

FARM NOTES.

—Feeding mash to laying hens during the summer months cannot be overlooked. Remember that a successful job of culling cannot be done on a poorly fed flock.

—Mite infected houses in which the young stock roost are very often the cause of unsatisfactory pullets. Clean the mites out thoroughly by painting the perches with carbolineum or some coal-tar preparation.

—Men handling sheep should put in rape, oats or peas for forage at this time in order to have a supply of green feed available at a time when the pasture becomes short and dry.

—A sheep is a small animal and one may be slaughtered for family use without waste, even in warm weather. Sheep ought to be raised for fresh meat, if not for wool and for breeding stock.

—Many people who live in town and have a small garden, as well as shrubbery and trees, are not equipped to fight insect pests. A small, compressed air sprayer which holds three or four gallons and can be thrown over the shoulder will serve the purpose. Inquire at your seed or implement store.

—No breeder or farmer can afford to harbor tuberculosis in his herd. It can be eliminated by the application of the tuberculin test and careful handling of the herd. Write to the Bureau of Animal Industry, Harrisburg, Pa., concerning the State and Federal Accredited plan for eradicating tuberculosis.

—Milk sometimes assumes a slimy or stringy condition. Thisropy fermentation is due to bacteria. It is necessary to sterilize utensils in steam to get rid of the trouble. It is also advisable to wash tables, benches and utensils with some disinfectant, such as a solution of bleaching powder (chloride of lime).

—Considerable profit can be derived from fattening the broilers that are to be marketed. This should not be attempted if the birds are to be shipped alive to any great distance. A good fattening ration consists of two pounds of corn meal, one pound of ground oats, one pound of wheat shorts and eight pounds of buttermilk.

—Tests carried on by Iowa State college foresters with fence posts that have been charred before placing them in the ground shows that these posts do not last a great deal longer than those uncharred. Although the charring places a surface of charcoal on the post which is not pleasant for insects to penetrate, the post is destroyed and weakened so that the outcome in the end is doubtful.

—It is the tendency after a good year of crops on the farm, to add live stock in sufficient numbers to consume the extra crops produced. Then when the poor year comes along, high-priced feed must be bought or some of the stock must be sold. It would be better to keep the amount of stock which will consume the crops produced on the land in a lean year rather than buy feed for excess stock when the cost is high.

—Off flavors in butter are largely due to the care which the cream receives after separation. Cream should be cooled immediately after separating and held cold until twenty-four hours before it is to be churned. The temperature should then be raised to 70 degrees F. and the cream allowed to become slightly sour. Three hours before churning it must be cooled to the churning temperature.

—Grasses and weeds are enormous consumers of soil moisture, to say nothing of available plant food. The moisture content of the soil plays an important part in fruit production, an all-important part in fact. Unless there is an abundance of moisture, the quality of the fruit is certain to be affected, even though all other conditions are favorable. There are other reasons why the orchard soil should not be expected to maintain an intercrop to any large extent. Weeds and grasses often afford a hiding place for orchard pests at certain seasons of the year. Some forms of diseases may be propagated on them, even though kept off the trees during a majority of the year.

—Too many Pennsylvania poultrymen are practicing a hit or miss game in selecting breeding cockerels, said H. D. Monroe, poultry extension specialist of The Pennsylvania State College in addressing the meeting of the Pennsylvania Poultry Association at Harrisburg on January 25th. There is a great demand in this State for breeding cockerels of standard breeding and from high producing hens, he pointed out, for many poultrymen are buying from flocks no better than their own.

—The remedy for this is a specially selected small pen of outstanding good hens from which the breeding cockerels for next year could be raised," says Mr. Monroe. "Any farmer having two hundred or more hens can well afford to have such a pen."

—Comparatively few gardeners give the question of the selection of seed the attention its importance demands, declares Dean R. L. Watts, of The Pennsylvania State College agricultural school. The average gardener is too much inclined to accept catalogue descriptions of varieties and be content with the varieties they have been growing for years. He advises that if there is anything better to be obtained, to be constantly on the lookout for it and grow it.

—If a man is able to grow five tons or more of cabbage per acre by using the right seed, even if it does cost more, is it not an important factor in lowering the cost of the production and raising our profits per acre?" is a question that Dean Watts applies to the problem. "Don't be too certain that you have the best, or that you know exactly where to get it. Take time to make a thorough investigation of the whole question."

MYSTERY.

By L. A. Miller.

There are mysteries and mysteries—Some may be solved, while others will remain a mystery until the end of time. A friend complimented me on my previous views on presentiments, ideas on somnambulism; another difficult problem.

