

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., December 17, 1909.

FAIR NOTES.

Heap on more wood! the wind is chill; But let it whistle as it will, We'll keep our Christmas merry still. —Sir Walter Scott. —The lively, busy pullet is now sending joy to the hen plant. —Biddie's valuable gift on Christmas morning is fresh eggs. —More quality and less quantity is a good motto to start out on. —Do not allow anybody to go into your henhouse and scare your birds. —A little heavier feed as the days grow colder. Corn fills the bill exactly. —Don't rob the pigs, but see if you can't have some nice rook milk for the hens every day. —Fowls love to thrash out a bundle of wheat or oats, and it does one good to step around to the door of the poultry house and listen to the merry chatter while the fowls are digging in the straw. —There were 487 Granges organized and re-organized in the United States during the year ending September 30th, 1908, of which 93 were in Michigan, 74 in Washington and 41 in New York. —The value of the egg production in the United States for a single year is given by the government statistical bureau at \$145,000,000. Wool produced during the same time is valued at \$45,750,000. —Some farmers neglect the twenty-five to fifty cents that the hatching of cracks in the coop would cost, and each month feed a dollar's worth of extra corn in order to supply the animal heat needed. —You have noticed how the hens dive for the scraps of boiled potato you give them from the kitchen table. That ought to be a pointer that it would pay you to boil some on purpose for the hens now and then. —The answer to the question: Does winter poultry pay? depends in a large measure upon where your hens are housed. If on the bare branches of a tree, in the northeast corner of the barn, there can be no doubt about it. —There is a disposition to sit around and sleep in winter. Hens will drop into that habit if you do not help them to stir around and work for their living. That is why a scratching shed is good, and why plenty of litter keeps the fowls healthy. —Salt, sulphur and charcoal are good things for the brood sow. If kept in a box in the feed lot, the sows will help themselves. Boxes may be made with hinge covers that project over the edges of the box. This will keep out the rain, and the pigs will soon learn to lift the covers. —To find the number of tons of hay in a mow, multiply together the length, height and width in yards and divide by 15, if the hay is well packed. If the mow is shallow and the hay recently placed there, divide by 18, and by a number from 15 to 18, according as the hay is well packed. —It is said that the opening of an electric road in Western Pennsylvania has enhanced the value of farms formerly offered at \$100 per acre to an asking price of \$500 to \$600. The road brings these farms into quick touch with Philadelphia, thereby greatly increasing the value of their products. —Professor Creelman, of the University of Maine, says in agriculture it is not bigger farms, but better farmers; not the new varieties in crops and poultry, but better culture and better strains; not bigger and better implements, but a better handling of those we have; not more expensive barns but more sanitary; not more cows, but better ones. —According to Professor J. A. Ford, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, numerous dealers have learned how to prevent the usual reaction of tuberculin. This being true, tuberculin tested? doesn't mean truth in buying cattle unless the purchaser knows the character of the owner of the cows and the veterinarian who tested them. —Results of experiments at the Kansas station show that deep plowing (8 to 10 inches) tends to increase the number of soil bacteria in both sandy and silt soil. Deep plowing tends to increase bacterial activity. More ammonia is produced. Deep plowing tends to decrease denitrification of the reduction of nitrate and the liberation of free nitrogen. —Six States appear to have a monopoly of the barley crop. In the year 1908, Minnesota raised 33,500,000 bushels; California, 25,427,000 bushels; Wisconsin, 24,750,000 bu-hels; South Dakota, 24,592,000 bushels; North Dakota, 18,330,000 bushels, and Iowa, 13,500,000 bushels. All the balance of the United States 41,157,000 bushels. Total, 166,756,000 bushels. —There are now 908 official year's records of Guernsey cows in the advanced register. They show an average of 7855 pounds milk, 406 pounds butter fat and an average per cent of 5.07. The best milk record is 17,297 5, and the best butter fat record is 857 15 pounds, which is equivalent to 1000 pounds of butter. The Guernseys are rapidly coming into favor among business dairymen. —The North Dakota Experiment station has demonstrated that millet when used entirely as a course food is injurious to horses. First in producing kidney troubles; second, in causing lameness and swelling of the joints; third, in producing infarction of blood into the joints; fourth, in destroying the texture of the bone, rendering it softer and less tenacious so that traction causes the ligaments and muscles to be torn loose. Where millet is to be fed to horses it should be alternated with other forage and then fed only sparingly. —Experiment station tests have shown that nitrate of soda is the one fertilizer most needed by meadows in the spring. As early in the spring, the second year after wheat, if clover has been grown, as new fresh growth shows, make a mixture of equal weights of nitrate of soda and fine dry earth, and apply broadcast at the rate of 300 pounds per acre. It would be quite useless to use any other form of fertilizer, for everything depends upon immediate availability of the plant food. By this treatment not only will wild grasses be kept back, but also sporadic patches of clover. The young timothy will develop very thick growth, due to very extensive stooling. The cost of fertilizer and its application will be about \$4 per acre if no fall application was made, and \$6 75 if it was necessary to fall fertilize.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

