum for forage. One is to put the seed in with a grain-drill at the rate of a bushel to the acre, and let the crop grow until the seed is in the dough, when it is cut with mower or self-hinder. If cut with a mower, let it lie a day or so as it falls, then rake up, and put into large shocks. If cut with a self-hinder, set it up in small shocks to cure. When cured, it can be stacked up like grain. The other way of planting is to plant it with a corn-planter, either in drills or check-rows, and cultivate it the same as corn. Experiments will determine which is the better way for your locality. Sorghum is largely grown for forage in Kansas and other western states.

Pasture Wanted.—H. H. H., Carthage, Mo., writes: "I desire to turn an old field long used for wheat and oats into pasture. Part of the land is high, dry and gravelly, and clover does not catch on it, nor timothy, to do any good. What is best to sow on it this spring to make pasture this summer, and continue for a few years? I hope some of your experts may give me advice. I don't want to experiment. I want to be sure."

REPLY:—You have asked for something very difficult to get under the conditions named. We know of no grasses that you can sow on worn-out land this spring which will make good permanent pasture by next summer. The best pasture-grasses require more time than that, even on land of high fertility and condition. If, however, you will give your land a top-dressing of good stable manure now, even a light application, and sow common red clover early, the clover will catch and make pasture by midsummer. But as the clover will disappear in a year or two, it will be necessary to sow with it the grasses best adapted to permanent pasture for your

soil and climate. These will succeed the clover and make good pasture. If you apply to the land what it evidently needs—fertilizer—manure or good chemical fertilizers. It would be better to improve this land by growing cow-peas and applying manure before attempting to put it into permanent pasture. Your experiment station, Columbia, Mo., on application, will give you information about the best grasses for your locality.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Lousy Horses.—P. H., Clearwater, Neb., and H. C. F., Bread Ford, Pa. Please consult answer given to W. P., Bluffton, Minn.

Keeping of Stallions—Swine-plague.—J. H. S., Essex, Mo. Space and time will not allow to write a treatise on the keeping of stallions.—The disease among your pigs is swine-plague, or so-called hog-cholera.

Lousy Calves.—S. A. L., Jarvisville, W. Va. Use Persian insect-powder, keep the premises clean and feed well, and thus keep the lice in check until the weather gets mild enough to make it safe to give the calves a good and thorough wash with a five-per-cent solution of creolin in water.

So-called Scratches.—W. A., Athens, Ohio. Make twice a day to all the cracks and sores, the smallest ones as well as the largest ones, a liberal application of a mixture of liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts; keep the feet of your horse dry, and keep the latter out of water, mud, snow and slush, and a healing will result in a short time.

Probably a Fistula in the Spermatic Chord.—D. J. M., Potters Dale, Pa. If you have your horse examined by a veterinarian he will probably find a fistulous opening in the spermatic chord, which, if properly treated by a competent veterinary surgeon, is easily brought to healing, and then the swelling will soon entirely, or almost entirely, disappear.

Does Not Thrive.—J. K. H., Mount Hope, Wis. You give no symptoms whatever beyond the statement that your horse does not thrive, and that you have observed no worms. If you stop to think you will readily see that any attempt to base a diagnosis upon these statements would be wild and unpardonable guessing. Have your mare examined by a veterinarian, and the cause of the unthriftiness, very likely, will be found.

Periodical Ophthalmia.—M., Riceville, Tenn. There is no cure for periodical ophthalmia, or so-called "moon-blindness," with which the moon, however, has nothing to do. The only thing that can be done is to prevent adhesion between the crystalline lens and the iris by now and then applying to the diseased eyes, by means of a "dropper," a few drops of an atropine solution in distilled water, one to two hundred.

A Sick Cow.—S. E. D., Edsallville, Pa. I cannot make out from your description what may be the ailment of your cow. If you have communicated all the essential symptoms, and have not magnified the essential ones, I must say I have never seen such a case, nor heard or read of one like it. You say you think she will soon be dead; if such is the case, a post-mortem examination will reveal the true state of affairs.

A Barren Mare.—M. R., Elvira, Iowa. It is very seldom that a mare like yours can be made to breed. If there is no organic impediment, you may once more have her served, but not until the middle of May, after she has been in pasture a week or two, and then only by a horse that is known as a good getter. Not knowing what may in this special case be the cause of barrenness, I cannot give you any other specific advice.

Probably a Case of Garget.—E. P. G., Brockport, N. Y. What you describe appears to be nothing more nor less than a mild case of garget, caused by imperfect milking, which becomes the more probable if it is taken into consideration that your cow is a "hard milker," and that "she showed decided objection to milking by kicking." If such is the case, the remedy consists in frequent and most thorough milking, and in that way removing the "knotty lumps" of coagulated casein. This treatment, of course, requires a good and determined milker.

A Sick Cow.—M. S., Bonny Eagle. Your cow undoubtedly is sick, but the bare statement that she was very lame does not give any information about the cause and the seat of the lameness; and the statement that she aborted, and that she is now paralyzed in the hind quarters, does not throw light upon the nature of her disease. There are too many possibilities, and any one who attempts to base a diagnosis upon the meager statements you saw fit to make is an unscrupulous guesser. That she did not clean does not signify anything, because that happens quite often after abortion, even in otherwise healthy cows.

So-called Black-leg.—M. B., Allison, Iowa. So-called black-leg, also called symptomatic anthrax, is an infectious and exceedingly fatal disease of young cattle. It is caused by a bacterium, which is known as the bacillus of symptomatic anthrax, which, it seems, enters the organism through small sores and lesions on the surface of the body. A treatment, no matter what it may be, is extremely seldom of any avail. The disease can be prevented, first, by keeping young cattle away from such places at which the same become infected; or, in other words, at which the bacilli, which are "facultative parasites," and therefore can live and exist just as well without as within the animal organism, are existing and have caused infections before; and second, by injecting a pure culture of these bacilli into a vein of the animal to be protected; but in doing so the utmost care must be exercised not to get the least of it into the connective tissue, because if this happens, the disease will be produced instead of being prevented.

A Morbid Growth.—J. B., Ellis, Kan. The morbid growth, or tumor, in the vagina of your cow should have been removed long before this by a surgical operation. If the same has not interfered with parturition, and your cow is yet alive and well, have it removed by a competent surgeon before you breed her again.

Sheep Dying.—N. M., Arkansas, Wis. Have a careful post-mortem examination made of the next sheep that dies, and look out for enterocolitis in the frontal and maxillary sinuses (cavities), the brain, the ramifications of the bronchi in the lungs, the liver, the stomach and the intestines, and you will find the cause of death.

A Fistula.—J. C., Cumberlang Hill, R. I. You say your horse has a fistula on the right shoulder, but give no description whatever. As there are hardly two fistulae alike, and as age, extent, seat, complications, degree and extent of destruction produced, previous treatment, etc., make a decided difference in regard to treatment, it is utterly impossible to prescribe for your case. Besides this, a fistula can but seldom be brought to healing without one or more surgical operations. Therefore, I have to advise you to have your horse treated by a veterinarian, which will not be difficult in Rhode Island.

Foot-rot in Cattle.—L. M. B., Franklin, Ohio. In the first place, provide a dry and clean place for your cattle, and keep them out of filth and manure. If this is neglected, you may do what you please and no cure will be effected, because mud, filth and manure constitute the cause. After you have provided a dry and clean place for your cattle, trim away all the loose horn on the sore feet, and this done, dress the sores with absorbent cotton saturated with a mixture of liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts. Apply this dressing twice a day, and do not neglect to keep the floor of the stalls where your cattle are kept scrupulously dry and clean, and either clean and drain your barn-yard or keep the cattle out of it.

Probably Lousy.—W. P., Bluffton, Minn. Your mares, it seems, are lousy. Until the weather permits giving them a good wash, I would advise you to dust some Persian insect-powder into their coat of hair, say once a week, but every time you have done this you must clean their stalls in a thorough manner, otherwise the lice that have been rubbed off will again find their way to their former hosts. If you would feed more grain the coat of hair would not be so long, and the lice, to say the least, would have less comfortable quarters. As soon as the weather will permit, you may give your mares a good wash, first with soap and warm water and then with a five-per-cent solution of creolin in water. After having washed them, cover them with a blanket.

Probably Been Foundered.—J. H., Isaquah, Wash. Your horse, probably, has been foundered, and now has pained hoofs. Have the same examined by a good horse-shoer, if no veterinarian is available; and if he finds the soles of the hoofs convex instead of concave, and the frogs strong and well developed, have the horse shod with bar-shoes, which, at the same time, have a broad web which is very convex on the upper surface inside of the nail-hole, so as to cause no pressure upon the very tender sole, and come in contact only with the wall and with the frog. But even with such a shoe, which will considerably ease the animal, such a horse should never be used on hard and stony roads or on the paved streets of a city, but only for farm-work on a farm.

Blood-spavin.—W. A. B., Souris, P. E. I. Blood-spavin is a term applied to an abnormal enlargement of the large vein (vena saphena magna) which passes upward over the median part of the anterior surface of the hock-joint. The elevation thus produced, as a rule, can only be removed by causing an obliteration of this large vein. Whether this is desirable or not will depend much upon circumstances. Another term, bog-spavin, is used to signify an abnormal expansion of the capsular ligament of the hock-joint caused by an abnormal or morbid production of synovia. Blood-spavin and bog-spavin are seldom attended with any lameness. Bone-spavin is caused by a specific morbid process which has its seat in the articular cartilage, in the periosteum and in the bone itself; is often attended with more or less severe lameness, and is the disease to which applies the treatment described in the December number of this paper.

Probably Chronic Indigestion.—A. M. B., Frankfort, Tenn. It is very well possible that the chronic indigestion of your horse is caused by intestinal worms, but the only sure indication of their presence is the passing off of some with the excrement of the animal. The best and surest remedy against ascarides (very large worms) is one or two good doses of tartar emetic, and the best way to give it to a full-grown horse is either in the water for drinking or in the shape of pills. If the latter is preferred, to half an ounce of tartar emetic, the largest dose for a large horse, must be added half an ounce of powdered marshmallow-root, half an ounce of powdered licorice-root and just enough rain or distilled water to make a stiff dough—stiff enough to be formed into two cartridge-shaped pills. The latter must be given in the morning on an empty stomach, and the horse must not be fed until noon. Still, the treatment will have but little effect unless the horse in the future receives nothing but sound, clean and nutritious food to eat, and nothing but clean water, not contaminated with worm-brood, to drink.

Black Langshans score 92 to 95 1/2. W. Holland Toms. Elmer C. Wood, Mt. Gilead, Ohio

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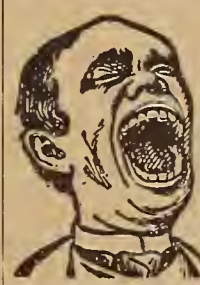
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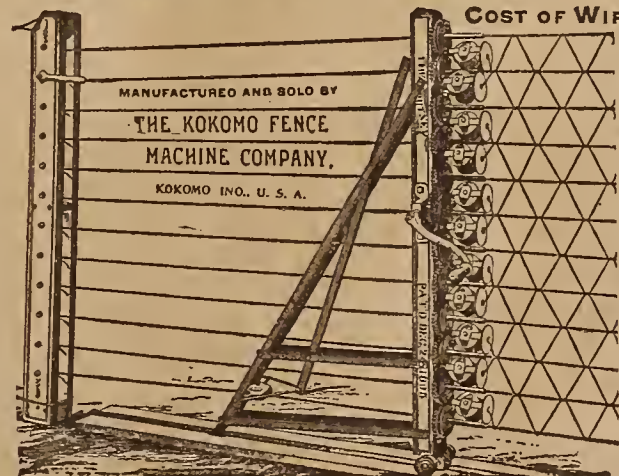
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Our Miscellany.

In the new process invented by M. Char-donnet for producing "silk" from wood...

The attention of our readers is called to the advertisement of the Linene Collars and Cuffs...

RAPTURE OF A BOY'S FIRST CIRCUS.

A thud of unseen hoofs first set us a-quiver; then a crash of cymbals, a jingle of bells...

The mighty whip of the count in the frock-coat marked time with pistol-shots...

We gripped the red cloth in front of us, and our souls sped round and round with Coralie...

It was her more than mortal beauty—displayed, too, under conditions never vouchsafed to us before—that held us spellbound...

Here was a revelation! Henceforth our imaginations would have to be revised and corrected up to date...

WITH APOLOGIES TO BURNS.

Apropos of the end-of-the-century girl the inspired poet of the Washington "Star" thus smites his lyre after the manner of Bobbie Burns:

What though a lassie don the breech / Wi' bloomers hraw and a' that?

LANDS IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Are now as desirable as any in the market. The lands particularly in the central and northern part of Wisconsin...

The most salable are the timber and meadow lands now ranging in price from \$6.00 to \$12.00 per acre.

For a home or for investment no luckier chance in the West has ever before been offered.

Schools and churches abound everywhere. Near-by markets for all farm products.

For further information address or call upon W. E. POWELL, General Immigration Agent, 410 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill.

TWO DESTITUDES MEET.

He was about thirty years old and fine-looking. His clothing was of the latest cut, and his patent leathers glistened in the glare of the electric light...

A Wandering Willie passing down the street observed him, with the tip of his horn-handled cane at his lips, meditating in a melancholy manner...

"Will yer give er poor sucker a nickel ter git a bite ter eat, mister?"

"I can't do it, my friend." "Dat's wat dey all tells me ter-night," commented the hobo...

The man of meditation and melancholy removed his cane from his mouth, permitted a huge sigh to escape from him, and responded:

"It is tough, and I haven't eaten anything in forty-eight hours."

The earnestness in the voice caused the hobo to stare in amazement. He sized up the sixty-dollar top-coat, the silk hat, kid gloves, cane and patent leathers...

"Broke? Hev yer been er buckin' ther tiger?"

"Worse, oh, heaven! far worse," the young man replied, vainly striving to hide the emotion reflected in his face.

"An' ye're hungry," the hobo more softly and sympathetically inquired.

"I'm starving."

"Wat's de matter wid de hock joints?"

"They are closed."

"Can't yer hock the mister wid a bartender?"

"No, no; I dare not. Will you please go away and leave me to my misery?"

"An' ye're hungry, an' no fake?" the hobo persisted, adding, "Wat made yer broke?"

"If you must know," the young man wailed in accents of anguish, "if you must know, I took a young lady to a corymbanthemum exhibition before I paid my board bill—"

"An' now yer can't go home, an' ye're a dnd hobo," commented the tramp, slowly. "Well, by Jinks, ye've got my symp'thy. Take this quarter an' fill yer stommick."

The coin was eagerly clutched, and the young man fled into a restaurant, and the Wandering Willie, conscions of having done a good deed, walked on, muttering:

"Them flower-show women 'ud ruin a mine-owner."—Washington Post.

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

Except in a few cases where a nominal price is asked, all the catalogues mentioned in this column are sent free on application.

R. H. Shumway, Rockford, Ill. Illustrated garden guide for 1897.

L. M. Brandt & Son, Franklin, Ohio. Catalogue of healthy, vigorous small-fruit plants at reasonable prices.

Storrs & Harrison Company, Painesville, Ohio. Nursery, flower and seed catalogue. The S. & H. Co., established forty-two years, now has twenty-nine greenhouses and one thousand two hundred acres of land devoted to its business.

F. Barteldes & Co., Lawrence, Kan. Descriptive catalogue of home-grown and imported garden, field and flower seed.

T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va. Descriptive catalogue of Wood's high-grade seeds and guide for the farm and garden.

R. J. Stahelin, Bridgman, Mich. Calendar and catalogue of reliable berry-plants.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. The plain truth about seeds grown from selected stock at Fordhook Farm—a complete and handsome catalogue.

John Bauscher, Jr., Freeport, Ill. Catalogue of garden and flower seed, and illustrated poultry guide listing thirty leading varieties of pure-bred poultry.

S. L. Allen & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Planet Jr. book. In addition to the well-known Planet Jr. tools, such as seed-drills, wheel-hoes, cultivators, celery-hillers and potato-diggers, this handsome catalogue describes several new implements; as, combined two-horse cultivators, beet-growers' horse-hoe, two new hill and row seed-drills and a fertilizer and pea drill.

James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y. Vick's Floral Guide, 1897. Send fifteen cents for a packet of either Vick's Branching aster, New Japan morning-glory or choice pansy and a copy of this useful and handsome catalogue.

Gorman Kali Works, 93 Nassau street, New York. Potash in Agriculture. This booklet, sent free on application, describes results

obtained from potash salts upon various crops, and gives method of using them. The contents embody a collection of results obtained with fertilizers at the experiment stations...

Wm. Henry Maule, Philadelphia, Pa. Maule's catalogue for 1897, offering low-priced, selected seeds, under a four-leaf-clover guarantee, up-to-date collections of choice standards and novelties...

Harry N. Hammond, Decatur, Mich. Catalogue of choice seed-potatoes and farm seeds. Specialty—Early Michigan potato.

J. P. Vissering, Alton, Ill. Paper on artichokes, compiling experiences of many growers, treating of the different kinds, their culture and enormous yield, and giving their uses as food for stock, especially for hogs.

THAT'S DIFFERENT.

"Who's making all that racket out there? I want some chance to read and think."

"It's me as is slugin'," snapped theocrat of the kitchen; "and what of it?"

"Oh, I beg your pardon. I thought it was my wife."—Detroit Free Press.

HOW TO CHOOSE PAINT.

It is probable that people are cheated in the quality of paints they buy more often than in other things, because people in general know so little about them. It costs just as much time and labor to put on a paint that lasts six months as it does one that will last five years...

A new agent in Yamhill county, Oregon, sends a dozen subscriptions for FARM AND FIRESIDE and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, taken in combination with Peerless Atlas...

BARGAINS IN VIRGINIA Farm Lands. For descriptive list write Hartsook & Co., Roanoke, Va.

BOURQUARD'S Erasive Soap removes grease, paint and all spots from clothing, 10c. cake, 3 for 25c.

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The Farmers HANDY WAGON Company, SAGINAW, Mich. are makers of Low-Down Wide-Tire FARM TRUCKS. Also METAL WHEELS for Old Farm Wagons, and All-Steel Trucks. Circulars Free. Have you received our catalogue? Then send us your name at once; we wish you for an agent. Free wagon for 1722 A.

MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

\$500 IN GOLD GIVEN AWAY! We have had a number of word contests in the past and prizes have been awarded fairly. The owner of every winning list has received prizes, and all testify to the square dealing of Mr. Plummer. In entering this contest you are sure of getting the money to which your list entitles you. We first adopted these word contests this season. We have given away \$800, since we began these word contests, to 94 persons, and would like to publish the names and addresses of all the winners, but it would take too much space. We do publish, however, the names and addresses of the winners of first prizes in each of our preceding contests. Here they are: \$20.00—Dr. E. H. M. Sell, 137 W. 94th st., New York City; \$10.00—Miss M. Louisa Allen, Upper Village, Marion, Mass.; \$20.00—E. H. Burt, West Winfield, N. Y.; \$10.00—Mrs. O. H. Coolidge, 93 Maple st., Rutland, Vt.; \$20.00—Mrs. Emily Burt, West Winfield, N. Y. This is our largest and best contest. We give \$500 FREE 61 Prizes, aggregating \$500; a Genuine Bona-Fide Offer. We give nothing but cash for prizes. No trash. Here is our proposition. Who can form the greatest number of words from the letters in INSTRUCTION? You can make twenty or more words, we feel sure, and if you do you will receive a good reward. Do not use any letter more than it appears in the word. Use no language except English. Words spelled alike, but with different meanings, can be used but once. Use any dictionary. Plurals, pronouns, nouns, verbs, adverbs, prefixes, suffixes, adjectives proper nouns, allowed. Anything that is a legitimate word will be allowed. Work it out in this manner: INSTRUCTION: In, Tin, Ton, Sin, Son, Sir, Scion, Run, Us, etc. The publisher of WOMAN'S WORLD and JENNIS MILLER MONTHLY will pay \$100.00 in gold to the person able to make the largest list of words from the letters in the word INSTRUCTION; \$50.00 for each of the next three largest lists; \$25.00 for each of the next three; \$10.00 to each of the next nine, and \$2.00 to each of the next forty largest lists—sixty-one prizes in all to the sixty-one largest lists. Don't you think you could be one of these sixty-one? You will enjoy the making of the list. Why not try for the first prize? The above rewards are given free and without consideration for the purpose of attracting attention to our handsome woman's magazine, thirty-two to thirty-six pages, each page containing four long columns, finely illustrated, and all original matter, long and short stories by the best authors; price \$1.00 per year. It is necessary for you to enter the contest, to send 25 cents (money-order, silver or stamps), for a three months' trial subscription with your list of words, and every person sending the 25 cents and a list of twenty words or more is guaranteed an extra present by return mail (in addition to the magazine), of a 100-page book, "BESIDE THE BONNIE BRIER BUSH" by the famous Ian Maclaren. This book has attracted more attention in the United States than any book of recent years. We give a complete unabridged edition, handy size, finely printed. Satisfaction guaranteed in every case or money refunded. Lists should be sent at once, and not later than April 20. The names and addresses of successful contestants will be printed in May issue, published April 25. Our publication has been established ten years. We refer you to any mercantile agency for our standing. Make your list now. Address JAMES H. PLUMMER, Publisher, 225-226-227 Temple Court Building, New York City.

Smiles.

ROSENFELD'S DOG.

I SAW Mr. Rosenfeld out walking with his dog this morning. He had on a splendid brass collar and a sky-blue blanket.

"What an extraordinary costume for Rosenfeld to appear in on the street!"

"No, no! Not Mr. Rosenfeld, the dog. I think he must have some Irish blood—"

"Rosefeld have Irish blood? Why, my dear, he is—"

"Oh, nonsense! I'm talking about the dog. I know Mr. Rosenfeld isn't Irish, of course. Well, he was walking demurely along, when Miss Barton's gray cat crossed the street, and he nearly choked himself to death trying to get at her, and set up a tremendous howl because he was held back."

"What did Rosenfeld want with the cat, anyway?"

"I didn't say he did—"

"Oh, he wanted to get hold of Miss Barton!"

"No, no, no! The dog wanted to get hold of the cat."

"But you said he."

"Well, why shouldn't I say he?"

"Because the name of Rosefeld's new dog is Lizzie."

WAITING FOR THE LAST THROW.

The young Sunday-school teacher leaned forward, and looked into the eyes of her class of youngsters with a troubled look in her face.

"So many of you," she said, "are absent to-day. Where is Johnny Goodboy?"

"He was arrested for train robbery, ma'am," answered a tiny voice. "He was eight years old, and the boys gaped him cose he had'n't had his name in the papers yet."

"And Jimmy?" asked the fair young teacher. "Surely he must be ill?"

"He's feelin' pretty bad, ma'am," said Tiny Tim. "He got sentenced to Elmira for that last burglary, and the judge wouldn't send him to Sing Sing cose he was only six. He cried himself sick over it."

"How about that dear little curly-haired Freddie Angelechild?" asked the teacher, hopefully. "Certainly he will not yield to sin and evil. He is nine years old now."

"Oh," said Tiny Tim, "he's in training for Congress. He's not going to be bad until he gets a good chanst."—New York Herald.

SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

I took my boy off for a sail on a Sound steamer a short time ago. Here is what he asked me in the course of the day:

"Do they call this a Sound steamer because it makes a noise?"

"Is that water down there any wetter than the water on the Atlantic ocean?"

"What makes the water wet, anyhow?"

"How many men could be drowned in water as deep as that?"

"If a mama fish couldn't get any worms in the water for the little fish, would she go ashore and dig for them?"

"Suppose a whale came along and sat on an oyster for three days so that he couldn't open his shell, would it suffocate the oyster?"

"Doesn't the dampness ever give clams malaria?"

"Does it hurt to get drowned?"

"Is that big man with the gold buttons on his coat the papa of all those men who do whatever he tells them?"—Life.

A VERY REMARKABLE IDEA.

She was angry, not to say disgusted. "That's the third time this month," she said, "that I have read a story about a woman going through her husband's pockets for change."

"Well, my dear," he returned, apologetically, "you mustn't blame me. I didn't write them."

"Of course you didn't," she exclaimed. "You know better. It's preposterous, outrageous, that such liels should be allowed to circulate in the guise of humor. It would be just as truthful to talk about a man going through his wife's pockets. Why don't they ever do that?"

He shook his head.

"I can't say positively," he said, "but it is just possible that some humorist once tried to find one, and knows how it is. One may joke about the improbable, you know, when he feels that he ought to draw the line at the impossible."—Chicago Post.

PROVEN.

Jones—"Great gans! You're getting deaf, old man."

Smith—"I'm not. I could never hear better in my life."

Jones (producing a watch)—"Can you hear that watch tick?"

Smith (triumphantly)—"Distinctly."

Jones—"That's queer. The watch isn't running."—Judge.

AN OBSTACLE.

"No," be said, with the air of a man who feels it his disagreeable duty to deny a request, "it won't do to allow women to vote."

"Why not?" his wife inquired. "They are quite as competent to understand political questions as men are."

"I don't deny that. But there are other more practical considerations. Whenever there is an election there are bound to be bets made. Now, when a man bets a hat it never costs more than six or eight dollars if he loses. But if women got their sympathies aroused there wouldn't be anything for them to do except to precipitate a panic by wagering bonnets that in the nature of things can't cost less than twenty dollars apiece."—Washington Star.

A NEW SCHOOL.

Up in the North Carolina mountains an old man has a cabin which is a resort for hunters. He has a grandchild of whom he is very proud. She is a pretty, golden-haired girl, and a pet of the hunters, who warm the cockles of the old man's heart by singing her praises. On a recent trip one of the hunters, after a little skirmish with the child, went out to the old man, who was doing some work about the cabin, and said: "I say, grandpop, Nellie is smarter than ever."

"Yes," responded the old man, proudly; "when she was in the city a-visitin' of her aunt she went to one of those McKinley-garten schools, and leared a heap."—Washington Star.

A PARTING FLING.

"Go 'way from here!" shouted a woman at the kitchen window.

Meandering Mike was half way over the fence, but had paused to parley with the dog that snapped his jaws and growled and jumped at him from the other side.

"Did you say 'Go 'way from here?'" he inquired.

"Yes. And I mean just that."

"Madame, the invitation is wholly superfluous. I was goin', anyhow. I kin size up a situation ez quick ez anybody, an' I ain't gointer t'row meself on de hospitalities of no fam'ly dat don't feed deir dog no better'n you do."—Washington Star.

SUITABLE WARNING.

"When she promised to marry me," said the rhapsodic young man, "her voice sounded just like an angel's."

"H'm," his married friend responded, "I suppose it did. But it won't always sound that way."

"I can't believe it."

"Well, you just wait until some morning when her voice informs you that it's a quarter past eight, when your inner conscience will tell you that it can't be a minute more than five o'clock. Then you'll remember what I've been saying to you."—Washington Star.

THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.

Mr. Gaswell—"Mr. Hilltop's death was awful sudden, wasn't it?"

Mr. Dukane—"It was, indeed. Do you know what caused it?"

Mr. Gaswell—"Well, when he left home on Mount Washington the sun was shining brightly, but as he descended he got into the fog. On the Smithfield bridge he met a man he knew, and inadvertently opened his mouth to say 'Good-morning.' While speaking he bit off a chunk of fog, and it choked him before assistance could be called."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

LATEST X-RAY.

Have you heard the latest X-ray story? A doctor was examining a patient.

"Bless my soul, but I can see clear through you!" said he.

"Indeed!" remarked the patient.

"Your blood circulates beautifully."

"So glad to hear it."

"Why, you have iron in your blood!"

"You don't say so?"

"Don't you eat pork sometimes?"

"I do, often."

"Thought so."

"Why?"

"Because it's pig-iron!"

HE OBSERVED TOO MUCH.

Papa—"Don't you think he is very large for his age?—only fourteen months."

Friend—"Ye-es. Do you know, I've observed that most babies are very large for their age."

NO FLATTERY THERE.

Boston girl—"Uncle Gawge, do you think my photographs do me justice?"

Uncle Gawge (critically)—"Yes, Emeline; justice without merey."

STERLING.

Cholly—"I lost five ponnds coming oyal."

Dolly—"Mal de mer?"

Cholly—"Naw—pokah."

DIPLOMATIC INDEED.

He had begged her to be his, and she had treated the request in a manner that suggested frivolity.

"Why do you use rat-trap pedals?" he reproachfully asked her as she prepared to mount her bicycle.

"Why shouldn't I?" she exclaimed.

"I should think," he softly murmured, as he gazed at her dainty feet, "that mouse-traps would be amply large."

She was his from that moment.—Tit-Bits.

YOUNG GIRLS.

Their Conduct and Health Often Mystifies Their Mothers.

Young girls often feel and consequently act, very strangely. They shed tears without apparent cause, are restless, nervous, and at times almost hysterical.

They seem self-



absorbed, and heedless of things going on around them. Sometimes they complain of pain in lower parts of body, flushes of heat in head, cold feet, etc.

Young girls are not free from incipient womb troubles.

Mothers should see to it that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is promptly taken; all druggists have it. The girl will speedily be "herself again," and a probable danger be averted. Any information on this subject, or regarding all female ailments, will be cheerfully given free by Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. Write her.

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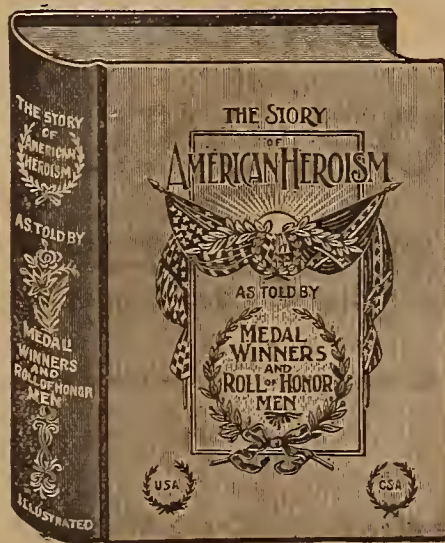
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The splendid history of Cuba which accompanies the map is an interesting descriptive, statistical and historical account of Cuba, from the date of its discovery up almost to the present hour. The causes of the wars between the native Cubans and Spanish are given special mention. The cities and people of Cuba, also the climate, surface, soil, mines, products and leading industries, receive attention. The text, by Lieut. E. Hannaford, is a concise yet complete, accurate and up-to-date account of all the principal historical events relative to Cuba, and throws a flood of light over the whole of the Spanish-Cuban question.

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MAP OF CUBA

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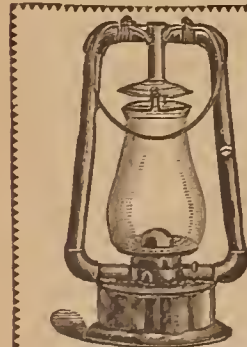
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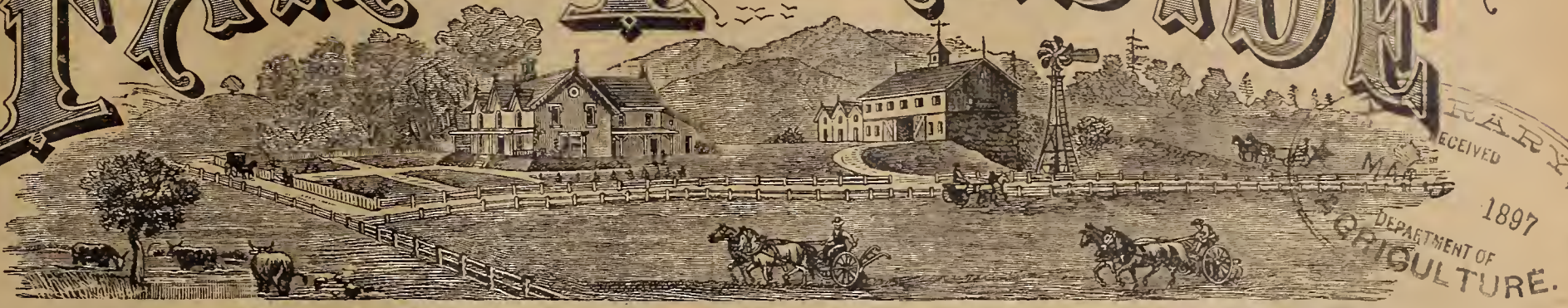
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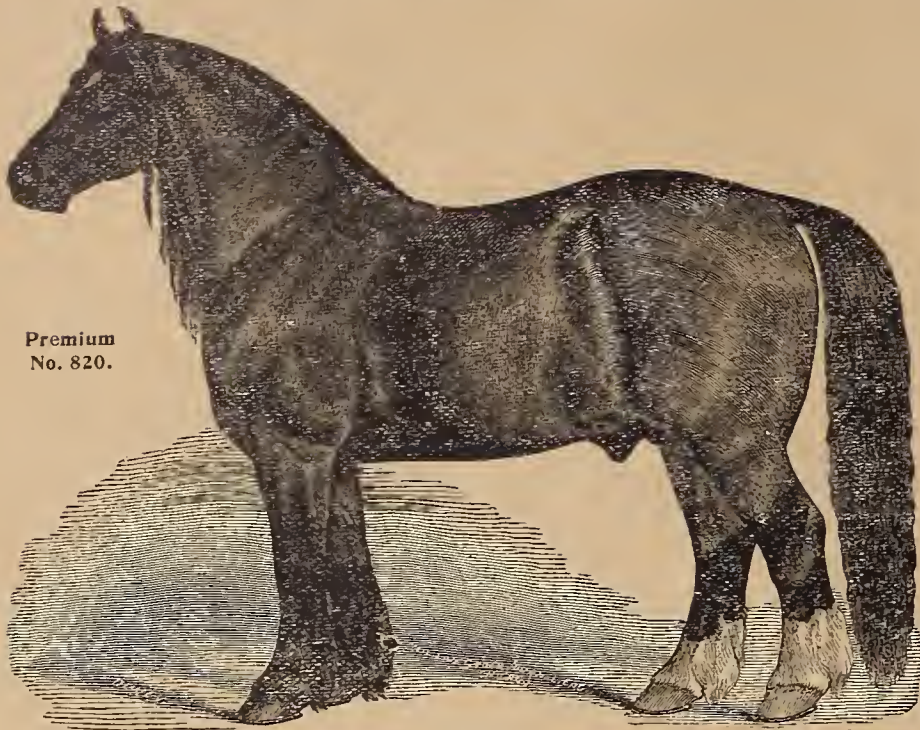
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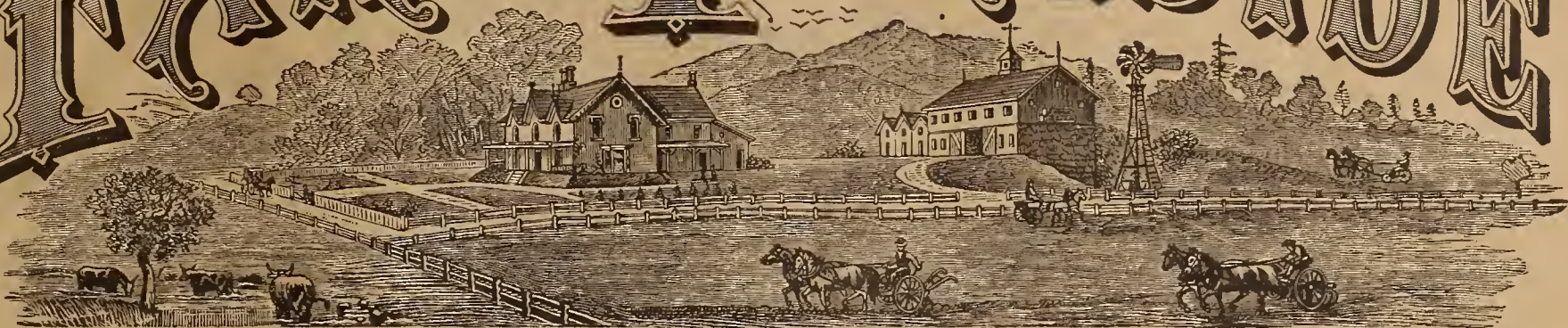
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FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

WITH THE VANGUARD

PRESIDENT MARTIN KELLOGG, of the University of California, was born in Vernon, Connecticut, March 15, 1828. His paternal and maternal families both were of the sturdy stock so predominant and so worthy an element in the New England communities. He received his early education in the local schools, and was fitted for college at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Massachusetts. He entered Yale College in 1846, the year of President Woolsey's inauguration, and graduated in 1850, the valedictorian of his class. His degrees of A.M. and LL.D. were received from his alma mater.

President Kellogg pursued theological studies at Union Seminary, New York, and at Andover, Massachusetts, taking his degree from the former. Having become

interested in the need of Christian work in the far West, he sailed, October, 1855, from New York for San Francisco, under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society. His first service was in Shasta, then a flourishing mining and trading center in northern California. His second engagement was at Grass Valley, also a mining town. In the autumn of 1859 he was elected a professor in the College of California, which had not yet opened its doors.

The College of California, which was in one sense a pioneer in the state, grew out of a preparatory school established in Oakland by Henry Durant, but it had no connection with the school, and its professors taught only college classes. It did good work and graduated a series of classes, which gained it honor. In connection with its commencement exercises it called together the alumni of all colleges, in an association of which Professor Kellogg was secretary. The meetings of this association were attended by California's most distinguished men. They helped to unify the college spirit, and prepare the way for a further advance in higher education.

That advance came as a sequel to the national gift to the states through the Morrill Act of 1862. The trustees of the college had acquired considerable property, in particular the very fine site now occupied by the university. Appreciating the great opportunity offered, the trustees made over their property and good-will to the new university, which was chartered March 23, 1869, and took organized form in the autumn of that year. The first two professors elected to chairs in the university were Prof. John Le Conte, afterward president, and Professor Kellogg. The next appointment was that of Prof. Joseph Le Conte. In 1870 Professor Kellogg was made dean of



MARTIN KELLOGG, LL.D.

the academic senate, which position he held for fifteen years. His first chair was that of ancient languages and literature; in a few years he was placed in the chair of Latin language and literature, which he held till he assumed executive duties. In 1888 he obtained leave of absence and spent some months studying in Europe. On his return, in 1890, he became, first, chairman of the academic faculty, then acting president of the university. In January, 1893, he was elected president, and was inaugurated March 23, 1893.

In six years President Kellogg has seen the university grow from a membership of 457, at Berkeley, to one of over 1,500. In San Francisco the various affiliated colleges of law, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, etc., bring the number up to more than 2,300. The university has

shared in the general prosperity of the higher education throughout the country, and has not been injured by the establishment of a new and strong university at Palo Alto.

By bold interference in behalf of the insurgents in Crete against Turkish rule Greece has startled the nations. The crisis in Crete threatens the peace of Europe. But for the intervention of the great powers, Greece would drive the Mussulmans from the island and annex it. There is danger in the situation. The little Cretan revolt may result in forcing the eastern question to a solution, and bring on a great and general war. The bold action of little Greece against Turkish oppression of the Cretans has won merited praise.

From recent events in the struggle for liberty the New York "Sun" draws this parallel:

"Brave little Greece would rather fight powerful Turkey than witness any longer the sufferings of the Christians in Crete. Now look across the way from our shores at General Weyler, cruel as a Turk, remorseless as a mad pacha, murdering innocent people by the thousand, and ravaging Cuba as the Turks never ravaged Crete. And look at the powerful United States, separated from Cuba by less than a hundred miles, regardless of the sufferings which the Cubans, struggling to establish a free republic like our own, have endured for years at the hands of Spain.

"Turkey has a great army made up of troops as ferocious as any in the world. Greece has but a small army, recruited from a population not much larger than that of the city of New York. Yet Greece is ready to take up arms against Turkey in behalf of the wronged people of the outlying island of Crete.

"The United States, with more than thrice the population of Spain, and able to raise an army of millions, stands unconcerned, utters not even a word of remonstrance to Spain, while desolate Cuba shrieks as she shrinks from the fire and the sword of bloody Weyler. The spirit of liberty that leads little Greece to challenge the mighty Turk to combat has no place in Cleveland's administration of the government of the United States.

"In the case of Greece against Turkey it is as it was in the case of David against Goliath of Gath. In the case of the United States for Cuba, is it because we fear Spain that we stand gazing for years at the slaughter-house in which our fellow-republicans are sacrificed to glut the bloodthirst of the Spanish monarchy?

"Honor to brave little Greece!"

ACCORDING to a circular just issued by the Department of Agriculture the value of imports and domestic exports of the United States, total and agricultural, in the years ended June 30, 1892 to 1896 inclusive, is as follows:

| | IMPORTS. | | DOMESTIC EXPORTS. | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | Total. | Agricultural. | Total. | Agricultural. |
| 1892..... | \$827,402,462 | \$427,266,622 | \$1,015,732,011 | \$799,993,343 |
| 1893..... | 866,400,922 | 415,820,002 | 831,030,785 | 617,718,161 |
| 1894..... | 654,994,622 | 357,743,253 | 869,204,937 | 630,270,788 |
| 1895..... | 731,969,965 | 365,292,029 | 793,392,599 | 554,732,846 |
| 1896..... | 779,724,674 | 382,138,155 | 863,200,487 | 571,899,845 |
| Annual average..... | \$772,098,529 | \$389,652,012 | \$874,512,164 | \$634,922,996 |

The annual average, for the five years named, of our agricultural imports is nearly \$390,000,000, or a little more than one half the total. About one half of these agricultural imports could be grown at home. Even if they were only substituted for a corresponding amount of agricultural exports, there would be a gain to the country. For example, there is a loss in sending abroad \$100,000,000 worth of breadstuff in exchange for \$100,000,000 worth of sugar that can be produced at home. The substitution of home sugar production for surplus grain production would make the latter more profitable than it is now.

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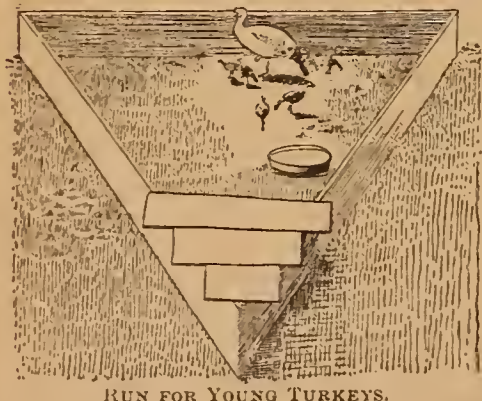
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We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Raising Turkeys. Some years ago I took a great fancy to raising turkeys. Undoubtedly the turkey is a most interesting bird, a most interesting study, and under favorable conditions can be made a profitable crop. I had unlimited range, and groves of chestnut and beech trees close by, so that the birds could obtain a good share of their living from the woods, however at the risk of some losses by the attacks of foxes, skunks, hawks and owls. The turkey is a natural-born tramp, and when hunting for food or for a good nesting-place will wander off a mile or more as easily as a hundred rods. He is hardly the bird for any one to keep who has only a small place in a somewhat crowded vicinity. Under



RUN FOR YOUNG TURKEYS.

such conditions one has to confine his flock by means of surrounding their run with a high fence at high cost, or of adjusting a so-called turkey-shingle to each bird so as to hamper their movements, and keep them confined by an ordinary fence; for if the birds are left at large, there is apt to be trouble before long with the neighbors.

Two Alternatives. Very early in my experience I found that I was placed before two alternatives: I could give to the old turkey-hens, with their broods, the freedom of the fields and woods, or I could confine the turkey-chicks

in small yards, and bring them up under the care of ordinary hens, feeding them the best I knew how. The turkey-hen sitting on her nest, hidden somewhere in a fence-corner or near an old log in the woods, if undisturbed by foxes, etc., would usually do the best job in hatching, and in a dry season bring up the brood without much loss, and at no cost to the owner. Sweet grasses, worms and insects, nuts, etc., were the regular bill of fare, and it seemed to agree so perfectly with the young flocks that none were ever known to die from disease. In some instances I never got sight of a turkey-hen from spring until

cheese in place of the egg. Let it be known that the egg is a substitute for insects which the young turkey has in its wild state; and so soon as opportunities open for the chicks to get insects, the egg should be omitted. Dry meal must not be given them, nor wet meal insufficiently swelled. If the meal swells in their crops, death is almost certain. The best way to feed Indian meal is in the form of corn-bread or 'johnny-cake.' After the young birds are three weeks old omit the eggs and give meat-scrap and ground bone. Clean water or milk must be before them all the time." I would prefer to use corn-

that this is in newly seeded clover. Young trees will give some shade, and young clover a lot of valuable food.

A Move of Progress.

At various times I have taken occasion to criticize the waste of paper and printers' ink involved in the publication, for wholesale distribution, of most of our station and department bulletins and reports. It is safe to say that where one of these publications is read and studied twenty are merely looked at and then thrown aside. The language, and in



CUTTING SUGAR-CANE ON A LOUISIANA PLANTATION.

fall, when at the approach of cold weather and the growing scarcity of food, all at once she would make her appearance in the yard with eight, ten or a dozen nearly full-grown chicks.

The difficulty I met in bringing up turkey-chicks under hens, and in comparative confinement, consisted chiefly in my own ignorance of the proper way of feeding. I was a worshiper of King Corn—this curse of the average poultryman and stockman. Corn-meal, scalded or baked, as a chief ration, soon brought disease and disaster. The gospel of the balanced ration had not yet been preached to me. Banish corn from the turkey-yard, at least until the birds are nearly ready to be fattened for market, or until colder weather sets in. The question of health of turkey-chicks is simply one of food selection. Give proper food, and keep the chicks clean and dry, and you will have no difficulty in raising them. That is all there is about it. Let the old hens with their broods have free range to pick up their living in the most natural way, if you wish to; but induce them to come home nights by giving a good supper and breakfast in addition, and keep them in confinement during rainy or even damp weather.

Feeding Turkey-chicks. In a book just published on "Turkeys, and How to Grow Them," I find the following directions or suggestions for rearing the little turkeys: "On the second day the chicks may receive their first meal. On one point all turkey-growers agree—no 'sloppy' food must be given the young birds. In a natural state turkey-chicks feed largely upon flies, spiders, grasshoppers, grubs, snails, slugs, worms, ant eggs, etc., and if watched on a bright day, will be seen to be constantly chasing flies, etc., about the meadows and woods. Berries, seeds, etc., make the variation. The first meal should be hard-boiled eggs (boiled twenty minutes) and stale wheat-bread dipped into hot milk, the milk squeezed out and both crumbled finely and seasoned with black pepper. This feed may be continued for two or three weeks, with now and then a variation to thick-clabbered milk or Dutch

meal in any form very sparingly, although a small quantity may be mixed with bran and some green bone (cut fine in one of the modern bone-cutters), then made into a dough, preferably with milk, and baked, and finally soaked up in milk to be fed in a crumbled (not in a pasty or sloppy) condition.

Runs for Young Turkeys.