It is a fact that sleep has its own world, and a queer world it is. Its mysteries are fathomless and its wonders marvelous. It seems more a world of chance than anything else, yet there is perfect method in much that is found therein. Books have been written on the oddities and peculiarities of this land of woe, yet its mysteries remain. How often does a lovely face shine forth through the dark, filmy tapestries, filling the soul of the sleeper with delight, and as quickly grow old, haggard and shriveled, changing from angel to imp, or melting into formless cloud. The waking mind may recall the face and form but no amount of coaxing or pleading will induce morpheus to reproduce the picture. Scarcely is it possible to find in the realms of nature such delicate tints, exquisite delineations and masterly groupings as in the art galleries of shadow-loving somnus. This capricious god of sleep, with his brother Moros, and their constant companion Nox, delight in defying the fixed laws of the natural world, setting at naught every doctrine of philosophy, driving artists and poets crazy with his divine conceptions, inimical touches of color, marvelous designs and thrilling revelations.

He plays with the fancy, toys with the passions and laughs at reason. There are times, however, when there is a method, or at least a seeming method, in his antics, as though he had condescended to reason or to step within the bounds of common sense. At such times the human soul is permitted to wander at will through familiar paths and breathe the atmosphere of reality. Faces and forms, events and seasons occur in their proper places, and to all appearances are as orderly as when under the strict laws of physical health. Somnambulism is perhaps one of the most common pranks of the restless young god who goes around with his torch turned down as though afraid of being seen. As the doctor says of Lady Macbeth's sleep walking: "A great perturbation in nature, to receive the benefit of sleep; and to do the effects of watching." There are but few who have not, at some time in their lives, walked in their sleep or indulged in pranks of the time, or having any recollection of it afterwards. The fewest number, however, have a habit of so doing or indulge in it to such an extent as to make it a source of annoyance to friends or an inconvenience to themselves. The disposition toward somnambulism usually passes away in the course of a year or two, and that ends it.

Before Somnambulism was understood, it was supposed that a different Soul had possession of the body. The ancients imagined that the Soul of some departed person having need of a material body to enable it to accomplish certain ends, simply crowded the soul out of some quiet sleeper, and went about its errand, leaving the other soul to roam around at will and patiently await the return of its body. It is not safe, or at least good policy, to suddenly arouse a sleep-walker, or even one who is dreaming. The usual manifestations in somnambulism are merely those of getting out of bed, going about the house in the dark without the aid of a light, singing songs that are new to the individual, delivering sermons and addresses far above their waking capacity, solving problems and divining puzzles entirely beyond their every-day knowledge. The greatest trouble about all this is that the results can rarely be recalled when the person awakes, so that sleep-walkers are not much ahead of those who sleep quietly in their beds. There is usually very little reliance to be placed in the revelations made by somnambulists. About the only difference between them and a common dreamer is that the one lies still in his bed and thinks, while the other gets out and acts. In the latter case the motor and sensory systems of nerves are both affected.

Somnambulism is certainly a disease, or rather a symptom of a disease, and one that should receive instant and careful attention. It generally manifests itself in young people at about the age of fourteen, but it is only in rare instances where it is notably bad. No matter how slightly, however, you may depend upon it, that there is a disturbance in the nervous system and one that will make serious trouble if let alone or encouraged is evident.

Among the most prominent somnambulists, as well as believers in dreams and patrons of spiritualism, was the late General Gordon, of Egyptian fame. He was free to say when he left home that he would never return to it alive; but he was too good a soldier to refuse to go, or even to say the expedition would be a failure. He knew not the time nor the manner of his taking off, but he had every reason for believing it would be as painful and cruel as those half civilized and bloodthirsty Africans could manage to make it.

There is no denying the fact that we are all touched with superstition. It seems to have been born in us, and no amount of schooling or training will thoroughly eradicate it. Comparatively few believe in ghosts, yet none, or at least very few, can honestly say they are not afraid of haunted houses, graveyards and places where strange lights have been seen, or peculiar sounds heard.

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FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

Without friendship this life is but misery, and it is so difficult to find a true friend that the search is almost needless; but if you ever do it ought to be cherished as an exotic plant.—Nelson.

Simple Sunday School Tableaux.—Nothing is more generally attractive, both to children and to adults, than tableaux, or living pictures, as they are frequently called, and with the limitless possibilities of crepe paper it is now very easy, with comparatively little expense or trouble, to arrange effective costumes. Scenery may be more or less elaborate, but it can even be dispensed with entirely, substituting portieres of any rich dark color for a background. If these cannot be had, paste paper or cambri, preferably dark red, over clothes-horses. If possible, have in front of the pictures a large wooden frame, across which tartan is stretched, or mosquito netting without the laid will answer. Give the wood a coat of gold paint. If that cannot be had use yellow. The frame should, of course, be large enough to enclose the largest of the tableaux. Place it from four to six feet in front of them.

Choose from the Scriptures scenes in which one or more children appear, as many as the time allotted for the tableaux will permit. For instance, Hagar departing with Ishmael from Abraham's home. The tent can be made of two clothes-horses covered with gray or white blankets, or sheets, or white coverlets may be stretched over it. At the opening appears Sarah's figure in a loose white robe. Hagar, holding in one hand a brown jug and leading Ishmael by the other, stands with her head turned slightly back toward Sarah, while Ishmael, as if reluctant to leave the tent, drags behind, pulling at her hand. Hagar and Ishmael both wear lead-colored costumes and sandals.