WOMANLY WISDOM.

I wish that all your skies be blue, Your paths filled full of all life's flowers, Your paths all soft, your friends all true, Your pleasure sweet in all your hours. Too much to wish? Perhaps it is, But could I wish you less than this? I will wish more—that God will send, Just what His love perceive you need, Then be it thorn or flower, dear friend, You will thereby be blest indeed.

A table decoration suggestive of the Yuletide may be made by cutting a piece of pine star-shaped, covering with a thin sheet of absorbent cotton and sprinkling thickly with diamond dust. Place a row of tiny white candles about the edge, using the tin holders having a braid in the bottom. Another may be made the same shape, but cut from a piece of mirror, bordered with ground pine or holly, having a tall wax candle at each point.

A delightful little decoration for a Christmas table, one suggestive of the quaint old English customs, is a small attractive Yule log. For this, get a piece of white birch wood and have it cut the length you choose then draw on top of it an opening, perhaps eight inches long and four across, or larger, if the log is good sized; cut the birch bark from this, and leave the wood beneath untouched. Get a quantity of the pretty artificial holly which looks exactly like the real except that the berries are more abundant and glossy, and tuck it on the log; this is easily done by bending the wire stems of the twigs across and putting in double back, and then straightening the holly in place; real holly can be used, but it is much more difficult to fasten on. When the log is finished it will look as though the holly were growing out of an opening, much like a small window-box. The white log is not at all unsuitable for a dining table, and the idea of this is charming, as well as the appearance of the whole. If more green is needed, lay a bed of holly on the table first and stand the log on that. Red candle shades, or those painted with holly will look well on the Christmas table, and there may be small bunches of holly as covers on the napkins; it may be used on the roasts turkey or goose instead of parsley, and also stuck in the pudding. If turkey was used as the main dish at Thanksgiving-time, the traditional goose may be chosen for this dinner. This menu is simply prepared.

Holidays are sad seasons for families from which loved ones have been taken away by death, but when we do our duty we give thanks for those still left us, and redouble our care for their happiness.

With the best intentions in the world we are meeting out sorry treatment to the living by open grieving for the dead. There are few families whose ranks remain unbroken year after year. Absence permanent and temporary leaves vacant chairs at the family table, and the only way thing to do is to forget them, as far as possible, by devotion to those whom we are privileged to keep. Perpetual mourning is unnatural and selfish, inasmuch as it makes discomfort for those about us, and we need all the cheer and brightness we can gather to ease the burden of living.

A useful gift for a housekeeper may be made of a yard of blue denim or heavy linen. Turn up a deep pocket across the lower part and feather stitch it on either side.

Divide this pocket in three parts with rows of feather-stitching and put a wide casing at the top, through which run a ribbon or wide tape. Fill the pockets with clothepins. The same style of apron made of finer material will prove useful as a sewing apron, or will be enjoyed by grandma when knitting.

One ought not to be at the slightest loss in deciding upon a Christmas gift for a debutante for there are so many little luxuries belonging to her desires, but is not always blessed with it.

A mistake in giving her a fan is not likely, as she must, at least, have a white and a black one; and, as she just dotes on having one to match each of her gowns, the delicate blue, pink or lavender sorts are sure to be received with great pleasure.

Then there is the obnoxious gift of a set of Welsh "rabbits" plates—each one showing a different "bunny" design. Girls of that age are having lots of fun with their obnoxious dishes and snappers, and those are barred out, necessarily, who lack the cooking outfit. Debutantes are also setting up their own afternoon tea tables, it being the almost invariable rule to offer tea to one's afternoon callers and there is great rivalry as to tea tables and their furnishings.