The same book suggests the use of runs made of three fourteen-inch boards set on edge so as to form a triangle, with the coop in one corner, or shorter boards over one corner, for shelter from the sun by day and dews by night. "Every day or two move two of these boards so as to form another triangle adjacent to the old one. By the time the chicks are old enough to jump over the

most cases the object-matter itself, is far beyond the comprehension and schooling of the average farmer. I have always held that it is possible to present the often highly valuable discoveries and investigations recorded in the bulletins, etc., in such a way that the great majority of those who receive the bulletins will read and be benefited, and that the number of those who desire and ask for the station literature will increase rapidly to double and treble of what it is now. Some pioneer work has been done in the line of publishing bulletin extracts for the great body of soil-tillers, as, for instance, by the stations of Ohio and North Carolina, yet it seems to me that there is much room for improvement. Now comes Professor Jordan, director of the New York state station, Geneva, with a proposition to pub-



OLD WAY—THREE MULES HAULING 1-20 TONS OF CANE.

boards they may be allowed to wander about with their mother, after the morning dew is off. After that time three feeds a day are sufficient, and when they are weaned, feeding only at night and morning is enough. With a good range over wheat-stubble, which they can have in the western states and territories, and plenty of grasshoppers, no other feeding is necessary after they are educated to come home to roost." The only suggestion I would add to this is to select a young orchard in which to place the run, provided

lish condensed farmers' bulletins in which the substance of the full and scientific bulletins is told like a little story, interestingly, comprehensively, pointedly—in plainest possible terms. T. GREINER.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The pictures on these two pages of cutting and handling sugar-cane and of a sugar-factory are from photographs taken at a large sugar plantation in southern Louisiana.



SUGAR-FACTORY AT SHADYSIDE PLANTATION, ST. MARY'S PARISH, LOUISIANA.

Our Farm.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

JUDGING from the number of inquiries I am receiving about the setting out and care of evergreens, there is likely to be a revival of conifer-planting. If this is the case, I am glad of it. I wish the farmers of Illinois would set out ten million evergreens next spring. There is room for them, and there is use for them. They are cheap, easily set out and managed, and when set in the right place the planter will get more genuine satisfaction and comfort from them than any tree that grows.

If any person feels inclined to question the above statement let him move from a home that is fully exposed to winds from every quarter to one that is protected by an evergreen wind-break. I'll warrant he would not sell the trees for a dollar a foot. A farmer who planted two rows of Norway spruce on the west, north and east sides of his farm-yard twenty years ago told me one day recently that money couldn't buy those trees. "When I set them out," said he, "they were about fifteen inches high, and my neighbors laughed at me. They said I was wasting time and money, because those 'little bushes' would not grow ten feet high in a lifetime. Ten years later one of those same men came to see me one day when a blizzard was howling, and he saw what I had. The next spring he planted just as I had done."

"Why don't more people plant evergreen wind-breaks, and protect their homes from blizzards and north winds?" I asked him. "Well," said he, "I don't know. Here is as good an example as you would wish. They see its advantages, yet here are farm homes all around unprotected by even a single tree. One of the chief reasons why farmers do not plant conifers is because their farms are for sale. The majority of them are ready to sell out, and move to some place reported to be flowing with milk and honey, any day in the year. Unless a man settles down to make himself a home for life he will not attempt to make improvements that may be considered permanent. Nine out of ten farmers want to get all they can out of

the land they are tilling and then move on. Very few are satisfied where they are. Go to almost any section of this state and you will find that three fourths of the improvements are temporary. Very few farmers expect to be living where they now are twenty years from now, and evergreens are too slow for them."

The idea that all evergreens are slow growers has deterred many from planting them. "When do you expect those little things to amount to anything?" asked a farmer when I was setting out a row of

growth of eighteen inches, and I have had arbor-vitae, Norway spruce and red cedar to make a growth of four feet in one season after they had attained a height of three to four feet. My soil is rich, and during a wet season conifers of nearly all kinds grow rapidly.

Many people dislike to plant small twelve to twenty inch trees, because it seems like they must wait years on years for them to attain to any size, therefore they buy and plant the expensive three and four foot trees. That's where they



UNLOADING CARS WITH CHAIN SLINGS AT FACTORY.

arbor-vitae four years ago. The plants were twelve inches high, and I was planting them for the purpose of protecting my strawberry-bed and garden from the hot, dry southwest winds that sweep across this section occasionally in summer. This arbor-vitae hedge now stands four feet high, and I cut off about eight inches of the top of three fourths of the trees this winter to make the row even. It is about three feet wide, and so thick that no wind can get through it. Last season many arbor-vitae I have, two years planted, made a growth of twenty to twenty-eight inches. Some little Norway spruce, two years planted, made a

make a mistake. A thrifty fifteen to twenty inch tree planted at the same time as a three to four foot tree will, if given proper attention, overtake and pass it in a very few years, and besides make a very much finer tree. Plant young evergreens every time. The fifteen to twenty inch sizes are cheap and easily planted, and they have given me such excellent satisfaction that I shall plant no other size, unless it be a little smaller.

It is not a difficult matter to set them out. Keep the roots damp all the time, place them in damp, mellow soil, and

trample hard; then fill in with mellow soil, and don't trample. Keep the soil about them clear of weeds, and the surface mellow for at least three years after planting, and after that they will be able to take care of themselves. Of course, cultivation for five or six years will make them grow all the faster. The three kinds I have mentioned seem to give the best satisfaction generally. For a low hedge or wind-break, three to eight feet high, the arbor-vitae is the best. For a strong, sturdy, effective wind-break for orchard, yards and buildings set two rows; the inner Norway spruce and the outer red cedar. Have the two rows not less than twelve feet apart, and the trees six to eight feet apart in the rows. Plant arbor-vitae two to four feet apart in the row; two feet for a low hedge, four for a six to ten foot wind-break. Plant a few the coming spring. You'll never regret it.

FRED GRUNDY.

March

April May are the months in which to purify the blood, for at no other season is the body so susceptible to benefit from medicine. The peculiar purifying and reviving qualities of Hood's Sarsaparilla are just what are needed to expel disease and fortify the system against the debilitating effects of mild weather. Every year increases the popularity of Hood's Sarsaparilla, for it is just what people need at this season. It is the ideal spring medicine. If you have never tried it, do so, and you will be convinced of its peculiar merit.

April

If you feel tired, weak and weary, worn out, or run down from hard work, by impoverished condition of the blood or low state of the system, you should take Hood's Sarsaparilla. The peculiar toning, purifying and vitalizing qualities of this successful medicine are soon felt throughout the entire system, expelling disease, and giving quick, healthy action to every organ. It tones the stomach, creates an appetite, and rouses the liver and kidneys. Thousands who have taken it with benefit, testify that Hood's Sarsaparilla "makes the weak strong, and builds up health."

May

"My wife was troubled with pains in her back, sick headaches and dizzy spells. She could not eat substantial food without distress. She began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and since then she has not had any of those troubles, the sick headaches and dizzy spells have disappeared and she can eat without distress. My boy has also regained his appetite and Hood's Sarsaparilla has restored him to perfect health." ARTHUR CHARPENTIER, rear Aspen St., Ware, Mass. Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1.

Hood's Pills are the favorite cathartic. All chemists, 25 cents.



NEW WAY—TWO MULES HAULING FIFTY TRAM-CARS CONTAINING 50½ TONS OF CANE.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

PLANNING THE WORK.—The practical farmer—the man who must make the most possible net profit from his farm—is puzzled by many questions that confront him at the beginning of the season for active farm-work. In view of prevailing low prices I have never found greater difficulty in mapping out my work satisfactorily than in the beginning of this year. To a certain extent the farm rotation of crops fixes things; but a rotation is somewhat flexible, and then there are the side crops and other matters an established rotation does not effect. There is a widespread belief that times are going to improve. Some base their faith upon favoring legislation; others upon the theory that "hard times" and "flush times" are periodic, and that in due order of things we may now expect better prices. Both may be right, and both may be wrong. Taking a conservative view, I hardly see a reason for any marked advance in prices within the next twelve months, and within this time must the major part of this year's products go upon the market.

A REDUCED ACREAGE.—In the first few years of low prices there was a disposition on the part of most farmers to increase acreage of plow crops, and in this way attempt to insure the usual amount of farm receipts. Many yet cling to the idea that this is necessary, but a close account with each field would probably show nearly every one that this is poor practice. We plow too much; we are burning up too much of the humus in the soil by continuous cultivation and close mowing when a catch of grass is obtained, and the land is made less productive. Such a course makes an era of low prices harder than ever upon us. It is a good time to let all thin fields have one or two manurial crops, which will improve the soil somewhat permanently. They will not yield net profit, anyway, if prices are low, and can be improved without any marked decrease in net returns from the farm. A less acreage of costly crops, and a richer soil for them, would help many to-day.

HOW ABOUT POTATOES?—Thousands of FARM AND FIRESIDE readers, including the writer, would like to know how many of our farmers are disgusted with potatoes as a money-making crop, and will return to the production of less perishable and costly crops. It is the history of farming that many will take up a crop new to them when prices are tempting, and after one or two years of very low prices will drop out of the ranks of producers. But with present conditions this may not occur. Profitable crops are not abundant in variety to tempt producers from the ones they have been growing. If sheep and horses and corn and buckwheat and beans were high-priced, I am sure that this spring's potato area would be reduced thirty per cent; but they are not. The sensible course for the grower of potatoes is to plant only in rich soil, use the best seed, give constant tillage and try for big yields to the acre. Then he is reasonably safe, whether the total acreage is reduced this spring or not.

DRAFT-HORSES.—In many sections of the country the breeding of horses has ceased. It requires six years to put a serviceable animal upon the market. The present supply of good draft-horses in our cities and upon the farms will be practically gone by the end of that time. Our cities will continue to demand choice draft-animals, and it does seem that the farmer who has one or two good brood-mares should make as much money in the production of draft-colts as is possible in any other line of stock. I am sure that cross-breeding is responsible for many failures to produce the kind of horse wanted. A grade mare should be served by a pure-bred horse of the same breed. This crossing is playing the mischief with our stock. Only choice-grade dams should be used, and they should be bred in their own line. This affords reason for expecting a foal that will develop well. For such horses there should be a good demand before they can be made ready for market.

DAVID.

A HUNDRED MILLION IN GOLD!

HOW A TIMELY RESERVE WILL SAVE A GOVERNMENT OR A BATTLE OR A LIFE.

"A nation in danger: the United States, the strongest government on earth almost on the verge of bankruptcy!" That was the cry a few months ago. A strange state of affairs: Our people wealthy with uncounted millions; the country rich with treasure almost beyond calculation; but business at a stand-still all ready for a panic; the Government credit in danger of collapse for want of a hundred million; and Uncle Sam borrowing money to tide over an emergency, as a poor man pawns his watch.

What was the trouble? There was plenty of gold, ten times more than was needed, but where was it? Everywhere except in the Treasury, the place that needed it most. It couldn't help the Government until it was in the Treasury. There was the weak spot; and nobody was sure it could be mended in time. Would the gold reach the Treasury before it collapsed? That was the question. It *did* reach the Treasury; Government credit was saved; panic was averted; the wheels of business were set moving again and general prosperity was assured.

The fate of great battles often hangs on the same question: "Will the reserves arrive in time?" Napoleon won the great battle of Marengo after he seemed hopelessly beaten. He brought forward fresh

lung-cells with nourishment; stop the formation of tubercles; build up new, healthy tissue; and effect a complete restoration to health and strength. This is new gold for the bankrupt treasury of life; fresh reserves to mend the disease-broken ranks of the constitution and win the battle of health.

All severe chronic and lingering coughs and throat and bronchial affections, and all the wasting diseases caused by defective nutrition yield with wonderful readiness to the marvelous curative power of the "Golden Medical Discovery." Its effect is almost magical in obstinate digestive difficulties and "run-down" nervous conditions.

It strengthens the stomach to digest and assimilate food; and imparts power to the blood-making glands to transform it into pure, healthy, highly vitalized blood. "The Discovery" directly stimulates a torpid liver and enables it to do its work of filtering out of the circulation the foul impurities which penetrate and poison every tissue of the body, and cause the symptoms commonly called "liver complaint" or "biliousness."

For pale and thin people and weak, sickly children there is no emulsion or malt extract in the world to equal the "Golden Medical Discovery" as a builder of solid flesh and a restorer of robust, rosy-cheeked activity. It does not make flabby fat; it will not add one ounce of weight above the standard of perfect health; and



reserves of men to strengthen his broken ranks; and the tide of battle was turned. He ought to have won at Waterloo; but he lost because his expected reserves failed to arrive in time.

Just as a reserve of gold or of men will maintain government credit or win battles, so in disease a fresh reserve of strength and vitality brought forward in time will save life and restore health. Thousands of people die of consumption every year whose lives might be saved by a fresh reserve of healthy, vitalized blood to reinforce their lungs before it is too late. Consumptive people often have a hearty appetite and eat plenty of good food, but it doesn't do them any good; it doesn't nourish them; it isn't made into good red blood. The blood-making organs fail to do their work; the blood is weak and watery and full of foul elements that poison the lungs instead of feeding and strengthening them. They finish and waste away because they are not reinforced with pure, nourishing blood.

Consumption is a curable disease. When the lungs are supplied with plenty of fresh vitalized blood they heal up sound and well, and the consumptive recovers. This happens every day. That wonderful blood-making medicine Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has cured thousands of consumptives whose doctors gave them up as beyond help. The "Discovery" enters into the blood and purifies and enriches it with fresh, vital, life-giving red corpuscles. They flood the

this fact renders its powerful tonic and alterative properties specially valuable to stout people.

For thirty years Dr. Pierce has enjoyed an eminent reputation as a widely experienced and wonderfully successful practitioner. During this period as chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y. (one of the most famous sanitariums in the world), he with his staff of specialists has treated many thousands of patients. There is no physician living who has a wider practical experience with obstinate chronic diseases.

His remarkable understanding of human physiology; thorough acquaintance with *materia medica* and peculiar genius in adapting powerful natural remedies to the cure of disease has given his medicines universal recognition as the standard remedies for the diseases for which they are designed.

Womenkind everywhere are familiar with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for the disorders and derangements peculiar to their sex. The "Prescription" has done more to alleviate women's trials than any other medicine ever invented. Its sales exceed the combined sales of all other medicines for women. In constipated conditions Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are well understood to be the most perfect and reliable laxative and permanent cure known.

"I take this method of expressing my gratitude for what Dr. Pierce's Golden

Medical Discovery has done for me," writes Miss Ella Bartley, of No. 213½ South Grant Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. "I have taken five bottles of it, and I can conscientiously say that I never felt better in my life; thanks to Dr. Pierce's wonderful remedy. I was a complete physical wreck; appetite gone, nervous system impaired, could not sleep, and was so weak that I could not stand on my feet ten minutes. I only weighed 95½ pounds when I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and my weight has increased until I now weigh 110 pounds. After I had taken a half bottle I began to improve; I could sleep soundly the whole night, and would awaken with an appetite for breakfast, which was a rare thing, as I never had for two years back eaten a hearty breakfast. I now have an excellent appetite, and my friends say they never saw me looking better or in better spirits since they knew me. I tell them it is all due to Dr. Pierce's 'Discovery,' and I am so thankful and grateful that I never tire of praising his medicine every opportunity I get. I had about given up in despair, and nobody knows what those words imply, but those who have suffered—like I did for two long years. I was convinced that your medicine would help me, and I am here in person, a living testimonial of its merits."

"About ten years ago I suffered an attack of nervous prostration resulting in other troubles which my family physician pronounced consumption," writes Mrs. Nancy R. Tubb, of Armory, Monroe County, Miss., in a letter to Dr. Pierce. "We doctored with him until we lost all hope. I finally saw Dr. Pierce's medicine recommended and thought I would try it; sent and got one bottle each—'Golden Medical Discovery' and 'Favorite Prescription'—and one bottle of 'Pellets.' As soon as I began to use these medicines my health began to improve, and before I had used one half dozen bottles I felt almost as strong as I ever did. I am now enjoying good health again. Two years ago I had a little boy who seemed to be subject to phthisic (asthma), and I thought I would try the 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and to my surprise it cured him entirely; he has never had another attack."

"I was taken ill in February, 1892, with headache and pain in my back," writes H. Gaddis, Esq., of No. 313 S. J. Street, Tacoma, Wash. "I called in a doctor and he came three times. He said I was bilious. I kept getting worse. I took a cough so that I could not sleep only by being propped in bed. My lungs hurt me, and I got so poor that I was just skin and bone. I thought I was going to die, till one day I saw the 'Golden Medical Discovery' recommended for a cough. I tried a bottle of it and it did me so much good that I tried another one and it made me sound and well, so I can recommend it to anybody. It saved my life, and when I get to feeling badly I go to the drug-store and get a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They are the best pills I ever had in my family. I would not be without them."

There are certain druggists who consider their own profit rather than their customers' health, and are always ready to offer something else in place of Dr. Pierce's remedies. This is a reflection upon the customer's own intelligence and judgment, and as such is very properly resented by those who know what they prefer.

That extremely interesting volume Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser has had a larger sale than any other medical work in any language: 680,000 copies were sold at \$1.50 each. The enormous profit on the first edition enables Dr. Pierce to carry out his cherished intention of distributing a new free edition of half a million copies. The volume contains a thousand and eight pages of sensible professional advice and thorough explanation of human physiology in health and disease; in plain and chaste language, with over three hundred illustrations and colored plates. This free book is the same as the \$1.50 edition except that this is in strong paper covers.

It will be sent absolutely free to any one sending 21 cents in stamps to pay the cost of mailing *only* and inclosing the little NUMBERED COUPON printed here to be cut from this paper. Send to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., of which Dr. Pierce is President. If you prefer French-cloth embossed covers, send ten cents extra (31 cents in all) to defray the extra cost of this handsomer and more substantial binding.

COUPON
No. 239

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

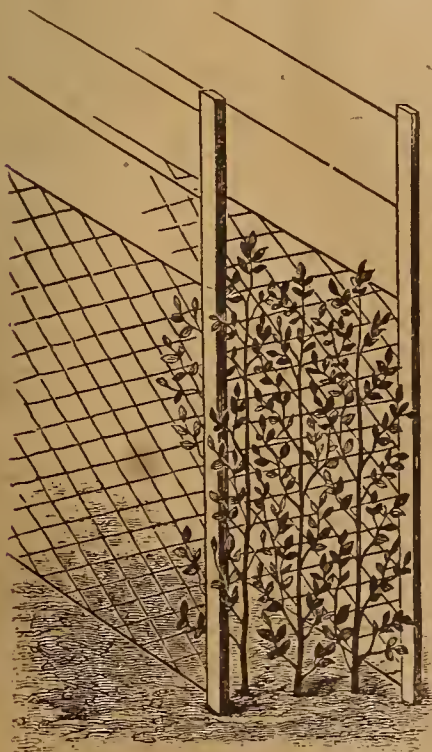
THE SWEET-PEAS.—About a year ago I called the attention of our readers to the new type of dwarf peas introduced under the name "Cupid." I am sorry to say I have not been able to make a success in growing it. Wherever planted, whether in greenhouse or outdoors, it was a complete failure and a sore disappointment every time. The new pea is evidently a dwarf in vigor as well as in height. But I will not go back on sweet-peas in general. This is the flower of all flowers which I find indispensable on my home grounds—the flower that I must have, and that surely is most thankful of all. It is of easiest possible culture, hardy, and most prolific of its nicely scented bloom, but we should have support of some kind for it. Brush from the woods, say three or four feet high, will do well enough, but of course a trellis of wire or poultry-netting will be more attractive. I just received a copy of a little pamphlet entitled "Sweet-peas Up to Date." Under the chapter on "Brushing and Trellising" the writer says:

* * *

"I use birches entirely. They are brought to me in twelve or fourteen foot lengths, just as cut from the patch, and from each of these I get one good stout one seven feet high, and the lighter top is used to fill in. These are set with a crowbar firmly in the middle of the double row, and should be trimmed a little. They are less unsightly if the tops are clipped to an even six-foot level, and the sides are trimmed sufficiently to present a neat view from the end. These twiggy birches are a more natural support, and in the scorching sun do not heat as wire will. Of course, birches last but one year, and should be procured early in the spring before the leaves start. Make ashes of them in the fall." The same writer, however, points out the necessity of rich soil and good cultivation; otherwise, with a six-foot hedge of birches, your brush may be more conspicuous than your sweet-peas. Or if you neglect your vines, and let them go to seed, they will dry up when two thirds grown. Or if you plant them too thickly they will make a spindling and shorter growth.

* * *

A GOOD TRELIS.—The following points are to be considered in a support for sweet-peas: Grow them at their best, and provide for both height and strength. Then allow for their loose branching habit, and give them width enough to ramble. While a six-foot single trellis of poultry-wire running between the double rows is passably good, it cramps the vines, and I would prefer to plant the seed in a triple row. If they grow above that, a few strands of wire will give the tops something to cling to. The illustration shows a trellis of this kind. If you still prefer



to use a single support of six-foot poultry-wire, frame it up well, and tack on the posts short crosspieces, from the ends of which stretch wires to hold the vines well up to the poultry-wire. In regard to amount of seed to be sown, an ounce to every ten feet of trellis would be about right. I have an idea that a trellis such

as here illustrated could also be used to show off a row of tomatoes to best advantage.

T. GREINER.

NIAGARA COUNTY MARKET GARDENING.

THE DANISH BALL HEAD CABBAGE.—The comparatively new Ball Head cabbage was planted quite largely the past season in western New York, only to disappoint most persons, because the seed they happened to get was terribly mixed. Some growers claimed they had everything that could be called cabbage all mixed up in what they bought for this cabbage. The genuine seed, perhaps, was scarce, and so this bogus stuff was put on the market. I have been duped myself, but managed to get some that was genuine, and what I did raise now sells well in market at about twelve dollars or more a ton. It does not grow so large, but is so very hard and of fine quality that it presents quite a contrast to the large, loose heads of the kinds I have been growing—Flat Dutch, Drum-head, Succession, etc. Besides, it is a better keeper. Some claim that the Holland or Solid Emperor and other kinds are better than the Ball Head, but when you have genuine stock of one you have the other, too, as far as I can learn. Presumably about nine tenths of the cabbage planted in this section will be of the Danish Ball Head this season. While this has been grown as a late variety, I think of trying it as an early one by starting it in the greenhouse. Lately there has not been much money in Wakefield, and if we can get this into market about the time the Early Summer comes in, it would probably be more profitable to grow than either.

* * *

THE TRANSPLANTING-MACHINE.—In a season like the past in this section—exceedingly dry during the time when planting had to be done—the value of the Bemis transplanter becomes more apparent. I planted whole fields during hot, dry days, and when the ground was so dry that it almost seemed that no plant freshly set could live. But where the water was allowed to flow plentifully from the machine the success was complete, scarcely a plant failing to grow. One of the important factors to do perfect work, too, is to have good plants, just large enough and not too large, and to secure this result they should be sown about the tenth to twentieth of May, and sowed with a seed-drill rather thinly but regularly. At present prices of seed one should sow enough so no poor plants need be used.

* * *

The Bemis is probably the best machine of this kind on the market. It requires some experience to manipulate it in good shape. Two smart boys, if they are not careless, will do the work best when they once get started, though they may need some watching until they get the hang of it. The plants must be put in at the correct distance just when the water is discharged, as this puts the roots right into the water, and covers the water with fresh earth, so that the plants scarcely wilt even in dry weather. I would not think of doing without one of these machines any more than a farmer would do without a mowing-machine. I frequently get in about two thousand plants in a day; and then they are put in ever so much better than they would be put in by hand. They are in a straight row, and can be cultivated closely; that is, if the driving is done straight. When the planters become accustomed to the work and have good plants, they can put in double the amount, or say thirty thousand to forty thousand plants a day.

C. WECKERSSER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Peach Culture.—C. J. E., Barnesville, Ohio, writes: "Four years ago I purchased from a big firm (for a big price) one hundred and thirty-five peach-trees represented to be nothing but the best standard varieties. They bore last year, but, alas! most of them were little white seedlings and worthless clings. As the orchard is now it is worthless, for what shall I do with one hundred or more bushels of poor seedling peaches? Would it be advisable to saw the trees off close to the ground, let them sucker up and rebud this coming season, or should they be dug up by the roots and new trees planted?"

REPLY:—It is a pretty hard and discouraging case. It seems to me that if the trees are thrifty I would cut them off and bud the sprouts next season, rather than set out new trees. If they are at all weak or inferior, I would set new trees between them, and dig out the old trees in 1898.

Tulip Seedlings.—S. E. B., Viola, Ill. The seeds of the tulip-tree should be mixed with moist earth and buried outdoors as soon as they are ripe, and be sown the following spring. They are often hollow, especially when grown in the more eastern states.

Holly Seedlings.—D. H. B., Springhill, Kan. The seeds of holly should be separated from the pulpy covering by slightly fermenting them and then rubbing them against a sieve. They should be mixed with sand and buried where they will freeze hard in winter; should be sown in spring, and seldom start until the second season. Most of the nurserymen of the South offer holly-plants. J. M. Thornburn, of 15 John street, New York City, offers the seed of three species.

Seeding an Orchard to Alfalfa.—R. W. B., Waldron, Ill., writes: "I have been cultivating my orchard, of light sandy soil, and enriching it. The trees have made fine growth. I want to seed it in the spring, and think of sowing alfalfa. Will it injure the trees? What will be the effect on bearing of fruit?"

REPLY:—Alfalfa is one of the worst crops for an orchard, for its roots go so deep and are so vigorous that they take up a large amount of moisture, and in a dry season will cause the trees to suffer. I would rather seed to clover, and plow it in two years. Such treatment would greatly improve the soil. I am much afraid of the effects of alfalfa in an orchard. As a rule, if the best fruit is wanted, the fruit crop should be looked upon as the only crop for the land to produce; and if anything else is raised, it should be with the view of helping the fruit crop. Clover will do this, for it adds nitrogen to the land while it is growing, and by its decay produces humus.

Planting Locusts for Posts.—O. S., Pittsburg, Pa., writes: "Kindly answer whether you have ever heard of any one planting locust-trees for posts? How many years does it take for them to grow large enough? About what proportion of them will live? What is the best method of obtaining young trees. I have in view some old, worn-out land in southern Ohio, which can be bought very cheap, either hill or low land, on which locust seems to do well. I think by planting about ten feet apart they will grow tall and straight, and in fifteen years will make two posts each. At that rate there is 'something in it.' I have never heard of its being tried, and would like your views."

REPLY:—Black or honey locust are each of them very easily grown from seeds, and will often make a growth of three feet the first season. Either of them, if properly planted, would make two good posts a tree in fifteen years, and perhaps in considerably less time in southern Ohio. The trouble with the black locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*) is that the trees are liable to be seriously infested with the borer in every section of this country, so far as I know, and they often seriously interfere with their growth. The honey-locust, or three-thorned acacia (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), grows quite as fast; has wood that lasts about as long in the ground; is valuable for furniture, etc., and is free from borers. I think it much the best tree of the two. I think it very likely that such planting for posts as you propose will pay fair returns. The only thing that mitigates against it is the fact that fires are set with so little regard for the consequences, and there is always some danger of loss from this source, although the danger of loss from this cause in locust woods is much less than with coniferous and most other deciduous trees. In starting such a plantation, either of three-thorned or honey-locust, which are closely allied, it is important to have native-grown seeds. These can be gathered from the trees at this season, as the pods of each species hang on the trees all winter. Don't use foreign-grown seed. Separate the seeds from the pods, mix with sand and bury in the ground. When ready to sow, sift the seed out of the sand, place in a shallow dish, and scald with boiling water; when the water is cold, pick out the seeds that swell; scald those remaining again, and pick out those that swell, and so proceed until all have swollen. Treated in this way, the seed will start very quickly after planting. If not so treated, they will often remain in the ground a year without growing. In regard to the distance between the trees, I think ten by ten feet too far apart to plant, since the trees will not be crowded enough to make clean posts, but will be too low and branched. They must be crowded when young to get them tall and clean. My idea would be to plant two feet apart in rows eight feet apart. This will crowd them when young, and as soon as they get large enough to make one post each, take out one half of them, and let the rest grow until they will make two posts each, and again take out half, and perhaps the remainder will make three or four posts or good board lumber.

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FIRST APPLICANT IN EACH LOCALITY SECURES A PAIR ON TIME & AGENCY.
SOLD 1129 HEAD FIRST 6 MONTHS 1896 FOR BREEDING PURPOSES
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SAVE in actual cash results alone at least \$10. per cow per year and make your dairy-work a source of profit and satisfaction instead of drudgery.

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D. M. FERRY & CO.,
Detroit, Mich.

Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

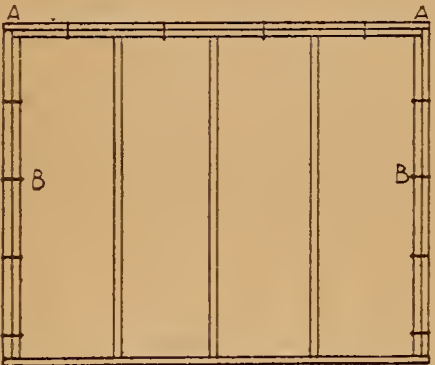
Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

FOWLS IN CONFINEMENT.

THE labor required with hens in confinement is costly, and the difficulty is that they do not exercise. It is possible to make yarded fowls lay better in winter than in summer...

DETACHABLE POULTRY-HOUSE.

A poultry-house that can be taken apart, moved and set up in a few hours without injury to the building, which can be built of any size, is given, it being the design of a subscriber, who describes it as follows...



DETACHABLE POULTRY-HOUSE—FRONT SECTION.

at the corners, but are supported by a block laid cornerwise under the sill at each corner. The rafters are fastened to the upper plate only. The end rafters are to be double, the outside one to be fastened to the end section...

BLACK-HEAD IN TURKEYS.

Black-head in turkeys affects the liver, and is transmitted from one bird to another, usually attacking young turkeys more than the adults. While the disease may not occur on new ground...

the disease, or where they are liable to be. The main point is to be careful not to bring any turkeys from localities where the disease is known to exist...

SELL THE YOUNG COCKERELS.

Now that hatching will soon begin, the proper time to call attention to the disposal of the cockerels is the present. When a brood of chicks is hatched for next year's layers...



DETACHABLE POULTRY-HOUSE—BACK SECTION.

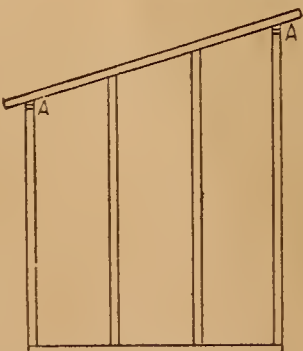
which of the whole will prove superior. It is an expensive method, because it necessitates the feeding of more chicks than should be kept over. The time to sell the cockerels is when they are small...

DAMP WEATHER AND ROUP.

There is more roup in the spring months than in winter, due to spring rains and dampness. While the drafts of air in the poultry-house may not be cold, yet they are damp and chilly...

TO PREVENT CROWDING.

It seems that no matter how much room on the roost may be allowed the hens will all crowd together at one end. Fowls appear to have an inclination to get as close to one another as possible...



DETACHABLE POULTRY-HOUSE—END SECTION.

too far apart two hens may get together. For Brahmans and Cochins the pegs may be nine inches apart. Each hen will thus be separated from the next by a peg...

CORRESPONDENCE.

ADVANTAGES OF GUINEAS.—In the winter of 1890 a friend presented us a pair of guinea-fowls. My husband then would humorously invite our friends to visit us...

and raised white wings offering a Chautauqua salute. They are easily raised, and are delicious food. When young, the fat fries are superior to chicken, and during the winter four or five grown fowls will make a jar of pressed meat fit for a queen...

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Analysis of an Egg.—J. C. Eber, Tenn., writes: "What is the chemical analysis of an egg?" REPLY:—Water, 63.1 per cent; nitrogen, 12.1; fat, 10.2; mineral matter, 0.9; shell, 13.7... Compelling Turkeys to Sit.—B. D. Dunlap, Canada, writes: "It is claimed that turkeys can be made to sit by confining them on the nests... Sore Eyes.—E. C. S., Stephens City, Va., writes: "My chickens are affected with sore eyes, only one eye seeming to be affected... Breeding and Feeding.—R. F., Chester Hill, Ohio, writes: "1. Should a male bird, brother to the hens, be used?..."

BEE KEEPERS! SEND FOR sample copy of CLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE. A Handsomely Illustrated Magazine and a Catalogue of BEE SUPPLIES...

EGGS CHEAP. SPECIAL OFFER CATALOGUE FREE. Black Langshans score 92 to 93 1/2. \$100 an acre can only be made from one source—poultry...

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BIG PERCENTAGE of LIVE chicks from fertile eggs is what every poultryman wants. THE IMPROVED VICTOR Incubator. HATCHES CHICKENS BY STEAM—With the MODEL EXCELSIOR Incubator.

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NEVER BEATEN in all the many shows in which it has participated, there must be something in the superiority claims of the RELIABLE INCUBATOR...

THERE'S MONEY IN IT The poultry business pays when conducted under the rules laid down in our NEW POULTRY BOOK & CATALOGUE FOR 1897...

LOTS OF EGGS when hens are fed green cut home, cut by the Improved '96 MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTER...

WHO'S SHELLABERGER? He's the Wire Fence Man, of Atlanta, Ga., and sells the best and cheapest fencing in existence for all purposes...

Horse Carts 12 STYLES. Popular Prices. Low rates of freight from our works, Tatam, Pa., to all points.

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Our Fireside.

COASTIN' DOWN IN JERSEY.

Did you ever go a-coastin'
 When the snow was on the ground—
 When the very hills was crimson
 With the girls a-standin' round?
 You have surely missed the seein'
 Lots of fun, now I'll be bound.
 Less you've coasted down in Jersey
 When the snow was on the ground.

Off we started hifalutin',
 Bohs an' sleds all on the jump,
 Never thinkin' in our shootin'
 Of that old, forgotten stump
 Hidin' there as meek as Moses,
 Where the sleigh would take a bound
 As we went like lightnin' scootin'
 When the snow was on the ground.

But we struck the stump a-smilin',
 Blixen! How the splinters flew!
 An' the girls they went a-pilin',
 An' the boys they follered, too,
 Legs an' arms an' buckles jangled,
 Bangs en' frizzes all around,
 Youths an' maidens, oh, how tangled!
 In that swoop upon the ground.

There we were all jumble-jumbled
 In a writhin', screamin' mess,
 Where we all got pitched an' tumbled,
 An' the girls got kissed—I guess,
 Should you hear of any coastin',
 Let me know; I'll be 'round.
 Oh, there's lots of fun in Jersey
 When the snow is on the ground!

—H. S. Barnes.

PHIL KENT'S EXPERIENCE.

BY MILLER PURVIS.

CHAPTER V.



WHILE Phil Kent was patiently working out the problem that he had undertaken to solve, Frank Meade was enjoying the utmost freedom from care and hard labor of the kind that is plentiful on any farm when the heart is not in the work to be done.

His father had been a hard-working man all the days of his life. Born on one of the rugged slopes of a New England state, and brought up to the exacting toil that is necessary there to extract returns from the stoney soil, he had come to the West as a young man, and by patient and continuous labor made a farm out of the wilderness of trees that covered the land he had selected.

The elder Meade was a thorough believer in the primeval curse, and had no sympathy with any other way of eating bread except in the sweat of the brow.

Frank was the only one of the children of the family that lived to maturity, and while his father had given him a fair education, he had always required that he work steadily when not in school, and after he had graduated at the Riverside high-school had expected him to settle down to work on the farm without further reward than the knowledge that in time he would inherit it.

This sort of life was not to Frank's liking. He frequently rebelled against it, and declared that the time would come when he would free himself from it and go out into the world and enter into some business that was more congenial to him.

Like other young men in the neighborhood, he had his horse and buggy, and was free on Sunday or general holidays to drive about the country, but his supply of spending-money was a very short one and his real pleasures few. He had no taste for reading, because his father thought it a waste of time to spend money for any reading matter beyond the paper of his church and a Bible.

The old man often asserted that he could farm as well as any one, and pointed to the fact that it would be impossible to find a handful of ragweeds on his farm.

While this might have been true, and it was a fact patent to the most superficial observer that the farm was neat and tidy in every way, the neighbors all knew that Mr. Meade did not make money from his farm in excess of his requirements in the way of taxes and repairs. This was not thought to be remarkable, and was only a truth concerning most of the farmers of the vicinity, and the trouble was attributed to hard times instead of unskilful farming.

So matters ran on until Frank was just past his majority, when his father died. The wife and mother had preceded him a year before, and Frank found himself at last owner of the farm, and manager of a business for which he had not the least liking.

Within the year from the time his father died Frank Meade had married Dora Dennison, the daughter of a builder in a small way, at Riverside.

This girl was pretty and attractive, and had a trick of conversation that, while it did not betray any profound depths of intellect, served well to attract the young men to her, and made her a general favorite with the young people of her acquaintance.

Frank did not stop to ask himself whether she would make him a good wife and be a

fitting mistress for a farmer's home. He married her, and took her to his home in the country without even thinking of these things. He was not mercenary nor calculating in any way. In fact, I think he was a pretty good fellow naturally, but he had never been allowed to think or manage for himself in any way. His father had done the thinking for him, and had apparently looked upon Frank as being a mere tool from whom thought was not required. He had never consulted Frank on any business matter, nor asked him for advice about the work. When anything was to be done, he had issued orders to that effect, and Frank and the hired man had obeyed him without question.

Like so many other boys who are brought up in this manner, when Frank found himself master of the farm, he had but a vague idea of how to go ahead without instructions.

The new wife soon began to long for the gay companions of her girlhood, and as it was but a few miles to Riverside, she and Frank frequently drove over to the town and spent the day, when the time might have been much better spent on the farm.

Gradually Frank imbibed the notion that it was much pleasanter to live in the town than in the lonely country, and it was not long before he began talking, vaguely, about renting or selling the farm and going into business of some kind in town.

"That's so, I presume," he said. "A fellow in a store is always in the shade in the summer, and in a warm room in the winter, and he doesn't worry much about the weather, for people must eat whether they have crops or not. I suppose farming is not a real pleasant business."

"It's slavery, pure and simple," declared Frank, with the memory of long days, hard work and few pleasures in his mind.

"If you want this store, Frank, I'll tell you what I'll do."

Frank looked at him inquiringly.

"I'll sell it to you so's you can pay for it and never know how you did it," resumed Snapp. "I'll sell you the whole thing, building, lot, stock and good-will, and won't ask you for a cent. I don't need the money, and if you paid cash down for the whole thing, I should lend it to the first man who wanted it that could give me good security. I'll take your notes for it, and give you long time on it at six per cent; you can secure me with a mortgage on your farm. And if you find the business don't suit you after awhile, you can sell it and pay me, and have your farm left, and will be no worse off than you are now."

When one is willing and anxious to be convinced, it does not take a strong argument to win him over, and this talk was very convincing to Frank in his inexperience, and as he listened he pictured to himself a life of ease, with a fortune at the end of it, and

called at his home, as she knew his wife for some years before she was married to Frank.

"How do you like storekeeping by this time, Frank?" Phil had asked one day.

"First-rate," replied Frank. "It beats farming any way you can look at it. I have a clerk who can take care of business as well as I can, or better, for Snapp had him here the last year he kept the store, though he had always done his own work before. If I want to go out for an hour, or a day for that matter, I can leave the clerk here, and know that my business is going on just the same. I handle more money in a week now than I did in three months on the farm."

"I suppose the money you handle is not all clear profit."

"Oh, certainly not; but there is a pretty fair profit on the business, and I believe I am going to get rich here."

"I hope so, I am sure," said Phil, cordially.

"Snapp got rich, and I think I am as smart as he is," said Frank.

"I suppose that depends on circumstances, to some extent," replied Phil. "When a merchant takes in money, the larger part of it must be paid out for more goods to keep up his stock, while when a farmer gets money for his crops he has it as the result of his labors, and can keep it if he has not contracted debts that must be met. The farmer's stock is his land and his labor, and if his land is properly handled it is not impoverished by the crops he removes from it, and he can get more goods of the same kind from it year after year, and these he can sell, and all the time his stock is not reduced, and all he receives beyond a fair price for his labor is profit. That is one of the reasons that I wanted to become a farmer. I may not handle as much money as I would if I were in other business, but more of it is mine to keep when I get it."

"Well, I don't quite see it that way," argued Frank. "Take your case, for instance. You are in debt, and when you get your money for your crops you must use it to pay your debts, and the only difference between us is that I take mine to pay for new stock."

"That is true," admitted Phil, "but I hope to get out of debt some time, and every dollar that I put in my land is there to stay, and I can derive a revenue from it indefinitely, if I am a good farmer and understand my business, while you must be forever replenishing your stock. My farm grows better each year, and my revenue is constant if things go right, while your stock never gets to the place where it must not be renewed several times in the year."

"You are a crank about farming, Phil," laughed Frank, good-naturedly. "and I hope you will never get over it. For my part, I had enough of it long ago. Besides, if I want to go back at any time I can sell out here and go back to my farm, no worse for the resting-spell I am taking."

Shortly after this Kate came down from the house where she had been making a brief call on Mrs. Meade, and she and Phil started for home.

"Mrs. Meade has her house very nicely furnished," remarked Kate in the course of the small talk between her and her brother as they drove along in the pleasant dusk of the April day.

"I presume she thinks storekeeping as great an improvement over farm life as Frank does," answered Phil.

"If Frank is more enthusiastic than she, I don't know how he contains himself," smiled Kate. "She has a girl to do her work, and she tells me that she and Frank go out almost every evening, and take long rides every pleasant day, and they are planning a trip up the lakes during the summer. She says Frank is making a great deal of money, and that they can afford to enjoy themselves a little while young, instead of making slaves of themselves on the farm."

"I am a little afraid that Frank and his wife are cutting too wide a swath, as old Mr. Singer says," said Phil. "but I wish them well, I am sure. I only wish I could give you as good a time as Mrs. Meade seems to be having."

"You are silly, Phil," said Kate, looking up at him and smiling as she laid her hand on his, caressingly. "I am just as happy as I can be, and do not envy any girl on earth. Why should I, with so good a brother to think of me?"

This being an unanswerable question, Phil did not try to reply to it, but as he lifted his sister out of the buggy at home he kissed her on her cheek, and said:

"Kate, you are a darling."

CHAPTER VI.

Farmdale, as has been said, was not a railroad town, and the nearest station was nearly four miles away. The reason for this was that when the railroad was built the majority of the citizens of the place did not think it worth while to make a donation to the company to induce them to build the road through the place. This might not have kept the railroad away had it not been for the fact that it could be built through the valley of a little river, four miles from Farmdale, cheaper than through the town, and the promoters of the road thought they



"ISN'T THAT HAT AND DRESS A LITTLE BIT ELABORATE FOR US IN OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES?"

This came to the ears of a man named Snapp, who kept a grocery-store, and one day he began to talk to Frank about selling the store to him.

This Snapp had a very good trade, as frequently happens in country towns, but he was getting enough ahead to think of retiring, and intended to do so as soon as he could sell out to a good advantage.

"I haven't the money to buy you out," Frank had said to Snapp when that gentleman had proposed selling to him.

"You don't need a cent as far as I am concerned," answered Snapp. "I don't want to sell because my business is failing, but because I am getting along in years and want to rest."

"I have been thinking that you don't have a very hard time here," returned Frank. "If you were to work a year on a farm you would know what hard work is."

Snapp was too smart a salesman to tell Frank that of all the drudgery that any man was ever bound to, the keeping of a country store is the hardest. He said never a word about being compelled to rise early in the morning to accommodate customers who had forgotten something that must be had for breakfast; not a word said he about the late hours that must be kept for the accommodation of late buyers from the country or loafers of the town; he was silent about the dreadful monotony of it all, because he wanted to sell his store, and these things, if talked about, would have taken some of the glamor off Frank's ideal of the pleasures of the business. Instead of telling of these things he appeared to fall in with Frank.

decided to take Snapp's proposition favorably.

Going home that evening Frank broached the subject to his wife, and she was delighted with it, as the work of feeding chickens, making butter and keeping house, after the methods that a farmer's wife must, was not at all enticing to her, and the new plan promised to relieve her from all this, for she reasoned that a storekeeper's wife should have help about her work, and many more opportunities for social recreation than would be possible if she remained on the farm.

So it happened that about the time Phil took possession of the Pearson place Frank Meade rented his farm and bought the Snapp grocery, paying for it with notes secured by a mortgage on his farm, and moved to town.

Phil and Frank had never been in any sense intimates, but they had naturally been acquainted with each other and quite good friends. They met at church and at the various social meetings that occur in a rural neighborhood, and liked each other, though this liking had never been of the effusive order.

After the two young men had each taken up their new lines of work they met quite as often as they had when both lived in the same neighborhood, for quite frequently Phil and Kate drove over to Riverside to do their trading, as there were better opportunities for shopping there than at Jake Long's store at Farmdale. If Kate had butter and eggs to sell when she went to Riverside she sold them to Frank, and if she needed groceries she bought them of him; and very often she

could afford to leave the village to one side and strike Riverside, at that time a mere hamlet, to just as much advantage to themselves. The result was that Riverside grew to be a considerable town, while Farmdale stopped growing and began to fall into decay. A flag-station was made at the point where the railway came nearest to Farmdale, and from that place passengers and freight met the trains on the road.

The agent at this flag-station was the owner of a sawmill, and had been a friend of Phil's from his earliest boyhood. One day, as Phil was at the station on some errand, this agent asked him how he was getting on as a farmer.

"It is a little early to boast," said Phil, "but I am not discouraged yet. Kate and I are working pretty hard, and expect to have a long pull, but I don't feel like giving up yet."

"I glory in your spunk, Phil," said the agent, "and want to see you get the best of those old croakers up at the Dale. They've been telling me that you would starve out in a year or two, and I want to see you succeed. By the way, are ashes good for anything on a farm? Seems to me I've heard some one say they were."

"I'd like to have a lot," replied Phil. "They're good for potatoes and apple-trees, and I have the trees, and hope to have the potatoes."

"Well," said his friend, "there's fifty loads, more or less, over at the mill that are dreadfully in my way. If you want them bad enough to haul them away you're welcome to them."

"I'll take them gladly," answered Phil, "and haul them away as soon as I can. I'll come down and get a few loads at once."

This was how it happened that Phil got acquainted with a conductor on the road. One day there was a wreck somewhere along the line, and a passenger-train was held at the Farmdale station for several hours. Phil was handling ashes that day because it was too wet to plow, and the conductor wandered out to talk to him.

"Are you a farmer?" he asked.

"Yes, I try to be," answered Phil.

"Do you keep cows?" was the next question.

"Three."

"Make any more butter than you use?"

"Lots of it," replied Phil, wondering what was coming next from this inquisitive individual.

"You're the man I'm looking for," said the conductor. "I can't get good butter in the city, and if you'll bring me down a few pounds and leave it with the agent, and it suits me, I'll take all you make. If you make more than I can use, I'll find some one to take it."

"What do you expect to pay for it?" asked Phil. "It will be some trouble to bring it down."

"Would twenty-five cents a pound be satisfactory for the summer, and more if the price goes up in winter?"

"My sister attends to that part of the farming," answered Phil, "but I think I am safe in saying the price will be satisfactory, as she has been getting less than half that much for it here."

"I don't mind the price; it is quality that I am after. If your sister makes good butter, I'll take all she has to spare, and I hope she can have some for me when I come back on this trip."

When Phil got back home he told Kate of his conversation with the conductor, and the next morning when he went after another load of ashes he carried a jar of butter with him, which was left with the agent for the conductor.

Two or three days later the agent drove up to the home of Phil and Kate, and came in with several jars in his hands.