The daughter of Jephthah, coming out with her maidens to meet her father, all the young girls dressed in white robes with garlands of flowers, and holding aloft musical instruments while standing in the attitude of dancing, would be an admirable group. The Egyptian princess and her maidens watching the cradle of Moses is a very effective tableau. Green crepe paper can be used to represent the bank of the river, and a large shallow basket, in which is a doll nearly covered by its long white robe, should be placed at the back of this picture, the princess and one or more attendants standing in front nearest to the audience.

Joseph about to be thrown into the pit by his brothers can also be given, the boy in his "coat of many colors," which may be represented by a white robe striped with crepe paper in different colors and girdled at the waist by a long sash which may be of cheese-cloth if silk is not at hand. Or the upper part of the robe may be white and the bottom trimmed with four or five bands, each a different color. The brothers—of course much older—wear plain gray or brown costumes.

David in a white robe posed with his sling, in which he is just fitting a pebble to hurl at Goliath, is excellent for a picture containing a single figure. He may also appear a second time seated with his harp outside the tent in which Saul is supposed to be. But it would be far more effective to represent the interior of the tent, which can be made of white sheets. A rug on the floor piled with cushions, on which sits Saul in an Eastern costume that can be made of gay-hued shawls of Bagdad couch-covers or portieres. He wears a gilt paper crown and leans his head on his hand, the elbow resting on his knee. David should be in white, standing with his harp before the king.

The figure of the infant Samuel at prayer can easily be represented—the little white robe made of white cheese-cloth. Have a fair-haired child, if possible. If the hair can be powdered perfectly white to give this tableau the appearance of a statue it will introduce variety.

The closing tableau if the entertainment is given near the Christmas season, might be copied from any of the paintings representing the manger, or the adoration of the Magi; or if this is desired, let it end with a group of shepherds, one or two of them mere boys, in robes of brown or gray—the boys may be in white to render the tableau more effective—all with

the shepherds' crooks, their eyes lifted and turned in the same direction. Call this tableau the "Star of Bethlehem," especially if the star cannot be represented; but in buildings lighted by electricity this can be done without difficulty.

"A successful guessing game for a children's party played out of doors was called a 'Seeing-the-Town Trip,'" says a writer in the Woman's Home Companion for April. "A large collection of local postcards was pinned about the lawn on the tree trunks and other places. The cards were numbered, and, of course, the names of the views cut off. The children were furnished with pencils and paper and told to 'travel around town' and write down what they saw. It was comical to see how some of the most familiar scenes puzzled them. The prizes were a postcard album for the most successful guesser and a collection of cards for the one who recognized the fewest number."

To wash colored ribbons make a lather of either cold or luke warm water and fine soap. Wash the ribbons by "sousing" them up and down and squeezing. Do not rub, pull or twist them. Very soiled places may be cleaned by rubbing in a good suds with the palm of the hand. Rinse them several times, always in soapy water, not clear water. Rinse as many times as necessary in water of the same temperature as the wash water. There is no advantage in adding soap to the rinse water. White silk ribbons may be blueed, but the blueing water should be of the same temperature as all the other water used. Squeeze the water out.

Penn State to Admit None Before July.

While many applications for admission to The Pennsylvania State College have already come to the office of Registrar A. H. Espenshade, no students will be admitted until early in July, according to information from the college. This action is taken to give every applicant an equal chance. It postpones the actual admission until all of the high schools of Pennsylvania have graduated their Seniors and the principals have had time to fill out and send in the usual certificates of entrance credit. Entrance will be based upon scholastic standing and not upon priority of application.

Registrar Espenshade announces that foreign language credits for entrance are no longer required in the schools of agriculture, engineering, mining, and natural science, or in the department of home economics. Preparation in a foreign language is required for liberal arts courses, however. Students in the agricultural courses at Penn State are no longer required to study any of the foreign languages.

—The "Watchman" gives all the news while it is news.

Deficient Vitality a Great Misfortune.

Persons who can rarely or never say that they feel full of life, are really among the most unfortunate. They do not live, but merely exist; for to live implies more than to be. To live is to be well and strong—to arise feeling equal to the ordinary duties of the day, and to retire not overcome by them—to feel life bounding in the veins. A medicine that has made thousands of people, men and women, well and strong, has accomplished a great work, bestowing the richest blessings. Such a medicine is Hood's Sarsaparilla. The weak, run-down, or debilitated, from any cause, should not fail to take it. It builds up the whole system, changes existence into life, and makes life more abounding. It is simple justice to say these words in its favor. Hood's Pills very effectively supplement it in cases where a cathartic or laxative is needed.

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