If you wish to give a tea table there are many beautiful mahogany ones to choose from; but those which have the underneath section for the soiled cups are generally preferred.

Hot water kettles are of silver, copper or brass, which swing in their metal frames over an alcohol lamp. The silver ones may be had in Colonial design and the copper and brass ones in quaint shapes. A pretty china teapot need not match the cups and saucers.

Then there is a silver tea strainer or a tea-ball, and a tea caddy—all of which are essential. Another appropriate gift is a large brass jardiniere for a palm or fern. Some have chains with which to suspend them in a sunny window.

Most people seem to think that if they have no money they cannot make Christmas presents. But even if they have no money they probably have something lying about the house or office which they do not need half as much as others less fortunate than themselves and which they could easily spare. There are plenty of things in many homes, put away in the attic as rubbish, which would be of very great service to somebody.

The trouble with most of us is that we are so selfish that we think of everything in terms of self. We may have clothing that we are very sure we shall never wear again, yet we cling to it, as we do books which we have read and many other things simply because we think we may want it sometime.

It is a good time to clean house, just before Christmas, and to pick out all the things which you do not really need. You will be surprised to see how many things you have to spare which would cheer and help somebody.

Last year among packages auctioned off by the Post Office officials at Washington, after every effort had been made to find out to whom they were originally addressed, were parcels merely wrapped in tissue paper and tied with thread. It is well to put articles for mailing in paste board boxes, and if a suitable box is not available use a

piece of stiff material as a protection. When the parcel is ready address plainly, then in the upper left hand corner put your own address, saying "from" so-and-so, and write "books," "papers," "photos" or "merchandise," as the case may be. If the package is valuable have it registered; this only costs eight cents additional, and insures safe delivery to any part of the world, if properly wrapped, tied and addressed, when it leaves your hands.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

I wonder if Santa Claus carried some gift, That first Christmas night long ago, To dear little Jesus who lay fast asleep, On the straw in the manger low. I wonder if one of the shepherds who lived, To the stable that wonderful night, Was dear Santa Claus, led there by the star, That shone in the heavens so bright. And, oh! 'tis true that on the hillside St. Nicholas guarded his sheep. I wonder if he to the blessed child bore A dear little lambkin to keep— A dear little lambkin, with whitest of wool, That grew as the little Child grew And loved him—ah, me, I almost believe, I've wondered a wonder that's true! —M. A. R.

Christmas Eve in Bethlehem.

We had eagerly anticipated our Christmas in Bethlehem, and had arranged our journey to Palestine in order to arrive in time to spend Christmas Eve in the city of David, writes Elinor, who spent last year in Palestine. We started about midday with our dragsman, Jeng, Jerusalem, leaving the Bab el Khilati, off Jaffa gate, outside of which gathered a motley crowd of donkeys, camels, vehicles, fruit sellers and fellahen women, with tall water jars on their heads. We drove beneath the walls of the city on the left, past the Pool of Gihon on the right, and followed the beautiful Hebron road, passing the stately Greek Convent of Mar Elias, from which there is a fine view of the wilderness slopes towards Jericho and the distant blue mountains of Moab. Many travelers were wending their way towards the city to celebrate the birth of our Lord—some from curiosity, some from devotion. Even the Russian pilgrims walked out to witness the ceremony of their rival church, although their own Christmas festival would not take place until some twelve days later.

For awhile Bethlehem was hidden from our view by the intervening hills, but as length we reached the city, and drove somewhat unreasonably down the narrow, crooked streets, the crowd was very great, and even the house roofs were thronged with people. The Bethlehem women are very picturesque in their blue dresses, the bodices gayly embroidered with red and yellow. The married women wore tall caps, loaded with coins, and covered by a large square white veil, which falls behind and around. The old maid's complexion, dark eyes and lovely teeth look beautiful beneath this canopy, and one is struck by the intelligence of their expression.