"I've been looking for you or Phil to come over to see about the butter," he said, setting his load down. "That conductor is just crazy about the butter you sent him, and every man on the line wants some just like it, I should judge from the number who have spoken to me about it. Here's four jars from as many different conductors, who would like to have some of the same kind."

"I'm afraid I cannot supply all of them," said Kate, blushing at the compliment which the railway men had paid her, "and the one Phil saw has the first chance. He spoke for all of it, and the others must arrange it with him."

"Couldn't slip out a few pounds for a special friend of mine?" asked the agent.

"I'm afraid he'll have to wait until I get more cows," replied Kate; "or he might get the other one to divide with him."

After this Kate had no trouble to find a sale for her butter at the price the conductor had offered, for he took all of it without complaining about the quantity. She learned the times when he passed the station, and made it a point to be there and deliver it herself, and the two got to be quite good friends.

"I suppose you keep chickens, too, over on the farm?" the conductor said to her one day.

"Yes, I have a few," Kate replied, "and have a lot more growing up."

"I wish you would bring me five dozen fresh eggs the next time you come with the

butter," he said. "I want the kind mother used to have. The ones we get in the city don't taste right, and I want my wife to learn how real good, fresh eggs taste once."

After Kate had delivered her first consignment of eggs her market extended rapidly, and in a few days the demand for these had increased until she could not meet it, at prices that made the price Jake Long paid look very insignificant.

"I believe we'll start a dairy and poultry farm," said Phil one evening as Kate was telling him how much she had got for the week's product of butter and eggs.

"It seems to me that there would be money in it," Kate assented; "but I think we had best be content for the present and make haste to get rich slowly."

"I'll take your advice," said Phil, "but there's one thing I have noticed. We seem to be living pretty well, and you haven't said money to me for a month. How do you manage it?"

"I have sold enough butter and eggs to keep our wants supplied," answered Kate, "and I think I can keep it up. If you need any help on the farm I think you might venture to hire some as you need it, for the cows and hens will supply our modest needs until we can raise some crops to sell."

"I prefer to get along with my work myself," said Phil, "and I would suggest that you take any surplus cash that you may acquire and buy some new clothes with it. I want you to look fresh and nice, so I can be proud of you always."

"How about yourself, then?"

"Oh, I'm a man and a farmer, and it is permissible for me to look a little out of date. And besides, I can still make a pretty respectable appearance on Sundays and holidays, if I try."

"But I want you to look nice, too," objected Kate.

"Well, you might get me some fresh ties and collars and handkerchiefs and such things. It will not do for me to be too gaudy, for you would sniffer by comparison."

"I am going to share with you, at any rate," Kate said, "and then you cannot find fault with me."

"I'd have no chance to do that in any event," said Phil, teasingly, "for you are faultless."

"And you are a good big brother to say such nice things to me."

A day or two after this conversation Kate drove over to Riverside on a shopping expedition, and after she came back and supper was over she presented Phil with some toilet accessories of the kind that he had once referred to as "flummery."

"Thank you, dear. And what did you get for yourself?" he asked.

Then Kate showed him a hat that might have been the envy of a city belle, and a dress that was wondrously and marvelously made, to Phil's unaccustomed eyes, not to mention smaller articles of the kind that woman loves to possess.

Phil looked at the array without making any remark for a minute, and then he said: "Isn't that hat and dress a little bit elaborate for us in our present circumstances?"

Before the words had fairly been spoken he could have cut his tongue out for having given expression to them. There came into his sister's eyes a hurt look that he has not yet forgotten. It was the unkindest thing he had ever said to her, and she gathered up her finery and carried it out of the room without a word.

Phil gathered up the milk-pails and went out to the barn and told the cows that he was a brute, while weeping Kate told the cat that she wanted to surprise him so much, and didn't think he would say that.

It was the nearest the two had ever come to having a quarrel, and I am afraid that the names he called himself that night as he was milking the cows would not look pretty in print.

When he went back to the house, Kate, very quiet and serious, took the milk-pails and started to carry them to the cellar, but Phil stopped her.

"Kate, dear," he said, "I'm an awful brute, and I don't care what the things cost. I am more than sorry that I said what I did, and I want you to forget it all. You deserve more and nicer things than I can afford to give you, and I said what I did not mean. Nothing can be too good nor too costly for you. Won't you be good and forgive me?"

This appeal was too much for Kate's composure, and she broke into a torrent of weeping, clinging to Phil as if he were her only support, while he smoothed her hair and spoke soothingly to her.

"It was a surprise to you," she said, presently, rather incoherently. "I didn't use a cent of the money you gave me to buy the things with. I paid for all of them out of the money I have saved from the butter and eggs, and had some left. The hat I made myself, and the dress is one I had two or three years ago made over, and the whole lot did not cost five dollars."

Phil did not cry, but he felt worse over the affair than Kate did, and after the storm was over she felt better for the tears, and when they parted that night harmony was completely restored, and, if possible, Phil admired his sister more than ever he had before.

As the spring advanced Phil executed the plans he had laid for the season, and among other things prepared flower-beds for his sister, and arranged for the time of bloom and perfume that would come later, when he hoped to see the old house made still brighter by its surrounding of flowers and the vines that should cling to the walls and shade the windows.

He had inherited a love for flowers from both his parents, and understood that the best sorts for a busy farmer were the kinds that could be most easily grown. He knew from experience that it was possible to have a very brilliant show of flowers from a small outlay if he planted the right sort of seeds, and he planted petunias, verbenas, balsams, phloxes, portulacas, the rose-moss of his mother's time, four-o'clocks, zinnias, and such other annuals as produce a profusion of flowers from June to frost, and of every color in the rainbow. He did not forget asters, for he loved their delicate tints and beautiful flowers, nor poppies, which he knew would burst into bloom on their long stems and nod and sway in the summer sunshine like a host of butterflies awing.

He did not neglect his field-work to plant flowers, but made the beds and helped Kate plant the seeds at odd moments, before breakfast and in the half hour between sunset and dark. He believed in the value of beauty, and knew that the farm where flowers bloom about the door and shed their sweet odors on the air is worth more money than one that is surrounded by a bare waste of dilapidated lawn, with nothing to attract attention to it, nor suggest peace and happiness such as belong to the real home within.

So far in his experiment he had not met with anything to greatly discourage him, and he was inclined to "accept the food the gods provided" and be content. He was not one to look forward for lions in the way, and such a disposition is a very comfortable one to have.

(To be continued.)

PRESERVING CUT FLOWERS.

In olden times much thought was given to growing flowers for cutting which would keep some time after being cut. The camellia was popular on that account, and the different forms of bouvardia were also popular for the same reason. These flowers have lost, in a great measure, their great popularity. The carnation, now so popular, is one of the class which keeps in good condition for considerable time after cutting. It is not, however, generally known that if flowers, after being cut, are placed for a few hours with their stems in cold water, in a comparatively cool place, it will preserve their freshness when placed in a warm room much longer than without this process. Roses, especially if cut and placed in decorative positions at once, soon wilt; but if cut and placed in water in a cellar for a few hours before being brought to the full light, they will continue fresh for double the time they otherwise would.—Meehans' Monthly.

NOTHING.

"Pat," said Tommy to the gardener, "what is nothing?"

"There ain't any such thing as nothin'," replied Pat, "because when ye find nothin' and come to look at it, there ain't nothin' there."

STRANGE NEW SHRUB THAT CURES KIDNEY AND BLADDER DISEASES, RHEUMATISM, ETC.—FREE.

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"It is no trouble," writes a Clinton county, Ohio, agent, "to get subscribers for FARM AND FIRESIDE and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION. I took the seven orders inclosed at odd spells when busy at other work. Shall make a strong pull with Peerless Atlas and cloth-bound Lincoln soon."

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FIRST USE OF PAPER MONEY.

The following selection from the "Conquest of Granada," in which Washington Irving tells of the first use of paper money, is of interest in these days of financial discussion. It was in 1483 that the Spaniards in the strong fortress of Alhama were closely besieged by the Moors. The defense had been entrusted to the Count of Tendilla, a wily but most chivalrous cavalier. The issue of the bills was an incident of the siege, and they constituted fiat money with a vengeance. In relating the story, Irving puts the words into the mouth of the pious Fray Antonio Agapida, an imaginary personage on whose alleged chronicles the "Conquest of Granada" is based. He served the author as a convenient type and mouthpiece of the monkish zealots whose part in the war consisted of "marring the chivalry of the camp by the bigotry of this cloister, and chronicling with rapture every act of intolerance toward the Moors." The quotation follows:

"It happened," Agapida observes, "that the Catholic cavalier at one time was destitute of gold and silver wherewith to pay the wages of his troops; and the soldiers murmured greatly, seeing they had not the means of purchasing necessaries from the people of the town. In this dilemma what does this most sagacious commander? He takes me a number of little morsels of paper, on the which he inscribes various sums, large and small, according to the nature of the case, and signs me them with his own hand and name. These did he give to the soldiers in the earnest of their pay. 'How,' you will say, 'are soldiers to be paid with scraps of paper?' Even so, I answer, and well paid, too, as I will presently make manifest, for the good count issues a proclamation ordering the inhabitants of Alhama to take these morsels of paper for the full amount therein inscribed, promising to redeem them at a future time with silver and gold, and threatening severe punishment to all who should refuse. The people, having full confidence in his word, and trusting that he would be as willing to perform the one promise as he certainly was able to perform the other, took those curious morsels of paper without hesitation or demur. Thus by a subtle and most miraculous kind of alchemy did this Catholic cavalier turn worthless paper into precious gold, and make his late impoverished garrison abound in money."

Irving concludes the story by remarking: "It is but just to add that the Count de Tendilla redeemed his promises like a loyal knight; and this miracle, as it appeared in the eyes of Fray Antonio Agapida, is the first instance on record of paper money, which has since inundated the civilized world with unbounded opulence."

THE CARE OF BOOKS.

When we were children we were taught that it was next door to a crime to destroy books. Of course, books are not as expensive or as hard to get now as they were a quarter of a century ago, but all the same they are too valuable to waste or throw away.

Children should be taught how best to take care of books, and ought never to be permitted to throw or bang them about or tear them into pieces. They should be encouraged to accumulate volumes, and to do this must have a place in which to keep them. Good, plain book-shelves cost but little, and every child should have a set.

In one well-ordered household there are five youngsters between the ages of five and fifteen years. Each child has a bookcase, one of the ordinary, plain sort that cost four or five dollars. There are curtains made from the skirts of worn-out dresses or of paper muslin, for the family has but little of this world's goods to use, and every dollar, even every cent, has to be counted. But there is in this household a spirit of consideration that will not allow interference with private property, and each member is expected to take care of his or her own possessions, to be responsible for them and to exercise absolute control and ownership over them. Especially is it the case with books and toys. These are borrowed and loaned only with the owner's consent. New books are carefully covered, and marked with the owner's name, not only on the cover, but also across the first page of the story or reading matter. Names on the fly-leaf may be obliterated or torn off, but when placed across the beginning of the subject-matter they are apt to remain, and are easily identified.

THE TRUE STORY OF BLUEBEARD.

Everybody who has heard the story of Bluebeard, the cruel husband whose pleasure seems to have been to cut off the heads of his wives, will be grateful to Professor Wilson for telling the true story of this man who has made us shudder. Professor Wilson says that the real Bluebeard lived in Brittany, before Brittany became a part of France. His father died when the boy was young. In Brittany at that time it was not thought that mothers knew how to bring up their sons. This boy was given to the care of his mother's father. It was the custom in that country at that time, about 1420, for boys to marry young, so Giles de Rais was

married at sixteen years of age, his wife having been selected by his grandfather. His wife lived many years after him, and never complained of cruelty from her husband. Giles de Rais went to war shortly after he was married. Brittany was at war with England. He was a brave soldier, and advanced rapidly. He became dean of the nobles, and was sent to see the king of France, Charles VII. It is said that Giles de Rais was one of the bodyguards of Joan of Arc. He became a marshal of France, but returned to Brittany, where he had several castles. He was very extravagant, and at last used up all his money, and became a poor miser. He sought the philosopher's stone that was supposed to bring great wealth to the finder. He met a priest who was an alchemist. Together the priest and Giles worked day and night in one of Bluebeard's gloomy castles to find the magic stone. The priest at last said that they must have the blood of innocent young men and women. Then Giles became the mysterious monster who gave rise to the famous tale, and men and women disappeared in his castle. The people were roused, and the guilt of Bluebeard, an assistant and the priest was proven. They were executed, and at this day the peasants show the place. There were no newspapers to print the story at that time, so people told it one to the other. Probably some unwise parents made it even more terrible in order to frighten little children. It was in this telling from one to the other that the story was changed. Professor Wilson has studied the stories of that olden time called folk-lore until he has found the true stories, as people of that far-away time told them.

KEEP YOUR HEART YOUNG.

A mother who is young at heart is a great blessing to her children: she enters into their games, and with them is a child once more. When her girls grow older she is to them a sort of elder sister, and between herself and her boys there is a camaraderie which makes them think home the most delightful place in the universe, and "mother" the best of companions.

It was this sort of feeling that the great German poet Goethe had for his mother. He was her first-born son, and came to be her pet and playmate before she was out of her teens. She was a clever and accomplished woman, and she used to attribute the strength of the firm bond of union which existed between her and her son to the fact that they had played together. "My Wolfgang and I were young together," she would proudly say, and I think as she did that this will give the secret of her son's love for her.

It is not, however, necessary to be young in years for a mother to be all to her children that Goethe's mother was to him. Years have really very little to do with the matter, for it is a young, fresh heart that is wanted to enter into the thoughts and feelings of childhood. This is found sometimes in people who have lived for many years in the world, and have felt its sorrows and cares, but who all the same have kept within them the simple, loving hearts of little children.

A VEGETABLE PUMPING-ENGINE.

This is the title bestowed upon the ordinary tree by Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson. In a recent address, quoted in "Cassier's Magazine," he says: "Hydraulic engineers would be sorely puzzled to explain how the large quantity of water required to supply the evaporation from the extended leaf surface is raised to heights up to four hundred feet and above. We know that the source of energy must be the sun's rays, and we know further that in the production of starch the leaf stores up less than one per cent of the available energy, so that plenty remains for raising water. Experiments have shown that transpiration at the leaf establishes a draft upon the sap, and there is reason to believe that this pull is transmitted to the root by tensile stress. The idea of a rope of water sustaining a pull of perhaps one hundred and fifty pounds a square inch may be repugnant to many engineers, but the tensile strength and extensibility of water and other fluids have been proved experimentally by Professor Osborne Reynolds and by Professor Worthington and others."

THE CARE OF THE FEET.

A great deal of unnecessary pain and of positive ill-health is caused by neglecting the feet. If the feet are allowed to be in an uncomfortable condition, exercise becomes difficult, and the general health suffers from want of it. A troublesome corn or an ingrowing toe-nail will in this way often cause an illness, and even if the results are not so serious, it is just as well to avoid irritation.

One of the most important points about the care of the feet is to keep them clean. The hands, being exposed to the air and to view, are washed frequently because we see that they are dirty, but it is often considered quite sufficient to wash the feet once a week. In the East this is not so, and the feet are washed two or three times a day, and have also the benefit of being well ventilated. But in America, where they are

shut up in tight-fitting boots, they are often allowed to go for many days without being washed, and the consequence is tenderness, soft corns and other troubles. The feet perspire as much as other parts of the body, and if this perspiration is not removed, it is apt to collect, especially between the toes; and being a secretion poisonous in itself, sets up irritation, soreness and cracks.

The feet should be washed every day, and if they are tender, salt or sea-salt should be added to the bath; or a little ammonia is most refreshing. After well drying the feet they should be powdered with oxid of zinc or boracic acid, and if there is slight soreness between the toes, a little boracic acid may be placed on a tuft of wool between them. If there is actually a soft corn, soak a tuft of wool in castor-oil, or use an ointment of five grains of red oxid mercury in an ounce of vaseline, keeping it constantly applied. The proportion of mercury may be increased as the corn becomes less troublesome up to ten or fifteen grains to the ounce.

INJURY FROM VEILS.

A prominent oculist attributes the trouble which women are having with their eyes to the habit of wearing veils with dots. This oculist has made many experiments, being able to detect the gradual loss of vision of which the women have been unconscious. The veil that seemed to stand the test was one in which there were forty-eight meshes to the square inch, with dots one and one half inches apart. White net was found to be very irritating to the eye. Single threads were found to be more embarrassing to the eyesight than double threads. The consensus of opinion is that women with naturally weak eyes cannot wear a veil without immediately finding themselves suffering from nervous disorders that are directly traceable to the injury of the eyesight. Oculists declare that the placing of veils over the faces of babes is criminal.

INCREASE OF MURDER.

The census reports indicate that murders are greatly increasing in this country. Without giving statistics over many years, which show a general increase of crimes of this nature, we will only compare the records of 1886 and 1895. In 1886 there were one thousand four hundred and forty-nine murders in the United States. In 1895 there were ten thousand five hundred murders, an increase of seven hundred per cent. A statistician upon this subject has remarked that "a similar increase for the next ten years will give us more than seventy-five thousand per annum!"

These are appalling figures. Ten thousand five hundred murders in a year in our country! This is about one murder for every eight thousand population. The Scriptures tell us that in the days before the flood "the

earth was filled with violence." Gen. vi. 11. Christ, describing the days which should immediately precede his coming, compared them with the days of Noah. With deaths by violence increasing at such an alarming ratio, and other crimes, as might be expected, also increasing—for the same general cause underlies all crimes—what hopeful outlook is there for the race except the coming of Christ and the establishment of his kingdom, when the "meek shall inherit the earth?"

THE CARE OF SPECTACLES.

An experienced oculist says that a great many people injure their eyesight by not keeping their glasses bright and highly polished. They allow dust and perspiration to accumulate upon them, then they are dim and semiopaque, and the eyes are strained with trying to look through them. It is not an easy matter to keep glasses in perfect order, especially in warm weather, and just what is best to clean them with has long been an unsettled question. One man has put himself on record as declaring that the only cleaner he found satisfactory was a bank-note of large denomination. Whether the size of the note or the quality had to do with the efficacy of it was not stated. A lady has used a Japanese paper napkin with most pleasing results, and says she buys paper napkins by the dozen, and keeps them on hand for this purpose. Another lady, who must be very particular about her glasses, keeps on hand bits of mosquito-netting thoroughly washed and rinsed in clear water and ironed, and pronounces them in every way better than anything she has ever tried. The ordinary pocket-bandkerchief being not a practical glass-cleaner, these suggestions are given for what they are worth.

MR. MASON'S FIRST SPEECH IN CONGRESS.

The first speech of Senator-elect Mason, of Illinois, in the House of Representatives was on the tariff when Carlisle was speaker. Sunset Cox replied to him, and made one of his most humorous efforts, in the course of which he frequently referred to the devil, and quoted these lines:

His scarlet coat and pants of blue,
With a little hole for his tail to go through.

Mr. Reed went around to the new member, who was about to make his rejoinder, and quietly told him to drop his statistics and "get after" Sunset Cox. Mason did so, and began by saying, "I am not surprised that any free-trader should be familiar with the wardrobe of the devil, but, as bad as the devil has the reputation of being, he yet has patriotism enough to patronize a home market and buy his breeches in hell." The sally was quite as effective as any Cox had made, and Mason from that day had an established reputation as a congressional wit.—Springfield Republican.

A Mightier Foe than Armies
OVERCOME BY A BRAVE UNION GENERAL AND HIS FAITHFUL ALLY, DR. WILLIAMS.

From the Sentinel, Cherokee, Kansas.

At the breaking out of the war of the rebellion in 1861, General Wiles, whose portrait adorns our page, was Captain and owner of the then well-known river steamboat, "Charley Potwin," plying between Zanesville and Parkersburg, but he immediately disposed of his boat and became enrolled as lieutenant in the 78th Ohio Infantry. At the battle of Fort Donelson, on February 16, 1862, Lieutenant Wiles was promoted from lieutenant to lieutenant-colonel, for "brave and meritorious conduct on the field," and at the age of thirty-six

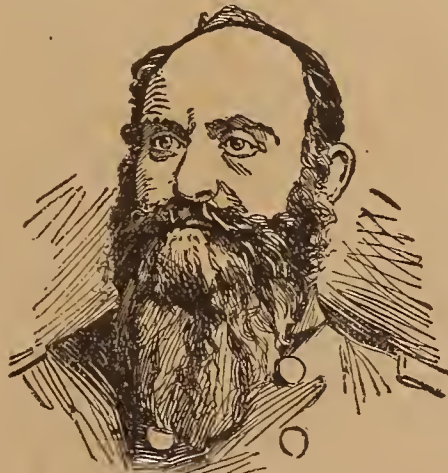
proving fatal. Typhoid fever, followed by inflammatory rheumatism and then paralysis, made a temporary wreck of the herculean frame, and in view of his advanced age, his anxious friends believed that he was not long for this world. The following is his own account of his illness:

"In the latter part of 1890, I was taken down with a severe attack of typhoid fever, which confined me to my bed for two months. Two months is a long time to be in bed, but I was not to get up yet, for inflammatory rheumatism seized me, and it was worse than the typhoid, for it was more painful. To add to my trouble and make it more interesting, the inflammatory rheumatism was followed by a stroke of paralysis, and I lost almost totally the use of my legs and arms, for I could not walk a step and could not feed myself. It would seem that I had reached the depths of misery, but such was not the case, for my kidneys gave out, and this seemed to be the last straw on the load that was to crush me.

"My friends all thought I would never recover, and though the doctors came to see me and prescribed, it was easy to see that they were but trying to make my pathway to the grave a little more easy, without the remotest hope of recovery, and I looked forward to death with happiness.

"While in this frame of mind, I was advised by a friend to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and began the use of them, taking one pill after each meal, and this I continued for one week, and began to fancy I perceived improvement in my condition. I then increased the dose to two after each meal, and at the end of the second week there was no doubt but what Pink Pills were making me better, so I kept on using them according to directions, and in three months was a well man."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all dealers, or will be sent post-paid on receipt of price, 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50 (they are never sold in bulk or by the 100), by addressing Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.



GENERAL G. F. WILES.

General Wiles was colonel of his regiment, and while with Sherman, was gazetted brigadier-general.

The General lives the greater part of his time in Halstead, Kansas, though he is much in Windsor, New York, in both of which places he has business interests that require his presence.

Some few years ago General Wiles was attacked by illness, which came very near

Our Household.

PARTING.

BY THERESA LYNN.

A baby playing on the cottage floor,
His merry laughter filling all the air;
A woman watching from the cottage door;
She loves to see her boy so bright and fair.

A school-boy, with his books and games so
gay,
So proud a word to spell, his name to
write,
So busy with his work and merry play;
In him the mother's heart takes much
delight.

A youth is stepping from the cottage door,
He goes his fortune in the world to seek;
For years his home nor friends will see him
more;
The mother weeps, and thinks her heart
will break.

Ah, yes! the parting most is felt at home,
For there the loved one oft is brought to
mind;

A chair is vacant when the evenings come,
No gladness then the mother's heart will
find.

The absent thought his home he'd love to
see.

New scenes, new thoughts, new friends to
him will come;

Dear God, lead safe the boy where'er he be,
And cheer the mother in her darkened
home.

HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES.

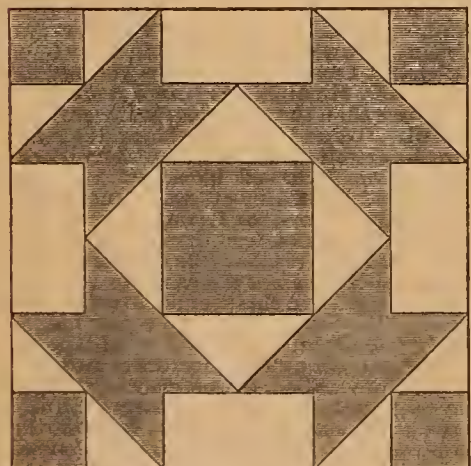
WHERE circumstances make it possible to do so, it is well enough to call in a physician whenever one of the family becomes ill, although in many instances home remedies could be applied as effectually and far more cheaply; but many of us are so situated that we have to depend upon our own resources, except in severe sickness, therefore I will mention a few remedies that may prove helpful to some one:

Where fever is indicated by lassitude, lack of appetite, chills and a quick, bounding pulse, a sweat should be taken at once. Fill a saucer half full of alcohol, throw a lighted match into it, and place under the chair where the patient sits; the clothing should all be removed and blankets placed around the chair in such a way as to exclude all outside air and yet allow the heat from the burning alcohol to reach all parts of the body.

If this does not cause perspiration, use more alcohol. The feet should also be placed in hot mustard-water. Care must be taken that no cold air reaches the body. At bedtime a cathartic should be taken, and if the head is hot and painful, apply cloths dipped into cold water. In nearly every case all fever symptoms will disappear with this treatment.

For colds, when the lungs are sore and painful and pneumonia threatens, saturate flannel with camphorated oil and turpentine, using three fourths oil and one fourth turpentine, and place on the chest. This will afford prompt relief.

For bowel trouble, so prevalent in the summer-time, there is no remedy better



than a good dose of castor-oil containing a few drops of paregoric; this will remove the cause of irritation and prove soothing to the bowels. But should the attack prove persistent, steep some raspberry or blackberry leaves or roots, making the tea quite strong, and drink freely of this. It is a sure cure.

Bilious colic is quite a common complaint, and a very painful one, caused by the presence of acid bile in stomach and bowels. When an attack is coming on, a liver-pill should be taken, or a dose of

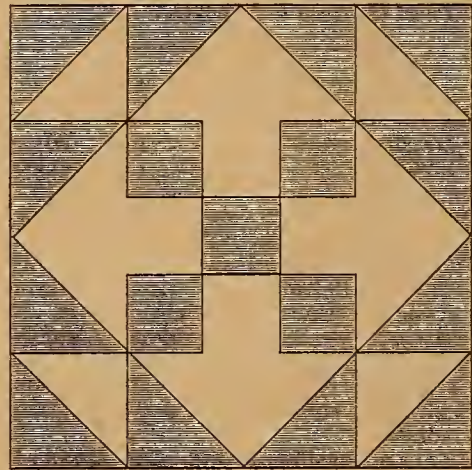
mandrake-powder; but when the attack is well on and there is nausea, mustard-water should be drunk to induce vomiting, after which a spoonful of pure sweet-oil should be taken frequently until violent symptoms subside; also small doses of paregoric may be taken to allay the pain. The feet should be soaked in hot mustard-water, and cloths wrung from hot water placed on the bowels.

For cuts and lacerated wounds there is no better remedy known than tincture of calendula. If used in time it will prevent inflammation of the most serious wounds. About twenty-five drops to a half cupful of water is the right proportion, and the wound must be kept moist with it. If one has marigold-plants, they can make a preparation that will do just as well by taking the leaves and flowers, bruising them until the juice is extracted, then mixing with three parts water and one part alcohol. A teaspoonful of the juice to a half cupful of water will be about right.

ELLA L. LAYSON.

QUILT PATTERNS.

As piecing quilts has not entirely become a lost art, especially among "farmer folks," I here send a few patterns which are easy to piece and have been much admired. They are pretty made only of scraps, but are really handsome when pieced out of blue and white, pink and white, or any color one may prefer. If one has a family of boys, they need never be without plenty of quilts. Just cut some blocks and give them the use of the machine, and see how much pride they



will take in their work, doing it as nicely as any one. Teaching boys to sew does not make them any the less manly, while it is a benefit to them as well as their mothers.

A. M. M.

ONIONS—THEIR USES.

A great many things are written about the healthfulness of this tear-provoking vegetable nowadays, but when it comes to the question of their excellence when properly prepared for the table I am reminded of the man who once said, "Like onions? Why, the person who don't like them must be a liar!" Although I fail to see why such a person should be eligible to the above epithet, I do think they are "proper good eatin'." I have found some recipes that are a "touch beyond" anything I have ever tried, and will write them down for the benefit of other onion lovers:

If onions are properly prepared, there is little or no odor from them left in the breath; and for lovers of uncooked, sliced onions it is well to know that if a sprig of parsley is dipped into vinegar, and eaten, no unpleasant odor can be detected. With so much to recommend them, the onion should be found in some form on our tables very frequently. Onions should be cooked always in agate or porcelain lined vessels, for ironware is liable to make them dark-colored. If the onions are held under water while peeling, there will be no shedding of tears.

ONION SOUP.—Peel and slice half a dozen onions, put into a saucepan, with three tablespoonfuls of butter, place over the fire, and stir until the onions commence to cook; then cover the pan closely, and put it back on the stove, where the onions will steam and simmer until the milk is ready. Put one quart of milk into a double boiler, and when it is at the boiling-point, which should be in about fifteen minutes, draw the pan containing the onions to the front part of the fire, stir in one tablespoonful of flour, and cook a moment before adding the boiling milk to the onions; cook fifteen minutes, plac-

ing the pan where the milk cannot burn; strain through a sieve, return the strained soup to the fire, and season with salt and white pepper. Beat the yolks of three eggs light, and stir into them a cupful of cream; add this to the hot soup, and as soon as the whole is thoroughly heated, pour into a tureen; sprinkle a little chopped parsley over the top, and serve. Pass grated cheese with this soup, and each person can add it to suit his taste.

Another onion soup is made thus: Peel three large onions, and slice them thin; put the slices into a pan, with a good-sized piece of butter, put the pan over the fire, and as the butter melts, stir the onions so they will cook evenly; when the onions are light-colored and tender, stir in two spoonfuls of flour, and cook a moment before adding one and one half cupfuls of hot stock (or water will answer if the stock is not at hand); this should be added slowly, stirring all the time. Mash fine two large boiled potatoes, and gradually mix with them one and one half pints of boiling milk, add the onion mixture to this, and strain through a sieve; heat the strained soup, and season highly with salt and pepper; add a tablespoonful of chopped parsley, and serve. Toasted crackers or squares of bread nicely toasted and buttered are nice to serve with this soup.

FRIED ONIONS.—Perhaps the easiest way to fry onions is in a wire basket. Peel the onions, and slice them; pour boiling water over them, and cook fifteen minutes; turn them into a clean cloth to drain, put a few of the onions into a frying-basket, and dip them into smoking-hot fat, and brown; drain on brown paper, and dust with salt and pepper. Onions cooked in this manner are served with liver and bacon. Onions may be parboiled, cut into thick slices, and then fried in butter; sliced apples being fried in the same pan, and both being served together, laid upon slices of buttered toast. Little button-onions often are parboiled in milk, then rolled in flour, fried in very hot fat, served by themselves garnished with parsley.

A. M. M.

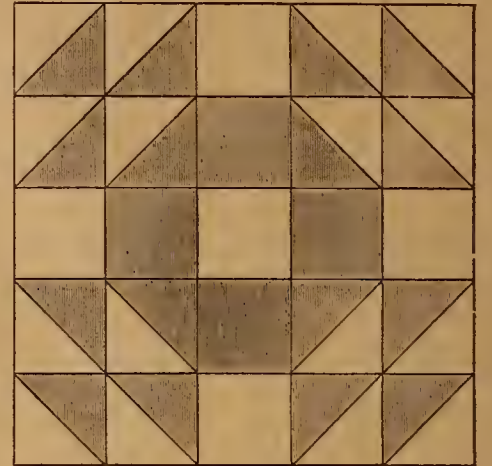
THAT SENSITIVE SPOT.

I am often prevented from relating a pointed anecdote because my memory fails to recall exactly who it was that perpetrated the deed or uttered the witticism. This straining for accuracy deters a person from appearing to be brilliant, and perhaps it would be just as well to follow the example of certain historians, who fasten the good story on any hero it may be made to fit. The story I have in mind is about some great lady who lived to an advanced age. Her number of years had become so unusual that one day a misguided person thought himself warranted in asking her how old she was. The stately dame put on a frosty dignity, and replied, "Sir, I have not lived so long but that I can remember that it was never good manners to refer to a lady's age." Such a repartee makes us cry bravo! My grandmother lived to be ninety, and during her last decade nearly every one made her advanced age the topic of conversation. One day she and I were in a store together, and the storekeeper, in very bland tones, said, "Well, grandma, you're getting far up in years. How old are you now?" She gave a disgusted sniff, and replied, "Humph! How old are you?"

You fancy that something personal has sent me off on this line of thinking. You are right. Yes, I, Aunt Griselda, had quite a hackset to-day. I was feeling pretty well when I answered a ring at the door-bell and found a jaunty young man, who, before I could utter a word, began, "Madam, I am selling a very nice little article." He held the nice little article in his hand; at first glance I observed a tin cylinder, and he proceeded, "This, madam, is a convenience by which a curling-iron receives the heat from the lamp-chimney, but does not get full of smoke. You hold it thus," etc., etc. I said, with a polite smile, "No, thank you; I never curl my hair on an iron." "Are there no young ladies in the house?" he asked. And he actually put accent on the word young! Well, poor old Aunt Griselda, you now know how you appear in the eyes of a jaunty young man. To be sure, you rather vaunt yourself on not trying to appear younger than you are. You call yourself old, but, you simpleton, you will allow no one else to call you so without a wee bit of resentment, and in your silly old heart you feel young! It was so un-

kind of that young man! Could he not have asked for other ladies?

At a boarding-house where I stayed last summer a bright little lady said to me, "I am the oldest person in this house. I am sixty, and often I quite forget my years and begin to feel gaily, but some one promptly reminds me that I am an old woman, and then my spirits are quelled, and I retreat to the quiet, dismal solitude where, I suppose, old women belong." Is it not cruel, this idea that all attractiveness belongs to youth? Oh, how one longs for a few good, congenial friends



in whose eyes one may remain as pleasing as in youth! She was a happy woman of whom this was written:

What though on her cheeks the rose loses its hue,
Her wit and her humor bloom all the year
through;
Time still, as he flies, adds increase to her
truth,
And gives to her mind what he steals from
her youth.

Not only women, but men, share in the unpleasant sensation caused by reference to advancing years. My cousin Jack, a jolly boy, and of the temperament which will keep him jolly and boyish so long as he lives, wrote in a recent letter, "I am past sixty, and I don't feel old, but I suppose I must look old, for a fool of a woman in the street-car the other day insisted on rising and giving me her seat." You must know Cousin Jack to fully appreciate his humor. We laughed to imagine the officious woman who fancied she was doing a graceful thing, when really the gentleman she tried to oblige was forced to reflect, "Ah, I must be a feeble-looking old fellow if it has come to this!"

Let us who are getting old and you who are young agree to be as kindly careful as possible in avoiding a subject so delicate and apt to displease. Let us remember that in the mind of every one who has consciousness of advancing years there is this sensitive spot. AUNT GRISELDA.

INFANTS' CAP IN MODERN LACE.

One dozen yards of linen hemstitched braid, one ball of No. 1000 thread and pattern are the materials requisite in developing this most dainty article of the "wee king's wardrobe."

The design, which may easily be enlarged, is made up in the simplest of stitches; namely, points Grecque, Brus-



sels and Alencon, with fan and spider stitches, all of which have been fully described in former articles. A narrow edging is used as a fringe about the cap, making a very pretty finish, and is lined with soft cashmere in a pale shade of blue.

GRACE MCCOWEN.

THROAT TROUBLES. To allay the irritation that induces coughing, use "Brown's Bronchial Troches." A simple and safe remedy.

DOUBT.

I doubt it all—
Life, death, heaven, hell.
To-day we're here. To-morrow, where?
No one can tell.

Life is a weary way
The whole wide stretch along.
We work, grieve, pray;
And find it at the last
Not worth a song.

—Owen Manpay.

TO LAUNDRER LACE CURTAINS.

TO LAUNDRER lace curtains at home is far easier said than done. But it can be done, and well done, if sufficient of painstaking be determined upon and carried into effect.

Even when considerably soiled they are frequently made to do service "one season more," because of the dread of laundering. Hung against the window, with no background of shade or other heavy curtaining, they may be quite soiled and still show but little of this effect. But where hung in folds or draped over the shade every damaging effect of dust and smoke becomes intensified. And there is no other way than to resort to some manner of renovating.

The modus operandi of lace-curtain laundering, after old-time methods, is too well known to need repeating; but my method of refreshing—when not too seriously soiled—is not so well known, I am led to believe.

Taken down from the poles over the windows, they are first taken out of doors, and shaken, to remove as much dust as possible. A very stiff, clean clothes-brush is then brought to bear upon them, and carefully but thoroughly they are brushed until every removable trace of dust and grime is gone. Taking them to the ironing-board, piece by piece they are dampened, and rubbed over with a soft white cloth that has been wrung from warm starch-water. The starch is simply dissolved in the water, one tablespoonful to one quart or a little less of water. As fast as dampened, the lace is pressed dry with a moderately hot iron. When it has been thus treated from top to bottom, the curtain is folded down the center as when new, and pressed, and the center fold adds to the deception of "new."

Especially if of ecru shade the curtains will bear much the appearance of the new, for they do not show the soil as do pure white ones. If the white lace curtains be too glaringly white to suit, coffee added to the rinse water when curtains are washed will give them the desired tint of ecru.

Lace curtains dipped into quite strong coffee take on a shade of brown that makes them very pretty. At one time they were quite the thing in certain villages. Passers-by noting the "new-style" lace curtains at the windows of the homes of friends found upon inquiry that they were simply old curtains considered almost as garret property, made new by washing, dipping into coffee, and stretching down upon carpets in a room where the wind swept through, which dried them rapidly.

Curtain-stretchers for the purpose of drying and shaping lace curtains are not



commonly owned. Somewhat expensive, they are purchased by but comparatively few. Yet they might be made a neighborhood property, costing each "stockholder" but a trifle. In villages they are not found in stock. They are ordered from the cities. In saving of lace-curtain laundry bills it would take but a little time to have made a curtain-stretcher pay for itself.

ELLA HOUGHTON.

THE CONTAGIOUSNESS OF GRIP.

Before we study the serious subject of this paper, let me ask why people will persist in calling it la grippe when we have the shorter English grip? I have seen it called "the la grippe," which would be like saying "the the grip."

In his address at Liverpool before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Sir Joseph Lister, in a reference to bacteria, said, "And the microbe of influenza is the smallest yet identified." Notice that he spoke of no "ifs" in connection with it, but made the positive assertion as to its discovery and its size. Before Sir Morell McKenzie died he wrote out his theory and belief as to grip. He felt almost certain that it would be found to be a microbial disease, his idea being that the organisms attack the nerves of their victims. The great epidemic of grip that began in the month of December, 1889, in Paris, came over to England at once, crossed the water in a few days, so that the second week of 1890 will long remain memorable in the annals of epidemics in New York City, when long lines of men and women stood outside the druggists' doors waiting to be served, and the undertakers' shops were rushed night and day with all the extraneous help they could command. From this center the



disease diffused itself to every principal city and town in this country, and was not long in making its way to all those isles of the sea where we have commercial intercourse, and the observant student could not avoid the inference that it had been carried to those remote regions. A royal commission in England was appointed to investigate the actual course and behavior of the disease. It consisted of Dr. Parsons, who is pre-eminent in the department of diseases of the respiratory tract, and Klein, the great microscopist. They produced an elaborate report, but the great surprise and feature of it was the expression of their conviction that the grip is a contagious, communicable disease that can be carried in garments. Some astonishing outbreaks that have occurred at sea are accounted for on the theory that it was contained in garments taken out of trunks opened far out on the ocean. Meantime, the bacteriologists have been prosecuting their work, with the aid of improved microscopes, and have discovered the real materies morbi—the thing that produces the illness—in this most infinitesimal of all the invisible enemies of mankind.

The practical instructions to be drawn from these facts are: First, to learn to be properly afraid of the disease, and to avoid crowds and assemblies of all sorts while the complaint is rife. There have been many epidemics of it following Christmas "trees" and Christmas assemblies of other kinds. Second, isolate individual patients in their homes. More care would be exercised to avoid the disease if there was a more lively realization of what a serious disease it is, even when the first onset seems comparatively light. Any disease that attacks the nervous system is liable to have very distressing after-effects. And third, there must be great care exercised for a long time after a person seems well. One celebrated doctor in New York reported that his grip patients did not die of grip, but that many of them lost their lives from their own imprudence in exerting themselves before they were strong enough, and exposing themselves to cold before their nervous systems were able to withstand the effects.

Mrs. H. M. PLUNKETT.

My brother contracted a severe Cold, which resulted in Pneumonia. Being far removed from any physician, he resorted to Jayne's Expectorant, and HE BELIEVES THAT IT WAS THE ONLY MEANS OF SAVING HIS LIFE.—J. N. FRENCH, Evangelist, Palestine, Texas, Nov. 18, 1896.

If bilious, take Jayne's Painless Sanative Pills.

IVORY SOAP

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HEMSTITCHED BABY DRESS.

The material used was a good quality of India linen. The yoke was cut entire, hemstitched, and then lined under the plain portions. A hemstitched ruffle trimmed it across the shoulders and at the hands, and a wide piece of hemstitching trimmed it just above the hem. Its very daintiness was charming.

APPLES AS FOOD.

From a medical point of view the apple may be considered the most desirable fruit which can be placed upon our table. It is rich in phosphoric acid, is an excellent brain-food and a promoter of digestion. To these claims may be added that the flavor is agreeable to nearly every one. Owing to its good keeping qualities it is nearly always on hand, and is cheap.

Why, then, does it so rarely form a part of our meals? Of course, there is "apple sauce," and sometimes an apple pie. And yet there is no production of our farms that can be prepared for food in so many dainty and appetizing ways.

First sweet apples. In the fall take Pumpkin Sweets, pare, core, and cut into eighths, for these apples are generally large. To each pound of apples take one half pound of granulated sugar, and two quinces cut into thin slices. Make a syrup of the sugar, boil, skim, add fruit, and cook until tender. For a change a lemon may be used in place of the quinces. Talman Sweets are the best keepers for winter. These make an excellent sweet pickle. Make the same as you make peach or pear pickles. Instead of baking these apples, try boiling them. Wipe and trim carefully, and put into a preserving-kettle. Add plenty of water for cooking, and for each dozen of apples a cupful of sugar. Cook slowly, allowing the syrup to boil away.

When we come to sour apples, the ways in which they may be prepared for the table are many. To serve with pork, fried apples are very good. Have the fat from the pork hot in the frying-pan, put in apples sliced thin, and sugar according to the tartness of the fruit, cover, and cook slowly, stirring with care, so as not to break the slices. Rambos or russets are nice baked. Remove the cores, then fill the holes with sugar and a generous bit of butter. Pour a little water into the pan, and bake slowly. If the water cooks away before they are done, add more. Apples pared, quartered, cored, and baked in a pudding-dish, with sufficient water and sugar for cooking, make another change. The dish must be covered and the oven not too hot. A bit of cinnamon or nutmeg improves these last for some.

Every well-regulated family has its own recipe for apple dumplings, but the following two puddings may be new to some: Make a rich dough as for biscuits, and roll out one quarter of an inch thick. Spread thickly with butter and sugar, then cover with a layer of finely chopped apples; roll up like a jelly-roll, and cut into pieces two inches thick. Bake in a buttered pan. Serve hot, with sweetened cream or pudding sauce.

For the second, soak one cupful of tapioca over night in three cupfuls of water. Peel, and remove the cores from apples enough to fill a pudding-dish; sweeten the tapioca, add a pinch of salt, and pour over the apples. Bake one hour, and serve cold, with sugar and cream.

Apples, especially the Early Red Astrachans, make delicious jelly. Quarter, and remove the cores, add water enough to prevent burning, cook until tender, then strain through a jelly-bag. Measure the juice, allowing an equal amount of granulated sugar. Allow the juice to boil ten minutes, skimming carefully before putting in the sugar. Continue the boiling twenty minutes longer. If the apples are very ripe, a little longer cooking may be necessary.

ANNA JOHNSON.

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Our Household.

AN ODD STORY.

Oh, bright was the day when they sailed away
On the matrimonial sea!
They were happy as they could be.

Sweet sprays of orange-bloom hung on high,
And the sails of lace were made.
While these were the stores, 'tis said:

The spars were silver, the decks were pearl,
The anchor a wedding-ring of gold.
'Twas a beautiful craft, I'm told.

But a cloud, alas! came o'er the sky,
And a storm on the sunny seas,
(All metaphors, if you please)

When the husband wished that instead of pie
They had brought some bread and cheese.

And he thought he could manage the tiller best,
While she wanted her own sweet way,
And vowed that no man she'd obey.

Of course, they quarreled, and as for the rest—
Go ask the ocean spray!

But I heard to-day (oh, this gossipy place!)
That the beach is strewn clear down
From here to the nearest town
With orange-blossoms and tattered lace
And bits of a satin gown!
—Pacific Town Talk.

HOME TOPICS.

SPRING DIET.—After I had written the above words it hardly seemed possible that winter was nearly over.

At this season, whether one observes Lent religiously or not, it is well for us to change our bill of fare from the heavy diet of winter to a lighter one, using less meat and more fish and eggs, less pies,

and set the saucepan over hot water, so the sauce will keep hot. Take the shells off the eggs, and separate the whites from the yolks; then put the whites through a fruit-press or rub them through a sieve, and add them to the white sauce; then pour the sauce over the toast, and rub the yolks through the sieve over the top of the whole.

EGGS, WITH PARSLEY SAUCE.—Many people have found that eggs cooked fifteen minutes are as good and healthful for them as soft-boiled eggs. To make this dish, put the eggs on to boil, then make the sauce as described above, and set it over hot water to keep hot.

LEMON TOAST.—Beat the yolks of three eggs, with one half pint of cream, dip slices of stale bread into this mixture, and fry them a delicate brown in butter.

MAKING BEDS.—It seems strange, but it is nevertheless true, that the average servant does not seem able to learn to make a bed properly.

Supposing that we have a good bed, consisting of springs, a hair mattress with a cotton pad over it, to start with; the next important thing is to spread the lower sheet smoothly, draw it as tight as possible, and tuck it under the mattress all around.



cakes and rich puddings and more fruit and delicate custards and early green vegetables as soon as possible. If spinach was sown last fall, and covered over, it will be ready for use now.

SOME EGG RECIPES.—Why the following recipe is called "Beanregard Eggs" I never could imagine, but that is the name under which it was given to me.

and tuck them well under the foot of the mattress, to prevent all danger of slipping up at night and leaving the feet uncovered. Lastly, turn the top sheet down over the end of the blankets and counterpane, put on the pillows, and the bed is ready for occupancy.

PROPERTY RIGHTS OF CHILDREN.

A very young child has no respect for the rights of others. Whatever pleases his fancy he at once appropriates, and woe betide the fragile brie-a-brac that is within his reach.

My dealings with children have been largely after they are of school age, so I shall omit that more important period before the child has ever left its mother's side, and speak of things whereof I know.

In the first place, we older people must not expect too much of a child under ten years of age, yet must keep before them absolutely true standards in the play-world which is so tremendously real to them.

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and strings deserve from us the same kind of respect that we accord to our neighbors' private property. When we think back to the time when a bit of bright ribbon or a useless piece of colored glass afforded us intoxicating pleasure, we can have more sympathy for the childish quarrels of which we are witnesses or arbiters.

Admitting the right of children to have and to hold sundry useless articles which are dear to their hearts, how shall we cope with the wrangling and quarreling which is sure to arise to some degree? I believe there is no better way than to give children something for which they are responsible just as soon as they are old enough, and to add to their store of possessions slowly and judiciously.

To have a room to one's self is a wonderful responsibility to the little man or woman, and may be the means of doing a vast amount of good; but where family circumstances do not admit of such luxury, the same valuable lesson may be learned by the child if he has a box, a tiny trunk, some nook of the house over which he may exercise that dominion which is an essential part of his nature.

Instead of making them selfish, they were far more generous than before distinct lines were drawn between the "mine" and "thine."

We do not want to make prigs of the children at school or at home, but we do want them to be sturdy, honest, true-hearted little souls, and I believe there is no greater stimulus toward that happy growth than to respect their rights, and see to it that they in turn respect ours and each other's.

LACE COLLAR.

Never was it more fashionable to have a little real lace adorning your collar or hanging down over your fingers. The illustration shows a very handsome design to use, without fullness, around a stock collar, where it is displayed to a better advantage.

"Gone, like tenants who quit without warning, Down the back entry of thine." PATTIE HANGER.

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Our Sunday Afternoon.

"THE MASTER IS COME AND CALLETH FOR THEE."

Not only once he comes, In that dim hour, when life and death be-tween.

Floats the half-liberated soul, while far And faint the nearer lamps and voices grow, And farther, fainter, rather guessed than seen.

Glimmers the light of heaven like glimmer-ing star, And sounds the summons which the dying know

To be his voice whom spirits all obey; Not only then, dear Lord, but every day.

Yes, every day he comes! Not in the earthly form that once he bore, Nor in the glorious shape which now he wears;

In mean attire, and toil-worn painful guise He stands and calls beside our path, our door;

Wearied and spent he comes, his wound he bares, And bends on us his deep, appealing eyes, Which, voiceless, find a voice, and speak and say,

"'Tis I who call thee, child; wilt thou obey?"

In various shapes he comes! When life grows difficult, and cares wax strong,

And pain and patience prove too hard a load,

And grief makes sorrowful the fairest noon, And sorrows press and crowd, an armed throng,

And fierce temptations lurk along the road, And day is hot, and night falls all too soon, Still in these grievous things himself we see,

And puzzled, trustful, murmur, "It is he!"

Be glad because he comes! That his best visits are of every day, To sweeten toil, to give that toil reward; And when the summons soundeth clear and low,

Let us rebuke our lagging souls, and say, "It is—oh, wondrous thought!—it is the Lord Who deigns to claim thy help and service so! Be quick, my soul, nor mar thy high estate; Thy Lord and Master calls, let him not wait."

—Susan Coolidge.

PRAYER.

ELECTRICITY," said Edison lately, "is as much a mystery to me now as when I first touched a telegrapher's key." We do not know whether it be mere force, like gravitation, or as material as granite. And did we ascertain that, we should still be confronted by the mystery of all mysteries, the nature of force and matter.

Of prayer we know at once so little and so much that it here confounds the philosopher and there comforts the saint. It is as instinctive as self-preservation and as inexplicable as life. Like the globe which we inhabit, it rests not upon foundations, because it needs none.

Of all religions Christianity makes most of prayer because it makes most of the personality of God. The aim of other religions is to remove God to an infinite distance; the aim of Christianity is to bring man nearer to his Maker. According to the Bible the divinest attribute of God is not his power, but his love; not his sovereignty, but his paternity. And one of the sweetest of the prophecies is that unto him that heareth prayer "shall all flesh come." It is the prayer-hearing God that draws toward himself the heart of man. Art lovers know the supreme conceptions of the older world were embodied in the Apollo of the Vatican and the Venus of Milo in the Louvre; but no divine love illumines either marble face. Our God is not the God of rationalism, "faultily faultless; icily null;" but he is one more ready to confer benefits than a father is ready to bestow gifts upon his children at holiday-time.

The fundamental principle of prayer is violated when it becomes set, fixed, formal. Public prayer ought to express itself in terms at once majestic and tender, and too much care can hardly be given to the service of leading the devotions of God's people; but Henry Ward Beecher was as philosophical as humorous when he said he had "as soon go a-courting with his father's old love-letters as pray in another man's form of supplication." The reason was because prayer is of all things a personal communion between man and God; not mankind and God.

"When thou prayest," said Jesus, "enter into thy closet." Even in public prayer

there is a measure of individuality and reserve. He only can lift up the worshiping congregation who forgets the people but becomes the congregation. The prayer which is perceptibly conscious of any other hearer than God is lost. No one can pray well who lives badly, and thus prayer becomes the very test of all discipleship.—The Interior.

A DOUBTFUL GOOD.

The women of the present day—at least many of them—are remarkable for a lack of reposeful atmosphere, of that leisurely individuality which made an older generation so charming and refreshing. It may be inevitable, if a woman has too much to do, that she should always be at a high pressure, no sooner through one task than grappling with the next—but why has she too much to do? Simply, in the majority of cases, because she attempts to do too much, under the mistaken notion that activity, in whatever direction, is more useful and praiseworthy than repose. In the effort to do a great deal she ceases to be her true and possible self.

For instance, have we never been in a summer resort in the mountains where some intelligent and active women happen to be spending the summer? Do they rest in the delicious atmosphere of the hills, breathe in its balm, assimilate the feast of beauty so generously spread about them, and enrich their very souls and hearts by deep communion with nature? Do they, as the poet so truly although whimsically puts it, "loaf, and invite their souls?" Not at all. They make balsam pillows, scouring the woods for the material without stopping by the way, and passing the glorious mountain days sitting in their rooms cutting up the spicy branches, and sewing the covers on and the ruffles around them; and sometimes, by organizing a band to sell the results for the benefit of some charity, to their fellow-guests, they manage to occupy nearly all the hours of all the summer in this praiseworthy pursuit. Or they get up a concert or theatricals, the practice and preparation for which absorb a week of their time at least, out of the very heart of the golden weather. Or, worst of all, they play duplicate whist in the parlor, in a never-ending series of games, with their American Leads in their laps to refer to; an excellent mind-training, no doubt, but hardly that relaxation and refreshing of soul and body which spells "recreation" of both.

These same overdriven women at home, in the winter, will be found doing embroidery in every spare moment between social engagements, club duties, visits among the poor or church work; and while they are rushing everywhere, their presence brings nowhere that peace, that deep helpfulness, that quiet charm, that belong to reposeful and individual womanhood. If they would only not attempt to do so much, but to be something instead, not to touch the world at so many points, but to lift and strengthen where they do come in contact with it, it would be an incalculable gain.—Harper's Bazar.

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Our Farm.

DAIRY-FARM LEAKS.

A BIG "leak" on the dairy-farm is the dog. I said dairy-farm, but I should have said so-called dairy-farm, as no dairyman that is up to date, and who spells in the first class, keeps a dog to drive his cows to and from the pasture in this year of grace 1897. But the time was when he did. Time was—and it is not so very far gone, either—when there were as many dogs, nearly, in this town as there were dairies—or say three hundred and fifty of them—kept for no other purpose than to "drive the cows." Too many of the "old-time" dairymen yet aver they must have a dog; nor can they be made to think differently. He—the dog—fills the place of a boy or hired man night and morning, and is considered by his owner superior to either, because he forces the cows to make quicker time than would a lazy boy or time-killing hired man, so the dog is employed in preference to either.

The owners of these dogs and herds, as a rule, have hired men who are given to combing the cows' hair with the milking-stool when the flies are troublesome, or the cow's udder is caked, or her teats are sore; or when the stable doors are opened, if each cow does not at once rush inside, go to her stall, and thrust her head between her rigid stanchion standard, she is given a vigorous introduction to the hired man's boot, or feels the sharp prick of the tines of a fork. If she chances to go into the wrong stall, he goes around in front, and kicks her in the face, just for variety, until she finds her own stall. Kindness, gentleness and watchful care of the bovine mother, God's richest gift to man, is never practised or thought of on such farms. Dogs, pitchforks, clubs, boot-toes and brutal treatment generally, on the part of the "boss and all hands," is the rule that is strictly enforced at least twice a day.

These vicious dogs are also useful in helping to get the cows into the stable; they—the dogs—have a habit of going to the rear of the herd and inserting their teeth into the cows' legs, or of catching them by their tails, especially when the boss cow stops in the stable doorway, and prevents the others from going in. At such times the dog gets in his best work by making it lively for the cows clustered about the door. He does somewhat better, however, when the hired man comes to his assistance and feeds the boss cow a few stones, or rushes through the herd and deals her a half dozen blows with a club or fork-handle. When he does this, then stands aside, and says, "Sick 'em, Shep," there is a lively stampede for that stable, and each cow, as did Judas, starts for her own place, and stands not on the order of starting. Hired man and dog, or boy and dog, follow closely and keep up the entertainment until order and quiet are restored.

This is no overdrawn picture, and may be seen on too large a number of farms in all our dairy regions. To illustrate: Last summer, one hot afternoon, I saw one of these "cow-dogs" making it lively for a dairy of forty cows by giving them a brisk run across a hundred-acre pasture, and down a long lane to the barn. The distance was nearly half a mile, and every cow in the herd was doing her level best to get there. Half way to the barn, seated on a stone wall at the entrance of the lane, was the hired man, and when the dog paused an instant and looked toward him, as he sometimes did, for instructions, he would call out, "Go for 'em! Hurry 'em up! Take 'em!" etc. The day was sultry, and the dog's tongue was being fully aired, while the cows, some with udders full almost to bursting, were getting exercise (?) enough in half an hour to last them two years. Down the long lane they went at race-horse speed, the dog snapping at the heels of the rear ones at every jump, while the lazy hired man sauntered behind, and busily encouraged the dog to do his best, although he could not see him nor the cows, because of the cloud of dust that hid them. When the herd reached the barn, every cow went in with a rush, while the dog took a bath in a big water-tank in the yard; then, with tongue extended at full length, and panting for breath, stretched himself in the shade of an apple-tree near by, the hired man meantime "taking it easy" in his walk to the barn. The farm-

er's wife, boy and two hired girls, each with a milk-pail and stool, followed the cows into the stable, and began milking them, while the hired man mounted a wheel-rake, and began raking the scatterings in a barley-field, the boss being engaged in riding a harvester in an adjoining oat-field.

Neither the boss, who is a tenant on the farm, nor his hired man can read or write a word, and when I asked the former why he dogged his cows in the way he did, he said: "You see, it's that blamed dog; he's gittin' too bloody lazy; won't go only to the wall there, when he will lay down unless Bill or I goes with him; that's why Bill went up there and left his raking. Bigger my eyes if I don't wallop that dog until he'll know his business. Can't afford to hev Bill spend a quarter of an hour every night gittin' them cows when that lazy cur can just as well git 'em as not, jist as he used to."

When I suggested a change in the program, he wanted to know if I thought he was such a "blamed idiot as to git another dog." "No," I said, "get half a ton of wheat-bran; put a pint of it into each cow's manger as soon as they are turned out in the morning; leave the bars to the lane open, and my word for it, in less than a week's time you will have no use for that dog, nor will Bill have to leave his work and go after the cows. Each one of them will be in her place at milking-time without having been dogged half a mile, and their legs bitten at every jump. Make the experiment, and see how it will work. There will be more money in your pocket through the increase of milk in a short time. Don't you know that a cow should never be dogged or otherwise abused; that such treatment invariably results in a loss in milk to the owner, and that instead she should be given the best and most gentle care possible at all times? This is the year 1896, my friend, not 1800, and you cannot afford to keep cows on the year 1800 plan. There is a better and cheaper way, and one more humane as well."

"A pint of brand a day, do you say? Do you take me for a Vanderbilt, with five or six banks to draw money from to fool away in brand like that? Why, man, my cheese-factory checks would never pay for the brand. No, the dog, lazy as he is, is a blamed sight cheaper." Then he threw his machine in gear, took a fresh chew from a large plug of tobacco, gave each horse a clip with an old stub of a whip, and moved on. That dog-leak is there yet, and will be as long as the dog lives, and that ignorant foreigner is the tenant on the farm. If the dog shall die from some cause, he will get another, perhaps two, just like him.

C. W. JENNINGS.

YOU CAN SAVE TIME AND MONEY.

Spring and house-cleaning time will soon be here. New furniture and carpets will be needed. Much time and 40 per cent of your money can be saved by ordering your carpets by mail. Possibly you think this would not be satisfactory, but it is, because a catalogue printed in colors, showing exactly how the carpet will look on the floor, will be sent FREE to prospective purchasers by the manufacturers, and they can sell you direct much cheaper than local dealers can, as all agents and middlemen's profits are avoided. You can thus select your carpets without leaving your own home. This catalogue, which is sent free, is an exceptionally handsome one, printed in a way that was impossible a few years ago, and if you wish samples showing qualities of the carpets, it will cost you only 10 cents in stamps or silver. Every housekeeper who expects to buy a carpet will find it to her advantage to send to the Chicago Merchandise Co., Dept. H, 808-810 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa., the largest retailers of carpets in the U. S., for free catalogue, and 10 cents if you want samples. You will be surprised at the low prices for good qualities. See advertisement on 8th page of this issue.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM CALIFORNIA—SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY.—In your excellent paper of December 15th I saw a list of beet-sugar factories at Watsonville, Santa Cruz county, twenty miles from Salinas, which proved a great success. The factory was enlarged, and last year it handled over one hundred and fifty thousand tons of beets, and twenty-one thousand tons of raw sugar were forwarded to you speak of the sugar-beet industry, and the probability of an increase in acreage and manufacturing, referring to the fact that one hundred million dollars a year is paid for foreign countries for the sugar we consume. Claus Spreckles, the sugar king of the Hawaiian Islands, came to Salinas with chemists, who analyzed the soils in the vicinity of our thriving city, and interested the farmers of our valley in the project. Beet-raising became one of our chief industries. It kept the Watsonville factory going, and put money into the pockets of our farmers, who could not make money at the low prices of cereals then prevailing. A narrow-gauge railroad was built from the factory at Watsonville to Salinas, with spurs to all the principal sugar-beet lands, so that the beets were taken away as fast as dug and transported to the factory. Spreckles lined his pockets with golden twenties, the farmers rode behind spirited horses in fine carriages, and plenty sat smiling at our doors. Still there were croakers who stuck to the idea that there was more money in cereals, potatoes and beans; but the low prices prevailing for these products have given an increased stimulus to the new industry, and now the farmers of the valley have pledged over thirty thousand acres to Spreckles for sugar-beets, and the biggest factory and refinery on earth is being erected within a short distance of Salinas. This factory, it is said, will cover one hundred and sixty acres, will require six million bricks in its construction, and will cost a little less than two million dollars. What is true of the

possibilities of the great Salinas valley is also true of other portions of our great state. And if true here, why not true of the great corn-producing sections of the great states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Iowa and other states? A big factory could be supported at New Philadelphia, Ohio, the Tuscarawas river traversing a rich country especially adapted to corn-growing. Indeed, we can grow our own sugar, and keep our money at home. All that is needed is to enlist capital in the enterprise and have a practical man at its head like our own Claus Spreckles. At a public meeting Mr. Spreckles said he was about threescore years and ten, and while he had plenty of money to meet all necessary requirements, he was anxious while living to build one of the greatest factories on earth, and this factory would be built at Salinas. A young man by the name of James Gardin, who lives six miles from Salinas, put in two hundred and thirty acres in sugar-beets for the Watsonville factory. He raised twenty-seven and one half tons of beets to the acre, paid out for help and transportation to the Watsonville factory over ten thousand dollars, got five dollars a ton for his beets, and realized a net profit a few dollars short of fourteen thousand dollars. Salinas valley annually produces in wheat and barley about one hundred thousand tons, or about four hundred million pounds of grain; twenty-four million pounds of Burbank potatoes, five million pounds of beans, and all of the above are produced without irrigation. I speak of irrigation, for it must be remembered that for about six months in the year we are without rain, and the earth seems to be parched up, yet we get a big yield of barley, wheat, oats, etc. I write more fully because the sugar-beet industry is the coming industry of the country, and must eventually take the place of raising cereals for export at the low prices that have been prevalent in past years. Salinas City, the county-seat of Monterey county, contains a population of three thousand five hundred, and is making rapid strides. We are eighteen miles from the old capital, Monterey, and from famous seaside resorts, Salinas City, Cal. S. M. S.

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THERE is no getting away from the fact that Pure White Lead (see list of brands which are genuine) and Pure Linseed Oil make the best paint.

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Advertisement for GOOD FARM IMPROVEMENT, featuring a diagram of a fence system. Text: 'The Mesh Around The Fence Shows How The Fence Is Made. GOOD FARM IMPROVEMENT begins with good fencing. The Keystone Fence will increase the value of your farm. No damage to crops from stock depredation. No loss of crops from smothering under snow drifts. Can't blow down. Can't burn up. All about it in our FREE book on fence building. KEYSTONE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., No. 30 Rush Street, Peoria, Ill.'

MUST HAVE AGENTS AT ONCE to sell Sash Locks and Door Holders. Sample Sash Lock free for two-cent stamp. Immense; better than weights; burglar proof. \$10 a day. Write quick. Address BROAD & CO., Box 88, Philadelphia, Pa.

ARTICHOKE'S "Fence Features." You can obtain both for a postal. Single bushel \$1. J. P. VISSERING, Box 58, Alton, Ill.

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Advertisement for WE WANT YOU. Text: 'to send a two cent stamp for our new 64 page book giving the easiest and best methods of exterminating all kinds of insects and vermin. Also full information for treatment of diseases of poultry and stock. Take the agency for our goods, and make \$100 extra this season. They are needed everywhere, in the household, garden, poultry-yard and stables. Pamphlets and circulars free. GEO. H. LEE & Co., Exceter, N. C. or 178 Michigan St., Chicago.'

Advertisement for MEFISTO SCARF PIN. Text: 'Play the hose Bill! A brand new joke: Mefisto's bulging eyes, bristling ears and ghastly grin invite curiosity every time when worn on scarf or lapel, and it is fully satisfied when by pressing the rubber ball concealed in your inside pocket you squeeze your inquiring friend with water. Throws a stream 50 feet; hose 16 in. long; 1 1/2 inch ball; handsome Silver-oxidized face colored in hard enamel; worth 25c, as a pin and a dollar as a joker; sent as a sample of our 3000 specialties with 112 page catalogue post-paid for ONLY 15c; 2 for 25c; \$1.40 Dzn. AGENTS WANTED. RORT. H. INGERSOLL & BRO. Dept. No. 16 65 & 67 Cortlandt Street, New York City.'

Advertisement for CINCINNATI, JACKSON & MACKINAW RY. IS THE ONLY LINE Running Solid Trains Through Between Cincinnati AND Jackson TWO TRAINS EACH WAY Day trains are equipped with elegant Coaches having all the modern improvements. Pullman Palace Sleeping and Reclining Chair Cars and first-class Coaches are attached to night express trains. Close connections are made at Cincinnati with Southern Lines to and from all principal southern points, and with Michigan Central R. R. trains at Jackson to ...AND FROM... All Points in Southern Michigan For information as to rates, time of trains, etc., call on C. J. & M. Agents or address the Gen'l Pass. Agent, F. B. DRAKE, T. C. M. SCHINDLER, Recr. & Gen'l Mgr., Gen'l Pass. Agt. TOLEDO, OHIO.

Large advertisement for CORNISH & CO., Piano and Organ Makers, Washington, N. J. Features include: 'SAVE MONEY. FREE! FREE!' 'PIANOS FROM \$160.00', 'ORGANS FROM \$25.00', and 'Special offers Now Ready!'. Text: 'Send for our new 1897 Catalogue, illustrated in colors, containing full descriptions of all our Pianos and Organs. REMEMBER we are the only firm of actual manufacturers of organs shipped on thirty days' trial in for twenty-five years. No money re-charger guaranteed. TERMS: No Satisfaction. No Pay. NOTE: As an advertisement we will sell to the first purchaser in a place one of our fine PIANOS, specially fitted and finished for only \$160, or one of our latest PARLOR ORGANS for \$25. All Extras for each instrument FREE. ESTABLISHED 33 YEARS. CORNISH & CO., Piano and Organ Makers, Washington, N. J.'

Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two WEEKS before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Fire-fanged Stable Manure.—W. W., writes: "Please inform me if horse manure is of less value under the following conditions: I throw my horse manure in a pile under a shed. Once in awhile it heats, when I fork it over. But in spring it becomes very dry; it seems injured. Is it worth less for the land? It is never allowed to heat more than to be observed before forking. Which is the best for the garden, horse or cow manure?"

REPLY:—The stable manure has been allowed to heat too much, and its value has been lessened. When forking it over, apply water enough to prevent it from becoming dry. Both horse and cow manure are excellent for the garden. If properly kept, horse manure is the richer.

Coarse-ground Bone.—J. A. P., Quebec, Canada, writes: "Are bones ground to the size of peas cheap for manure at fifteen dollars a ton? If so, can I use them alone, or what should be mixed with them, and what quantity should be applied to the acre?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—Undissolved bone is not immediately available for plant-food, even when ground very fine. I would not buy bone that is only broken (not ground) for use on my land, at fifteen dollars a ton. Better pay ten dollars more a ton for bone-flour. Of course, the question what to mix with bone for your soil depends on the soil itself. If deficient in nitrogen and potash, these plant-foods must be added, the one in blood, nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia or oil-meal; the latter in ashes, muriate of potash, etc.

Beans and Bean-weevil.—M. H. H., Owings Mills, Md., writes: "Can you tell me the names of the three beans which I inclose, and also how I can keep them and the common white beans from the ravages of a small black bug, which seems to form in the bean?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—The beans when received were badly injured by weevils, one almost wholly eaten up. One of the beans seemed to be the Cranberry bean, sometimes called "Quail Track;" the other one of the hush wax-beans, something like Golden Wax, but I am not sure. There are so many varieties and strains that I do not undertake to name beans. In fact, it is not easy to "know beans," as they sport and mix and change. The bug can be killed in the beans if they, as soon as gathered, threshed and cleaned, are exposed to the fumes of bisulphid of carbon in a closed vessel, or to just sufficient heat (perhaps one hundred and forty degrees Fahrenheit) to kill the worms or eggs inside.

To Clean Gilt Frames—Vine-borer.—J. O. L., Fincastle, Va., writes: "Tell me how to clean cheap gilt picture-frames.—For two years I have been very much annoyed by a small white worm sucking the life out of my cucumber-vines. My vines grow profusely, cover the ground, and are laden with blooms and shapes, and in a night they wither away and die. On examining the vine I invariably find this small white worm in the heart of the root."

REPLY:—To clean gilt frames, first remove all the dust with a soft brush, then wash carefully with a clean sponge dipped into warm water containing a little ammonia, and allow to dry without rubbing.—Your cucumber-vines were destroyed by the vine-borer, the larva of a moth that deposits her eggs on the plants near the roots. Corn-cobs soaked with coal-tar, kerosene or carbolic acid placed in the hills when the plants appear may repel the moth. If eggs are deposited and hatch, the larvae must be hunted up, and dug out of the vines with the point of a sharp knife.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two WEEKS before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Probably Tuberculosis.—J. J., Jonesville, Ky. What you complain of is probably a case of tuberculosis. At any rate, I have to advise you to have your cow subjected to the tuberculin test, which, though not absolutely infallible, is yet the safest and surest means of arriving at a diagnosis during the early stages of that disease.

A Splint—Lameness.—J. B. T., Siney, Ohio. If your horse is kept shod, have the median arm of the shoe a little thinner than the outside arm of the same, and thereby remove any undue pressure upon the median metacarpal, or splint-bone. If you desire to do more, rub in once a day a little (as much as a pea) of gray mercurial ointment on the exostosis, and do it in a most thorough man-

ner. As a splint very seldom causes any lameness, except where the exostosis extends to the knee-joint, the lameness of your horse very likely has another cause, and is independent of the splint.

Cough.—J. C. K., Pickerington, Ohio. If your pigs are, as you say, otherwise perfectly healthy, the troublesome cough is probably caused by the presence of a large number of lungworms (*Strongylus paradoxus*) in the bronchi, from which they cannot be removed until they have matured and leave on their own accord. If the pigs are strong and vigorous, and the number of the worms present is not too great, the pigs will survive.

Atrophied Muscles.—S. S., Poplar Ridge, N. Y. If your horse, which when cast last August had either a bone fractured or one or more muscles partially torn or detached, is now free from any lameness, the shrinking of the muscles, caused by continued inactivity, will gradually disappear as soon as the muscles resume their former activity. I would advise you to allow the horse all the voluntary exercise he is willing to take. No other treatment is required.

A Biting Horse.—E. C., North Anson, Me. What you complain of is a bad habit, of which to break the animal will be very difficult. Still, if you are very active, that is, quicker than the horse, you may succeed in breaking him of his bad habit if you arm yourself with a small whip every time you have to approach the horse in the stable, and then give him a smart cut over the nose as soon as he makes any attempt to bite, but not before. When the horse is in harness, it will be best to muzzle him.

Curb—Stupid Cows.—N. P. K., Kingsville, Pa. If you will kindly tell me whether the curb is of recent origin or of long standing, whether your horse is young or old, and whether the same is lame or not, I can answer your question, but not otherwise.—So with your stupid cows, which possibly may have been overfed or may have been fed with some indigestible stuff. It is impossible to give a satisfactory answer to inquiries which do not contain a full and intelligent description of the case.

A Skin Disease.—S. H., Rimersburg, Pa. If the cutaneous eruption you attempt to describe is cow-pox, it will have disappeared before this reaches you, unless by too much medication you have succeeded in making it malignant. If no healing has set in, and the sores are only superficial, do not extend into the cutis, applications three times a day of a mixture of lime-water and olive-oil, equal parts, will soon effect a healing; but if the sores are deeper, a mixture of liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and of olive-oil, three parts, will be better. This latter mixture is somewhat poisonous, and therefore excludes the use of the milk. Any application of water must be avoided.

Cut by Barbed Wire.—E. F. S., Dunbar, Pa. If in the beginning you had left off the irritating substances, such as sugar and strong carbolic acid, and had simply cleaned the wound with a one or two per cent solution of carbolic acid or with a one-per-mille solution of corrosive sublimate, and then kept it dressed with absorbent cotton moistened with a one-per-mille solution of sublimate or a one-per-cent solution of carbolic acid, you would have had no trouble, and the wound would have been healed long ago. As it is now, the knee very much swollen and the wound yet open, I think the best you can do is to have the animal examined and treated by a good veterinarian.

Bots, and Full of Worms.—W. J. P., Society Hill, S. C. You cannot do anything against bots, which will pass off when their time comes, and not before. Although the presence of a large number of bots is by no means beneficial, or even indifferent, there can be no doubt that your mare is much more injured by her worms than by her bots. To expel the latter, you may give your mare, if she is of good size, in the morning before she has been fed, two pills composed of tartar emetic, powdered marsh-mallow root, powdered licorice-root, each one half ounce, and just enough distilled or rain water to make a dough stiff enough to form the mass into two cartridge-shaped pills, or else you may give one half ounce of tartar emetic in the water for drinking. After the mare has received the medicine in the morning on an empty stomach, she must not be fed until noon. After the worms have thus been expelled you must see to it that the mare receives at each meal a sufficient quantity of good, sound and nutritious food to eat, and nothing but pure water to drink.

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growers of fruits, berries, and all kinds of vegetables, know that the largest yields and best quality are produced by the liberal use of fertilizers containing at least 10% of

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MY

Marvelous Cure

RHEUMATISM, NEURALGIA, CATARRH and NERVOUSNESS.

February 8, 1897.

DEAR SIR:—I feel it my duty to write of what "5 Drops" has done for me, as I have read two testimonials published, which I don't think are anything to compare with my marvelous cure. I have been a sufferer with rheumatism for four years, and have tried many Doctors and all kinds of medicines without effect, and have made two visits to the Hot Springs of Arkansas, which only gave me temporary relief. During the four years of my illness I suffered more than my tongue could express, with a complication of diseases, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Nervousness, Heart-weakness (so I could not lay on my left side at all), and worst of all a very severe and obstinate case of Catarrh of the Throat. In September, 1896, I was stricken down with a fresh and terrible attack of Rheumatism, combined with all my other chronic ailments, and my friends despaired of my ever recovering. By some providential chance I managed to get a bottle of your "5 Drops." Now it is three months that I have been taking "5 Drops." I took it just as directed, and commenced to mend from the first dose, and have continued to improve. My cure is indeed wonderful for I am now able to walk without a crutch and feel like a new man, I am free from the severe pains in my sides and my nerves are a great deal better. My Catarrh has disappeared and I can sleep on either side, something I have not been able to do in years. By this you can see what wonderful things "5 Drops" has done for me, and I give "5 Drops" all the praise, for in three months I have taken nothing else except a little quinine. Trusting this statement will be of benefit to those suffering with similar diseases. I cannot praise "5 Drops" too much, and you may publish this letter as I can verify my statements to any one making inquiry.

Yours very sincerely,
J. P. WALLING, Roff, I. T.

If you have not sufficient confidence after reading this letter to send for a large bottle, send for a sample bottle, which contains sufficient medicine to convince you of its merit. This wonderful curative gives almost instant relief and is a permanent cure for Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Hay Fever, Catarrh, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuralgic Headaches, Heart Weakness, Toothache, Earache, Croup, "La Grippe," Malaria, Creeping Numbness, Bronchitis and kindred diseases.

"Five Drops" is the name and dose. Large bottles (300 doses), \$1.00. Six bottles for \$5.00. Sample bottle prepaid by mail 25 cents. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents appointed in new territory.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO.,
167 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

\$300.00 in Cash
A 25 Cent
Pattern
FREE

This Ladies' Waist.

To Every One

HOW many words do you think you can correctly spell with the letters in

the word "PATTERNS"? Using each letter as described, but not more times than it appears in "PATTERNS"—verbs, pronouns, adjectives, nouns, adverbs, plurals allowed. Words spelled alike, but having different meanings, count as one word. Use any standard dictionary. All legitimate English words count. Proper nouns, prefixes, suffixes, obsolete and foreign words do not count. Work it out as follows: Pat, Pen, Pens, Reap, Set, Ten, Tent, Tents, At, Net, etc.

Our Offer.—We will pay \$100 for the largest list, \$50 for the second largest, \$25 for the third, \$10 each for the next five, \$5 each for the next ten, and \$1 each for the next twenty-five. That is to say we will divide among forty-three contestants the aggregate sum of \$300, according to merit. Don't you think you could be one of the forty-three? TRY IT.

Our Purpose.—The above rewards for mental effort are given free and without consideration for the purpose of attracting attention to MODES, by May Manton, the most popular up-to-date Fashion Magazine in the world. Its 36 pages, replete with beautiful illustrations of the latest styles in ladies', misses' and children's garments, make it a real necessity in every household; the Designs and Fashion Hints, being by May Manton, render it invaluable as an absolutely reliable Fashion Guide.

Our Conditions.—You must send with your list of words 25 cents (stamps or silver) for a Three Months' Trial Subscription to MODES.

Our Extra Inducement.—Every person sending 25 cents and a list of 15 words or more, will, in addition to three months' subscription, receive by return mail a pattern of this stylish shirt waist, No. 6999 (illustrated above), in any size from 32 to 44 inches.

Our Aim.—The present monthly circulation of MODES exceeds 100,000. We aim to make it 200,000.

This contest will close April 15th next, so the names of successful spellers may be published in May issue of MODES, mailed May 5th, but SEND IN YOUR LIST AT ONCE. For our responsibility we refer you to any Mercantile Agency. Address: MODES FASHION MAGAZINE, Dept. 514, 130 WHITE STREET, NEW YORK.

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Send on a postal card your Post Office and County address and we mail at our own risk 9 pieces of hand enameled Gold plated Jewelry to sell for us among friends. When sold you send our money and we send, charges paid, a stem winding, Gold plated, fine time-keeping Watch, or a Real Gold Ring, set with a Genuine Rose Diamond, or a German Orchestration Music Box, or you can keep half the money instead of a present. Say you will return what you don't sell. Write full name, Mr., Miss or Mrs. Address N. Y. T. CO., 529 East 116th Street, New York.

Mention this paper.

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\$1,500.00 IN GOLD GIVEN AWAY.

This is a Bona fide Offer, Read Carefully, it will not appear again.
—THREE GRAND CONTESTS IN ONE.

HERE ARE OUR PROPOSITIONS:—\$500.00 in Gold to the persons who can form the greatest number of words from the letters in the word FASHION. \$500.00 in Gold to the persons that can make the greatest number of words from the letters in the word FIXINGS. \$500.00 in Gold to the persons that can make the greatest number of words from the letters in the word MONTHLY. You can enter one or all three contests.

OFFER No. 1.
\$500.00 IN GOLD to the persons forming the greatest number of words from the letters in the word FASHION as follows: \$200.00 in Gold will be given to the person sending the largest list of words formed from the letters in the word FASHION; \$100.00 to the person sending the next largest list; \$50.00 to the person sending the third largest list; \$25.00 to the person sending the fourth largest list; \$10.00 to each of the next five; \$5.00 to each of the next ten and \$1.00 to each of the next twenty-five. Do not use any letter more times than it appears in the word FASHION. Use no language except English. Words spelled alike but with different meaning can be used but once. Use any dictionary, any word found therein will be allowed except as follows: no plurals, prefixes, suffixes or abbreviations will be allowed. Work it out in this manner, as, ash, on, has, fan, etc.. The above rewards are given free to attract attention to our handsome woman's magazine, 34 pages, 102 long columns, finely illustrated, containing the very latest fashions, and all original matter, long and short stories by the best authors; price 50c. per year. **TO ENTER THE CONTEST NO. 1 IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO SEND 25 TWO-CENT STAMPS OR MONEY ORDER** for one year's subscription with your list of words. Satisfaction guaranteed in every case or your money refunded.

OFFER No. 2.
\$500.00 IN GOLD to those forming the greatest number of words from the letters in the word FIXINGS, as follows: \$100.00 each to the two persons sending the largest list of words formed from the letters in the word FIXINGS; \$50.00 for each of the two sending the second largest lists; \$25.00 for each of the two sending the third largest lists; \$10.00 each for the next ten, and \$2.00 each for the next fifty. Same conditions prevail as in contest No. 1. **TO ENTER CONTEST NO. 2 IT IS NECESSARY TO SEND 25 TWO-CENT STAMPS FOR ONE YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO "FASHION AND FIXINGS."**

OFFER No. 3.
\$500.00 IN GOLD to the persons sending the largest lists of words formed from the letters in the word MONTHLY, as follows: \$50.00 each to the four persons sending the largest list of words formed from the letters in the word MONTHLY; \$25.00 each for the next four largest lists; \$10.00 each for the next ten, and \$2.00 each for the next fifty. Same conditions prevail as in offers Nos. 1 and 2. Remember 25 two-cent stamps must accompany your list of words for offer No. 3 for one year's subscription to FASHION AND FIXINGS. By sending 25 two-cent stamps for one year's subscription to our magazine you can enter any one of these contests; by sending 40 two-cent stamps for an eighteen month's subscription you can enter any two of these contests; by sending 50 two-cent stamps for a two year's subscription you can enter all three contests. If you enter all three contests you will be almost sure to receive one or more of the 158 cash prizes.

GRAND COMBINATION OFFER.
Every person entering all three competitions and sending 50 two-cent stamps will receive by return mail a very handsome Gold Plated Combination Shirt Waist Set consisting of 1 Collar Button, 3 Shirt Studs, 1 pair of Link Sleeve Buttons and 1 Skirt Holder that will fit any belt. These Jewelry Sets are something entirely new and are set with very handsome colored Parisian enamel. They are worth more than the price of the three subscriptions and will be sure to please every one.
The March number of FASHION AND FIXINGS contains the names and addresses of the people who received cash prizes from our last contest. Send your lists at once or not later than May 30th, at which time contest closes. The names of all successful contestants will be published in the July number of FASHION AND FIXINGS. We refer you to any mercantile agency as to our responsibility. Address: Contestants residing in Foreign Countries must send double these amounts for extra postage.

DUNCAN & KELLER, Department 10 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Our Miscellany.

THE Japanese address letters the reverse of what we do, writing the country first, the state or province next, then the city, the street and number, and the name last of all.

Better write to J. P. Vissering, Alton, Ill., for that free illus. Essay on Artichokes. See adv.

AN Iowan has invented a machine which he hopes to have in operation by the next harvest season, for cutting corn and separating the ears and stalks at the rate of fifteen acres a day.

CHEAP RATES TO WASHINGTON, D. C. THROUGH CAR SERVICE VIA C. H. & D. AND B. & O. ROUTE.

Pullman buffet sleeping cars and dining cars are now running between Indianapolis and Washington, D. C., via C. H. & D. Ry., Cincinnati and the B. & O. Route. Persons from the Hoosier Capital and that vicinity can make the trip to the National Capital and enjoy the same comforts that they could get at the best appointed hotel in the country.

REPARTÉE.

The maid—"Madam send me to tell you zat she has find anozair hair in ze potage."

The cook—"Tell your missus it is as false as her own."—Hartford Times.

ONE-WAY SETTLERS' RATES.

On the first and third Mondays and Tuesdays of each calendar month until May 15th, 1897 inclusive, the Cleveland, Akron & Columbus R'y will sell one-way Settlers' tickets at very low rates to nearly every point in the South, Southeast and Southwest.

CHUMLEY—"I hear one of your freshmen was pretty badly hurt the other day. How was it?"

Hankins—"Why, it was in the elocution and oratory class. He has such a heavy voice that he strained his back in trying to raise it."—University of Michigan Wrinkle.

HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSION TICKETS.

On March 1st, 2d, 15th and 16th, April 5th, 6th, 19th and 20th, May 3d, 4th, 17th and 18th, 1897, Homeseekers' excursion tickets will be sold by the Cleveland, Akron & Columbus R'y to nearly every point in the West, North and Northwest, South and Southwest, at rates of about one fare for the round trip.

THE REASON.

"What beautiful hands Miss Brownjohn has got! I wonder what she does to get them like that?"

"Nothing at all."—London Judy.

HOW SOME PEOPLE CAN MAKE MONEY.

Last month I cleared, after paying all expenses, \$355.85; the month previous \$260, and have at the same time attended to other duties. I believe any energetic person can do equally as well, as I have had very little experience. The Dish Washer is just lovely, and every family wants one, which makes selling very easy.

Recent Publications.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

VEGETABLE GARDENING. A Manual on the Growing of Vegetables for Home Use and Marketing. By Samuel B. Green, professor of horticulture, University of Minnesota. Through his department of "Orchards and Small Fruits" the name of the author has become familiar to readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

A. F. Williams, Bristol, Conn. Fourteenth annual catalogue of the Monitor incubator, describing fully its construction and merits. The Lovett Company, Little Silver, N. J. Lovett's Guide to Horticulture. A beautifully printed and illustrated catalogue of 112 pages.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.

For the inauguration of President McKinley the C., A. & C. R'y will sell excursion tickets from points on its line at very low rates. Tickets on sale March 1st, 2d and 3d, good returning until March 8th, 1897.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints.

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The following pleasant expression comes to the Farm and Fireside from Mrs. C. S. Rice, of Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York: "Having been a reader of your paper for fifteen years, I do not need to learn anything new about it."

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Smiles.

THE STORY OF THE VIOLET.

He found a violet in the snow
 And took it to his breast;
 "Poor thing!" he cried, "by fate denied
 A softer couch of rest!"
 He wrote a poem three yards long;
 His wife, she knocked it flat—
 "That violet that makes your song
 Is cloth-frou off my hat!"
 —Atlanta Constitution.

WHICH THEY DID.

"Those revenue detectives," said the old
 moonshiner's daughter,
 As she saw them go toward her papa's
 still,
 Where it nestled in the moonlight, by the
 rippling, rolling water,
 Just without the somber shadow of the hill,
 "Remind me of Al Raschid, the Caliph old,
 returning
 From his travels in disguise, his chiefest
 fad,
 Because," her cheek with shame at such a
 break outrageous-burning,
 "They certainly are going to Bagdad."
 —New Orleans Times-Democrat.

SHE LEARNED THE NAME.

EASTERN tourists who cannot differen-
 tiate between a California stage-
 driver and an eastern coachman
 meet with a rude shock in the wild
 and woolly West, and they soon
 learn that the Californian is a knight of the
 reins several grades higher in the social
 scale than the menial of the East.
 There is an old driver at Monterey who
 is determined that his patrons shall make
 no mistake concerning his exact status,
 and in a quiet way he checks all attempts
 to make a servant of him. A short time
 ago he was driving a party of tourists
 about, when one querulous old lady, who had
 annoyed him not a little by her air of su-
 periority, asked:
 "My man, do you know the name of that
 wild flower?"
 "Yep," he replied, and flicked one of his
 leaders with a whip.
 She paused a moment for him to give the
 name, but he merely chuckled to the wheel-
 ers.
 "Driver, do you know the name of that
 flower?" she repeated, in an imperious tone.
 "Yes, Get up there, Billy!"
 Again she waited, and again demanded:
 "Man, don't you know the name of that
 flower?"
 "Yep. G'long there, Pete!"
 "Then why don't you tell me?"
 "Oh, you want to know, too, do you?
 That's a wild rose."—San Francisco Post.

COULD AFFORD NEW ONES.

"I want to look at some of your best paint-
 ings," said Mrs. Crewe Doyle to the art
 dealer, according to the New York "World."
 "Yes, madam," replied he. "You prefer
 landscapes, do you, or marines, or shall I
 show you both?"
 "I'd rather have a picture of country life,
 I think, with cows and trees and things like
 that, you know."
 "Yes, madam. This way, please. Now
 here is a very fine work by Rembrandt."
 The customer surveyed the work critically,
 and then said:
 "This picture looks like a second-hand
 painting. Isn't it?"
 "Well," said the dealer in a somewhat sur-
 prised tone, "I suppose it might be termed
 second-hand, but I don't think I ever heard
 a Rembrandt called that before."
 "Who is Rembrandt? Where can I find his
 studio?" she asked.
 "He's one of the old masters, madam."
 "H'm! Well, I don't want you to try to
 sell second-hand pictures to me, for I can
 afford to buy new ones. You may just tell
 Mr. Rembrandt to paint a picture especially
 for me, and have it made twice the size of
 this, please."
 This order so astonished the dealer that
 he allowed Mrs. Crewe Doyle to stalk out
 without putting down her name and ad-
 dress, and now he doesn't know where to
 send the painting when Mr. Rembrandt gets
 it done.

WHAT PROVOKED HER SO.

"What is the matter? Are you angry?"
 inquired the blonde.
 "No, I'm not angry. I'm mad!" exclaimed
 the brunette.
 "Oh, my! What is the matter?"
 "It was that horrid 'Charley Chapperton."
 "What has he done?"
 "Why, he came in awhile ago, and I was
 lying down on the lounge. I thought I would
 pretend to be asleep, just to see if—if-what
 he would do, you know."
 "And he didn't?"
 "But he did, though."
 "Gracious, you are not mad at him for
 that, are you?"
 "No; although I pretended to be terribly

provoked, I reproached him for taking ad-
 vantage of me, and pretended to be awfully
 shocked. He tried to change the subject,
 but I—"
 "He didn't say he was sorry, did he?"
 "Hardly that. You see, it was the first
 time he had ever kissed me, and I wanted
 to keep him from talking about it. I pre-
 tended to be so much in earnest that I really
 scared him. Then I told him that I had not
 been asleep at all, and that I was only pre-
 tending."
 "Then what did he say?"
 "Why, the mean, hateful, horrible thing
 said that he knew it all the time, and that
 the game had been worked on him before.
 That's why I am mad."—New York World.

GIVEN HER CHOICE.

Little Harry's experience with death was
 limited to the decease of a pet canary, which
 had been sent to a taxidermist, and now
 adorned the parlor mantel.
 His grandmother, of whom he was very
 fond, was taken suddenly ill. For some time
 after he learned of her condition he sat in a
 brown study; then, as if coming to a sud-
 den resolution, he tiptoed into the sick-
 room, and cautiously approaching the bed,
 fixed his serious big brown eyes upon his
 dear relative, and said, with a little quiver
 in his voice:
 "Say, grandma, if you die, which would
 you rather be, buried or stuffed?—'cause if
 you're buried we can't see you no more, but
 if you're stuffed we can set you in the par-
 lor."
 Grandma immediately began to mend.—
 Judge.

WELL TRAINED.

"Yes, sir; that is the greatest dog to ferret
 out criminals that you ever saw. He has
 caught a bank burglar, seven murderers and
 thirty-seven road-agents."
 "To what do you attribute this marvelous
 detective ability?"
 "Well, you see, as a pup he managed to
 swallow a lot of tracing-paper, and—"
 But the listener was gone.—Judge.

GRISELDA.

Mother—"I suppose your father doesn't
 mean to do it, but he tries my patience very
 hard at times."
 Daughter—"Oh, I think papa is a pretty
 good man!"
 Mother—"He is, my dear; but it is hard
 to think that after we have been married
 twenty years he still, occasionally, talks
 back."—Puck.

ANNOUNCED.

Priscilla—"Jack is the oddest fellow. He
 took me driving yesterday, and when we
 were seven miles from home he said if I
 wouldn't promise to marry him he'd make me
 get out and walk back."
 Penelope—"Did you walk back?"
 Priscilla—"No, indeed; but the horse did!"
 —Truth.

A SUGGESTION.

He—"So you have ambitions?"
 She—"Yes, decidedly. I want to solve some
 important problem."
 He—"Well, you just study out how to bring
 up a family on fifteen dollars a week and
 we'll get married."

QUICK AT REPARTEE.

Porter—"Kin I brush de dust ont'er yer
 clothes, boss?"
 Traveler—"There's no dust in my clothes,
 Sam."
 Porter—"Well, yer doesn't look like yer
 was dead broke, boss."—Yonkers Statesman.

EXCHANGING COMPLIMENTS.

"I see that you are your own washer-
 woman," said Mrs. Spiteley, who was lead-
 ing her poodle past the place.
 "Yes, responded Mrs. Snapple, "but, thank
 goodness, I'm not reduced to playing nurse-
 girl for a dog!"—Detroit Free Press.

NOT IN STOCK.

Wild-eyed customer—"Have you any goods
 made of sole-leather or boiler-iron?"
 Clothing merchant—"No, sir; we don't keep
 boys' clothing!"—New York Weekly.

THE RETORT COMMERCIAL.

Mrs. Grubb—"Have you any more sugar
 like the last ye sent me?"
 Grocer (briskly)—"Yes, madam, plenty of
 it. How much do you want?"
 Mrs. Grubb—"Don't want none."—New
 York Weekly.

IN THE TOP FLAT.

Glendale—"You say you live in the sub-
 urbs?"
 Friend—"Yes."
 Glendale—"Which way, north or south?"
 Friend—"Nether; straight up!"

ASKING QUESTIONS.

It Is a Woman's Prerogative and She Uses It.

Timely Questions and Prompt Answers Have Resulted in Great Satisfaction to Many Women.

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 few months from those afflicted with
 the various forms of female diseases,
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 have brought comfort and relief.