Bethlehem is almost entirely a Christian city. There are hardly any Moslems, but the inhabitants are converts to the Greek, Roman and Armenian creeds, and the Church of the Nativity is divided into three sanctuaries for those rival sects, whose jealousy and animosity are often very great. We mounted a house-roof in order to have a new view. An eastern crowd is always a motley one, all sorts and nationalities mixed together in bright dresses, dark faces, children running in and out resplendent in festal garb. Presently the monks from the convent came out carrying tapers, and gathered in two lines to welcome the Latin patriarch, or, on this occasion, the bishop, who had come in his stead. The procession formed, and a Turkish gun was fired as the uniform and red fez fell into rank behind to keep the peace, and slowly the bishop and his attendant priests proceeded to the Church of the Nativity. We followed afterwards. The basilica was crowded and the music was fine, the lights gleamed on the altar, dark faces to the organ, led us into the cavern—narrow and dark—with costly lamps suspended above the different altars. A large silver star sunk into the ground marks the spot to which the "Star in the East" guided the footsteps of the Magi. The grotto was crowded with worshippers, kneeling in silent adoration. Near the cave is shown the spot where the Murder of the Innocents is said to have been perpetrated and beneath the church is the cell where St. Jerome labored at his translation of the New Testament.

In the evening a midnight Mass is celebrated, when the image of the Babe in the manger is carried to the Cave of the Nativity. At some little distance below the city stretches the field supposed to be the spot where the angels first appeared to the Magi singing the Christmas message—pax in terra.

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—Do you know that you can get the finest Castoria.

—Do you know where to get your garden seeds in packages or by measure Sechler & Co.

—Do you know we have the old style sugar syrups, pure goods at 40 cents and 60 cents per gallon, Sechler & Co.

—Do you know where to get your flour and feed.

—Do you know where to get your hair dresser.

—Do you know we have the old style sugar syrups, pure goods at 40 cents and 60 cents per gallon, Sechler & Co.

How the Chimes Rang.

An old legend says that there was in a city in Germany an old church in whose belfry were the most beautiful chimes in the world. No man or woman living had ever heard them ring, but each one had heard his father or grandfather tell of their wonderful beauty.

There was a belief among the people that the chimes would ring on Christmas Day if they brought their most precious gifts and laid them on the altar of the church. The king appointed the next Christmas for every man, woman, and child in the city to bring his gift.

First came the king and laid his crown upon the altar. The people gazed in wonder and sat waiting expectantly; for surely no gift could be more precious than the king's crown. But the chimes did not ring. Then a soldier came and laid his sword upon the altar, but the chimes did not ring. A woman brought a beautiful dress, all of her own weaving and laid it by the soldier's sword, but there was no sound from the old belfry. A maiden brought flowers, planted and watered by her own hands, but still the chimes did not ring.

Now there was in a distant part of the city a little boy named Peter, who for weeks had been saving a few small coins for his gift. It had been very hard to save them. But at last he was on his way with these, his most precious gift, to lay on the altar. He had nearly reached the steps of the church when a white made him look down on the sidewalk. There in a doorway crouched a little dog with a broken leg. What should Peter do? It was getting late. If he waited to take the dog home and bind up his leg, the church would be closed and he would lose his little chance to make the beautiful chimes ring. But another white came from the dog. Peter took his hand from the pocket where he had earned money, laid it on the dog in his arms and ran home as swiftly as he could. As he came to the door he called to his Brother Hans. "Hans, quickly, take the money and run back to the church. Quickly, Hans! It may be closed and the chimes have not been rung."

Then he set to work binding up the dog's leg. His little brother ran to the church. The western sunlight was throwing long shadows down the aisles as the people sat waiting, discouraged, hoping against hope to make the beautiful chimes ring. But the altar and still the chimes were silent. Just as a few left their places to pass out, giving up hope, a tiny boy came panting, breathless, up the steps, down the long aisle, straight to the altar where he laid a few small coins.

Suddenly from out the long silent belfry broke the most wonderful music—filling the church, the air, the city, with glorious harmony. People fell upon their knees in joy and thankfulness, men who had not prayed in years praised God, mothers held their little children more closely to their hearts. The whole city seemed caught up in heavenly melody and held close to the heart of God.

And from a window in a distant part of the city little Peter's face looked out, his great longing changed into great peace. His own small gift had made the chimes ring out at last.—Selected.

—Do you know that you can get the finest oranges, bananas and grape fruit, and pine apples, Sechler & Co.

—Do you know where to get your garden seeds in packages or by measure Sechler & Co.

—Do you know we have the old style sugar syrups, pure goods at 40 cents and 60 cents per gallon, Sechler & Co.

—Do you know where to get your flour and feed.

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—Do you know we have the old style sugar syrups, pure goods at 40 cents and 60 cents per gallon, Sechler & Co.

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