That sense of dragging in the groin,
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 remedy for suffer-
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 is no need for
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 pound.** I suf-
 fered for years
 with painful
 menstruation,
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 was no remedy for
 it; but after reading
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 would give your medicine a trial, and
 it is wonderful how quickly it relieved
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 —Mrs. GEORGE NEHRBOSS, Crittendon,
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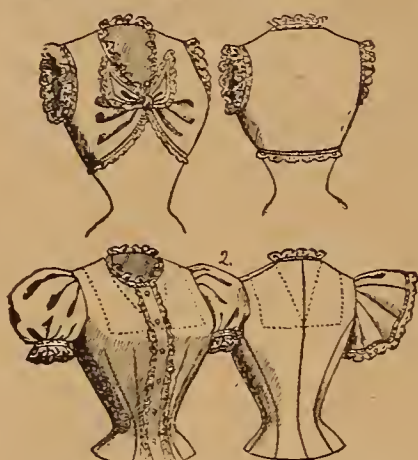
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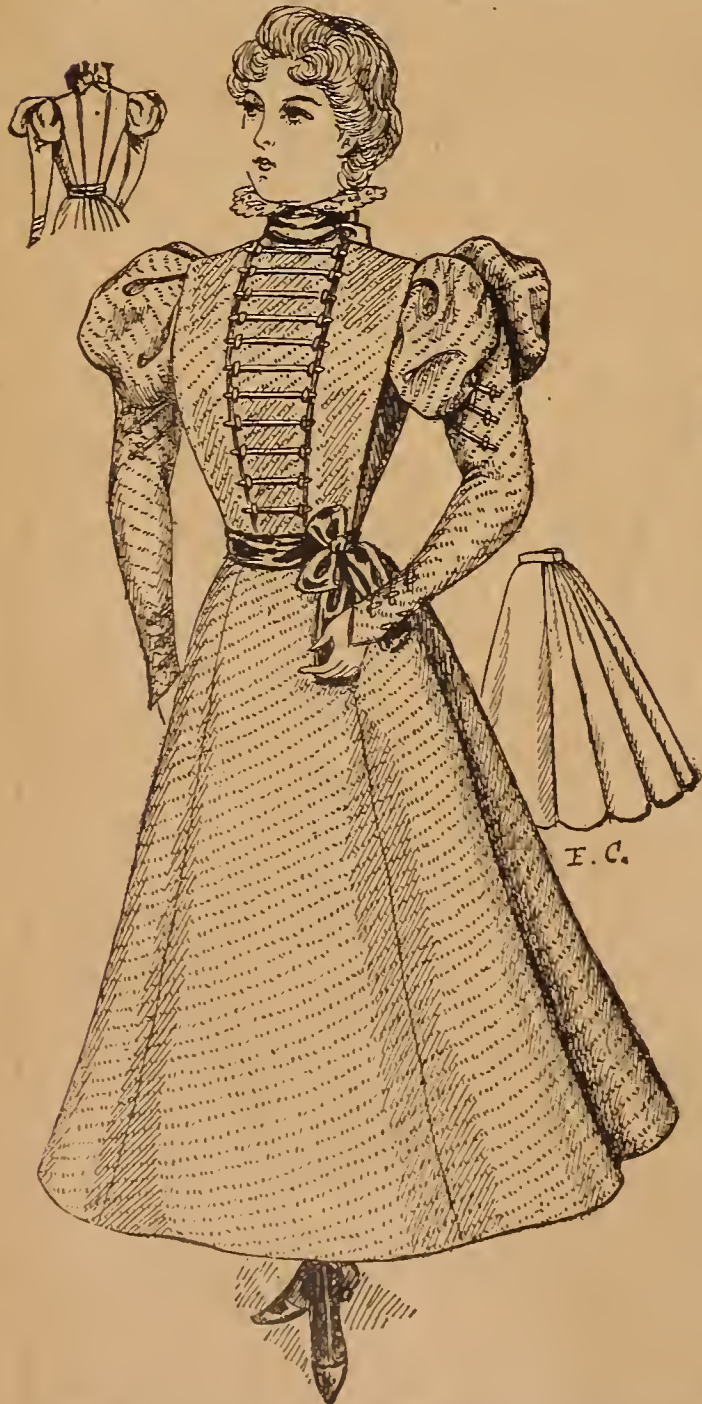


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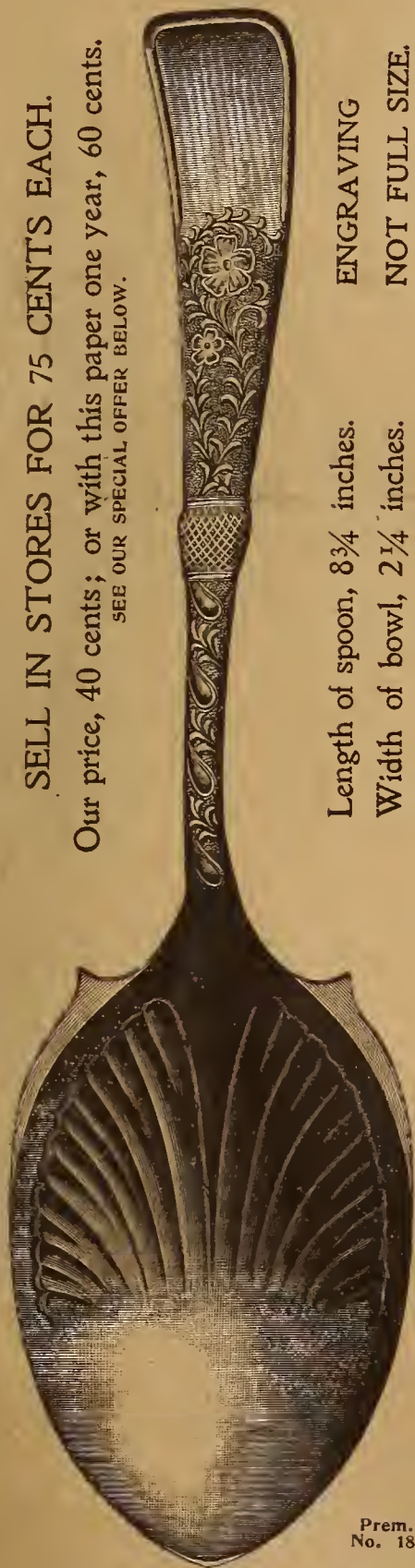
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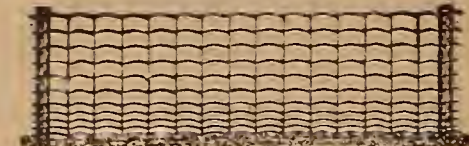
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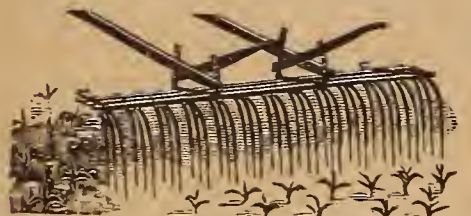
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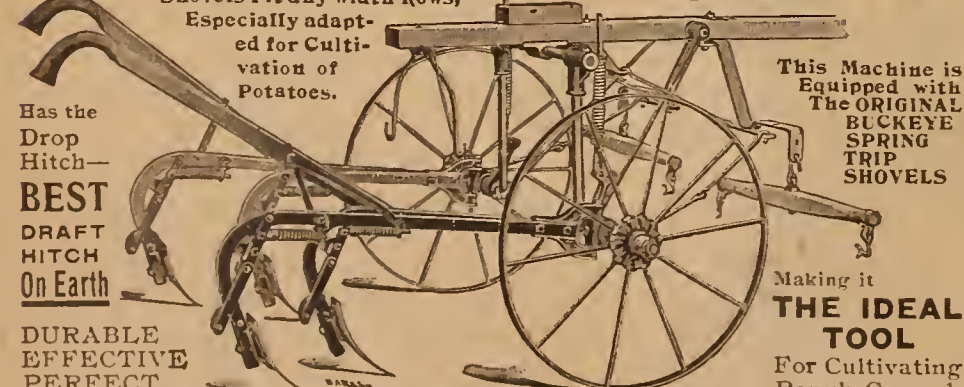
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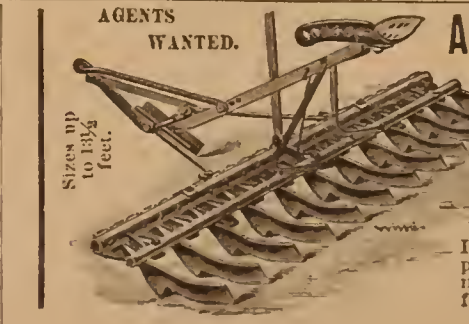
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The picture is 21 inches wide and 28 inches long.

The scene chosen for the painting is the "Judgment Hall" in the palace of Pilate, and the hour "early in the morning." Around the Governor the priests are gathered, and the high-priest, Caiaphas, is accusing Christ and demanding his death. The proud and furious bigot is all alive with excitement. There is a majesty about his pose, the consciousness of power in his look and gesture, and something of dignity in the superb audacity with which he draws Pilate's attention to the execrations of the mob (who are crying out, "Crucify him!") as expressive of the national will which the Governor is bound to respect, at the same time insinuating that to let this man go will be treason to Caesar, as well as a violation of the Jewish law which demands the prisoner's death for "making himself the Son of God." Pilate is yielding to the clamor, while his conscience, aided by his wife's message warning him not to condemn that righteous man, is protesting in tones which make him tremble.

THE CENTRAL FIGURE,

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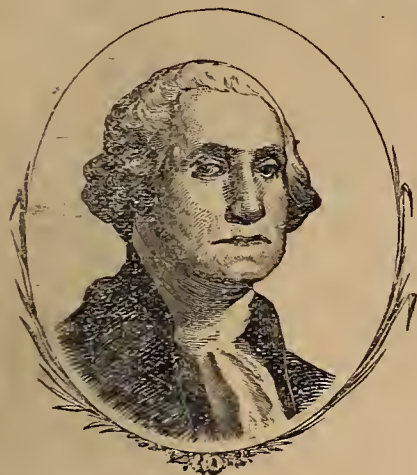
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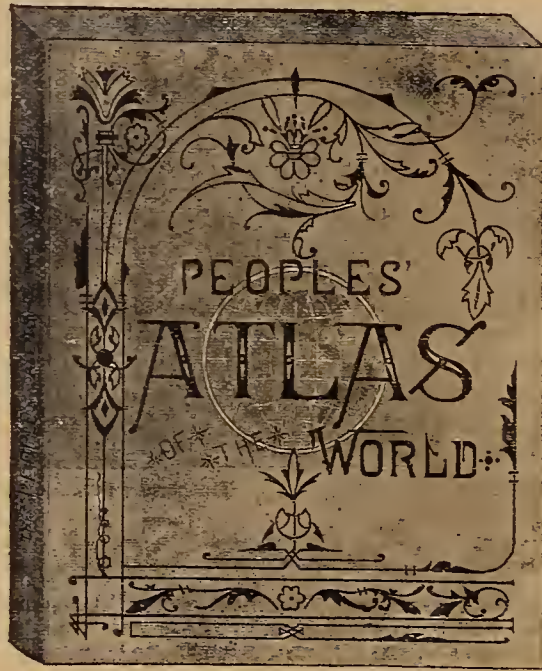
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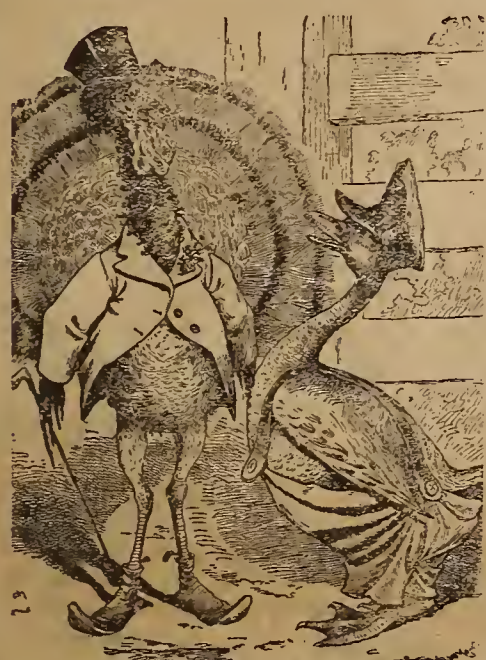


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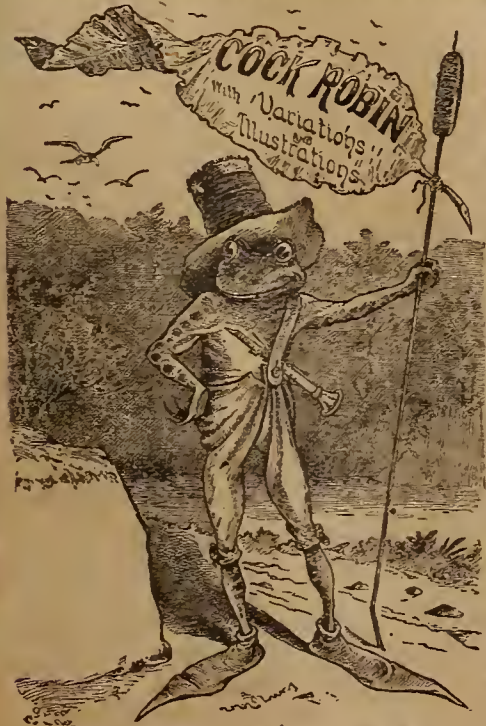
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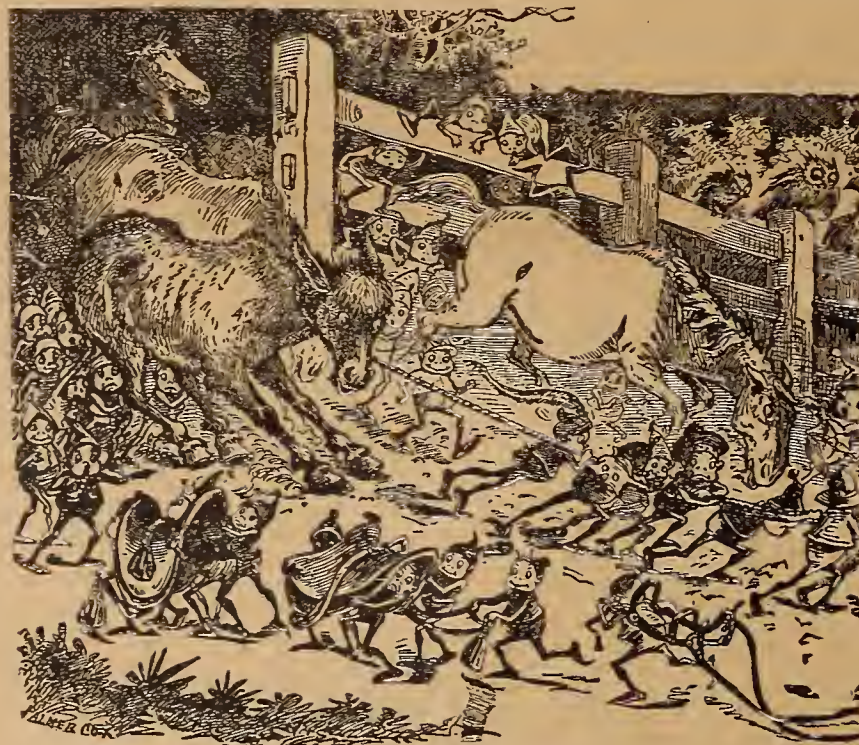
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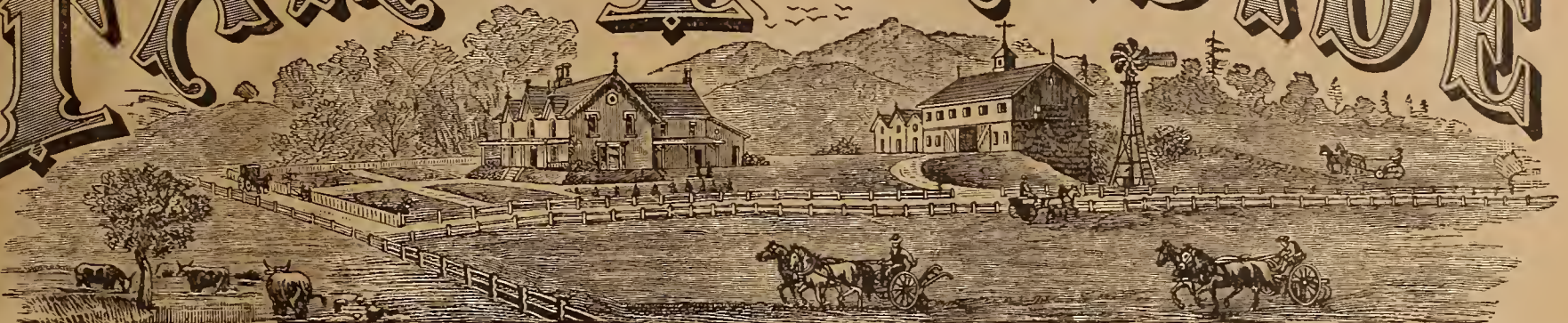
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VOL. XX. NO. 12.

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language that a general European war was inevitable if it was attempted to partition the Turkish empire.

"The exact limits of the long-pending agreement of the powers were made known to-night. It was decided to send two notes to the Greek government, the first of which was delivered in Athens this evening. It requests Greece to withdraw its troops and fleet from Crete in six days. No threats are made in this communication. If, however, the mandate be disobeyed, the second note will be dispatched, notifying the intention to employ coercion unless the demand be promptly complied with. It is now a matter of practical certainty, and it is understood by the powers themselves, that Greece will refuse to yield either to the request or the threat. It is expected further that in the event of any pressure whatever from the powers it will declare war against Turkey, and begin a campaign in Macedonia and Thessaly. It is virtually admitted that the powers are not prepared for any such exigency, and it is scarcely hoped that they will be able to deal with it in harmony; in fact, it is now an open secret that they have been able to reach the present point of agreement only with the greatest difficulty, and that the bonds which held them together at this moment are of the weakest description."

The Cretans, however, are to be freed from the oppression of the Turk, even if not from his nominal rule. In the collective notes to Greece and Turkey the powers declare that the island of Crete will be converted completely into an autonomous state under the suzerainty of the Sultan.

AYRSHIRE, Scotland, is the birthplace of the Hon. James Wilson, secretary of agriculture in President McKinley's cabinet. When James was a lad the Wilsons emigrated to this country, and settled on a farm near



HON. JAMES WILSON.

Norwich, Conn. About four years later, in 1856, the family removed to Iowa, taking up some government land in Tama county. From that time to the present Secretary Wilson has been closely identified with the agricultural, social and political advancement of his adopted state as school-teacher, practical farmer, civil

and civic officer, member of the Iowa assembly, representative in Congress and agricultural educator.

By strict economy, out of hard-earned wages teaching country schools in pioneer days, he saved enough to buy a small farm. As a farmer and stock-breeder he was highly successful. The small farm was gradually enlarged to twelve hundred acres, and improved until it is now noted as one of the finest in the state. Worker and student, Mr. Wilson grew in knowledge and experience, rose in the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen, was called to active duties in public affairs, and advanced to the front rank of American citizenship.

Mr. Wilson was sent to the twelfth general assembly of Iowa to get the stock law enacted against permitting stock to run at large. He was twice re-elected, and served as speaker of the house during his last term. The code of 1873 was enacted while he presided. In 1874 he was elected to Congress, and re-elected in 1876. At the close of his second term he retired to his farm, and was appointed by Governor Sherman a member of the Iowa railway commission. In 1882 he was again elected to Congress. This election was contested, and in 1885, on the last day of his term, he withdrew in favor of his opponent upon condition the House pass the bill placing General Grant on the retired list, which was done during the last fifteen minutes of the session, and which would have otherwise failed. In Congress Mr. Wilson gained distinction as a parliamentarian. To distinguish him from Senator James Wilson, of Iowa, he was called "Tama Jim," and the name will cling to him as "Uncle Jerry" did to Secretary Rusk.

Since 1891 Mr. Wilson has been director of the experiment station and professor of agriculture in the State College of Agriculture, at Ames, Iowa. In addition to many other duties faithfully performed, he has been a newspaper editor and a contributor to the agricultural press. Broad-minded, level-headed, whole-souled, skilled in the theory and practice of agriculture and the art of imparting it to others, thoroughly furnished for the work, and acceptable in every way, Secretary Wilson has now assumed his new duties with the best wishes of all for an overflowing measure of success in his administration of the Department of Agriculture.

THE appointment of Hon. J. H. Brigham, of Fulton county, Ohio, as assistant secretary of agriculture is very generally and highly commended. For a number of years Colonel Brigham has been master of the National Grange. He is well known throughout this broad land as a most faithful worker for the best interests of his brother farmers. Like Secretary Wilson, he is a practical, successful farmer, is admirably well qualified for the position of honor and usefulness to which he has been called, and will faithfully perform his duties. President McKinley merits approval for selecting representative farmers of recognized ability and popularity to manage the affairs of the Department of Agriculture.

THE difference between the prices of corn and wheat during the past year has led to a larger use of corn in place of wheat as bread. Not only has its use been increased directly in the familiar form of corn-meal, but indirectly by blending the corn product with wheat-flour. This blended flour is made both for the home market and for export. To what extent the blending practice has been carried is not known accurately, it being in some sense a trade secret. A reliable trade journal estimates a reduction of eight per cent in the consumption of wheat-flour in this country.

WITH THE VANGUARD

THE united intervention of the six great powers of Europe against Greece in the Cretan affair has aroused deep indignation among liberty-loving people, and may speedily force a crisis in the affairs of all Europe. The London correspondent of the New York "Sun," under date of March 2d, outlined the situation as follows: "It is no longer possible to deny that the situation in the East has become one of the utmost gravity. The Cretan crisis is rapidly merging into the larger question of the fate of the Ottoman empire, and it is becoming strongly probable that its radical solution will speedily be forced upon Europe. It has repeatedly been declared by Lord Salisbury and other high authorities during the last year that the only possible solution of this question is by the sword. It is only a week ago that Mr. Balfour assured the Commons in the most solemn

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Our Dumb Animals.

There is a monthly publication called "Our Dumb Animals." I am greatly in sympathy with its aims, which chiefly are the prevention of cruelty to animals. Innocent live beings are made to suffer untold agonies, in many cases from mere wantonness and malicious mischievousness, in others, and perhaps the great majority of instances, from mere ignorance, or from thoughtlessness and shiftlessness. What is needed to alleviate most of all this suffering of the dumb beasts is education much more than the restrictive power of law. The terrors of vivisection, when practised for the gratification of mere curiosity or vainglory, may have to be abolished or moderated by force of the law; but all the suffering that comes from ignorance in feeding and in exposing our domestic animals can best be alleviated by means of teaching people how to feed and manage their stock to their own best advantage and profit. We must appeal to self-interest. An animal that is properly fed and protected is more useful, more valuable and more profitable to us than one that is neglected. Indeed, there is no money in neglect. This is one of the considerations which I had in my mind when saying so much in past issues of this paper about the proper feeding of horses and cows, etc. And for the same reason I call attention to the sign that I find held up in "Our Dumb Animals," reading, "In cold weather blanket your horses while stopping." Horses may be cheap just now; but a good horse is far too valuable to be exposed to injury and hardships when one can protect it so easily from harm and suffering.

Beauty and Beast.

On the other hand, we can easily go too far even in our affection and care for our domestic animals. I am by no means in sympathy with the hypersentimentality shown by the publication mentioned. In one of the last issues appears the picture

of a little boy with his arms around the big Newfoundland dog's neck, and underneath the legend, "Loving Playmates." I like a good, large dog—out on the place as guardian of the premises, protector to the timid women-folks and children, and as terror to tramps and thieves. I like a good cat—in the barn catching rats and mice. But I like the health of the little folks in the house more. Health is beauty. I do not adore these animals as playmates for children. The cat carries germs of diphtheria, and perhaps other diseases; and the dog carries external and internal parasites, and possibly disease germs, too. The dog is affectionate. He is bound to lick the little one's hands and face, and the little hands are carried to the little mouth, and possibly the eggs of tape or other worms, or the spores of infectious diseases thus find entrance into our pet's interior. No, I do not believe that cats and dogs were intended for children's playmates, and they should not be allowed to play that part unless carefully looked after and kept scrupulously clean from vermin and disease. And that is not an easy matter, for dogs and cats will occasionally stray off and go all over the neighborhood, associating with all sorts of other animals of their kind, and perhaps caressing persons of very dubious cleanliness and health. The danger of infection is always present with these animals.

* * *

The Horse Market.

Our cities formerly used up a great number of horses. The average life of a horse in the horse-car service was estimated to be only about three years. Now electricity has taken the place of horse-flesh. Consequently, the draft on the available stock of horses has become greatly lessened, and this was probably the chief cause of the oversupply of horse-flesh and the unparalleled drop in prices. What is the outlook for the future? Farmers have given up breeding horses. They rely on the low prices to continue, and imagine that when their teams get too old for work they will be able to buy young horses cheaper than they could raise them. I imagine that many farmers will find out their mistake after awhile. In a very few years the old stock will be gone, and there are not colts enough raised to take their places. Horses will surely be in good demand in a few years, and prices will rise correspondingly. If ever there was a time when it was advisable for farmers to go into the production of horse-flesh, it is now.

* * *

The Government Seed Distribution.

The seed firm of W. Atlee Burpee & Co., of Philadelphia, has been sending out about seven million packets of seeds on the order and expense of the government. I have never been able to see any justification for such a free distribution, which is largely wasted. Large collections go to the local papers, and thus often come into the hands of people who have absolutely no use for the seeds. As a rule, any free distribution of articles is not appreciated. For instance, a number of the stations have sent out strawberry-plants to the farmers of their respective states. Professor Hutt (of the Ontario experimental farm) told me the other day at Guelph that very few of the recipients of those plants had made a report in return, and stated that the only benefit derived from the practice of distributing plants was to give a few persons a start in plants which otherwise they might be too careless or indolent to purchase from a dealer. Mr. Morton as secretary of agriculture carried on a persistent fight against the legislators who were bound to maintain the free-seed humbug, and he surely deserves great credit for the brave stand he took. He has appealed to Congress with argument, with pleading, with ridicule. Mr. Morton is a man of bright ideas, of strong convictions, and also of plain words. He also has a great capacity for making enemies by his plain talk, and perhaps he is not politic enough. During the discussion in Congress the opponents of the free-seed humbug (and there were many, including burly Tom Reed) tried argument and sarcasm. Mr. Mercer (representative from Nebraska) offered an amendment for the free distribution of poultry, swine and other live stock. But Mr. Morton capped the climax of sarcasm by his letters to Mr. Burpee in Philadelphia. Among other things he said:

"The everlasting desire of patriotic

statesmen to be generous at public expense, and to have the honor of making presents to their constituents out of the public pocket seems to be legally irrepressible. That generosity which costs one no self-denial is easily gratified, and it seems to be a great satisfaction to give away things that belong to other people.

"If the promiscuous and gratuitous distribution of seeds is to be continued, there should also be an appropriation for the gratuitous distribution of garden implements and fertilizers. The parent who will bestow upon his landless child seeds to plant ought to also furnish implements and utensils with which to plant. Practical paternalism in government has already furnished the land in many cases, now furnishes the seeds, and, logically, it ought to furnish likewise the plows and the harrows, the mowers and reapers and threshing-machines.

"The friends of this system no doubt look forward to a time when the government will distribute, through its congressmen and the Agricultural Department, settings of the eggs of new varieties of domestic fowls, or new importations of bovine, porcine or equine animals. Why not?"

I doubt, however, whether even these shafts of sarcasm will have the least effect on the promoters of the scheme in Congress.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

S. N., Kane county, Illinois, A. A. F., Brooklyn, Ohio, and R. P., Henry county, Indiana, desire to know what is meant by "thorough tillage."

Thorough tillage is, in short, keeping the soil in such mechanical condition as will tend to insure a maximum yield of a crop growing on it, and at the same time preventing the growth of any vegetation except that crop. One system of tillage will not do for all kinds of soils, however; neither is a set of implements that works to perfection in one variety of soil suitable for properly working another variety. And, by the way, this is one reason why so many farmers fail when they move from one section of the country to another. Their implements are not adapted to the soil of their new location, and they are unable to properly prepare the land for seeding, or to cultivate the growing crop to good advantage.

* * *

In order to till land to the best advantage one must know the land. He must know what kind of subsoil it has; whether rains pass through it freely without packing it, or run it together like mortar. Some of the finest-appearing land is only wet-weather soil; that is, the subsoil is so porous that water passes through it rapidly, and far down beyond the reach of the roots of cereals, and unless showers follow each other at frequent intervals during the growing season crops are certain to be a failure. Other fine-looking lands are underlain by an impervious subsoil—clay or hard-pan—and on this water remains until evaporated by sun and winds. This is one of the soils said to be some, and only underdrainage, with drains put in near together, will fit it for growing maximum crops. One must know a soil before he can intelligently advise concerning its cultivation—the best methods to pursue.

* * *

A soil that is cropped a long series of years without being manured or seeded to grass loses most of its humus, then it "runs together," packs hard and bakes easily. Before such a soil as this can be made to produce a full crop of anything it must be filled with humus, either by manuring heavily and repeatedly or by turning under a heavy crop of clover. To get this heavy crop of clover it may be necessary to resort to the use of commercial fertilizers, and to give the land wholly to clover. The roots of the clover will open the subsoil and enable subsequent crops to reach the fertility contained therein. When a heavy crop of clover is turned under it is, of course, converted into humus, and humus is fertility. The same with a heavy dressing of manure, only the humus derived from the manure does not enter into the subsoil like that derived from the roots of a crop of clover.

* * *

If a soil is naturally fertile, or has been made so with manure or clover, then the

question of tillage is uppermost. Carefully conducted experiments have proved that it will pay to plow a soil that has been farmed many years fully twelve inches deep, provided it is done in the autumn any time before the ground freezes. This deep plowing breaks up the packed subsoil, and exposes it to the disintegrating action of frost and air, and then shallow cultivation in the spring will fit it for seeding. But deep plowing in the spring is the worst thing that can be done, unless the soil is very rich and full of humus, which not one acre in ten thousand is. If the subsoil is packed hard it might pay to break it up with a subsoiler, but in no case should it be thrown up to the surface in the spring. Deep plowing in the late autumn, and a dressing of well-rotted manure cultivated in as early in the spring as the soil will work well, will fit the soil for a crop of any kind. In this manner an old farmer of my acquaintance fitted a piece of worn-out, run-together land for clover. Its former owner had given up trying to grow clover, because he could not secure even half a stand. The new owner secured a fine stand and a magnificent growth the first season. The second season's crop was turned under, and the land seeded to wheat, and the result was a fraction over thirty-four bushels to the acre.

* * *

Said a very successful farmer friend of mine, "I break my subsoil with clover roots. Some farmers use a subsoil-plow, go down twelve to fifteen inches, and think they have done a good job. I use the roots of clover and go down two feet or more, and get much better results than they do, without any of the hard labor." His subsoil was a rather stiff clay, and the crops he harvested showed the wisdom of his method.

* * *

All tillage of crops should be shallow. The time to go deep is, as I have shown, when the ground is plowed in the fall. Deep tillage of a growing crop serves no good purpose whatever, while it is very injurious to the plants. It is folly to move the soil in which the roots of a plant are growing unless it is desired to check the growth of the plant. What is needed is intelligent shallow tillage. After every rain the crust that forms on the surface must be broken up, and any implement that runs one or two inches deep will accomplish that purpose. During a drought the surface of the soil gradually packs and forms a crust, and hence surface, or shallow, cultivation is as necessary as after a shower. Shallow cultivation will destroy weeds quite as effectively as deep, while it can be done with less than a fourth of the labor. The time to destroy weeds is just when they appear above the surface, and the spring-steel tooth weeders advertised in this paper will do the work rapidly. Thorough tillage includes the destruction of all weeds as soon as they appear. Neither weeds nor grass of any sort should be allowed to rob the soil of one atom of its fertility. This involves watchfulness and labor, but not hard labor if the right kind of tools are used, and used in time.

Thorough is simply intelligent tillage. A man must know his soil, and then till it in the manner that experience and common sense show is best. FRED GRUNDY.

THE SUGAR-BEET.

The sugar-beet is a very profitable crop to raise for stock food alone. For an experimental patch select a rich, sandy loam, well-drained soil, as free from weeds as possible, preferably a clean clover sod. Plow early and deep, and pulverize thoroughly. Sow the beet-seed at corn-planting time. It is best sown with a good garden-drill set to drop seeds three inches apart in rows about thirty inches apart. It may be sown by hand in shallow furrows made by a common sled marker, and covered one inch deep, firming the earth over the seeds. Cultivation with a smoothing-harrow or weeder should begin before the plants appear. When the plants are about four inches high they should be thinned to stand six inches apart. Cultivation should be as frequent as necessary to keep the weeds down and the surface loose and mellow. Aim to get a perfect stand, and to grow as many medium-sized beets as possible. Beets weighing one and one half to two pounds are richer in sugar than larger ones, and more valuable for either stock food or sugar-making.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

WE are engaged in farming to gain a livelihood, and, if possible, accumulate some money. We study farm problems in order that we may win. The difference between the amount we earn and that we expend is our profit or loss. Anything that affects the size of this sum concerns us. For this reason I turn aside from our practical farm questions for this once, and ask consideration of the road question that is being forced upon us to-day, and that will be settled in some way at no distant date, according to present indications.

IMPROVED HIGHWAYS.—The agitation for greater improvement of our highways increases. The demand comes from our cities, towns and villages rather than from the farmers. The wheelmen are persistent in their attempts to create public sentiment in favor of speedy and permanent improvement of rural roads. They are credited with spending a vast sum of money annually through the press and in lobbying to secure such legislation as they deem necessary to secure their object. Generally speaking, the centers of population, large and small, are favorable to what we call the "good-roads movement." All argue that no one will be so much benefited as the farmer if the country roads are made dry and solid in all seasons, and yet it is the farmer who stands as the conservative force in the agitation to-day.

WHO PAYS THE BILLS?—Certainly the farmer would receive benefit from improved highways, but the question with him is whether the benefit to be derived by him from the macadamizing of the roads would equal the cost to him. The proposition is that the farmers bear the most, or all, of the expense, and in a time of depression they want to know whether they can afford to begin costly improvements. If those who do the most of the talking proposed to do the most of the paying, the whole matter would present an entirely different aspect. If the farmers must furnish the major portion of the money, they do well to go slow. We like to be progressive, but we like to be able to pay all bills as we go along.

A CASH TAX.—However, the question of making pikes is a local one to a certain extent. In some sections farm values may be greatly increased by road improvement, and it is business to make the pikes. In other sections the proposed improvement would burden landowners too heavily. My object is to call attention to our failure in applying our present road-tax, rather than to discuss the advisability of increase in tax. Our present system does us credit to us. We cling to the old idea of "working out" the road-tax, and the result is that our highways do not improve in condition as they should in view of the sum of money now expended upon them. If the road-taxes were paid in cash, and if we had a plan for securing the best results from the expenditure of this money, there would be less reason for this popular demand that we burden ourselves to pike our highways without delay.

A PLAN SUGGESTED.—FARM AND FIRESIDE readers are asked to consider this plan, some of the features of which are contained in some states. Place the highways of a township in the hands of a road-board of three members, which shall occupy the same relationship to the roads that a school-board does to the schools. We can get the services of the best men of a township on a school-board without much, if any, compensation. So will it be with a "road-board." This board will levy the road-tax. Then it will divide the roads into sections of ten to twenty miles, and for each section employ a man whose duty it would be to take care of that section. He should be a man who would be just as much interested in his "section" as a teacher is in his school. His continued employment year after year would depend upon his efficiency and his faithfulness.

THE WORK OF THIS ROADMASTER.—In the first place, this man would be a

working-man. His first duty would be to save the work previously done from destruction. He would be upon the road ten hours every day from early spring until frost locked up the road in the fall. He would keep all side-ditches open, watch all culverts, prevent costly washouts, keep deep ruts and mud-holes filled up just before they were really formed. He would keep what we have. He would be a worker, just as a school-teacher is, and as he would be held responsible for the condition of his section, every taxpayer knowing that he was in charge and drawing continuous pay, and as future employment would depend upon efficiency, he would exert himself to make the best possible record. The road-board would have the same general supervision over him that a school-board has over a teacher.

OTHER ADVANTAGES.—The road-tax being paid in money, the work would be done when most effective. Instead of waiting, as is now too often the case, until farmers are through corn-planting or harvest and ready to send the old mare and two-year-old colt as a team for the road-scraper, the roadmaster would hire trained teams for the grader and use it at the best time. The "picnic" idea would be abandoned, and road-making would be a matter of business. The roadmaster who expected to get employment in the future would study his business and seek to get the best possible results from the money at his disposal. All eyes would be upon him as they are upon the school-teacher. We do not teach out our school-tax, but we expect our employee to do it well. We would not work out our road-tax, but would expect our expert employee to do it well.

NO INCREASE IN TAX.—Taxes are now a burden. We want no increase. On account of our inefficient way of applying the present tax, the demand for better roads promises to lead to the imposition of heavy burdens in the future. We can head this off by a change to businesslike methods in working roads. The plan outlined should secure better roads. The present tax may be made to do twice as much as it is now doing. The first thing is to save the work that has been done. An employee for each section can do this. Then the improvement of the roads should be made at the best possible time, and trained teams and men are needed. This calls for a cash tax. The road-board and working roadmaster, with daily work by the latter, should make permanent road improvement an actuality without increase in total tax now paid.

DAVID.

ECHOES FROM EGYPT.

Behold yonder young man! His cheeks are ruddy with health and his eyes sparkle with vivacity! He has a powerful "good right arm," and lots of "gristle in his back!" But land of the sweet by and by! he is verily mauling out his own life, working with dull tools. Don't you know, sir, that when a single-edged ax is so dull that the back of the ax cuts as well as the edge does, it requires more than twice the muscle to do the required chopping that it would with a sharp ax? You're young and sturdy now, but mind you, when by the easiest way possible you make your living as you go, and have eventually laid by a snug little competence, your back will be like a rainbow and your cheek furrowed by time's plow! Therefore, let one who has had experience suggest that a grindstone and whet-rock well used are mighty good investments. If they can be gotten no other way, cut the coffee bill. They are needed more than is coffee. Whatever you do, keep the implements sharp. Strength saved is power made.

Having given muscular prodigality a thumping, I now invite my readers' attention to another case. A young man is out on his "first legs." His parentage is nothing to boast of—rather against him if any difference—but he has a promising prospect for the future. Contrary to the mischievous disposition of his near blood relatives, he is quiet and well behaved in company. He is also an enthusiastic church member, and has entered the ministry, and holds his auditors spellbound with his eloquence. But from his boyhood he has always shown the vinegar characteristic of his race, though since obtaining his majority he has for the time

kept it out of sight. But while moving ahead with his ministerial appointments there is domestic disagreement between his parents, with whom all this time he has remained. The conflict between his parents becomes graver and graver, and finally he gets into trouble, too. He makes shipwreck of his religion, and publicly and privately his vinegar bubbles and effervesces until he is the entire community's shame. Ah! how many go this road? If not exactly this one, another which leads to the same destiny? The point is,

Your character guard with care;
'Tis quickly gone.
'Tis gained by many a deed,
But lost by one.

And when thus lost, it never can be entirely regained. It can in part, but not in full.

How many readers of this journal are getting the government's monthly list of publications? If not, you ought to. From this list you can select such bulletins, reports, etc., as apply to your locality, and many of them can be had for the asking. First address the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., requesting that your name be entered to receive the list of publications each month, and he will comply free of charge. Then you will get also free a list each month. Some of the publications mentioned in that list will have a price at which they are sent by mail without further cost to the purchaser, and some of them are sent free. Selections from the list can be made at one's own pleasure. Therefore send, if you have not already, and get the favors prepared in your behalf, study them when received, and when you begin to realize their value try to influence some one else to go and do likewise.

JEFFERSON D. CHEELY.

DAIRY GOSSIP.

Of course, any one can milk who has seen the operation once performed, but really first-class milkers are not so numerous as one might suppose. The man who is constantly kicking and beating the cows is not a good milker, by any means. The woman who can only milk with one hand is not a good milker. The one who never brushes down the cow's udder is not a good milker. The one who begins milking a cow and stops to talk or rest is not a good milker.

A good milker is kind and quiet—one who goes about his work as if he knew what was to be done and just how it should be done. He is not excitable himself, and his cows stand quietly in their stalls, chewing their ends contentedly and waiting their turns to be milked, when they do their utmost to give down a large flow of sweet lactic fluid to nourish the human frame.

The good milker is regular in his habits, because he knows the cow is a kind of chronometer, and is always wound and on time if the milking hour is regular. He milks each cow in regular order, beginning say with "Brown Bessie," and ending with "Lily Flag." If the stables are well cared for, as they will be when in charge of such an one, he simply brushes the udders carefully to dislodge all dust and foreign matter, and then proceeds at once to draw the milk with both hands, using all the fingers with gentle alternating pressure in imitation of the mechanical motion of the calf. He does not "strip" with thumb and finger, slipping from base to apex at each movement, neither does he dip his hands into the milk-bucket to keep them moist. I recently visited one of the large dairy-farms near New York City, and in conversation with the superintendent learned that he would not permit any of his milkers to milk with wet hands.

It does not matter whether one is using the milk on his own table, selling it to customers, shipping to dealers, selling to the factory, selling the cream to restaurants or making butter, common honesty demands that the milk should be kept in the most cleanly condition that is possible, and to this end each milker must work.

There are those who claim that best results in milking can only be obtained by milking transversally; that is, to milk the rear left teat with the right hand while milking the front right teat with the left hand, and the front left teat with the right hand while milking the rear right teat with the left hand. I have tried this method, but found no advantage, while it is somewhat more inconvenient to the hands.

It is sufficient to milk opposite teats, milk rapidly and milk thoroughly, even to the last drops. The richest portion of the milk is that which is last drawn. To prove this to some doubting Thomases, I once took a sample of milk from that first drawn and another sample as I finished. The first showed 2.2 butter-fat and the last 10.2. Now, it will not pay to lose any of that ten-per-cent milk.

It is poor policy to change milkers any more frequently than necessary. If possible, let the same persons do all the milking, and each one milk the same cows in the same order each time. Loud talking and laughing should not be permitted in the stables; and if the men and maids, or boys and girls, as the case may be, should be so full of life as to make it essential to good health to permit some of their pent-up exuberance to escape, let them sing or whistle, and let the tunes be lively ones, that the milkers' hands may keep time without spoiling the cows.

JOHN L. SHAWVER.

CELERY FOR RHEUMATISM.

The use of celery is becoming more general every year. One of its greatest benefits to the human family is in the medicinal qualities possessed by both the roots and stems. Celery soup will relieve inflammatory rheumatism in a few hours, and several permanent cures are recorded. This discovery comes from Germany, where the celery is used more in soups than as a raw relish. The roots and stalks are cut into small pieces and boiled thoroughly, when the celery is served hot with bread and butter. Persons afflicted with darting pains around the heart, in the spinal column or general nervous debility find instant relief in using celery soup. Every farmer and gardener should grow some celery, and see that it is used freely by all the family. The raw stalks are fine nerve-feeders, and are relished as a part of the dinner in winter and early spring, while the leaves are good for flavoring all kinds of soups.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

Spring Medicine

In buying a Spring Medicine bear in mind the fact that what you need is a good blood purifier, and when you buy medicine you should always get the best. The great cures of blood diseases by Hood's Sarsaparilla have made it known as the One True Blood Purifier. It is therefore the best medicine for you to take in the spring. There is no doubt that you need a good Spring Medicine. Ninety per cent. of all the people need to take Hood's Sarsaparilla to purify their blood at this season. The warmer weather finds them

greatly debilitated, and it is well known that disease is most likely to attack those who are "all run down." If you take Hood's Sarsaparilla now, it will purify and enrich your blood, give you a good appetite, prevent and cure that tired, languid feeling, which is so prevalent in the Spring, and in this way it will build you up and prevent sickness later in the year.

"I had erysipelas which at times would cause me great suffering. It was caused by the general scrofulous condition of my blood.

Means

I was afflicted in this way for about fifteen years and the physicians failed to cure me. I have taken two bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla and I am permanently and entirely cured, but I believe a disease which is so deeply seated will require a few more bottles and I am still taking Hood's Sarsaparilla." A. E. SMITH, 208 Court Ave., Jeffersonville, Indiana.

"I have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla as a blood purifier, and we have given it to our children. We have always found it a good medicine. We have also tried Hood's Pills and find them just as recommended." MRS. BELLE FINLAYSON, Magnet, Neb. Get only

Hood's Sarsaparilla

The One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

SEED PRICES.—A close scrutiny of the price quotations given in the catalogues this year reveals a very material reduction over former seasons. This is no more than it should be, and no more than in conformity with the prices of other soil products. Seedsmen, like other people, have to learn to be satisfied with reduced profits. Now, at the prices conceded by them to the grower, there can be no reason to hesitate to plant crops that promise good returns, simply on account of the cost of seed. Barletta pickling onion-seed used to cost us about \$2.50 a pound, and it takes a lot of seed for a little patch, so that really the cost of seed cut deeply into the proceeds and profits. (I sow one pound of seed to less than three square rods, or sixty pounds to the acre.) This year I can get this seed for less than half the old rate.

MILLS' EARLIEST TOMATO.—Although I have spoken of this "Earliest in the World" tomato once or twice before in these columns, I find the subject so interesting to me and others that another reference, with picture, may not be out of order. The patch of this Mills' Wonder, as I found it last fall in Ontario county, New York, was surely the prettiest sight I ever beheld of this sort. I have never seen plants so uniformly well loaded with tomatoes, nor a crop of tomatoes all of so uniform size and shape. One fruit seemed to be as near like every other as an egg is like another in a basketful. Of course, the pains taken with the plants in training and trimming and with the general management had probably more to do in making the patch so very attractive, and the fruit specimens all so very even and superior, than the mere selection of va-



riety. The accompanying sketch may give a general idea of the plan followed in setting, staking and trimming the plants, and of their size and thrift. I have quite a number of plants now started, and hope that this variety will prove as early as the introducer claims for it. If it belongs to the early-fruiting type, like Ruby, Leader, etc., I can only say it is a pity that it is hampered by (not to say branded with) the awkward name "Earliest in the World." Call it Mills. That is good enough, and short.

GARDEN LITERATURE.—Just now American gardeners cannot complain of a lack of literature relating to their profession. A number of seedsmen have furnished their contributions. Henry A. Dreer, of Philadelphia, for instance, has issued a useful little book on growing vegetables under glass. It is offered for 25 cents a copy. Then Wm. Atlee Burpee & Co., of the same place, come with their book "Cabbage and Cauliflower for Profit," written by J. M. Lupton. It contains a great many good illustrations on about one hundred and twenty pages, and sells for 50 cents a copy. Then among the station bulletins I find No. 132 of the North Carolina station, which treats on the home vegetable garden and its pests, and is written by Professors W. F. Massey and Gerald McCarthy. It gives much information on the whole range of garden topics. And finally we have No. 4 of the Garden Craft Series, by Professor L. H. Bailey, called "The Forcing-book," a manual of the cultivation of vegetables in glass houses. Published by the Macmillan Company, of New York City. 260 pages. Price \$1.50. T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Planting Apple-seeds.—G. M. K. Hedgcs, Ohio. Apple-seeds should be planted rather early in the spring, in your section probably in April, in thoroughly well-prepared, light, rich soil. It is a good plan to have the seed sprouted a trifle, or just breaking open, when planted, as it insures their coming up quickly, which is important. Land that bakes is liable to crust over and prevent the seedlings coming up.

Book on Grape-growing.—V. F., Nebraska City, Neb. The best book on grape-growing and wine-making is the "Catalogue and Grape Growers' Manual," published by Bush & Son and Meissner, of Bushberg, Jefferson county, Mo. Price fifty cents. It contains over two hundred closely printed pages profusely illustrated, and the cultivation of the grape is discussed thoroughly in it.

Pruning Young Fruit-trees.—W. W., San Diego, Cal. The apple-trees will need but little pruning, and only enough to keep out interlocking branches, and keep the trees in form. Pattern the form of your trees from that of the best orchards in your vicinity. They should probably branch at about two feet from the ground. The same rule would apply to peach-trees, except that in addition they should have about one half of the new wood cut off each year.

Grafting-wax.—J. F. W., York, Pa. One of the best kinds of grafting-wax for general use is made of four parts resin, two parts beeswax and one part tallow. Melt together; pour into a pail of water, and pull like molasses candy. Almost any wax will melt in the sun in the hottest summer days, and should be covered with cloth or paper. If you want a harder wax than this, add one part more resin. You can try this wax by a hot stove and find out its melting-point.

Trimming Prune and Peach Trees.—S. N. Z., Hubbard, Ohio. I should confine the cutting of the prunes to the shortening of overstrung branches, and cutting out interlocking limbs. I would not prune the fruit-spurs unless excessively long. Cut off only about one half of the new growth after the tree is formed, but always form the tree before doing such pruning. Pruning of the peach is largely for the purpose of thinning out the fruit-buds. Remove all weak wood in pruning. If small fruit-spurs have formed, they should probably be removed entirely, and should always be removed if there is enough thrifty wood to produce fruit.

Pears from Cuttings—Pears on Apple Stocks.—G. L. B., Cisne, Ill. Pear cuttings might root in the same manner described for the quince, but the chances are not good for their so doing. The pears of European parentage do not root from cuttings ordinarily, but the varieties belonging to the class known as Japanese pears, such as Keiffer, Le Conte, Garber, etc., can be made to root quite successfully in the warm soil of the South, and are so grown to a large extent.—Pears will seldom live more than a few years if grafted on apple stocks, as they do not make a first-rate union with the apple. A seeming exception to this is the seedless Russian pear, which does fairly well on the apple.

North Side of Hill for Fruit-trees—Varieties of Grapes for Maryland—German Prunes—Pruning Pine-trees.—H. G., Vale, Md. The north side of hills is most favorable for apple, plum and other trees that prefer a cool location. Such a location suffers less from drought than southern slopes.—Probably Concord, Worden, Brighton, Pocklington, Niagara and Delaware, and possibly Catawba, are the best grapes to plant in your section.—German prunes do fairly well in Maryland, but some of the better plums would probably prove more profitable. Any of the larger nurseries sell them.—Pine-trees are probably least injured by pruning done in May, just before they start into growth.

Planting Young Trees in Old Orchard.—C. L. L., Palmyra, Mo. If you are to put the trees where an old orchard has stood, I should put them in line, so as to make it easy to cultivate. The roots of the old trees probably extended twenty feet in every direction in the soil, so that putting the trees several feet out of line would not make much difference. But I do not like to set young trees where old trees have stood, for the old trees have used up a large amount of food in the soil, and the old trees may have died of the woolly-aphis, which might remain in the soil several years after they were gone. If you find it necessary to plant where an old orchard has stood, the land should be deeply plowed and heavily manured, and an interval of five years should pass between the grubbing out of the old and the planting of the new trees.

Grafting Roses.—W. M. H., Earley, S. C. Roses are generally grafted in greenhouses or frames. The work is done just as the buds on the stocks show signs of starting into growth. Sometimes the ordinary forms

of whip and cleft grafting are used, but very often the pith will be found so large, either in scion or stocks, as to prevent this, and then the splice-graft is used, which consists in cutting the scion and stock with a smooth slanting surface and binding together with strapping. The work can be most successfully done close to the ground, and the wound covered with earth after putting on the wax. But grafting is not nearly as successful as budding in July. It should be more commonly known that any of our strong-growing wild roses make excellent stocks on which to grow the best hybrid perpetual kinds. This is a simple and pleasant work, and is easily learned by any one desiring to do so.

Rich, Low Land for Fruit-trees.—T. K. A., Lester, S. C., writes: "I have a piece of land around the house which I want to set in fruit—apples, peaches, pears, plums and grapes. The land is very rich, and part of it is low, but ditched. I have some apples, and did have some peaches on the land. The apples bear some fruit that ripens, but the peaches always rotted about ripening-time, so I took them up. Will it pay to set young trees on the land?"

REPLY.—Very rich or wet land is not good for fruit-trees, and it is very probable that you would not gain much by planting on such land in a large way, although it might do well enough to plant a little for home use. But fruit-trees in such a location cannot compete with those grown in the better locations in your state. Peaches are especially poorly fitted for such a place, although they would do better on the plum than on the peach root. Plums and apples should do better with you than either grapes, cherries or peaches, which need a warm, rather dry, porous subsoil.

Pruning Cherry-trees.—E. L., Clifton, Ill., writes: "1. Would it not be much better to have cherry-trees with very low tops, say branching at twelve or eighteen inches from the ground? Then pickers could stand on the ground and pick the lower branches; and a short ladder then would answer for the tops. 2. If the top of a cherry-tree is cut off below the limbs when four or five years old, will the trunk force out new limbs, so as to make a good low top?"

REPLY.—1. Low pruning of cherry-trees is all right, providing they are far enough apart to allow of a good circulation of air through them. This, too, is more true in dry climates than in the moist climate of the eastern and middle states. In California and other sections where the summers are very dry a low top on trees is preferred, because it affords protection against the sun. But low-headed trees are difficult to work around, and if close together they are worse than if high-headed. Most growers in your section would probably prefer cherry-trees branching at about three feet from the ground as being the best form for orcharding. 2. Yes, if the work is done before growth starts in the spring, and the sprouts from the roots are kept rubbed off. But they will require considerable pinching to make good-shaped trees.

Will it Pay to Plant a Large Orchard?—E. F. R., Mayview, Mo. It seems to me that there is fully as good prospect of the apple-trees that are set out now yielding a good profit as there ever was. The acreage devoted to apples has been increasing with great rapidity during the last decade, but our foreign population does not begin to use the apples now that it will when better acquainted with the merits of this fruit, and our export demand for it is increasing rapidly. The discovery of the great benefits coming from the proper use of fungicides and insecticides in the cultivation of the better varieties of apples has put a premium on good management and careful methods in orcharding that is going to give an advantage to the man who thoroughly understands his business. You live in a state that is wonderfully adapted to the growing of the apple. It is centrally located, and good markets are within easy reach of it in almost every direction. I believe, therefore, if you take every precaution to start a good orchard, selecting a good location and good varieties, and giving the best of cultivation, that you may feel sure of remunerative returns for your labor and care. But there is no room for it, and one need not think that an orchard set out in a rough, slipshod fashion can be made to pay.

Frost and Fruit-blossom.—H. C., Missoula, Mont., writes: "1. At what time are blossoms injured—when they first open or later? 2. Are all fruit-blossoms equally affected by frost? 3. How many degrees of frost will cause fatal injury to blossoms? 4. Is there any remedy for effects of frost on blossoms?"

REPLY.—1. The flowers of apple, peach and other trees may be injured at various stages of growth. In the case of the peach the flowers are frequently killed in the bud in winter, and never open. I do not know that this ever happens with the flowers of the apple. But the flowers of the apple may be injured in the spring after they open, and possibly just before opening, though I think this doubtful. In my opinion the flowers of the apple are perfectly safe from any ordinary late spring frost, unless fully expanded, when the pistils may be killed. 2. The degree of freezing that can be endured by the flowers of different plants and the varieties of the same species varies greatly. For instance, the flowers of the Duchess apple are seldom injured by frosts that destroy those of some other kinds in its near vicinity. The petals of some flowers turn away back, and leave the pistils and stamens fully exposed, while in other flowers the petals remain sort of half closed, and so protect the sexual organs. 3. I think that one degree of frost—that is, any freezing whatever—will kill the pistils of the apple-flowers if the sun shines directly on them when frozen, but if the flowers are protected from the sun and thaw out slowly, injury is often prevented. 4. Practically there is no remedy for the effects of frost on fruit-blossoms. In sections liable to such troubles it is desirable to select high locations, as they get what is called "air drainage"; that is, the coldest air settles away from them into the valleys below. Narrow valleys surrounded by high hills are very subject to late spring frosts. Sometimes a near-by grove, by preventing the circulation of the air, will encourage early autumn frosts in its vicinity. I know such a place where a vineyard is liable to early autumn frosts on account of a near-by grove belonging to a neighbor, and the owner has recently offered to pay me good interest on the cost if I will buy the land and cut away the trees. As noted above, some varieties are less liable to frost injury than others. Sometimes, also, on a night, with a gentle breeze, something may be done about keeping off frosts by using a smudge of some sort, but the value of this has, I think, been over-estimated.

New Shrub that Cures Disease.

A Strange Botanical product with peculiar effects upon certain Diseases of the Kidneys, Rheumatism, etc.—Free to All Readers.

The discovery of Alkavis, the new product of the Kava-Kava shrub, or as botanists call it *Piper Methycticum*, and the many accounts of its wonderful properties are exciting much attention in medical circles, as well as among sufferers from diseases of the Kidneys. Leading doctors now declare that Alkavis performs its remarkable cures by removing from the blood, the uric acid, which is the cause of these diseases. Alkavis also acts directly upon the kidneys and urinary organs, soothing and healing them. It will be remembered that this new remedy was first found in use by the natives of India, where on the marshes of the Ganges river, the peculiarly liable to diseases which clog up the kidneys and load the blood with the waste products of the system. White missionaries, soldiers and natives alike suffer. Then when death seems at hand, the native finds in a decoction of the Kava-Kava Shrub the natural remedy which sets the Kidneys in healthy action again, and clears the system of disease. It is this special action on the kidneys which makes the value of this new botanical discovery and has given Alkavis its world-wide reputation.

We are glad to give the record of the following most remarkable cures by this new discovery. The noted Evangelist, Professor Edward S. Fogg, the associate of Talmage, Jones and Moody, so well known for his work in conducting revival and religious meetings over the United States, in the following lines tells the story of his recovery from serious Bladder and Kidney disease, through the wonderful curative power of Alkavis. He writes from Covington, Kentucky, Jan. 7, 1897. He says:

"John Wesley once said that the man who discovered a Remedy for Disease and did not make it known to the world merited condign punishment. I believe I have found a Remedy for Kidney disease in the new discovery, Alkavis. I have used it but little over a month, and I am in better health to-day than for years previously. It has been matter of remark to my friends of the wonderful improvement of my condition in the last few weeks, and I ascribe it entirely to Alkavis. You know how much I suffered, and the very bad condition of my Kidneys and Bladder, all of which has now happily passed away under the use of this great Remedy. Very truly yours, EDWARD S. FOGG."

The venerable Mr. Jos. W. Whitten, of Wolfboro, New Hampshire, gratefully writes of his cure of Dropsy, swelling of the feet, and Kidney and Bladder disease by this new remedy. He writes:

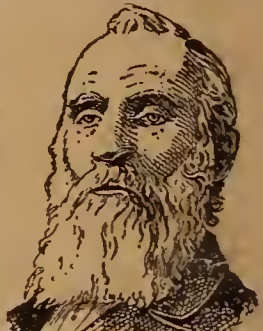
"After suffering two years with Urinary and Bladder trouble I sent for Alkavis, and it helped me very much. I am eighty-five years old and my blood and circulation were so poor that my feet and limbs would swell very badly. Since taking Alkavis my blood is in a healthy condition and my feet and limbs do not trouble me by swelling. I was very thin, but now I weigh one hundred and thirty-six pounds. I can truly say that Alkavis was a great blessing to me and I can recommend it faithfully."

Rev. Albert R. Richardson, D. D., pastor of the First Methodist Church, of Hoboken, New Jersey, writes of the recovery of his daughter from an apparently incurable case of Bright's Disease through Alkavis. Rev. W. B. Moore, D. D., of Washington, D. C., Editor of the *Religious World*, writes of his own cure of Rheumatic and Kidney disorders through Alkavis. Rev. John H. Watson, of Sunset, Texas, a minister of the gospel of thirty years' service, was struck down at the post of duty by Kidney disease. After hovering between life and death for two months, and all his doctors having failed, he took Alkavis, and was completely restored to health and strength, and is fulfilling his duties as minister of the gospel.

Mrs. L. D. Fegely, of Lancaster, Ills., testifies that Alkavis cured her of most severe Kidney and Bladder disease of eight years standing, after three doctors had failed. Mrs. James Young, of Kent, Ohio, writes that she had tried six doctors in vain, that she was about to give up in despair, when she found Alkavis, and was promptly cured of Kidney disease, and restored to health. Mrs. Alice Evans, of Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Mary A. Layman, of Neel, West Va., twenty years a sufferer; Mrs. Sarah Vunk, Edinboro, Pa.; Mrs. L. E. Copeland, Elk River, Minn.; and many other ladies join in testifying to the wonderful curative powers of Alkavis, in Kidney and allied diseases, and other troublesome afflictions peculiar to womanhood.

Mr. F. Starkweather, of Hayesville, Iowa, writes that he would have been in his grave but for Alkavis. He says that he was taken with bleeding from the Kidneys and Urinary Organs, that he was given up to die, and cured by Alkavis. Mr. R. C. Wood, a prominent attorney of Lowell, Indiana, was cured by Alkavis of Rheumatism and Kidney and Bladder disease, which had compelled him to rise as often as ten times in a night, and made life continuous suffering.

While Alkavis is well-known in Europe, its only importers in this country so far are The Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 418 Fourth Avenue, New York. They are so anxious to introduce Alkavis and prove its great value that they will send free one Large Case, prepaid by mail, to Every Sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's disease, Rheumatism, Cystitis, Gravel, Female Complaints and Irregularities, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. All readers should send their names and address to the company and receive the Large Case by mail free. To prove its wonderful curative power, it is sent to you entirely free.



Mr. Jos. W. Whitten, Wolfboro, New Hampshire.



Mrs. L. D. Fegely, Lancaster, Ills.

Our Farm.

SPRING BEEKEEPING.

THE "bee year" begins in the fall after the first frost, but if nothing was done to prepare the bees for spring work last fall, preparation should begin early in spring—about the twenty-fifth of March.

The success of the year may depend upon the work done at the beginning. If a colony be weak in May, it may be weak all summer, and not strong or built up to normal condition until fall. Such a colony is of no use (except to fertilize flowers) until next season.

First open every colony as early as the middle of March, when the temperature is not so low that the brood will be chilled, and find the queen. If a colony have no queen, unite the colony with one that has a queen. This may be done on any warm day even in March. This must be done, for no queens are obtainable in March. Assured that all colonies have queens, give each colony every day a pound of granulated sugar dissolved in hot water, making a warm syrup. Feed warm, but not hot, and feed every colony, even if straggling.

The object of feeding is not to provide food (unless the bees need it), but to stimulate the queen. When the bees begin to take honey (or sugar and water) from a feeder (placed over the frames, but under the mat), the effect on the queen is the same as bringing honey into the hive from the fields. Immediately the queen feels the impulse, as it is called, and increases her laying. This is the object sought, for this reason: As already stated, unless the colonies are strong in April or in early spring, and make a good harvest as soon as fruit-trees are in bloom, they may lag behind all summer, not catching up until the season is nearly over.

Therefore, the object of every beekeeper should be to fill his hives with bees, that a large force may be ready for the early spring harvest. Now, if the queen begins her increased laying, in consequence of the feeding, on the twenty-fifth of March, her eggs will produce perfect bees, or produce what become perfect bees, on April 15th, as the time of growth from the egg to the bee is twenty-one days. The eggs laid on the twenty-sixth day of March will produce the bees that come to maturity on the sixteenth of April; and thus on, so that by the time the trees are in bloom each colony is crowded with bees, and there is a large force to begin the work of gathering the early honey.

If the bees do not have much pollen, place rye-meal where they can get it. Place the meal in a sheltered place, or the wind will scatter it; and lay sticks thickly across the meal, or the bees will get so clogged with it they cannot fly. When you open the hives to pour the syrup into the feeders, don't be all day about it. Do it quickly, and without any jerky or convulsive movements, otherwise the bees may object and draw their swords.

The bee is almost human in some respects, and knows, I believe, when he is treated well or abused, and this leads me at this time of the year to preach a little lay sermon on "Interfering with Bees." I have visited apiaries where the bees were so interfered with that they could accomplish very little. The beginner, the novice, always does this, and some beekeepers who are not novices learn very slowly, apparently, that there is such a thing as giving bees too much attention. No wonder that bees sting; no wonder that the beekeeper who is continually fussing with bees has an eye closed occasionally. The bees stand it as long as they can, and then driven to frenzy by the interfering hand of their master, send their daggers home. They cannot be blamed—rather commended.

After reading several bee books, the novice begins his experiments, and the bees begin to puncture him. He pulls the colonies apart continually in order to appear professional in the presence of visitors, and to get ideas. It is a good thing to get ideas, if they are good for anything, but there is no sense in disturbing a whole apiary again and again "to see how the queen looks." It is a good plan to have one colony to practise on, but wrong every time to go from hive to hive and keep all colonies stirred up.

It is a great mistake to suppose that bees need constant attention. There is nothing on the farm that requires so little attention as bees. When a visitor comes to

the farm and wants to see the horses, cows, sheep, swine and poultry, he can see all without disturbing them or interfering with their growth, but when the visitor asks to see a queen bee, that is another matter. Tell him that the queen is busy laying three thousand eggs in twenty-four hours, and has no time to entertain visitors.

Bees must not be neglected, but when a colony begins the season right, let that colony alone. Do as little to it as possible. Keep away! Hands off! It is true that every colony may need looking at several times during the season. Give the bees all the help they need, but do not fuss over them. If you were conducting a factory and the machinery stopped every time the door was opened, you would keep the door shut. The beehive is a factory, and every time it is opened and the light let in, the machinery stops.

The experienced beekeeper does not need always to open a hive to make sure that all is well within. As the beekeeper walks in front of the hives he can tell ordinarily by the actions of the bees in and around the entrance whether the colony is in normal condition or not. If he sees workers falling upon the alighting-board as fast as raindrops, bringing pollen and honey; if he sees the young bees frolicking and playing tag around the entrance, and the drones basking in the sunshine or buzzing lazily around—if he sees all this, the beekeeper may pass on to the next hive. All that colony wants is to be let alone. **GEORGE APPLETON.**

A VARIETY OF LIVE STOCK.

Farming at best is always a work of considerable variation. There is no danger that tillers of the soil and feeders of domestic animals will ever suffer from a concentration of the mind on a single object. It would be very pleasant for one to be able to give his whole attention to his favorite kind of live stock, and thus centering his energies on a single purpose to do better work than where he must have diversified interests, and consequently a lower average of attainments. A few people are able to so thoroughly master all the details of a special enterprise as to make it a success and meet all the difficulties in the way. Unfortunately, the great majority do not rise much above the average in the matter of conducting any business, and thus find it desirable to avoid the heavy risk which attends the venture where one's energies are centered upon a single object.

When one employs his talent in breeding and training horses alone, when the season of depression comes he sometimes finds not only all his profits swallowed up, but that his animals must be sold often at a considerable loss over cost of production. If he is the possessor of wealth outside of his live-stock interests, and has a fixed income from interest on stable investments, or from a salary in a good profession, he can afford to bear the reverses of the occasional season of losses. But in the case of the farmer who must derive his sole income from his lands and live stock, a series of losses for several years might so seriously involve him in debt as to make a venture in the exclusive work of horse-breeding very disastrous to him.

One may combine horses and cattle to fair advantage where he has considerable grazing-land and where the value of an acre of his ground is not more than one hundred dollars. It must be taken into account, also, that corn and provender for winter must either be produced on the farm or provided by purchase at a moderate expense, if the production of beef-cattle at a profit is the purpose. In the case of dairying, under proper management the enterprise will bear a higher valuation for the grain to be fed to the cows than where the object is beef production.

Cattle cannot be fattened profitably where the grain is fed whole and uncooked without a moderate number of hogs to consume the waste. It is now a serious question with some of the best cattle-feeders whether it is not more profitable to cook their corn carefully for fattening cattle, and dispense with at least one half the number of hogs hitherto kept to follow the cattle. The problem is a grave one, as it involves the further question of fixing one's attention alone on beef production and being at the peril of a declining market when the beef is ready to be sold. If one's products were in part pork, the markets for both kinds of meat



"When I Saw —your advertisement"

I thought that it was probably like the announcements of many other makers of harvesting machinery—big blow and little show; but I'm ready to surrender; go ahead, gentlemen, you're all right; I bought one of your binders last season and it is equal to any claim you ever made for it."

This is the condensed essence of what Mr. Thomas Carney, of Washington Court House, Ohio, has to say about the McCormick Right Hand Open Elevator Harvester and Binder. The claims made for McCormick Machines are strong claims. That's because



Machines are so constructed that strong claims for them are justified. The machine you want will cost you more than the other kind, for the simple reason that it is worth more; that's all—there's no other reason—and in the end you'll be glad you paid the difference, because *there's nothing cheaper than the best.*

McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, Chicago,
The Light-Running McCormick Open Elevator Harvester,
The Light-Running McCormick New 4 Steel Mower,
The Light-Running McCormick Vertical Corn Binder and
The Light-Running McCormick Daisy Reaper, for sale everywhere.

might not be low at the same time. There is the other risk, however, in taking a large number of hogs, that they may not be maintained in good health. Prudence would suggest that cattle with a moderate number of hogs and an equal number of sheep with the cattle would afford a triple division of the interests, which should enable one to make the most economical use of food to be consumed. In the case of corn fodder, straw or hay, the sheep following the cattle will preserve a portion which the hogs would not take up. They would also gather up the clean part of the grain remnants. This policy would require but about half the number of pigs past four months old to follow the cattle; and thus the smaller number would be likely to be more free from the ravages of the plague. During the winter season it is desirable to maintain the hogs on the waste products of the cattle-yards entirely, if possible. The improvements in modern times, so considered, which are displacing pork and lard on the table by cottolene, olive-oil, etc., make it a measure of prudence for all swine-breeders to be prepared for a perhaps still greater decrease in the demand for pork products.

It is especially desirable, where one has grown up on a farm upon which all varieties of live stock and poultry have been kept with a fair degree of success, that one should endeavor to continue this varied policy, with the improvements which the younger generation should be able to note in this era. When a farm is paid for, and stock included, with a total valuation of fifteen thousand dollars or more, such pet stock as ponies, fowls, deer, etc., may be added, which can usually be bred, and sold at remunerative prices to people inclined to indulge in luxury.

The first aim of the stock-farm should be the wisest use of the most economical foods, and strong efforts to grow as much of the perishable foods, such as roots, vegetables, etc., which permit the realization of two crops from the same ground within a year. This policy is a necessity where ground has a valuation of more than fifty dollars an acre, if the owner is to derive a good average income from his investment. One must study economy in the selection of foods, and must plan how best to supply the rations to the different animals. **M. A. R.**

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM KANSAS.—Our wheat crops are fine, our corn crop immense. Having lived here in southern Kansas many years, I consider La Bette county the best for farmers or stock-raisers. Our summers are cool at night, rendering sleep refreshing. Abundance of rain and the heavy dew at night keep vegetation of all kinds growing. Our winters are short, dry and mild. The lowest temperature during the cold spell in January was eight degrees above zero. We procure no ice; that article is imported from Minnesota. We very seldom have snow. On the twenty-first of January we had one and one half inches of snow, but it melted the next day. Therefore, our climate is just what the stock-raiser wants, as he does not need the expensive barns and outbuildings, and long feeding required in states further north and west. We have very little wind during winter, and not any more than necessary to keep the

TEN MILLION STRAWBERRY PLANTS—63 Varieties. Free Cat. J. G. HARRISON & SONS, Berlin, Md.

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100 Varieties. Also Small Fruits, Trees, &c. Best root-ed stock. Genuine, cheap. 2 sample vines mailed for 10c. Descriptive price-list free. LEWIS ROESCH, Fredonia, N. Y.

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air cool in hot weather. The Neosho valley is exceedingly fertile, of a dark sandy loam, and well watered by the Neosho river and its many small streams, which are well stocked with fish. The timber along the river and other streams is large, and is composed of hard wood, such as ash, hickory—shell bark and smooth bark—walnut, hackberry, elm, maple, butternut, pecan, oak, sycamore and other kinds. Wagon-loads of nuts can be gathered in the fall. This valley is level, and entirely free from stone. The city of Chetopa is situated on the banks of the river, extending back for over a mile, and containing many beautiful homes. Nearly every residence stands by itself, surrounded by fruit, flowers and fine large trees. Fortunately, no cyclones or high wind-storms have ever troubled us. Our citizens are mostly Americans, our lands cheap and our climate fine. The population of Chetopa is over 2,224, with churches of all denominations, good schools and no saloons. Well-improved farms near the city can be had at from twelve dollars to twenty-five dollars an acre, with orchards of choice fruit in bearing. Any one suffering from lung or throat diseases should try this climate. **F. F. A. Chetopa, Kan.**

FROM OKLAHOMA.—This is a cattle country, not a farming country. Without stock one is "nowhere." It takes money to buy a herd. Wheat, oats, corn, potatoes and garden vegetables are very uncertain. The country is subject to hot winds that burn one's face and wither vegetables and corn, and to winds that are piercing, although not extremely cold. I would not encourage any one to come here unless he has money and wishes to engage in raising cattle. **Waynoka, Okla. N. S. S.**

Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

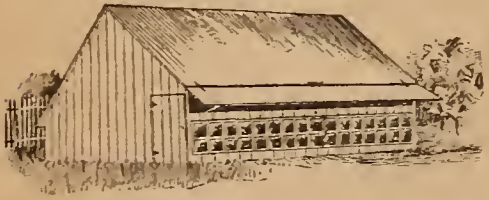
Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hightstown, New Jersey.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT LAYING.

AS THE winter passes the hens become fatter, especially if a large share of their food consists of grain, owing to the scarcity of green food, and should they come out of their quarters in a fat condition, they will not give as good results in eggs as when they are allowed a greater variety of food. Because grain is cheap is no reason for using it as an exclusive diet. It is a very expensive food if it produces no results, no matter what its cost may be. During the long confinement of the winter the hens do not receive as much exercise as in spring, and this condition of inactivity not only causes them to become fat, but renders them more liable to disease. The first indication of the hens becoming too fat is when they begin to lay eggs of very large size. They also sometimes lay double-yolk eggs, which is a sure indication that the generative organs are obstructed with an accumulation of fat, for where the two yolks should have served to make two distinct eggs the abnormal condition may result in the production of what may be termed monstrosities in the shape of double-yolk eggs, of which, however, the hens lay but few, and then cease to lay altogether. The overfat hen also drops her eggs while she is on the roosts, because her organs have been weakened and she has lost the control over such function that is possessed by her when she is in proper form. Disappointment is met when the early pullets do not lay. Their combs are red and indicate health, but if one of them is killed and dissected it will be found that there are a large number of embryo eggs which have ceased to grow because there is a superabundance of fat, and the hen or pullet, though healthy, has been rendered barren by over-feeding grain. Should the spring weather come, shunt off the grain, turn them out, and compel them to work for about two weeks, and any time lost by them in getting rid of the extra fat will be repaid by the increased number of eggs later in the season.

POULTRY-HOUSE AND VENTILATOR.

A small opening as a ventilator makes more direct draft than a larger space. The design is to show a deep and warm house, with plenty of light, the ventila-



tor being arranged so as to be opened or shut as desired. The roosts being at the rear side, and low, there is less liability to draft than when the ventilation is directly over the fowls. No ventilation is necessary during very cold weather, and the drop-door should only be opened on clear nights. During the day both the ventilator and the windows may be opened. The opening may be protected with wire, if preferred. The building may be of any size desired.

LARGE AND SMALL FOWLS.

Large fowls will eat more than the small ones. The result will be, however, that not the largest or the smallest hen will receive the most, but the one that is active, as it is the small hens, those that can pick up grain fastest, which eat the larger proportion; yet it is the large hen that should really secure the most. When a mixed flock is fed the hens do not eat the same quantity for each. Some are quick to understand that by being on the alert they can get more, while the less active large hens, which require more food for support, not only fail to get a larger share, as they should, but get less than the small ones. In order to equalize the food, the poultryman gives more grain, and the active hens become too fat. Thus there is another strong reason for using pure breeds and in favor of keeping each breed separate from the others, as uniformity is secured, less food is required, the feeding can be done to better advantage and the hens will not so easily be made fat and lazy.

LIME TO PREVENT GAPES.

The best preventive of gapes is to plow or spade the ground intended for young chicks as soon as the frost is gone, and then scatter air-slaked lime liberally over the surface. Gapes generally come from the soil, and as lime destroys any eggs or other sources of gapeworms, the chicks will escape. Salt may also be added in small quantities. Lime is cheap, and it is better to use it on the ground than to work trying to save the chicks and lose a large number. The ground should be limed as early as possible. Lime is also a preventive of roup. To get rid of filth is to avoid disease in the flocks, for when disease appears the germs are retained in the ground. For that reason every location occupied by poultry should be occasionally spaded or plowed. When performing such work, first scatter air-slaked lime over the surface, and turn under the top soil, following by another application of lime on the surface. The lime causes a chemical action in the soil which quickly destroys the filth by changing its composition.

THE BREEDS IMPORTANT.

Do not expect a flock to pay if you do not know which breed should be used. Endeavor to understand your business by having a knowledge of the characteristics of the breeds. If you wish to hatch a lot of chicks to produce future layers, be sure and fix upon some kind that will be acceptable to your farm and section. Common fowls may thrive, it is true, but there is no rule or guide to follow in their use. If you start right, you must use the breeds, and then you will know what you are doing. If you do not know anything of the breeds, it is important that you should learn, as it is essential to success. All the failures can be traced to ignorance on the part of beginners regarding the breeds, for when one is ignorant in that respect he will not thoroughly understand how to manage to the best advantage.

GEESE IN THE SPRING.

If the flock of geese is given a grass-plot it will be all that they will require. In winter, however, they should have a mess of ground food once a day. Old geese do not sell in market, and it is a waste of time and money to attempt to so dispose of them. Keep the old ones for breeding purposes, as they will be serviceable for from ten to twenty years, and sell the young ones. One gander may be kept with two geese. There is also a fair profit in feathers. The Embden gander and Toulouse geese produce excellent offspring for market.

FEEDING THE LAYING HENS.

It is a mistake to keep the laying hens with those which do not produce eggs, for the reason that the layers require more food than the others, and do not receive it. Usually when hens do not lay they are too fat, and should be fed on foods containing but little grain, and also fed sparingly; consequently, when all the hens are together, the non-producing hens may become fatter while the layers do not receive enough. It does not pay to feed hens that do not give a return for the food consumed.

HOW TO FEED ROOTS.

When potatoes, turnips or beets are cooked it is not necessary to mash them for fowls or chicks. Simply give the roots whole where the fowls can get them, and the birds will soon pick them to pieces. The heads of sunflowers can also be left to the fowls in order to save the labor of separating the seeds. Cabbages may be fastened to small stakes, and even clover hay may be cut fine and fed dry, though scalding is preferred. The saving of unnecessary labor is an addition to the profit.

SELL WHEN THE BIRDS ARE READY.

When a bird is ready for market it should not be kept a day longer. Ducklings, for instance, will grow very rapidly until they are ten weeks old, and may be made to reach five pounds within that time, but they will make the next pound slowly, and soon reach a point where there will be no gain. The nearer they approach to the adult stage the slower the increase of weight of any animal or bird, and the greater the cost of keeping in proportion to gain. This fact points out that the farmer should sell off every fowl as soon as it arrives at a sufficient stage when it

gives the most profit. There is no advantage in keeping a lot of fowls into the winter and only sell them at a loss after feeding them for awhile. Sell off everything that is ready, and thus gain more room as well as lessen expenses.

THE COMBS INDICATE THE LAYERS.

All pullets or hens that show bright red combs will soon begin to lay, and the red combs also indicate that they are in good health. Be careful not to overfeed, for a fat hen may show a red comb also. If the combs are small and shriveled, it is probable that the hens will not lay for two or three months, and should not be retained. If the combs are black, the birds are not well, and it would then be proper to look for lice.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CURE FOR ROUP.—I have tried the following recipe, and find it excellent: When my hens are sick or droopy I give them a teaspoonful of castor-oil and turpentine, and it never fails to cure them. Sassafras-oil will kill lice. When a hen is sitting, give her ten drops in her food (bran or meal) every three days until she is through hatching. When the chicks are two days old give the hen and chicks one fourth of a teaspoonful twice a week; it will not hurt them, and it is no trouble to give it if given in the food. My hens had what is called the roup last fall, and one died. The comb turned black. The rest I gave the turpentine and castor-oil, and they became well, so I think it is good enough to let others know of it. Waterbury, Conn. Mrs. R. P.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Turkeys.—Mrs. T. E. writes: "My turkeys have swollen heads, and some are nearly blind. They sneeze as if they had taken cold."
REPLY:—As you give no mode of management, the probability is that they have been exposed to storms. Give them shelter, and anoint heads once a day with vaseline.
Diarrhea and Scabby Legs.—Mrs. N. J. K. Kingsville, Pa., writes: "My fowls have diarrhea, get poor, drop over and die; some become heavy and die. What is the cure for scurf on the legs?"
REPLY:—You give no mode of management, hence a satisfactory reply cannot be given. It depends on how they are fed. Change the food, and allow lean meat. Anoint heads with melted lard for the large lice. Also apply melted lard on the shanks twice a week, which will remove the rough scurf.

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WE WANT YOU to send a two cent stamp for our new 64 page book giving the easiest and best methods of exterminating all kinds of insects and vermin. Also full information for treatment of diseases of poultry and stock. Take the agency for our goods, and make \$100 extra this season. They are needed everywhere, in the household, garden, poultry yard and stables. Pamphlets and circulars free. **GEO. H. LEE CO., Exeter, Neb., or 178 Michigan St., Chicago.**

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LOTS OF EGGS when hens are fed green cut bone, cut by the Improved '96 **MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTER** the standard of the world. 12 sizes. \$5 and up. G. O. D. or On Trial. Cat'g free if you name this paper. **F. W. MANN CO., Millford, Mass.**

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EGGS FOR HATCHING Heavy Laying StrainsOF.... **White Plymouth Rocks** \$2.00 for 13. White Leghorns, \$1.00 for 13. Pekin Ducks, \$1.00 for 9. Order **Bronze Turkeys** now for Fall shipment. Send 2-cent stamp for circular of fowls and Jersey cattle. **F. E. DAWLEY, Box O, Fayetteville, N. Y.**

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Our Fireside.

A DREAM.

Oh, it was but a dream I had
While the musician played—
And here the sky and here the glad
Old ocean kissed the glade.
And here the laughing ripples ran,
And here the roses grew
That threw a kiss to every man
That voyaged with the crew.

Our silken sails in lazy folds
Drooped in the breathless breeze,
As o'er a field of marigolds
Our eyes swam o'er the seas.
While here the eddies lisp'd and purled
Around the island's rim,
And up from out the underwood
We saw the mermen swim.

And it was dawn and middle day
And midnight—for the moon
On silver rounds across the bay
Had climbed the skies of June—
And here the glowing, glorious king
Of day ruled o'er the realm,
With stars of midnight glittering
About his diadem.

The sea-gull reeled on languid wing
In circles round the mast;
We heard the songs the sirens sing
As we went sailing past.
And up and down the golden sands
A thousand fairy throngs
Flung at us from their flashing hands
The echoes of their songs.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

PHIL KENT'S EXPERIENCE.

BY MILLER PURVIS.

CHAPTER VII.

IF, as a once celebrated humorous writer declared, "When a man once starts down hill all creation seems greased for the occasion," it is none the less true that once a man who is down shows a real desire to help himself and rise in the world, he will find many a kindly hand stretched out to him. If it were true that every man rejoices in the downfall of his neighbor, and is ever ready to increase his momentum once he starts on the road to destruction, there would be but few of us who would make much advance in the world. I have no sympathy with the cynic who does not believe that merit is rewarded, and is ready to cry out that

"Truth is ever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne."

Dan Collins found that he had some friends about Farmdale very soon after he made his first appearance in church, after so many years of absence.

Squire Dumas, the rich man of the neighborhood, called on him, and asked him to come over and do a piece of work; and others, taking their eye from the squire, employed Dan to do odd jobs for them, and his name as a willing worker and a good citizen began to be appreciated as it never had been before since he first came to the country.

Dan was not at all backward about giving his opinion of Phil Kent, and sounded his praises, and prophesied good things for him on every favorable occasion.

One day when he was working for Squire Dumas he gave that rather austere gentleman a severe shock by saying that Phil had more real religion than all the other people in the township together.

This was a specially shocking observation to the squire, for he had in the depths of his own mind decided long ago that he himself was the most faithful churchman who attended the Farmdale church.

Not that he ever said as much openly, but he thought it, and his reputation for probity was such that there was some excuse for the good opinion he had of himself. He professed meekness and lowliness of spirit openly, but really his face was set as a flint in matters religious.

He gave a certain percentage of his income to charity, and when this was exhausted there the matter ended. If Providence gave him bad crops, Providence was wholly to blame if his contribution to the church and charity was smaller than it was in a good year.

It may be truthfully said of him that he tried to live according to his profession. If he was strict in his judgment of others, he was not sparing of himself, and once he was convinced that he had wronged any one he would do all in his power to make amends.

The command to him was, "six days shalt thou labor," and he believed it was mandatory and admitted of no exceptions in the way of half holidays or very long resting-spells. The same command told him to rest on the seventh day, and he rested with a strictness that made Sunday a very long day to his boys and girls.

Phil Kent and the squire had never been very good friends. The young man had seemed to him to be unregenerate to a degree that could not be leniently dealt with, and many a time and oft he had taken occasion

to hold Phil up as an example of what might happen to any young man who did not agree with him in his interpretation of the law.

Phil was neither an infidel nor an irreverent scoffer at sacred things. He attended church quite often, but his name was not on the roll of membership, and he was known to think that true religion need not necessarily make a man or woman oblivious to all the joys and happiness that may come in this life. He was a firm believer in the sort of Christianity that makes men and women cheerful and pleasant in the intercourse with the world, and had but little sympathy with those who thought a smile an infraction of the law and a hearty laugh a grievous sin.

Thus it happened that Phil and Squire Dumas were not very cordial friends, and neither took any pains to bridge the unacknowledged chasm that separated them.

One evening late in the spring, as Phil was pottering about the barn, attending to those little fragments of work that are always cropping out about a farm, he noticed Squire Dumas' team, with the squire in the huggy behind them, coming down the road. When the squire got opposite the barn he pulled his team up and stopped them.

"Hey, Kent!" he called, "have you time to step out here?"

"Another lecture, I presume," Phil said to himself, as he complied with the squire's implied request.

"Kent," said the squire as Phil reached the side of his huggy and stood looking at him inquiringly, "I feel that I owe you an apology. When I find that I am wrong I always make it a point to right myself at once."

"I am not aware that you have wronged me in any way," said Phil, with rather more formality than he usually assumed.

"Well, I have," asserted the squire. "It was this way: I have always thought that you were not doing your whole duty because you have not affiliated with the church and

and huffed by Providence to suffer alone, and fall deeper and deeper into the pit, while you at the first opportunity gave him aid and helped him to his feet, and now his feet are lifted out of the mire and the clay, and in his heart there is a new song of hope, and in his eyes a new light of content."

It will be noticed that the squire was somewhat given to cant, and this was the one special thing that Phil detested.

"Really, squire," he said at the first opportunity, "all this sounds very well, but I do not see that it concerns me very much. I would like to say in all kindness that I would very much prefer that you would let my private concerns alone. What I have or have not given to Dan Collins or any one else cannot possibly interfere with your church or your spiritual welfare in any way. Good-evening," and he turned to walk away.

"Tut, man," said the squire, with some show of temper, "don't let your pride flare up in that way. You did a meritorious thing in helping Dan as you did, and you gave him a better start toward respectability than he has ever had before. I have always misjudged you, and I come to you to say so frankly. You have a hard pull before you to pay for this piece, and I want to say to you now that if you need any help I am ready at any time to give it to you. I hope you and I will be better friends than we have ever been before. Let's shake hands on it, my boy."

This was going a long way down into the valley of humiliation for the stern and opinionated old squire, and if Phil felt a temporary triumph, he was not altogether to blame, for there were very few men in the neighborhood who had ever seen Squire Dumas when he was in a penitential mood.

"I am sure I bear you no ill-will, Squire Dumas," said Phil, frankly, "and it is just possible that I may be compelled to take advantage of your kind offer, though I hope for better things."

"Under the blessings of Providence and through my own good management," said the

clerk that he felt more comfortable now that he could meet him in the road and not feel as if there was some harrier between them.

It was not long after this that Sim Hall stopped one day to gossip a few minutes with Phil, and during the conversation Frank Meade was mentioned.

"I haven't seen Frank for a long time," said Phil. "I wonder how he is getting on this summer?"

"I'm afraid he ain't doin' very much for hisself," answered Hall.

"Isn't his business good?"

"No," replied Hall. "It's goin' down hill, just as any man's business will if he don't turn in an' push for hisself."

"He told me that he had a clerk who could do the business as well as himself."

"That's all right," answered Hall, "but people won't patronize any man who is too good to tend to his own business. When old Snapp had that store he was up betimes an' behind his counter an' ready for business. He had a good trade and was his own clerk, and wasn't above goin' out an' rollin' a barrel o' flour or molasses into the store hisself."

"Doesn't Frank stay at the store most of the time?" asked Phil.

"He used to when he first got it," was the reply, "but now he has so much other business on hands, such as goin' to picnics an' away on excursions, an' all that sort of thing, that he is away half the time, an' the other half he is too near wore out to get down to the store much 'fore noon, an' generally in the afternoon he has to go some place."

"I am sorry to hear this," said Phil in a tone of concern. "I had hoped he would take to business and do well."

"I don't think he will," said Hall. "His old dad spoiled him by keepin' his nose to the grindstone too much when he was a boy. I've got some boys of my own, and I remember when I was a boy myself, an' I says to my youngsters, 'Here's a lot o' work to do, an' I'm gettin' too old to do it. You go ahead an' do the work an' I'll furnish team an' tools an' land, an' we'll divide the money we get, somehow, an' it's surprisin' what interest they take in gettin' the work along. I give every one o' them something for themselves, from Bob, who is twelve years old, up to Fred, who's twenty, an' every one of them works at his best licks, an' I don't have to hother about gettin' them out o' mornin's, either. I've seen too much of this holdin' a boy in leadin'-strings till he's of age. The man who does this ain't doin' his boy any good, 'cause when he gets to be his own man he's goin' to break loose too sudden-like, an' there's no tellin' where he will land. He'll fly high an' drop hard, generally speakin', an' it's lots cheaper to kind o' divide up with him while he is growin' up than keep him slavin' year in an' year out only to have him leave you altogether, or throw to the winds what you've saved when he does get away from you. I was brought up just like Frank Meade was, an' I know jest how I used to feel about farmin'. There was nothin' I hated worse, an' if it hadn't been that I was a born trafficker an' trader I wouldn't be worth a cent to-day. I'm a-foolin' my boys into believin' there is lots of fun in farmin', an' when they start out for themselves they won't be a-runnin' here an' a-runnin' there lookin' for some soft snap. There ain't no soft snaps in this world, an' the man who gets along must work for all he gets, an' that's the reason I don't pity you any. Some folks seem to think you are havin' a hard time, but between you an' me an' the gatepost, farmin' ain't no harder work than keepin' store, or buyin' stock, or preachin'. It's all work if you succeed, an' it's a dead failure if you don't work, an' there you are. If you keep on you'll win, an' if you give up you'll lose, at most anything. You ought to get some live stock on this place," he continued, breaking off from his discourse.

After discussing this point he rode on, leaving Phil with something to think about for several days.

CHAPTER VIII.

One of Phil Kent's hobbies was gardening, and in this he had been pretty well trained, for his father had been an enthusiast on the subject of the possibilities of an acre, and had always tried to grow as much on the garden-plot as possible. In this way Phil had picked up a very good idea of how a garden should be treated to obtain the best results from it.

When he moved to the Pearson place his first plans included a liberal allowance for a garden and truck-patch. He considered it lucky for him that Abijah Pearson had always had his barn-yard next the road, for this gave him an opportunity to make a garden in the place of it, and change the barn-yard to the back of the barn.

The house and barn stood on the highest land on the place, and the old barn-yard had occupied the southeast slope of the rise, an ideal place for a garden. Pearson had probably chosen this situation for the barn-yard because it drained into the road, and this would allow the leachings from the lot to run into the public highway and get the water out of his way in the quickest and most convenient manner.



SHE FOUND WITHIN A GOLD WATCH.

VINES CLAMBERED OVER THE OLD PORCH.

taken a public stand for the right. The good book says, you know, that 'he that is not with us is against us,' and I argued that as you were not with us as a member you must be against us."

"I am sorry that I fail to catch your meaning," said Phil.

"To be plain with you," answered the squire, "I am a little at a loss how to begin. Ever since I found where Dan Collins and his wife got their clothes, and felt for the first time in many years that they could attend church without shame, I have felt that I owed you some acknowledgment for the wrong I have done you in thinking that you were arrayed against religion and the church. I have known Dan for a great many years, and all these years I failed of my duty. Of old it is told that when the man fell among robbers and was sorely beaten the priest and the Levite passed on the other side. We of this neighborhood have been of the self-righteous priests and Levites, and have left a man and brother who was sorely afflicted

squire, with an expression of meekness that did not fool Phil at all. "I have prospered beyond my deserts, perhaps, and it is becoming that I should be at all times ready to help my fellow-man in distress."

"Yes," said Phil, with rising inflection and a desire to smile, which he bravely repressed.

"If it should happen that your crops do not turn out as well as you might hope, and you should need money to make up your next payment, I shall be glad to let you have it at as low interest as any one."

"Thank you," answered Phil. "I shall remember your kindness."

Phil tried very hard to have a high opinion of the squire as that gentleman drove away, but he could not avoid seeing how narrow he was in his views, though I must say that he credited this narrowness to the circumscribed life of the squire, and resolved that he would be more cordial to him in the future. Notwithstanding his doubts about the entire disinterestedness of the squire, he told Kate what had happened, and de-

This old barn-yard, rich with the leakage of years, was as fertile as it could be made, and Phil took great pains to get it into the best possible shape as early in the spring as he could and plant it with the seeds of the best sorts of vegetables.

Besides this he set out a large portion of the lot in strawberries and raspberries, a proceeding that caused some remarks among the members of the Never Sweat Club at Jake Long's store, who looked upon the growing of berries as a waste of time and labor.

The result of Phil's care was a garden that was astonishing to his neighbors, and the cause of favorable comment from strangers who passed by. This was a part of Phil's plan, for he knew perfectly well that a well-kept garden and dooryard are the first things to be seen about a farm, and that they add to the appearance in such a way as to add to the value of a farm in the eyes of every discriminating person who might happen to see it.

The flowers Kate took under her own care, and as the summer came they worked a wonderful transformation in the appearance of the old Pearson place. Vines clambered over the old porch and around the windows, and bright colors flamed in the beds around the borders of the yard until the whole farm took on a homelike and cozy look that no one not acquainted with the civilizing and beautifying influence of flowers would have thought possible.

The remainder of the farm had been about equally divided into ten-acre lots, except the one in which the house, barn and orchard came, this being cut up to make the out-lots until there was a seven-acre field reserved for pasture for the three cows, and three acres divided among the barn-lots, dooryard and orchard.

Phil had plowed the orchard and covered the surface with a part of the ashes he had got at the station, and for a little while had been in doubt whether to plant anything among the trees or not. He knew he could not get much of a crop from the land because of the shade of the trees, and was debating the question with himself when Kate, whose interest in the welfare of her cows never subsided, suggested that he sow the land with corn for fodder. This he decided to do, but instead of sowing it broadcast, as is often done, he drilled it very thickly in rows two feet apart, to give him an opportunity to cultivate it once or twice during the season. This brought more remarks from Farmer Singer, who told him that the fodder would never be worth cutting, and that the corn would sap the soil and kill the trees. To be exact, the old man said the corn would "suck all the juice" from the soil; but Phil did not heed his advice, and planted the corn and cultivated it, and to the good old farmer's amazement the corn grew thriftily, and the trees put on renewed life and brought forth fruit in abundance, though the quality was not a thing to be boasted of.

Of the three ten-acre fields one was sown to oats, one planted to corn and the other to potatoes. The field planted to potatoes got the manure from the barn-yard, and the ashes that were left after the orchard had been treated. Phil tried his best to put his crops in in good shape, for he knew that he could not expect great crops from the oats and corn on account of the former treatment the soil had received, but he hoped much from the potatoes, for it was from them that he must look for the money to meet the next payment on his land.

The corn and oats came on, though they looked rather spotted, and there were lines through the fields where the original fences had been, and spots where stumps had been dug or burned out, that showed that the soil had originally been good, for there the crops grew and flourished greatly.

While Phil was toiling persistently at his field-work, Kate was making rolls of butter as yellow as nuggets of gold, and caring for the fifty hens they had bought in the spring, and the host of chicks that had been hatched. Those chicks were the joy of her heart, and no care was too great if only it was necessary for their welfare. She fed them and watched them grow day by day, and from rather a frail young woman she got rosy, if a little tanned, and instead of mourning over the lost home of her girlhood was as happy as the birds that caroled in the orchard, or the flowers that bloomed in the yard before the door.

She continued to take butter and eggs to the conductor, and in the course of time they became very good friends.

"Do you know of a place where a tired-out woman and a sick baby could get into the country and take a rest?" the conductor asked her one day, with a troubled look.

"Who are they?" asked Kate.

"They are my wife and three-year-old baby," the conductor answered. "I could send them to some summer resort, but I fancy that is not the place for them. I want a place where the little one can get out and roll under the trees and my wife can be entirely free to go to bed and get up just when she pleases."

"We haven't a very nice place," said Kate, with sympathy in voice and eyes, "but if you want to send your wife and baby out to us, we shall be glad to have them come."

"That's what I wanted you to say," quickly replied the conductor, his countenance clearing up. "It is just the place for them; they can have fresh eggs and new milk and pure air, and I'm sure it will save them. Just name your own price."

"Oh, I hadn't thought of charging for them. I want them to come and visit me. You have been very kind to me, and have helped my brother and me very much, and I want to pay you for some of it."

"Oh, rats!" I very much regret to say was the conductor's reply to this, but as he meant it all right I think Kate forgave him the slang. "Don't talk about that. If it hadn't been for your butter and eggs we'd have been worse off than we are now, and it was you who conferred the favors."

"Bring them down next trip, and we'll talk about pay afterward. No cure, no pay, you know," said Kate, smiling.

"All right, I'll bring them. Does that brother of yours ever call you any nice names?"

"Sometimes, when I am real good."

"Then you must get lots of them," he said, swinging onto the moving train, and waving her good-by with his cap.

Two days later Kate met the conductor and took his wife and little boy home with her. The conductor's wife, Mrs. Little, had always lived in a city, and her visits to country places had been to those places where tourists always congregate, and this new phase of country life was a revelation to her. I suppose that in all her life she had never been in a place where she was out of hearing of a human being, where she could pick a handful of flowers without interference, or understand the comfort of solitude when she wanted to be alone with herself.

When Kate apologized for the surroundings the visitor looked at her in surprise.

"Lonely and out of the way!" she repeated after Kate. "Why, I never saw such a beautiful place in all my life. The flowers and vines and trees and green fields, and all this glorious liberty to breathe, and the whole blue sky for my very own, and the blue hills and the cool green trees! Don't say that it is lonely and out of the way. I never knew how it felt to be near heaven before. Surely, surely, the people in the country are all good."

Kate smiled in sympathy with her guest's enthusiasm, and loved her from that minute.

The boy was pale and delicate, but from his first drink of warm milk he began to improve. He was a little too enthusiastic at first with the small chickens, but he soon learned how to handle them, and the chicks learned that he was not overgentle with them, and between them prevented damage. His notions about a community of ownership in the flowers had also to be modified, and after these matters had been regulated he occupied his whole time in enjoying himself. His notions of enjoyment rapidly extended. First he discarded a hat, and his brown curls began to become lighter, while his pale cheeks rapidly changed to a darker and more healthful color; then he found that shoes and stockings were useless encumbrances, and dispensed with them, all the time growing strong and hearty on pure air and nutritious food. He and Phil became great friends, and he developed a great capacity for getting under the feet of the horses and otherwise putting himself in peril, all the time talking in that strange sweet idiom that is the gift of childhood and sounds so musical to every ear.

Kate and Mrs. Little and the boy drove over to the station frequently to see the conductor, who was rejoiced to see the improvement in the two he loved best.

Kate still took her butter and eggs to the station, and the friends of the conductor took it all and mourned the time when they could not be supplied. Once the conductor came over to spend a Sunday with his wife and boy, and his practical mind noted the plump chickens about the place.

"You're going to sell them, I suppose?" he asked Kate.

"Oh, I suppose I must," she replied, regretfully. "There are so many that we cannot keep all of them."

"I'll find a market for them," said the conductor. "I have a cousin who keeps a big hotel, and he'll be glad to get the whole lot as fast as they are large enough to sell."

Sure enough, the very next time he came down the road he brought word that his cousin would take the chickens and any garden truck they had to spare, and from that time another good market was opened to Phil and Kate, though Phil was too busy to pay much attention to it, and left the matter in Kate's hands entirely, she hiring Dan Collins to help her whenever she needed help.

The summer soon slipped by, and Mrs. Little and her boy went home. When Mr. Little came for them he asked Kate to take pay for keeping them, but she and Phil emphatically declined. They declared that they were more than repaid already by what the conductor had done for them, and besides that, the company of the two had covered the cost. As argument would not prevail against them, their guests left them with many expressions of gratitude, and went back to their city home.

A few days later a package came to Kate by mail, and upon opening it she found with-

in a gold watch and chain, but nothing to indicate who it was from. She suspected Mrs. Little, and wrote her a letter of thanks, and the next time she saw the conductor she ostentatiously asked him to compare time with her, and his looks betrayed him.

Phil's stock of ready money was running low, from demands made on it for feed for his horses and for other things that he was compelled to buy, but as the butter and eggs Kate sold supplied them with other things that must be bought he did not worry much.

So the first season wore on and harvest and corn-cutting came, and the field of potatoes was to be dug. It was not a favorable year toward the last. The weather set in dry, and the corn sown in the orchard was fed to the cows. The oats were kept for horse feed, and the corn was not a good crop. Every day Phil became more thoughtful, as he saw that his first year's work was not going to leave him enough to make the payment on the farm.

At last the time came when the potatoes were unmarketed, and the time was drawing near when the payment was to be made. He took account of his available funds, and found that he lacked almost a hundred dollars of having enough to make the payment.

This was discouraging, but he had made some headway, and Squire Dumas had promised to help him in just such an emergency, and he resolved to call on him one evening to claim the promise. As he started on his errand he met Sam Hall at the gate.

"Have you heard the news?" asked Hall.

"No; what is it?"

"Squire Dumas has made an assignment."

Phil had not told Kate about the need of money. In fact, he had not mentioned the matter of the payment to her at all, and as he turned toward the house that night he was as nearly discouraged as he had ever been in his life. His experiment had failed, he told himself.

(To be continued.)

THEY SAY.

That some women would object to the millennium if it came on wash-day.

That a man who does not labor and lay up a fortune may cause absolute suffering to his daughter's future husband.

That a man who keeps his mouth shut never eats crow.

That a man who snores should be rapped in slumber.

That what is said about the failure of the potato crop is mostly rot.

That man is ninety per cent water, and yet the prohibitionists are not satisfied.

That a girl with a dimple in her cheek learns to work it at a remarkably early age.

That people who get into the social swim are often drowned before they get out.

That if every one took up as much room as he thinks he does, many people would be crowded off the face of the earth.

That the aroma of cloves is the breath of suspicion.

That of the many people who are placed between the devil and the deep sea but very few are drowned.

That occasionally the wisest owl hoots at the wrong time.

That a tack points heavenward when it means the most mischief.

That sixty-seven people die every minute, but the selection isn't always what it should be.

That if you borrow trouble you must put up your peace of mind as collateral.—They Say.

VICTIMIZED.

The San Francisco "Argonaut" is responsible for the story that White, of Kentucky, while speaker of the House in the Twenty-seventh Congress, was so pressed with business that when he had to deliver his valedictory he got one of those men who are always on hand to make a little money to write his address. It was handed him just a little while before the time he had to deliver it, and he put it into his pocket without reading it. When the time came, he rose, and slowly unfolding the manuscript, read the address. It was very brilliant, but it was Aaron Burr's famous valedictory to the Senate. The speaker never recovered from the shock. He went home, was taken ill, and it is supposed he killed himself for shame.

OUR HEAVEN-BORN BANNER.

The wondrously beautiful picture entitled "Our Heaven-Born Banner," issued in eight colors by the Big Four Route in honor of the G. A. R., has now reached its seventh edition, and is without any exception the finest and most artistic conception of Drake's immortal ode to "Old Glory" that has ever been published. The coming encampment of the Boys in Blue at Buffalo, N. Y., next July has been the cause of this latest production, and the management of the Big 4 route are desirous that every reader of FARM AND FIRESIDE shall have a copy of the beautiful picture to adorn their homes.

Send ten cents, to cover bare cost of postage and packing, to E. O. McCormick, Passenger Traffic Manager Big 4, Cincinnati, Ohio, and secure a copy.

A CONSOLIDATION OF TWO LARGE FIRMS LOWERS PRICES AND BENEFITS EVERY READER OF THIS PAPER WHO USES WATER FOR ANY PURPOSE ON FARMS, COUNTRY SEATS OR IN CITY RESIDENCES.

For many years readers have been informed of the merits of the Hot Air Pumping Engine for supplying water. Two firms—the Rider Engine Co., of 37 Dey Street, and the DeLamater Iron Works, 467 West Broadway, New York City—have made and sold thousands of these engines, and this consolidation means an enlargement of the facilities for producing the engines, as well as a cheapening of the cost. The successors of these two firms—the Rider-Eriesson Engine Co.—propose to give the benefits of this consolidation to their customers in the way of reduction of prices, as well as supplying an engine superior to those heretofore produced. These engines are simple in construction. They require no attention after a fire is started. Any kind of fuel can be used, and a very small quantity of heat will drive them to their utmost capacity. They are capable of supplying thousands of gallons of water per day, which on a farm or country residence can be distributed to any point with the proper piping, thus facilitating the watering of stock, sprinkling lawn, irrigating crops, and not only supplying water in every part of the house, barn, etc., but extinguish a fire if one should occur. A shallow stream or well, either dug, driven or artesian, is all that is necessary for the water supply, and the engine does the rest.

After April 1st, 1897, the office of the consolidated firms will be at 22 Cortlandt Street, and until that time all communications should be addressed to the Rider-Eriesson Engine Co., 467 West Broadway, New York, N. Y.

LET US STOP TO THINK.

Let us stop to think of the good-by kiss. Better miss a car than leave a heartache.

Let us stop to think of the children. We, too, were children once, and loved to be remembered.

Let us stop to think of the aged. For us, too, the evening shadows will close at length, and we shall, perchance, be left at desolate hearthstones. We shall need to be remembered then.

Let us stop to think of the stranger. We, too, have been alone, and have needed the touch of a kindly hand upon our lives, and many a life has gone out in the blackness of darkness for the lack of such a touch as any one of us might have given.

Let us stop to think of God and the future. At best the time is short and the end is near. And when it shall come, blessed will be he to whom the entrance upon another life will be but the realization of dear and familiar dreams, the consummation of a lifetime of longings. Let us stop to think. If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, let us stop to think upon these things.—The Lookout.

A FEW years ago when the price of cloverseed rose to such a high level many farmers declared that they could not afford to sow it, but no matter what the price, the farmer should not neglect the sowing of grass-seed. The grass crop is practically the farmer's bank, and with the exercise of anything like the proper care, it is one upon which he can draw every day in the year and have his draft honored. It therefore becomes an important matter that the grass-seed should be sown in such a way that will bring the best results. It must be sown evenly, for bare spots in a meadow are not only exasperating to the careful farmer, but are a fruitful source of serious loss. When it comes to the actual operation of sowing there is no machine that will produce more uniformly good results than the Thompson Wheelbarrow Grass Seeder. This machine will sow any kind of grass-seed in any quantity; it is light and easy of operation, being at the same time strong and durable; it has a positive force feed, and must sow as long as the operator desires; it sows evenly in the windiest of weather, because the hopper is so close to the ground that the wind cannot catch up and carry away the seed. This machine is simple of construction, and has no complicated parts to break or get out of order, and in the end is an unqualified success, as is attested by its popularity and the large number now in use. Write O. E. Thompson & Sons, Ypsilanti, Mich., for circulars and price-list, and tell them that you saw their ad in the FARM AND FIRESIDE.

"The map and history of Cuba in Peerless Atlas," writes Mr. S. B. Robinson, of Nebraska, one of the best workers any newspaper ever commissioned, "are a drawing-card. As you know, I have been making the sale of Peerless Atlas in connection with FARM AND FIRESIDE and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION my business for more than two years, and sent in thousands of subscriptions, and I find this new Cuban matter a grand help. It makes it easy to get a man's attention and to hold it. You are giving your agents a great opportunity, no mistake."

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

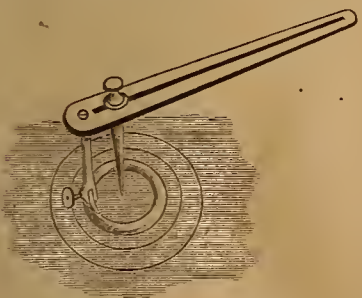
The central Australian aborigine is the living representative of a stone age, who still fashions his spearheads and knives from flint or sandstone, and performs the most daring surgical operations with them.

TO TOLEDO AND DETROIT.

The train service of the C., H. & D. Ry. to Toledo and Detroit is wonderful. The speed and frequency of these through trains and the modern finish and elegance of the cars are evidence of a very high class and liberal management.

WOOD-CARVERS' COMPASS.

Wood-carvers and cabinet-makers formerly found great difficulty in obtaining perfect circles in their woodwork, but since the carving of wood was taken up as a home occupation by the artistically inclined ladies, a number of new instruments were designed to meet the growing demand.



The circular wood-carver is the most interesting, as it has rapidly been adopted by professionals as well as amateurs, and its excellence won for it a medal at the Berlin Industrial Exposition last summer.

BUTTER MADE IN TWO MINUTES.

A neighbor of mine several days ago sent for one of those Lightning churns, which are sold by a firm over in Pennsylvania. After it came we went over to see it work.

JAMAICA'S MONGOOS TRIAL.

The introduction of the mongoos into Jamaica marks one of the standard instances of unexpected results following upon an attempt to artificialize the process of natural selection, and takes rank as a warning with the plague of rabbits and thistles in Australia.

The result was a wholesale disappearance of species. A few birds like the ground-dove, had the sense to shift their breeding-places to the tops of the prickly-cacti, where they were safe; but other animals, and the reptiles in particular, suffered so severely that many kinds were believed for years to be extinct.

The victory over the island remained with the tick and the mongoos until, within the past year or two, a fresh stage set in. The mongoos suddenly began to be less plentiful, and it was found that he had fallen victim to the tick.

COURTESY TO ELDERS.

Our American people may not lack in depth of feeling, but they surely do fall short in the expression of feeling. This is most noticed in the lack of the little deferences, the tender courtesies, the free, spontaneous signs of affection that render homes so satisfactory and so full of contentment.

PASSENGERS FOR WASHINGTON AND THE EAST.

The C., H. & D. Ry. have arranged for stop-over of 10 days at Washington, D. C., on tickets to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and points east of Washington.

"The map and history of Cuba in Peerless Atlas," writes Mr. S. B. Robinson, of Nebraska, one of the best workers any newspaper ever commissioned, "are a drawing-card. As you know, I have been making the sale of Peerless Atlas in connection with FARM AND FIRESIDE and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION my business for more than two years, and sent in thousands of subscriptions, and I find this new Cuban matter a grand help.

HOUSE OWNERS KNOW... that the cheapest way to maintain a good selling value for property is to keep it in good repair. Never let it run down. A delay in the use of paint may not be dangerous, but it is bad business policy. It is poor economy.

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Horse Carts 12 STYLES. NARROW & WIDE Tires. Popular Prices. Low rates of freight from our works, Tatamy, Pa., to all points. HOBSON & CO., No. 19 Bridge St., New York

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FREE Catalogue of Speakers, Dialogues, Plays, Drills, Teachers' Aids, Letter Writers, Amusements, Fortune Tellers, Dream books, etc. Dick & Fitzgerald, 24 Ann St., N. Y.

HELP WANTED \$7 per 100 paid for your neighbors' names and addresses. Send 10c for blank book and instructions and go to work at once. J. A. Wright & Co., 922 Clayborn Ave., Chicago.

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Our Household.

HER REWARD.

In her woman's heart was a poem,
A grand and tender song,
A word of hope for the weary,
A stern rebuke to the wrong;
It often pleaded for utterance,
For the voice to reach the world,
To be raised where all might heed it,
A banner of love unfurled!

But she never found the moment,
With days so full of care,
To breathe out the burning heart-words
Of her poem nestling there.
There were always household duties,
Dull rounds for every day,
And just before her, step by step,
Some task all unfinished lay.

Her children grew up and blessed her,
And honored her sainted name,
She has guarded their childish footsteps,
But has missed the road to fame;
From the many snares and pitfalls
Along their youthful way
Her watchful eye saved them;
Not one had wandered astray.

The good angel wrote down her life-work—
A pure and shining page,
More sweet than dreams of a poet,
More grand than seer or sage;
She had met each homely duty,
Striving not for earth's renown,
Her life was a poem of beauty,
Her reward in heaven—a crown.
—Alma Pendexter Hayden.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN COLORADO.

THIS is not an article intended to convince the people of other states of the right of woman to the full privilege of citizenship, but merely to state an existing social condition much in the same spirit as a writer might prepare an article on the condition of woman in Africa or the South Sea islands, with the thought in mind that it would be interesting to the general public, because it describes a condition of affairs that really existed. Readers can draw their own inferences as to which is the better condition of womanhood.

Much has been said pro and con concerning the question of woman's right to the ballot. In Colorado it is no longer a theory, but a question that has been tried and proven. Various objections have always been raised in regard to the enfranchisement of women, but in the light of the past three elections in Colorado these objective assertions have melted like snow before the sunshine, and the women of the centennial state can exultingly say, "We have met the enemy, and they are ours."

Owing to the increased excitement of this being a presidential election, and an unusual one at that, the fact is significant

that is said to always assemble there has burst like a bubble, for men will be gentlemen in the presence of true women. And it is the true women, those who have the interest of good government and the welfare of the home at heart, who avail themselves of the right of franchise. There is a very small per cent of Colorado good women who refuse to vote.

It is really a pleasant sight in country precincts to see the good man and his family on their way to election, where they quietly cast their ballots, exchange social greetings with their neighbors and quietly return home.

In many of the rural districts the day takes the nature of a basket picnic, for wherever woman is, the "inner man" is sure to be provided for; and for this reason, if no other, we believe that a large number of Colorado men would raise their voices in objection to going back to the old regime. But we will give them more credit, and say they have thoroughly proved that it is not good for man to be alone in the affairs of state, and gladly welcome woman to a place by their side in the political arena. Actions speak louder than words; they appreciate woman's ability, and have nominated and elected her to various offices in the state.

For four consecutive years women will have filled the offices of superintendent of public instruction. Mrs. A. S. Pevey, the retiring officer, is spoken of by the "American Teacher," of New York, as one of the most popular superintendents of public instruction in the United States. Miss Grace Patton, who will fill that office for the next two years, is a lady of ability, and no doubt will efficiently discharge her duties of office. Her election has been received with much enthusiasm. In several counties of the state the office of superintendent of schools is held by women.

Three parties, the National People's party, National party and Prohibition, honored woman by giving her a place among their presidential electors, the Prohibition party having two lady candidates among the four to which this state is entitled. This party also placed in nomination women for the offices of lieutenant-governor and auditor of state.

For superintendent of public instruction the Republican and Democratic nominees were women. The National party placed in nomination a woman for state treasurer. Three more ladies were candidates for the offices (there are two) of regents of the state university.

Three women, Mrs. Mattie A. B. Conine, Mrs. Olive C. Butler and Mrs. Evangeline Hearty, of the Arapahoe county delegation, will help make state laws in the eleventh general assembly. They are bright, intelligent women, and Arapahoe county has reason to feel proud of them. Concerning Mrs. Conine the "Rocky

with a bright, intelligent face, and a quick mind that grasps readily the gist of any subject in which she may be interested. She is serving her second term as president of the North Side Woman's Club, an organization of over two hundred members, having been unanimously re-elected last spring. She was nominated and elected without ever having sat in a convention or attached herself to any party, and that

CHILDREN'S DRESSES.

To have one's children beautifully appareled is the ambition of every mother. While there must necessarily be a diversity in materials, where taste is displayed the difference in looks is very slight.

Simple materials are always best for children, though they should be of good quality.

In group No. 1 are three very artistic



No. 1.

she will do herself, her sex and the parties which selected her credit in the legislature goes without saying among all who know her."

These three ladies are filled with zeal in the interest of a number of measures which they will urge for passage, and which they hope to see become laws.

Thus in Colorado is woman taking a hand in affairs politic with credit to herself and satisfaction to man.

MARY VIRDEN SHUTT.

THE BUTTON WITH A NECK.

Just as "a stitch in time saves nine," so a stitch placed correctly and practically will often save much future labor.

Very little skill is required in sewing on a button properly, but perhaps a little knowledge on the subject will not come amiss.

Probably some of the housewives who read this have already adopted this method, my suggestion-to-let: at any rate, if those to whom it is new will but give it a trial, like the advertisements read in the papers, they may learn something to their advantage.

Place your button (which for convenience in explaining is to have but two holes) in position, and start to sew as ordinarily, bringing the needle and thread up through the cloth and one hole of the button, and down through the other hole and the cloth again. Then take a pin and slip it crosswise under (and horizontal to) the thread which connects the two holes of the button. Leave the pin in this position, and sew as ordinarily—up through the cloth and one hole of the button, cross pin and down through other hole and cloth once more.

When you have used as much thread as you think necessary, and just before fastening off, put your needle up through the cloth only, remove the pin and raise the button, which will leave a neck of thread, around which twist your thread four or five times; put the needle down through the cloth, and fasten off.

Thus the button will be sewed on securely, and yet at the same time will have a little leeway for whatever strain there may be upon it.

It takes no more time to do this, and very little, if any, extra trouble, and the button with a neck will "stay on" at least three times as long as the button with none. EMMA LOUISE HARCK.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" are unequalled for clearing the voice. Public speakers and singers the world over use them.

dresses for girls of five, nine and twelve years. The underdress of the two smaller ones can be very plain, the entire daintiness being supplied by the white overdress of apron effect, which is of India linen-ornamented with hemstitching, while the other is of China silk trimmed with Dresden ribbons put on as ruffles or as a band at the skirt. The dress for the larger girl is of one of the season's lovely plaids, with a sleeveless shirt-waist of white mull, silk or cashmere covered by the bolero jacket like the dress.

In group No. 2 the dress of sailor effect of blue serge trimmed with white braid is always pretty and stylish. The second dress is of gingham trimmed with crocheted braid trimming. The boy's suit is one for a boy from three to five years.

PICOT CROCHET LACE.

ABBREVIATIONS.—St, stitches; ch, chain; d c, double crochet; sl st, slipped stitch; p, purl; *, repeat.

This is one of several new designs which I designate picot-lace. The lace here illustrated is made of No. 100 Glasgo lace-thread, which gives it a more lacy look than if made with coarse thread. First make a chain the required length.

First round—Work back on chain in open squares, having two ch between each d c.

Second round—Make * 5 ch, fasten with sl st to top of second d c; repeat from * to end of work.

Third round—Same as second.

Fourth round—Make * 10 ch, fasten with sl st to third chain st, make 3 ch, fasten with sl st to 5 ch of last round; repeat from * to end of work.

Fifth round—Make * 10 ch, fasten to third chain st, 3 ch, fasten to last p of last round; repeat from * to end of round.



Sixth, seventh and eighth rounds—Like fourth and fifth rounds.

Ninth round—Make 12 ch, fasten with sl st to 4 chain, make 8 ch, fasten to 4 chain, 8 ch, fasten to 4 chain, make 4 ch, and fasten to second p of last round; repeat from beginning of ninth round to end of work. F. P. BERNARD.



No. 2.

that the election in Denver and throughout the whole state was most quiet and orderly, the presence of ladies exerting, as it always does, a pacific spirit over turbulent elements.

The argument that the polls are unfit for women on account of the rough crowd

"Mountain Daily News" is authority for the following: "The representative women of the city have reason to congratulate themselves that they will possess so able a representative in the lower branch of the legislature as Mrs. M. A. B. Conine. Mrs. Conine is a woman of middle age,

THE HOME BAKERY AS A BUSINESS.

There are so many women who find it advisable, perhaps positively necessary, to engage in some enterprise that will yield an income, and knowing that this paper is read in many village and suburban homes where a home bakery would be practicable, I give the actual experience of one woman thrown on her own resources. With no capital whatever, no business experience or training in any direction as a wage-earner, and with three small children to support, and the interest on the mortgage to be met, it was necessary to do something at once, and that something at home on account of the baby. There was a sack of flour in the pantry, and one woman in town who bought her bread. Being an excellent baker, she went to this woman with a sample of fresh bread, and asked her if she would buy her supply regularly from her, thus securing one customer for two five-cent loaves a week, and her promise, if the bread was satisfactory, to recommend it. In three days another customer was secured, who took six loaves a week. Soon she had regular customers to whom sales amounted to two dollars a week, in a town of less than three hundred in-

cent, as bread-baking does. If one is careful, painstaking and a really good baker, she may without capital work into a business carried on at home, the profits of which almost any merchant might envy. CLARA SENSBAUGH EVERTS.

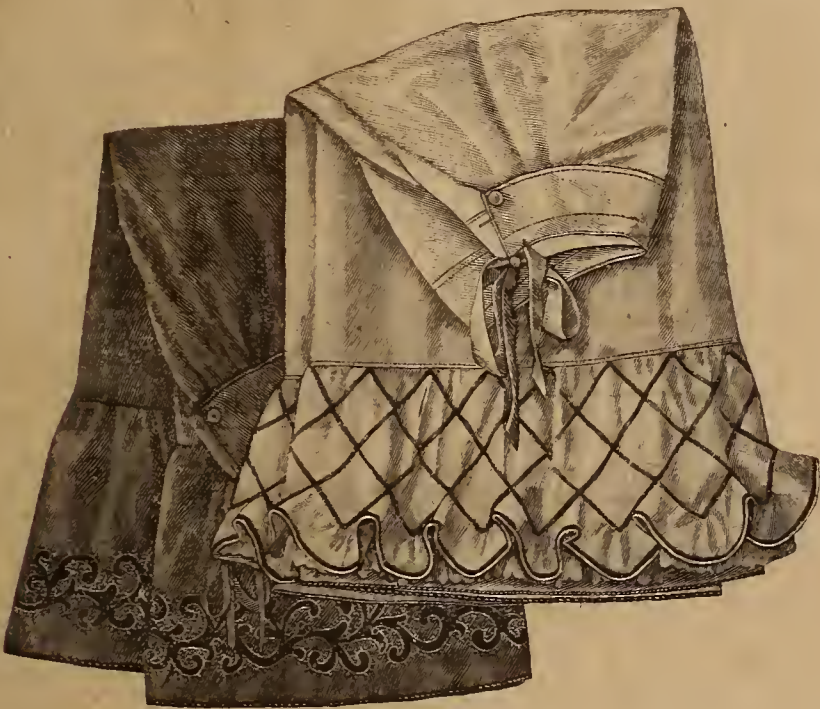
[*This is called "pulled bread," and is fresh bread pulled from the loaf, put into a hot oven until it is toasted, and is used by many dyspeptics and overfleshy persons.—ED.]

SILK SKIRTS.

The two we illustrate are very suitable adjuncts to a bride's trousseau. The one of black silk can be fashioned from an old black silk dress, having only the flounce new. Upon this a graceful pattern of velvet applique can be added as a trimming. The outlining can be either white or a color.

The light skirt is of yellow silk. The flounce is cut in points trimmed with narrow black velvet, and a ruffle put around the points edged with the black velvet; another ruffle with pinked edge is set upon the outside of the skirt, and one upon the inside to act as a dust-ruffle.

This is a very good way to utilize old silk dresses, and they wear for a long



habitants, besides selling many extra loaves to people who learned that on the regular baking-days—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays—they could be supplied with a loaf or two. Buying flour at two dollars a hundred pounds, she cleared two dollars on every hundred pounds, besides the flour used in the family. Using a pair of scales, she put into every loaf seventeen ounces of dough, learning by experiment that it lost one ounce to the pound in baking and cooling.

While this was insufficient to support a family, we give it as an instance of what can be done in a small place, and to show the profit there is in it. Could she have sold all she could bake, it would have yielded a good living. In this instance it became a "side line" for other work secured, with which it did not interfere. There are so many who are poor bread-bakers; so many who dislike it; so many who are really overworked, yet cannot hire help, who will gladly buy bread if it is a really first-class home-made article, that the amount of custom that can be secured in even a small village, where people are all accustomed to do their own baking, is surprising.

In some of the large department stores in Chicago there finds ready sale in the grocery department under a high-sounding name, which I have forgotten, an article that is really scraps of toasted bread.*

If one bakes bread for sale, and attempts to supply transient customers, there are sure to be some loaves left over that become dry. It occurs to me that if these are neatly toasted and kept in a close tin box, they might in many places be sold to those with poor conveniences for doing such work. If properly prepared and cared for, they will keep for weeks, and on being heated through in the oven be as nice as freshly toasted bread.

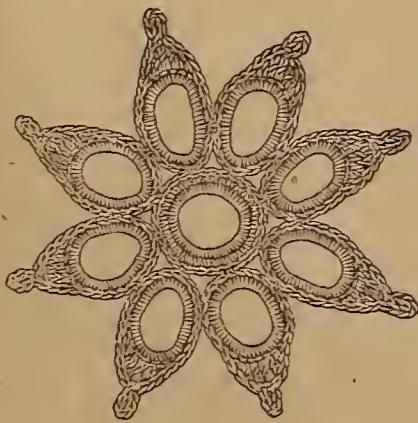
Those who have tried it say there is more profit in baking cookies, plain cakes and pies for sale than bread. If one has her own fruit, there ought surely to be a fine profit in pie-making. It is comparatively few business ventures that will pay a dividend of over one hundred per

cent, as bread-baking does. If one is careful, painstaking and a really good baker, she may without capital work into a business carried on at home, the profits of which almost any merchant might envy. CLARA SENSBAUGH EVERTS.

CROCHET MEDALLIONS.

ABBREVIATIONS.—St. stitches; s c, single crochet; d c, double crochet; tr c, treble crochet; sl st, slipped stitch.

The one here illustrated is done in cream crochet-silk. The center is made first, as follows: If a large pattern is desired, wind over the index finger eight strands of silk, over this ring crochet 32 s c, join first and last st, work another round of 32 s c in the 32 of first round, join first and last st, cut silk, leaving enough end to thread a needle with, and fasten securely. To make outer rings, make like first round of center ring, fasten the first and last stitch together; now make a s c in next st, a d c in next st, and a tr c in



next st, make 5 ch, fasten with sl st to top of tr c, make a tr c in next st, a d c in next st, then a s c, and fasten down to first round with a sl st. Leave a few inches of silk, and cut. The rings are all made before fastening together, which is done with a needle. First fasten outer rings to center, fastening to stitches of outer rings to two of center ring, leaving two stitches between fastenings. To save silk, the foundation rings can be made of

IVORY SOAP

Is sweet and clean, Careful housekeepers will have no other in the kitchen.

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white saxonny if desired, but if yarn is used, wind no more than five times around finger. If a smaller medallion than the one illustrated is desired, wind around a large pencil, and work over 24 s c (instead of 32 s c as for the larger medallion), and in fastening outer rings to center, leave one stitch instead of two between fastenings. F. P. BERNARD.

ONIONS—THEIR USES.

BOILED ONIONS.—Onions for boiling should be peeled, and each end well trimmed. Drop the onions into boiling water, and let them cook ten minutes; pour off this water, and cover them with fresh boiling water, salt it, and let the onions boil until they are tender; take them out with a skimmer, and place in a heated dish; pour melted butter over them, and sprinkle with salt and pepper; add parsley if liked. Heat one pint of milk to the boiling-point. Rub together two tablespoonfuls of butter and one of flour and one of cold milk, stirring until the mixture is like a thick cream, add to the hot milk, and keep stirring until the mixture is smooth and thick; season with salt and pepper. When this sauce has boiled up once, pour over the boiled onions, and serve.

Boiled onions browned in the oven are decidedly good. When the onions are nicely boiled, but retain their shape, arrange them in a shallow buttered baking-dish, put a bit of butter on each one, and dust with salt and pepper, sprinkle them lightly with sugar, and cover with a thin layer of bread-crumbs, and scatter tiny bits of butter over the crumbs; put the dish into the oven long enough to brown them thoroughly; serve on the same dish.

SCALLOPED ONIONS.—Peel the onions, and boil them until tender; drain them, and cut into halves or quarters, according to size; place a layer of prepared onions in a baking-dish, dust with salt and pepper, a layer of bread-crumbs and bits of butter; then another layer of onions and crumbs, alternating them until the dish is full, having the crumbs for the last layer; pour over the whole one half cupful of rich milk or cream, and grate over the crumbs a covering of cheese; place in a hot oven, and bake about one half hour. Onions are also very nice made with layers of tomatoes and crumbs, omitting the cheese, and using the liquid from the tomatoes instead of the cream.

STUFFED ONIONS.—The Spanish or large-sized Bermuda onions are best for this dish. Peel the onions, and from the stalk-end take the center of the onion, cover with boiling salted water, and cook ten minutes; then lay the onions, opening down, upon a clean cloth to drain. Make a stuffing in proportion of two tablespoonfuls of chopped chicken or ham to one spoonful of bread-crumbs, chop fine the onion-hearts that have been removed, and add to the other ingredients, with one tablespoonful of melted butter and salt and pepper; moisten with a little chicken stock; fill the onions with this mixture, and place them in a baking-pan containing water to the depth of one inch; sprinkle the onions with crumbs, cover the pan, and bake in a hot oven for an hour, or until the onions are tender, though still retaining their form; remove the cover long enough to brown the onions lightly before they are taken from the oven.

Another mode of preparing and serving stuffed onions is as follows: Procure large onions, and after peeling, boil them slowly in plenty of water for an hour; let them drain, and then remove the inside of the onion, leaving a thick wall; fill the spaces with one cupful of cold meat chopped fine, or sausage-meat may be used; add a few crumbs, one half cupful of cream and one well-beaten egg, season with salt and cayenne pepper; fill the space in the onion with this mixture; place the onions

in a baking-pan in which there is a little stock, one half chopped carrot and one bay-leaf; sprinkle the onions with crumbs, and cover with a sheet of buttered paper, and bake until the onions are tender, basting them frequently with the liquid in the pan; place the onions in the pan over them. They may be served with a cream sauce, if preferred.

SLICED ONIONS AND TOMATOES.—Peel and slice onions and tomatoes in about equal proportions, put into a frying-pan containing a spoonful of very hot fryings or butter, and seasoned highly with salt and pepper, and cook slowly for three quarters of an hour. They are very nice as an accompaniment to fried bacon and mashed potatoes. A. M. M.

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Our Household.

EXILED.

From words, dear words of hope and cheer,
We have a perfect right to hear;
From lips our owu should daily meet
In kisses warm and sweet.

So many of us exiles are,
And staid in loneliness afar;
From hearts that should in rhythm beat
With ours in joy complete.

Stern banishment some of us know
From sympathy we need, need so;
From all the trust of early years,
Ofttimes from even, even tears.

From smallest measure of success
In wooing fond forgetfulness;
By sentence cruel, harsh and cold,
From every dream of old.

Evicted by fate's stern decree
From rose-hued paths of Arcady
We wander out through gate of beauty
To deserts bleak of duty.

Kathleen Kavanagh.

New Orleans, January, 1897.

APPLES.

WITH the coming of warm spring days the apples decay rapidly. It seems a pity not to save all possible, as no doubt the plentiful crop of 1896 will not be repeated in 1897.

Drying is the old method of preservation, but some people rebel at dried apples. They can be kept by canning if care is taken to get the air out of the can before sealing. Apple sauce is so full of little bubbles and froth that it is better not to let the apples cook until they break to pieces; place quarters in can as near whole as possible, fill with juice, shake down thoroughly, and run a fork around between fruit and can to let air-bubbles escape; fill can full to brim, and put on cover. In the course of half an hour one will be surprised to see how the sauce has settled; remove cover, and fill up the can with boiling water, and seal again.

One may leave sugar out until the fruit is ready to use; and then if the fruit spoils there is only time and labor lost. Use good-apples. Where one has rotted much it seems to taint the sound part, and is especially noticeable in canned apple sauce.

Make up a lot of mince-meat if you have a family of mince-pie eaters. Cook it down quite thick, and can in glass cans, and it will keep several years if the small boy does not find it.

Pineapples will soon be here, and apples can be mixed with those to can, and make delicious sauce. Apples that will not cook to pieces are preferable (and those are the kind we usually have in springtime); slice those and pineapples together, half and half, use about six ounces of sugar to a quart of fruit, and leave in a stone jar over night; cook in the morning, and can as any fruit. If sweet apples, use less sugar. Apple-butter can be made without the sweet-cider process if there is plenty of apple-jelly in the house, or boiled cider.

Cook apples tender in water, then add sufficient jelly to make strong enough to suit the taste; some sugar and spices im-



prove it. The stronger and more like jelly the apple-butter, of course, the longer it will keep in warm weather. Some people like apples canned with raisins and sliced lemons. Vary the proportions to suit the taste, many raisins or few. Probably one lemon will flavor three quarts sufficiently. Take out the white part of the rind; it is bitter.

GYPSEY.

A FRENCH DISH.

ONION PIE.—Take an equal amount of potatoes and onions, say three good-sized ones; peel, and slice thin. Put the onions into a stew-pan, pour on hot water, allowing all to boil for ten minutes; pour off

the water, well covering with a fresh supply, adding two slices of salt pork cut into small squares. Let this again boil for ten minutes, then add the potatoes, a tablespoonful of butter, and pepper to taste (the pork will supply the salt). Once more boil ten minutes, then add a teacupful of milk in which has been smoothed a teaspoonful of flour. Let it come to a boil, then pour into a granite pan or pudding-dish, when it is ready for the crust, which has been prepared while the onions and potatoes were cooking. Put a small



bottle or teacup in the center to prevent the crust from sinking in, thereby becoming soaked; then cover with the crust, and bake for fifteen minutes, or until done. The crust is prepared in the same manner as biscuit-dough—perhaps a trifle richer—and is rolled out one half inch thick, as for meat pie. This "pie," properly prepared, will prove appetizing enough to tempt the most fastidious person. Try it, and see for yourself:

WORTH KNOWING.

Neuralgia is caused by acidity of the stomach, starved nerves and imperfect diet as well as by cool air. Heat is the best remedy. A mustard-plaster applied to the legs and stomach will do more good than medicines. Cold water applied to the nerves in front of the ear has been known to work magic in relieving the pain.

In putting a fresh oil-cloth on a passage or kitchen or any much-used floor, it is a good plan to lay it on the old one. Raise the edges a little, and wipe out the accumulated dust with a damp cloth, then let it fall in place, and put the new one over it. The wear of the latter will be much lengthened through the protection afforded by the first cloth from the roughness in the floor beneath. Carpets also serve much longer if protected from contact with the boards by the use of paper prepared as a lining, or old carpets; rag carpet is the best.

M. E. S.

A BIT OF PHILOSOPHY.

Practical, good-humored philosophy is that indefinable ingredient which must pervade life to make it agreeable. I apply to it the quality "good-natured." There is a kind which uses the same phraseology, but with a bitter twang, and there is a nearly related kind which manages to diminish pleasures and magnify evils. Take the instance of that antique person who aimed to keep himself humble in prosperity and brave in adversity by repeating the reflection, "This, too, will pass." Why did he not take a wiser course and remember the transitory nature of things only when they were disagreeable? The course he pursued kept him from despair, but it also deprived him of enjoyment. May we not improve upon his method? When we are overtaken by disagreeable events let us say, "This will not continue," but when better times come let us be happy without stint. During the cold weather in January I heard one lady say to another, "Oh, well, spring will soon be here." The reply was, "Yes, but the trouble is, as soon as spring has begun it is that much nearer winter again." Certainly, if we used as much ingenuity to be gay as we exert to be gloomy, we should smile a thousand times as often as we do. When we read the biographies of celebrated men we find their tendency to unhappiness just as we observe it in our friends, and feel conscious of it in ourselves. Even the French, who are regarded as a joyous people in comparison with the English, provide instances. Two

prominent French authors expressed themselves thus: "I feel more chagrin from a word of censure than gratification from a hundred words of praise." The other varied the thought by saying, "I experience more pain from one thorn than I feel pleasure from a thousand rose-leaves."

The Christian who is consistent believes that all the world is governed by an omnipotent Providence; that all things finally work together for good. He has no cause to disturb himself, and ought to rest in the most serene contentment. The worldling who has observed life and extracted the knowledge that events are beyond our power to govern must either rise to a good-natured acceptance of the inevitable or sink to a bitter habit of incessant complaining. Saints or sinners, we can get through life only by considerable exercise of philosophy. The saints must keep sweet, and the sinners might as well do so.

K. K.

BODICES.

Among the bargains at the winter sales Mrs. L picked up a lovely remnant of forty-eight-inch-wide wool goods of excellent quality in red and black. After getting out the skirt, she found there was enough for the back of the waist and the lower part of the sleeves, so by making the waist like the fancy bodice illustrated, using a light, changeable red-and-black silk for a front and puffs on the sleeves, and a passementerie bolero jacket and girdle, a very lovely dress was the outcome. Full ruffs of chiffon or mousseline-de-soie at the neck and wrists, or lace can be used if preferred.

The bodice for elderly lady is trimmed with passementerie buttons and moire silk fronts and vest. The material is the best black serge or fancy black weave.

GERANIUMS STORED IN CELLARS.

About the first of April geraniums that have been stored in the cellar should be brought up and become accustomed to light and heat gradually; they will then be ready to put forth their best efforts by the time they are transferred to the outdoor borders.

A kitchen window seems really to be the best for plant growth, unless one may have a small conservatory.

I expect there is so much more steam, no carpet to raise a dust, and generally a sunny window, that makes the situation so favorable. Do not put geraniums out of doors until the middle or last of May. It is well to put them out on a porch, and have them accustomed to out-of-door air, but the ground is usually too cold before the time specified to have plants make much progress, if the air does seem warm.

There are exceptional years—1896 was one. Plants could have been put in the ground with safety in April, but like the Irishman, "one's foresight is not so good as one's hindsight," hence we cannot very well know when those exceptional years are to come; and it will be wiser to go slow unless there are so many plants one does not mind the loss of a part.

GYPSEY.

A DELICIOUS DESSERT.

Jellied apples make a delicious dessert. Soak over night one half cupful of gelatin in one half cupful of cold water; place over the fire a pan containing a generous pint of water and one pint of granulated sugar; when dissolved, boil ten minutes. Have two quarts of tart apples peeled, quartered and cored; when the syrup has cooked the required length of time, put in a few of the prepared apples, and let them cook slowly until tender, but still retain their shape; remove with a skimmer from the syrup, and place gently on a dish until all are cooked; remove the syrup from the fire, add the soaked gelatin, and stir until it is entirely dissolved; arrange the cooked apples in layers in a mold, and between the layers of fruit sprinkle a few blanched and chopped almonds, also tiny bits of candied cherries scattered here and there; pour the liquid over the apples, and place the molds in a cold place to harden; turn out on a shallow dish to serve, and pour sweetened whipped cream or boiled custard over it.

M. E. S.

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SPRINGFIELD, O.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

THE GUIDING HAND.

When thou seest not the path that lies before thee,

When thou knowest not which way is best to turn,

When the future is with mystery enshrouded, When the beacon-lights of hope, but dimly burn;

When thou waitest for Jehovah's voice to tell thee

What to do as thou dost tarry day by day, In thy tent door standing, watch the cloudy Pillar

Till it move before thee, pointing out the way.

If it rest in glory on the Tabernacle, Thou must keep his charge in faith and patience still—

God is guiding thee, and his eternal purpose May involve the losing of thy selfish will. For his love for thee is greater than thou deemest,

And his faithfulness for thee can never fall.

In thy tent door standing, watch the cloudy Pillar,

Let no doubts of him thy steadfastness assail.

Since thou hast the Lord Jehovah for thy leader,

Thou canst surely leave to him thy destined way.

He will soon fulfill the pleasure of his purpose,

If thy heart, and will are ready to obey. Let no time seem long to thee. He keeps thee waiting

Out of his almighty love, and soon or late, In thy tent door standing, thou shalt see the Pillar

Moving on, when thou, at last, hast learned to wait.

—Helen Chauncey.

A BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT.

WHEN the summer of youth is slowly wasting away on the nightfall of age, and the shadow of the path becomes deeper, and life wears to its close, it is pleasant to look through the vista of time upon the sorrows and facilities of our earlier years. If we had a home to shelter and hearts to rejoice with us, and friends have been gathered around our firesides, the rough places of the wayfaring will have been worn and smoothed away in the twilight of life, and many dark spots we have passed through will grow brighter and more beautiful. Happy indeed are those whose intercourse with the world has not changed the tone of their earlier feeling, or broken those musical chords of the heart whose vibrations are so melodious, so tender, so touching, in the evening of their lives.

SIGNIFICANT INDEED.

If the Bible should be a text-book anywhere, it should be in every theological seminary. An exchange astutely remarks:

"It is a significant fact that there is a very general complaint on the part of young ministers who have graduated from theological seminaries after two or three or even four years of continuous study, that they have no practical knowledge of their common English Bible. Plenty of philosophy, not a little theology, a smattering of Hebrew, some Greek exegesis, a theory of homiletics, etc., but no real knowledge of the Bible, no glad and happy familiarity with its great and wide truths apart from their textual relation to the system of theology they have been taught."

AN ASTHMA CURE AT LAST.

It gives great pleasure to announce the discovery of a positive cure for Asthma, in the wonderful Kola Plant, a new botanic product found on the Cougo River, West Africa. The cures wrought by it in the worst cases are really marvelous. Sufferers of twenty to fifty years' standing have been at once restored to health by the Kola Plant. Among others, many ministers of the gospel testify to its wonderful powers. Rev. J. L. Combs, of Martinsburg, W. Va., was perhaps the worst case, and was cured by the Kola Plant after fifty years' suffering. Mr. Alfred C. Lewis, Washington, D. C., Editor of the Farmer's Magazine, gives similar testimony, as do many others. To prove to you beyond doubt its wonderful curative power, the Kola Importing Co., No. 1164 Broadway, New York, will send a large case of the Kola Compound free by mail to Every Sufferer from any form of Asthma. They only ask in return that when cured yourself you will tell your neighbors about it. You should surely try it, as it costs you nothing.

THE WEAVER'S SHUTTLE.

Job, ranked by Carlyle among the elect minds of the earth, likened his days to a weaver's shuttle. For him life was a loom, the warp God's thought, the woof man's thought, ideals were patterns, the days and their duties were flying shuttles thrown by man's will and purpose. Oft the weaving seems to go without much pain, full off the pattern seems blotted and obscure, having little purpose or beauty. But the poet comforts himself with the thought that he beholds the tapestry from the wrong side, while on the right side sits an unseen weaver for whom each thread is interpreted by the pattern. Looking up toward the model, he selects the thread that shall repeat the gold or scarlet of the glowing pattern.

As in the famous Gobelins factory the weavers have for copy the most glorious pictures from the Louvre, and with long patience and with great skill so interlace the silken colors as to bring out the lines and lineaments of heroes and angels and of divinity itself, so God through birth and events sketches the outline, and men are to use the details of life to fill it up, until the texture of character stands forth with a value beyond the wealth of princes. For the moment the weaving may seem strange to men, and oft for the poet the threads are as heavy with tears as the grass with rain and dew. But remembering that the dark threads serve for beauty not less than light threads, the poet suggests that the shuttle of sorrow may be as necessary to man as the shuttle of joy.

Musing upon the weaver and his loom, Job reminds us that a great life is made up of little deeds, just as the finest tapestry represents many interlacing threads; just as the harvest with its wide-sheeted abundance is made up of separate wheat-stalks; just as the symphony represents many intermingling notes. The weaving shuttle tells us more than can all the libraries about the mystery of life, bright with its visions of angels, glorious with the divinity that shapes our ends, dark also with clouds and darkness that surround God's plans, while afar off is the unveiling of ends and purposes "that do not now appear."—Newell Dwight Hillis.

HOW TO USE IT.

"Queen Victoria is immensely wealthy. Many of her investments in real estate have increased enormously in value, and her private fortune is thought to be one hundred million dollars. Prince Albert's estate, which was left to the queen, has grown to twenty-five million dollars, and this along with other revenues and gifts has brought the whole up to one hundred and seventy-five million dollars."

If the foregoing is a true report, we humbly suggest that her majesty could find excellent use for some of her money in paying the debts of her royal son and heir, the Prince of Wales, who is said to have squandered fifty million dollars in the past thirty-three years, running into debt twenty millions beyond the princely allowance given him by the English nation.

MOTHER.

I would fain put in a plea for that old-fashioned, old-time name of "mother." You rarely hear it nowadays; all sorts of nicknames have taken its place. Names with the reverence, the sacredness left out; names of equality—nay, superiority on the part of the child—they are patronizing, familiar, common. But should not a mother and child be familiar? Ah, yes! but in a different way. With all the most blissful intercourse, with all the sweetest companionship, and all the most absolute confidence; with the gayest sympathetic fun and frolic. And still, through it all, the mother in her shroud, where no rude hand dare venture.—Anna Warner.

A young lady of Mineral county, West Virginia, in forwarding a handsome list of subscribers for FARM AND FIRESIDE and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, writes: "My brother has taken my place in canvassing. He is very much taken up with the work, as almost every one that he has gone to either subscribed or promised to do so after pay-day. He finds Peerless Atlas a very successful premium. Many copies of another journal for ladies come to our town. I take it myself, but prefer the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, though it is only half the price, every time."

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Our Farm.

MAINTAINING SOIL FERTILITY.

THE article under "Echoes From Egypt" in the December number of this journal I read and re-read with more than common interest. The same question, maintaining the soil's fertility, has been before my mind a great deal, and while I agree with Mr. Cheely on some of his arguments as being quite logical, I am forced by equally strong evidence to take a somewhat different position. He says, "But if we would maintain completely or improve productiveness, it must come from a source outside of the farm to be kept up or improved." Here is where we differ. I believe that by judicious management the fertility of the soil is not only self-sustaining, but it has a little to spare to pay the tiller of the soil for his labor. In comparing the wear of a plow and the time of our lives with the fertility of the soil, he leaves the great and main factor, "nature's law," all out of consideration. No matter how well the plow is cared for, it cannot last forever; it is nature's design that it must succumb to time, and another one, supplied from some outside source, is necessary to fill its place. The same with human life. In spite of our greatest care in following the laws of hygiene, life is only a process of exhaustion. Nature has set her stakes, and when they are reached, we must submit to her laws and expire. Not so with the fertility of the soil; it is nature's law to keep up this fertility, and if reduced by man or beast, to restore it. The different agencies which come to our assistance in keeping up this fertility are inexhaustible. The rays of the sun, the prime source of all vegetable productiveness, do not need any restoring outside help; their producing power is perpetual. The influence of the atmosphere, rain in its various forms, etc., these are the helps that make it possible for the systematic farmer to keep up the fertility of his fields.

Outside of the established fact that it is nature's law to produce fertility, I will not try to prove in just what way she restores the soil-derived elements, potash and phosphoric acid, except by circumstantial evidence. For instance, if a field is continually cropped, without returning the necessary fertility to keep it up, until it is so exhausted that nothing can grow on it any longer, and then be let alone, nature will in time restore its former productiveness.

Again, we find that farmers in the old countries have tilled their fields not only for generations, but for centuries past, with the same results, producing the same crops as did their ancestors. Of course, they do not sell or take from their farms hay or straw; but all grain crops, as far as they are not needed for their stock, all increase of stock, horses, cattle and sheep, wool, butter and eggs, in fact, everything that can be turned into cash, is sold and taken away, and yet by thorough, systematic farming the fertility of their farms is maintained. I have spent a good share of my younger life on German farms, had considerable intercourse with German farmers, but never knew them to use artificial fertilizers. They depend wholly on their barn-yard manure, manufactured from a portion of their farm productions, and in so doing they are successful. But it must be remembered that they stable their stock the year round; even sheep when pastured and not yarded in the field are taken back to their sheds nights, to save all the droppings. G. C. GREINER.

DAIRY-SCHOOL CIRCULAR.

The Ohio State University has just published a handsome illustrated circular showing the work of the College of Agriculture and Domestic Science. This pamphlet contains fourteen illustrations showing especially the work of its dairy laboratory and its instruction in dairy husbandry. It also contains the perspective and floor plans of Townshend Hall, the new agricultural building, which is being erected at a cost of about \$75,000. This pamphlet may be obtained by addressing Thomas F. Hunt, Dean Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Sold Through Trains with Sleepers between Chicago, Buffalo and New York City are run daily via Nickel Plate Road. Dining Cars attached.

Recent Publications.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

WISCONSIN FARMERS' INSTITUTES. A handbook of agriculture valuable to the farmer and his family. Illustrated. 274 pages. Price to Wisconsin farmers, 10 cents in paper, 25 cents in cloth; mailed outside the state, 25 cents in paper, 40 cents in cloth. Address George McKerrow, superintendent, Madison, Wis.

THE NUT CULTURIST. A treatise on the propagation, planting and cultivation of nut-bearing trees and shrubs adapted to the climate of the United States, with the scientific and common names of the fruits known in commerce as edible or otherwise useful nuts. By Andrew S. Fuller. Published by the Orange Judd Company, New York. Price \$1.50.

SWEET-POTATO CULTURE FOR PROFIT. By Professor R. H. Price, horticulturist of the Texas experiment station. This book contains complete instructions from how to grow the plants to harvesting and storing the crop, for both northern and southern latitudes. 62 illustrations. 110 pages. Price, leatherette cover, 50 cents; cloth-bound, \$1. Address the Texas Farm and Rauch Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas.

THE AMERICAN FRUIT CULTURIST, containing practical directions for the propagation and culture of all fruits adapted to the United States. By John J. Thomas. Twentieth edition, revised and enlarged, by William H. S. Wood. One small octavo volume of 773 pages, illustrated with nearly 800 accurate figures. Bound in extra muslin. Price \$2.50. Published by William Wood & Co., New York. This book, which is a revision and enlargement of what has long been the standard work on fruits, should quickly find a place in every fruit-grower's library. It is filled with practical information, its lists of fruits are complete and up-to-date, and the descriptions are accurate.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

The Dingee & Conard Company, West Grove, Pa. New Guide to Rose Culture. Choice special collections of roses, hardy plants, bulbs and seeds. Among choice specialties offered are Coronet tea-rose and Princess Bonnie and Pink Souper ever-blooming roses.

W. N. Scarff, New Carlisle, Ohio. Annual fruit catalogue of standard and new varieties. Specialty—Eureka raspberry.

Willow Lake Nursery, Marshallville, Ga. Descriptive catalogue of fruits, particularly of standard varieties best adapted to the South.

J. I. Case Threshing-machine Company, Racine, Wis. Fifty-fifth annual catalogue of the Case threshing-machinery, illustrating and describing traction-engines, horse-powers and grain-separators, with improved attachments, such as self-feeders, grain weighers, baggers and loaders, and automatic straw-stackers.

L. B. McCurdy & Co., Ann Arbor, Mich. Descriptive circular of the Conrath raspberry, an early, productive blackcap of great promise.

W. W. Baruard & Co., Chicago, Ill. Illustrated catalogue of tested farm, garden and flower seeds, and implements.

D. Hill, Dundee, Ill. Catalogue of evergreens, ornamentals, fruit-trees, etc. Largest stock of nursery-grower hardy evergreens in the United States.

John W. Hall, Marion Station, Md. Descriptive catalogue of nursery stock, choice berry-plants and pedigree second-crop seed-potatoes. Promising novelty—"Hall's Favorite" strawberry.

Geo. Ertel Co., Quincy, Ill. Illustrated catalogue describing the famous improved Victor incubators and brooders, and giving reproduction of patent-office drawings. Price 4 cents.

A. B. Davis & Son, Purcellville, Va. Illustrated floral catalogue of everything for the greenhouse and garden. Fine roses a specialty.

W. B. Longstreth, Gratiot, Ohio. Descriptive catalogue of standard garden-seeds.

E. J. Hull, Olyphant, Pa. Illustrated catalogue of berry, hothouse and vegetable plants. Specialty—"Early Michigan" potato.

A. F. Williams, Bristol, Conn. Handsome descriptive catalogue of Monitor incubators and brooders, and supplies for poultrymen.

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- THE INTER-STATE POULTRYMAN,** A monthly illustrated journal, devoted exclusively to poultry. It is a practical paper, and is edited for the special benefit of the farmer who breeds poultry for profit. It will teach you how to find money in your hen-house. Regular price, 50 cents a year.
- THE FARM AND FIRESIDE,** "Monarch of the World's Rural Press." Has 310,000 subscribers. Gives 20 to 24 pages each issue, 24 times a year. The fact that it has the largest circulation of any paper of its kind is evidence of its great worth as a journal. Regular price, 50 cents a year.

75c. THIS IS OUR PROPOSITION: 75c. We will give you all three of the above-named papers for SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS. If you are already a subscriber to either paper your time will be advanced one year.

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge.

Rennet Extract.—D. W. K., Garland, Kan. You can get rennet extracts and other supplies for cheese-making of Chr. Hansen's Laboratory, Little Falls, N. Y.

Whitewash.—E. G., Wolfcreek, Mont. Take good, fresh-burned lime, one half bushel; slake it with hot rain-water, keeping it covered closely during the process.

Highland Grasses—To Destroy Gophers.—M. B., Blossburg, N. M., writes: "I own a ranch about seven thousand feet above the sea-level on the New Mexico and Colorado line."

Grasses for Meadow.—W. M., Charlotte, Mich., writes: "What grass or grasses, or grass and clover mixed, would you recommend as most durable for meadows, and what time is best to sow?"

Making Hotbeds and Cold-frames.—Mrs. C. F. J., Gering, Neb., writes: Please tell me the simplest and best way to make a hotbed for raising early cabbage-plants, tomatoes, celery, etc., and how to make a cold-bed, and when to transplant from hotbed to coldbed?"

Butter Not Coming.—W. R. S., Glendora, Mich., writes: "What is the trouble? I have two Jersey cows that are in a fine condition, each giving milk, but I can't get butter from the cream."

Pressure Upon the Brain.—E. L. L., Silver Creek, Neb. The peculiar symptoms presented by your goat are the product of a morbid pressure upon the brain.

Calves Dying.—J. T. T., Labarpe, Kan. If, as you say, your calves, though apparently fully developed when born, die the next day, or very soon, and refuse to suck, and are sluggish either from the beginning or after they have taken one meal, nothing whatever can be done as far as the calves themselves are concerned.

Warts, or Something Similar.—H. H. W., Paxton, Neb. You say there is upon the side of your heifer a growth of warts, or something similar, and ask, "What are they? What is the cause of them?"

Probably Overgrown and Awkward.—M. D. McC., Lytle, Minn. If there is no congenital deformity, and your colt is only an awkward and overgrown animal with long limbs and insufficient strength.

So-called Sweeney.—"David." I am glad to hear that you have followed my advice, and that your horse is cured.

Sick Sheep.—E. W. R., Ensor, Ky. If you make a careful post-mortem examination of the next sheep that dies, and closely examine the interior of the head, the ethmoid bones, the frontal and maxillary sinuses, and even the brain; in the chest the lungs and the bronchial tubes, and in the abdominal cavity the fourth stomach, the intestines and the liver, you will hardly fail in finding the cause of death.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar.

A Sick Hog.—N. M., Stanton, Ohio. I cannot tell you what may ail your hog. You know best yourself how your hog has been kept and fed.

A Sick Pig.—T. L. F., East Pembroke, N. H. Maybe your pig has epileptoid fits; further I cannot tell you.

Chronic Goutitis.—P. McK., Altona, Ill. What you describe appears to be a case of chronic goutitis, or inflammation of the knee-joints, in both legs.

Enlarged Withers.—M. D. B., Perry, Oklahoma. It does not at all proceed from your communication whether the withers of your horse are naturally high and fleshy or whether there is something abnormal.

So-called Sweeney.—J. J. P., Ellis, Kan. All you have to do is to feed sufficient quantities of nutritious food, to exempt the horse from work and to give the same all the voluntary exercise he is willing to take.

Edematous Swelling.—B. D., Nicholasville, Ohio. The edematous swelling on the lower surface of the bodies of your cows, heavy with calf, will disappear if you give your cows sufficient opportunity for voluntary exercise.

A Corn.—J. S., East Palestine, Ohio. If your horse has a corn, have it cut out by a competent person; then have the hole filled up with a tuft of absorbent cotton saturated with tincture of aloe (1:4).

Nodular Exanthema.—B. F. H., Sumter, S. C. The eruption on the skin of your mare is not at all malignant, and usually yields to good grooming.

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"Staggers?"—F. W., Marion, Texas. Your meager description leaves it undecided whether your horse suffers from blind staggers (abnormal pressure upon the brain, usually caused by an accumulation of serum in the ventricles of that organ, and equivalent to insanity) or from attacks of vertigo.

Pleurisy and Pneumonia.—C. H., Port Angeles, Wash. You ask for a treatment of pleurisy and pneumonia in cows. If the cows in your neighborhood suffer from pleurisy and pneumonia combined, it may be a very serious thing.

Warbles.—J. S., Clarksville, Mo., and T. B., Crawfordsville, Ind. What you describe are so-called "warbles," or swellings beneath the skin of cattle which contain the larvae of a gadfly, Oestrus ovis.

A Fatal Disease of Sheep.—C. K., Dale, Mo. The disease of your ewes, which presents kataplectic symptoms and affects principally those which carry twin lambs, is probably caused, partially at least, by feeding too much voluminous food.

Numerous Questions.—J. F. M., Tillamook, Oreg. 1. If a cow does not clean within three days after calving have the afterbirth removed by a competent person.

A Fistula.—G. G. D., Mapleton, Iowa. What you describe is not only a fistula leading into the cavity of the mouth, but probably also osteoporosis, or a honeycombed condition of the jaw-bone.

Fistulous Abscess in the Hoof.—J. E. S., Cedar Cliff, N. C. The fistulous abscess in the hoof of your horse was never brought to perfect healing, and consequently always broke open again after it had apparently healed.

Bole with it; then take some more cotton (for this common cotton will do), and fill the whole sole of the hoof with it, and then keep the dressing in position by means of a bandage.

\$8 PAID PER 100 FOR DISTRIBUTING SAMPLES of Washing Fluid. Send for steps A. W. Scott, Cobos, N. Y.

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Our Miscellany.

SHE—"Does the baby take after its mother?"

He—"Well, it hasn't begun to talk yet."—Yonkers Statesman.

Low rates anywhere via the Nickel Plate Road any time.

WHEN a woman sits down to read the newspaper to her husband she generally begins with an anecdote about the girl queen of Holland when she was four years old.

RATES via the Nickel Plate Road are lower than via other lines.

TEACHER (in suburban school)—"And now, can any of you tell me where Crete is?"

Small boy (holding up his hand—"I know. It's the first station the other side of Chicago Heights.")

BACON—"Do you suppose it was modesty that prompted the author to withhold his name from that poem?"

Egbert—"No, I think it was prudence."—Yonkers Statesman.

TAKE the Nickel Plate Road to Boston. Through Sleepers from Chicago.

"I WISH my daughter had eloped with the coachman instead of marrying that worthless nobleman, who is making her life miserable."

"Never mind, Mrs. Goldrick; perhaps she will yet."—Life.

SOLID Through Sleeping Car Trains with Dining Cars attached are operated by the Nickel Plate Road between Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo and New York City. Through sleeping car to Boston.

HE (to his divorced wife)—"I suppose you are happy now?"

She—"No, John; I am absolutely miserable. I used to find so much pleasure in pointing out your faults."—Philadelphia North American.

"Has your son any special talent?" asked one man.

"Yes," replied the other; "I think he's an inventor."

"Has he invented many things?"

"Yes; most of them reasons why I should give him money."—Washington Star.

FAMOUS WINTER RESORTS OF THE SOUTHWEST.

Including Hot Springs, Arkansas (the Carlsbad of America), Austin, San Antonio (the Alamo City and Home of Old Missions), Galveston, Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Rockport, the big commercial cities of Dallas, Ft. Worth and Houston, Mexico, the Egypt of the New World, and Southern California are reached direct via *The Iron Mountain Route* in elegant Pullman Buffet Sleeping Cars, Pullman tourist sleepers, observation, vestibule reclining chair cars (seats free of extra charge), and elegant day coaches. No snow blockades or high altitudes encountered in this trip over the True Southern Route. Tourist tickets on sale at greatly reduced rates, and illustrated descriptive pamphlets, time and map folders furnished free on application at City Ticket Office Iron Mountain Route.

NO BETTER, EVIDENTLY.

Nephew—"Ulo, ucle, how's the gout?"

Uncle—"How's the gout? Confound you! What's that infernal thing around your neck?"

Nephew—"Er—er—only my collar, sir, I believe."

Uncle—"Eah! Y'look like a donkey looking over a whitewashed wall!"—London Punch.

HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS AT HALF RATES

Via The Missouri Pacific Railway and Iron Mountain Route to points in the West and Southwest. Tickets on sale Tuesdays, February 10th, March 2d and 16th, April 6th and 20th, and May 4th and 18th. For descriptive and illustrated pamphlets of the different states, time and map folders address H. C. Townsend, General Passenger Agent, St. Louis.

TO STIR SI UP.

First Georgia cracker—"Hello, Eph! Is youah dahter married t' Si Slopoke yit?"

Secoud Georgia cracker—"Naw; hut she will be jes' soon's I kin raise money 'nough t' buy a gun.—Judge.

HOGS AS MORTGAGE LIFTERS.

Some hogs, cattle, horses and sheep never know the luxury of being fed on French Artichokes, nor their owners the economy of same. They make hogs cholera proof, so, instead of fattening huzzards, they help lift that mortgage. This kind often yields 1,000 bushels. Grow anywhere. Investigate today by sending for free particulars, price and freight rates. Single bushel \$1.00. My F. F. Tools weave upright wire stays in smooth or barb wire fences, making them absolutely bull-strong and pig-tight. Price \$3.00 delivered. Treatise on fence-making free. J. P. Vlsserling, Box 57, Alton, Ill.

HE FAILED ON THE TEST.

Recent criticism on the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott's version of the story of Jonah calls to mind an anecdote related by Congressman Amos J. Cummings on his return from his somewhat prolonged stay in Florida, nearly twenty years ago, where in the course of his pursuit of health he managed to pick up some new stories. One of them was as follows:

At Palatka an elderly negro was anxious to become a member of the local church, and in order to test his faith a committee composed of some of the lights was chosen to examine him on some points which have ever been regarded as stumbling-blocks to other than true believers. This committee met in the local church, and the moderator, after a prayer and a few remarks on the responsibilities of the place sought, interrogated the applicant as follows:

"Do you believe that the Lord made heaveu and earth and all that in them is in six days, and then rested on the seventh?"

"Am dat in de hook?" asked the applicant.

"It is," said the moderator.

"Den I believes him."

"Do you believe that Daniel was cast in a den of lions, and that the Lord closed their mouths, and that they did no harm to Daniel?"

"Am dat in de hook?"

"Yes."

"Den I believes him."

"Do you believe that Jonah started on a voyage in a ship, that a great storm arose, that Jonah was thrown into the sea, where a whale swallowed him, and that after remaining in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights the whale finally vomited him up on dry land, well and sound?"

"Am dat in de hook?"

"It is."

"Den I believes him."

"Do you believe that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace, heated beyond anything we know of, and that they came out without a hair of their heads harmed or their garments scorched?"

"What! Am dat in de book?"

"Yes."

"Den I don't believe him, nor I don't believe dat ar' fish story you done tol', needur."—New York Evening Sun.

A FARMER'S DREAM.

Once a farmer had one thousand eight hundred bushels of wheat, which he sold, not to a single grain merchant, but to one thousand eight hundred different dealers, a hashel each. A few of them paid him in cash, but far the greater number said it was not convenient then, but would pay later. A few months passed, and the man's bank account ran low. "How is this?" he said. "My one thousand eight hundred bushels of grain should have kept me in affluence until another crop is raised, but I have parted with the grain and have instead only a vast number of accounts, so small and scattered that I cannot get around and collect it fast enough to pay expenses." So he posted up a public notice and asked all those who owed him to pay quickly. But few came. The rest said, "Mine is only a small matter, and I will go and pay one of these days," forgetting that though each account was very small, when all were put together they meant a large sum to the man. Things went on thus: the man got to feeling so badly and rolled and tossed about so much in his efforts to collect that he fell out of bed and awoke, and running to his granary found his one thousand eight hundred bushels of wheat still safe there. He had only been dreaming, and hadn't sold his wheat at all. Moral—The next day the man went to the publisher of his paper, and said, "Here, sir, is the pay for your paper, and when next year's subscription is due you can depend upon me to pay it promptly. I stood in the position of an editor last night, and I know how it feels to have one's honestly earned money scattered all over the country in small amounts."—Franklin (Ind.) Democrat.

THE USUAL REASON.

"Why do you suppose that society woman married an organ-grinder?"

"Probably she wanted to get rid of him."—Chicago Record.

LANDS FOR SALE.

AT LOW PRICES AND ON EASY TERMS. The Illinois Central Railroad Company offers for sale on easy terms and at low prices, 150,000 acres of choice fruit, gardening, farm and grazing lands located in SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. They are also largely interested in, and call especial attention to the 600,000 acres of land in the famous YAZOO VALLEY of Mississippi, lying along and owned by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, and which that Company offers at low prices and on long terms. Special inducements and facilities offered to go and examine these lands both in Southern Illinois and in the "Yazoo Valley," Miss. For further description, map and any information, address or call upon E. P. SKENE, Land Commissionner, No. 1 Park Row, Chicago, Ill.

NOT A LABOR-UNION.

The infectious of organized effort has reached all classes of society. We have long had our trade-unions and farmers' alliances. All is organization in the line of labor, from syndicates to husking-bees. And a union has recently been formed which aims at cornering the finances of the country in a most portentous and unheard-of manner. This is a union of foreign nobility, and its object is to facilitate the exchange of titles for American currency.

There is a good deal of competition in this line, and the union will have to hustle to keep up rates. Being a noble in Europe is about as impecunious as being a poet in America. Once in awhile the holder of a title strikes a bargain, but as a rule the market is liable to fluctuation and disappointment. Often a count with a genealogy that runs so far back into the Iron Age that the first pages are covered with rust secures a controlling interest in the only daughter of a mighty owner of railroad stock, and ere the honeymoon has even begun to wane, discovers that the aforesaid stock has been watered so copiously that the figures on the shares have swelled up until they have turned to ciphers. Grand-dukes with coats of arms large enough to be used as overcoats marry into what appears to be enormous wealth—whole counties of land—only to learn later that the entire property is covered with a mortgage so stern and unyielding that the tenants are obliged to hore holes through with an auger in order to plant corn. The trouble is that the nobility often employ inexperienced detectives to look into the case. It is to avert such mistakes, and to keep the scions of ancient houses from going dirt-cheap to the daughter of a second-grade pork-packer that the union has been organized. It certainly has a fair field.—Truth.

FAST RUN TO CHICAGO.

The famous "Noon-day" express of the C. & N. D. Ry., leaving Cincinnati at 12:20 Noon daily, makes the run to Chicago in 8 hours, reaching there in time to make connection with all the important lines out of Chicago with their night trains.

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Made of fine cloth in all styles. When soiled, reverse, wear again, then discard. Ten collars or five pairs of cuffs for 25 cents. They look and fit better than any other kind.
ASK THE DEALERS FOR THEM.
If not found at the stores send six cents for sample collar and cuffs, naming style and size. A trial invariably results in continued use.
Reversible Collar Co., 43 Milk St., Boston, Mass.

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All for 10 cents. Star Photograph outfit with which you can produce a perfect photo in 35 seconds; requires no dry plates, no chemicals, no dark room. Photos are clear as if done by a \$250. Camera, no practice needed. You can coin money making photos of people, houses, animals, etc. In same box with the outfit we also give you one Pretty Tokio Handkerchief (nearly half a yard square), 1 Lucky Charm of Roses, solid perfume, keeps your handkerchiefs scented. Moth exterminator. Also 6 months' handsome illustrated Magazine, full of stories, pictures, etc. This entire lot sent you if you cut this out and return to us with 10 cents, silver or stamps; 5 lots for 25 cents. Send and be delighted. Address STAR PHOTO CO., 9 Murray St., New York.

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Safety Razors FREE

This improved simplex magnetic razor can be used in any position, walking, riding in wagon, cars or on ship in storm, with perfect ease & safety. Anyone without practice can use it successfully. To introduce it, one in every town furnished reliable persons who will promise to show it. Enclose stamp to PUTNAM INTRODUCTION CO., 10 Murray Street, New York City.

Ladies Write to us for profitable employment—nice work—no money required. We furnish capital and pay freight to honest ladies. Send written references. Territory exclusive. PUTEAUX SOAP CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

OPIUM HABIT AND DRUNKENNESS Cured in 10 to 20 days. No Pay till cured. DR. J. L. STEPHENS, Lebanon, Ohio.

BOYS' SECRET SOCIETY The great C. M. A. Cuts nothing to join; has grips, passwords, secret signs, badges, funny initiation. Send your name and address of several boys you think will join, enclose stamp. Address, 25a St. 1st, Oak Park, Ill.

MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

Prizes Awarded

In Our Voting Contest.

The electoral vote was officially announced Wednesday, February 10th. The exact electoral vote was: McKinley, 271; Bryan, 176. McKinley was declared elected the next president of the United States, hence the correct answer to our question, "Who will be the next president, and how many electoral votes will he receive?" is, "McKinley, 271."

The contest was conducted according to the conditions advertised. The ballots were examined and counted three times by competent persons, insuring absolute accuracy. As soon as the result was known the terms of the offer were carried out faithfully, and drafts or cash sent to all parties entitled to a cash prize, and a handsome book mailed to each of the remaining persons entitled to a prize.

THE \$1,000 PRIZE

The CORRECT answer was guessed by 127 different persons, and the first prize of One Thousand Dollars was, according to the conditions, divided among them, each receiving Seven Dollars and Eighty-seven Cents. Their names and addresses are as follows:

Mary E. Young, Buffalo, Pa.; William Ward, Skamokawa, Wash.; J. Ken White, 420 9th St., Washington, D. C.; Clarence Wagner, Johnsonville, Ill.; B. P. Walker, Box 28, East Lebanon, N. H.; L. Wakefield, Anderson, S. C.; A. C. Wallace, Hillsboro, Ore.; A. W. Wallace, Sandwich, Ill.; Mrs. Nat Webb, Walla Walla, Wash.; A. E. Thompson, Southampton, N. Y.; Geo. W. Townsend, Randolph, Wis.; Abbie Tyler, St. Helens, Ky.; Benj. Taylor, 163 Rice St., No. Cambridge, Mass.; Mrs. George Stillman, South Otselec, N. Y.; H. D. Shepardson, West Fletcher, N. Y.; J. W. Skinner, Shell, S. C.; Bela Sawyer, Lyme, N. H.; H. F. Smith, 11 Woodland St., Worcester, Mass.; Joe H. Stephens, Cramer, Pa.; E. Saler, 279 Cedar St., Buffalo, N. Y.; Mrs. J. C. F. Sieg, Corydon, Ind.; Mrs. Ed. Seward, Vermillion, Ohio; Mrs. Homer A. Searles, 6 Rutherford St., Binghamton, N. Y.; Mrs. Laura Shirts, Boaz, Wis.; A. B. Ruby, Downs, Kan.; G. W. Rube, Buffalo Gap, S. D.; John H. Reitzel, Steelton, Pa.; W. B. Rich, Lima, Pa.; Eleanor E. Reber, Kimball, S. D.; Eva L. Reed, Plattville, Ill.; Minnie Rosenberger, Fremont, Ohio; Mrs. J. M. Ruddle, Box 600, Seymour, Ind.; Jas. K. Reeder, Bay City, Mich.; C. C. Puckett, Kokomo, Ind.; Mrs. J. Parent, Union City, Ind.; James Pollock, Crawford Station, Mo.; Mrs. Nanny Pew, Stillings, Mo.; S. D. Ogden, New Canaan, Conn.; G. E. Orton, Elmira, N. Y.; John S. Oyer, Northville, Kan.; Frank H. Osbourne, Dover, Tenn.; Chas. Nickeson, Flinwood, Ill.; A. M. Neely, Booneville, Ky.; Mary J. Naylor, Rabway, N. J.; C. E. Nixtongale, Nyatt Point, R. I.; Elizabeth L. Nason, Cumberland Mills, Me.; H. B. Miller, 601 East 5th Ave., Winfield, Kan.; N. B. Morrison, Woodsocket, R. I.; J. M. McMillin, Las Animas, Col.; Chas. Mueller, 308 Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Chas. Nutrax, Corsicana, Mo.; H. W. Mezrail, Richmond, Ohio; Emma F. McBride, Middletown, Md.; Mary Matthew, Zaniesville, Ohio; B. V. Mann, Box 43, Southampton, Mass.; Ralph T. Miller, Hudson, Ohio; P. J. McKenna, Carrollton, Ill.; George McPhillips, Clarksburg, Pa.; Mary A. McCoy, Flat Rock, Ill.; John Mangold, Sherrill, Iowa; John Larson, Box 307, Negunnee, Mich.; H. E. Lowe, Ada, Ore.; J. F. Lee, Longreek, S. C.; M. V. Leech, Grass Valley, Cal.; Geo. W. Lee, Willsborough, N. Y.; Mrs. E. A. Lyon, Box 205, Falconer, N. Y.; C. C. Lehman, Marion, Ind.; J. B. Leslie, Maylew, Ky.; E. M. Kane, Vermillion, Ohio; L. M. Kingsbury, Whitefox, Ohio; Mrs. J. P. Kennedy, Blackador Ave., Brushton, Pa.; E. Kitchin, Sycamore, Ohio; Fritz Juergens, Minatare, Neb.; I. A. Jenkins, Ursina, Pa.; Willie E. Jones, Yostville, Pa.; C. G. Jones, Stockton, Kan.; E. James Johnston, Watson, Va.; Mary F. Johnson, Box 32, Eastville, Va.; Martin F. Hanrahan, Taunton, Mass.; Henry J. Hiles, 233 North Fourth St., Philadelphia, Pa.; Warren Hamilton, Greenville, S. C.; I. T. Hudson, Rockwood, N. Y.; Hannah J. Harlow, 63 Main St., Middlebury, Mass.; Mary Hurley, Homer, N. Y.; Emily Hamblett, Moundsville, W. Va.; Mrs. C. A. Holmes, Fairfield, Ill.; Mrs. Martha Hurd, Cerro Gordo, Ill.; Floyd Hardman, Jauelaw, W. Va.; Clifton Hall, Ankeny, Iowa; W. B. Garatt, Spencer, N. Y.; John Green, Hillsburg, Ont.; Simon P. Gerhard, Beaver Meadow, Pa.; Frank E. Gambell, Leicester, Vt.; T. H. Gordner, L. Box O, Condersport, Pa.; Mrs. George Goldberg, Liberty, Pa.; John W. Fox, Edenton, Ohio; Joseph Edwards, Hicks Springs, S. C.; William Donnell, Penbody, Mass.; Jennie Doolittle, Carbondale, Ohio; Mrs. James Dunbar, Greenvale, Ill.; C. H. Dennis, Madison Run, Va.; S. L. Davis, Mount Hope, W. Va.; Mrs. D. P. Dowdhour, Groveport, Ohio; Mrs. Dundas, Delta, La.; W. H. Corral, Hicksville, Ohio; A. L. Cary, Lewis, Ohio; Martin Careghetti, Polly, Texas; Mrs. Jennie Clingman, Pleasant Hope, Mo.; Ernest Cahill, West Liberty, Ill.; R. A. Clayton, Cartersville, Ga.; R. L. Clason, Beaver Dam, Wis.; Mae Black, West Main St., Zaniesville, Ohio; Josie Byrnn, Anderson, S. C.; L. C. Bowers, Moore's Store, Va.; Mrs. W. T. Bivin, Thayer, Kan.; Flora B. Beckner, 1071 E. Alder St., Portland, Ore.; A. G. Bonesteele, East Otto, N. Y.; James Beasley, Lexington, Ill.; John Brest, Sandy Lake, Pa.; G. W. Barton, Morrilton, Ark.; Mrs. Lester Barker, Sandwich, Ill.; Melissa J. Baker, Box 18, Timplo, Miss.; Mrs. Geo. Boyd, Quaker City, Ohio; Norris L. Barrett, Wibaux, Mont.; Wm. T. Blackburn, Buckland, Ohio; Carrie E. Aten, Table Grove, Ill.; A. Albro, Clarks Corner, Conn.

THE \$300 PRIZE

The Three Hundred Dollar prize was awarded to Mrs. M. R. Stille, Dallison, Wood county, W. Va. Her vote was, "McKinley, 270," and was received by us July 9th, at 3 o'clock.

THE \$100 PRIZE

The One Hundred Dollar prize was awarded to John Fischer, Jr., of Twin Sisters, Blanco county, Texas. His vote was, "McKinley, 272," and was received by us July 11th, at 7 o'clock.

THE \$10 PRIZES

The Ten Dollar prizes were awarded to the following ten persons:

Mrs. A. R. Stoner, Scotland, Pa.; Wm. Goffier, Fairbault, Minn.; K. U. Bailey, Gratic, Ohio; Rev. G. W. Read, Weldon, Ill.; Mrs. E. N. Bowen, Cortland, Ohio; Harry A. Frye, Milford, N. H.; E. Ives, Sandwich, Ill.; Stephen Wright, Richmond, Ohio; W. S. Porter, Davis, Mo.; Mrs. Edwin N. Myers, Broadbrook, Conn.

Want of space prevents us from giving the names and addresses of the remaining 2,325 persons who received prizes.

We desire to thank the many thousands who sent us their subscriptions and votes, but failed to get a prize.

Publishers of FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Smiles.

FIVE-O'CLOCK TEA.

Saucers and insincerity; Clatter of tongues and spoons; Gossip and spiced asperity. Atmosphere—good for swoons. Move, if the swift dexterity Known to the clown be thine. That's what you see At a five-o'clock tea Served in a social shrine. This is the game Society (Spelt with a big, big S) Plays to dispel satiety, Weariness dispossesses. Tannical insobriety Varies the dreary round, Therefore you roam To a crammed At Home, Carefully groomed and gowned.

"Awfully glad to see you!" "Awfully good to come!" The rest, as the damsels tea you, Is lost in the 'wilderling hum. Nobody comes to free you Of saucer and spoon and cup; So you stand and smile In a vacant style And long to be out and up. Give me an A B C shop, Lead me to Lockard's bowers; Take me to any tea-shop Scorned by the social powers. Rather, I swear by Aesop, I'd munch at a penny bun, Than the cakes and gush Of a five-o'clock crush, Where a hard day's work is done. —Sketch.

A PRAYER.

Oh would some power Dame Nature gave us, To shave ourselves As others shave us. —Yale Record.

THE SCOTCH RACE.

PERHAPS because the guest of the evening was a Scotchman, or possibly because one man in the party had a Scotch story to tell, the conversation was brought to a discussion of the Scotch race, says the New York "Sun." It was while I was attached to a London hospital," said a physician, "that I witnessed a marvelous cure of a Scotchman. We will call him Sandy, though that is not his name. One of his legs had been so badly mangled in an accident that we decided to amputate it. The shock was a severe one to Sandy, and when he regained consciousness after the operation it was evident that he had not vitality enough left to recover. 'Mon, ahm I going to dee?' he asked. 'We hope for the best, Sandy,' I said, 'but your condition is critical. Is there any Scotch dish that you would like to eat, but if he could hear the bagpipes just once more he could die happy. We didn't have a piper on our staff, but one of the nurses found one in a chop-house not far away. When the piper arrived Sandy was so weak that he could not speak. He looked grateful. Although it was not in accordance with our hospital rules, we hadn't the heart to refuse Sandy's dying request. I gave the signal, and the piper began to play. Sandy smiled peacefully, and at the end of the second tune he had gone asleep. His temperature and pulse showed a remarkable improvement, and because Sandy was a good fellow, and we thought he might call for the pipes again before he breathed his last, we kept the piper. Two hours later Sandy awoke, and the first thing that he asked for was the pipes. Again that weird noise filled the hospital, and once more Sandy went to sleep, stronger and better than we had expected him to be. A third time he awoke, and again the piper played. When Sandy once again fell asleep, to our amazement the crisis had passed, and he was on the road to recovery. He is now alive and well." "The Scotch are a wonderful race," commented Roy V. Somerville. "Now my grandmother was—" "But I haven't told you the sad sequel," interrupted the physician. "We had been so much interested in Sandy during the night that we had neglected our other patients. Sandy did recover, as I have said, but when we made the rounds in the morning we found all the English patients stiff in bed. They were all dead."

WHY SHE WAS SURE.

Judge—"Are you positive that this is the man you discovered hiding under your bed?" Miss Olemaid—"He! He! Oh, yes, your honor!" Judge—"What reason can you give for being so certain of his identity?" Miss Olemaid—"Because, your honor, I took a good long look at him."—Puck.

MEETING OF EXTREMES.

"The human body," said the doctor, throwing a wise look across the dinner-table at the superintendent, "with proper nourishment and proper exercise, can stand great heat and great cold. Now, I presume you have not any idea of the extremes—heat and cold." "Oh, yes," interrupted the superintendent, "my Washington experience teaches me that the two extremes are ice-cream and oysters. And, speaking of heat and cold," he continued, glancing at the bright coal fire in the grate, "isn't it a little singular that the fireplace grate is cold if it is not coated, and hot when it is coated? Now, it can't be hot and cold at the same time, although it may be coated and hot, yet it is generally cold when not coated. I presume you catch my meaning." But the young doctor had caught up his hat, and was trying to catch a cable-car.—Washington Star.

HE PINED NO MORE.

The proud lips of the maiden curled. "So, Algernon Thinklittle," she sneered, "you say that you love me. Do you love me better than Richard Winebiddle, who signed the temperance pledge for me? Do you care more for me than James Loonst, who thrashed two men twice his size for saying that in my new theater hat I looked like an animated feather duster? Do you—" "Stop, Regina Blueblood," cried the young man, and the light of high resolve came into his eyes. "I love you more than all these. I swear it. I shall rest my head every night on that pine-needle sofa-cushion you gave me." "Algernon," murmured the young woman, "I have been cruel. Forgive me. I don't think that I can get ready for the wedding in less than six weeks." And Algernon pined no more.—New York Herald.

PRO AND CON.

A middle-aged woman with an armful of parcels was walking along Mission street yesterday, when she suddenly stopped and stared at a laborer shoveling dirt out of a trench in the street. As he straightened up she recognized her divorced husband. "Ah! how are yez, Moike? Phwat are yez doin'?" He tried to wither her with a glare, but she continued to smile sweetly. "Yez phwant t' know phwat Oi'm doin', eh? Well, Oi'm earnin' alimony. Phwat are yez doin'?" "Shure, Moike, Oi'm a spendin' it." He resumed his shoveling, and she went on down the street, feeling pretty well satisfied with herself.—San Francisco Post.

HIS LAST WISH.

Father Hugh Lagan, of San Rafael, is a pious priest and an excellent raconteur. His reverence relates that he was called in recently to administer the last rites of Mother Church to a dying sinner, who, like himself, was a native of the Emerald Isle. "I have but one request to make, father," gasped the dying penitent. "What is it, my son?" inquired the priest. "That when I am dead, father, you will put me to rest in the Hebrew cemetery." "And what for?" asked Father Lagan. "Because, your reverence," moaned the sick man, "it is the last place on the face of the globe where the devil would look for an Irishman."—London Figaro.

MR. OGGLESPOGLE KEEPS UP WITH THE PROCESSION.

"Now maybe you dinks I vos easy, vonce?" said Mr. Ogglespogle, as he opened a new keg of beer and sold ten cents' worth of foam for a nickel. "Vell, I vos nod, and dond you regret it, already. Dot powling gaze, she gets der down mit her glutches sdtrong, but I geeeps mineselluf der brocesion ub mit, yah. How I did id? Vy, I sells peer uov in dese powls in brace of glasses, und dey vos all got finger-holes mith deir sides, yet once. Oh, I shust guess Mr. Ogglespogle vos somedings of a blum himselluf, by shimminics!"

HIS DREADFUL REVENGE.

Trivet—"Did you hear of the dreadful revenge Frothingham took on Miss Dinning when she refused his proposal?" Dicer—"What was it?" Trivet—"He proposed to her mother, as Mrs. Dinning was a widow, and now he won't let a man come to the house to see his stepdaughter."—Life.

HOW HE GOT IT.

Flannigan—"How'd yez git th' black eye, Casey?" Casey—"Oi shlipped an' landed on me back." Flannigan—"But, me good mon, y'r face ain't located on y'r back." Casey (gloomily)—"No, nather wuz Flannigan."—Truth.

THE CHANGE OF LIFE.

Intelligent Women Prepare for the 'Trying Ordeal.'

A Time When Women Are Susceptible to Many Dread Diseases.

The anxiety felt by women as the "change of life" draws near, is not without reason.

When her system is in a deranged condition, or she is predisposed to apoplexy, or congestion of any organ, it is at this period likely to become active and with a host of nervous irritations, make life a burden. Cancer often shows itself, and does its destructive work.

Such warning symptoms as sense of suffocation, headache, dread of impending evil, timidity, sounds in the ears, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregularities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude, dizziness, etc., are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period in life where woman's great change may be expected. Thousands at this critical time consult Mrs. Pinkham, and conduct their habits according to her advice, and with the Vegetable Compound go through that distressing time with perfect safety and comfort. Mrs. W. L. Day, of Bettsville, Ohio, says:—"When all else failed, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saved my life. It carried me through the change of life all right, and I am now in good health. It also cured my husband of kidney trouble."

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E. C.

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Sizes, small, medium and large.



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Sizes, 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 years.



No. 6776.—LADIES' TEA-GOWN. 11c.
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No. 6959.—LADIES' BEBE WAIST, WITH MUSH-ROOM SLEEVES. 10 cents.
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No. 6960.—Same Pattern—Misses' Size. 10c.
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No. 6591.—LADIES' DRESSING-SACK. 10 cents.
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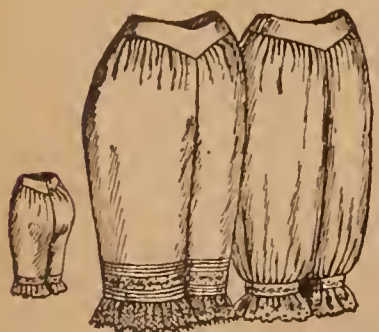
No. 6828.—Same Pattern—Ladies' Size. 10 cents.
Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 6414.—BOYS' BOX-PLAITED SHIRT-WAIST. 10c.
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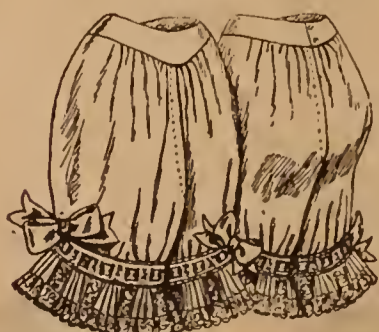


No. 6747.—LADIES' NIGHT OR LOUNGING GOWN. 11 cents.
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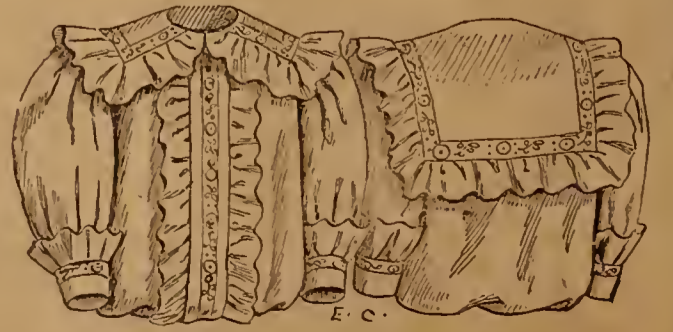
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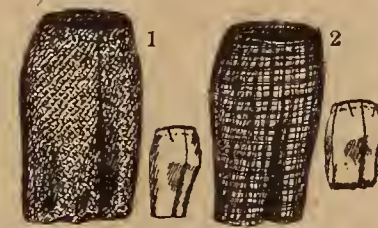
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