

Miscellaneous.

The conjurers of old. The medium of the present day bears a closer resemblance in methods and manipulations to the well-known conjurer of history than any other representative of the magic art. How far short he still remains of the performance of his prototypes is illustrated below. In 1615 a delegation of highly educated and distinguished men from the English East India Company visited the Emperor Jehangir. While on their mission they witnessed many wonderful performances, almost causing them to discredit their senses, and far beyond any hint even of solution. A party of Bengalese conjurers and jugglers, showing their art before the Emperor, were desired to produce upon the spot, and from seed, ten mulberry trees. They immediately planted ten seeds, which, in a few minutes produced as many trees. The ground divided over the spot, when a seed was planted, thin leaves appeared, at once followed by slender shoots, which rapidly gained elevation, putting out leaves and twigs and branches, finally spreading wide in the air, budding, blossoming and yielding fruit, which matured upon the spot and was found to be excellent. And this before the beholder had turned away his eyes. Fig, almond, mango and walnut trees were at the same time under like conditions produced, yielding the fruit which belonged to each. Wonder succeeded wonder. The branches were filled with birds of brilliant plumage, sitting about among the leaves and singing sweet notes. The leaves turned to rasset, fell from their places, branches and twigs withered, and finally the trees sank back into the earth, out of which they had all sprung within the hour.

The same conjurers performed a series of marvels, one of them produced a chain fifty cubits in length. One end of the chain they threw into the air, when the chain rapidly flew out in whole length, and remained fixed in the air as if fastened against the sky. A dog was then placed upon the chain when he ran to the other end, and at once disappeared. A hog, a panther, and other large animals were successively despatched up this aerial pathway and each in turn disappeared from the far end. Nor were they again; and finally the chain was withdrawn, and placed in a bag for convenient carriage.

Another had a bow and about fifty steel-pointed arrows. He shot an arrow into the air, when, lo! the arrow became fixed in space, at a considerable distance. Another and another arrow was sent off, each fixing itself in the shaft of the preceding, until all formed a chain of arrows in the air, excepting the last shot, which, striking the chain, brought the whole to the ground in detachments.

They set up two common tents facing each other, and about a bowshot apart. These tents were critically examined by the spectators, as are the cabinets of the mediums, and pronounced empty. The tents were fastened to the ground all around. The lookers on were then invited to choose what animals or birds they would have issue from these tents to engage in a battle. Khan-Jahau, incredulously asked to see a fight between ostriches. In a few minutes an ostrich came out from each tent, rushed to combat with deadly earnestness, and from them the blood soon began to stream; but they were so nearly matched that neither could win the victory, and they were at last separated by the conjurers and conveyed into the tents. After this the varied demands of the spectators, for birds or beasts were exactly complied with, always with the same results.

They took a man and apparently severed limb from limb, actually at last cutting off his head, as it appeared. They scattered these members along the ground, for a considerable distance, and allowed them to remain for some time. Gathering them together, they spread over these remains a sheet, under which one juggler crawled, and soon came out, followed by the man who had been discovered, now sound in every part. Neither was there to be found about the place any trace of the thing that had been done.

A large cauldron was set, and into it a quantity of rice was thrown. Without the sign of fire this rice soon began to boil, and out from the cauldron was taken more than one hundred plates of cooked rice, with a stewed fowl at the top of each. This trick is performed on a smaller scale by the most ordinary fakirs of the present day.

But space fails to give opportunity for illustrating, from the records of the past, how the miserably tame performances—by comparison of the mediums of the present day—were pale and overshadowed by those of other days and more adult people. There is not a wonderful feature in any of these so-called phenomena or manifestations which was not, nay, which is not now performed more duplicated by other skillful performers, whose connection with earth, and earth alone, is too evident to be doubted, even if the fact was not supported by their own testimony.

GOT OFF AT THE WOODS STATION.—The death of one of the oldest citizens of Brookfield recalls an incident in her career which happened some fifteen years ago.

She was going to Stamford to visit a daughter, and took her seat in the cars for the first and only time in her life. During the ride an accident occurred whereby the car in which she was seated was thrown down an embankment and demolished. Crawling out from beneath the debris she spied a man who was held down in a sitting posture by his legs being fastened.

"Is this Stamford?" she anxiously inquired.

"The man was from Boston. He was in considerable pain, but he did not lose sight of the fact that he was from Boston, so he said:

"No, this is a catastrophe."

"Oh!" ejaculated the old lady, "then I hadn't oughter not of here."

This was so evident as to make a reply unnecessary.—Danbury News.

THE MAN WHO KNEW.—Once in a great while a man can stand on a street corner in Detroit and ask a question which can't be answered, but such instances are very rare. Yesterday noon, when an old citizen answered an inquiry of a crowd at the Post-Office, it wasn't a second before he was being awaked. He started out with the remark that he was nearly sixty years old, and ended by asking:

"Can anybody tell me why we have this warm spell called Indian summer?"

"Yes, sir," was the prompt answer. "It is to give certain persons a chance to wash up and get on a clean shirt before winter sets in for good."

The old resident coughed several times, took another look at the sky, and moved on. After he had gone about a block he halted, suddenly grew red in the face and exclaimed: "Come to think of it I believe that scoundrel meant to insult me, and I wish I had knocked him down!"—Detroit Free Press.

Agricultural.

Effect of Salt on Wheat.

In an interesting series of experiments recently made on the farm of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the material value of salt was unmistakably indicated. An acre of wheat dressed with three hundred pounds of common salt yielded thirty-nine bushels of grain, with a proportionate amount of straw, while an adjoining acre left undressed, produced only twenty-nine bushels per acre, with the straw imperfectly developed, showing an increase of ten bushels per acre. The entire cost of the crop is not stated, but this experiment shows that the additional ten bushels resulting from the salt were produced at a cost of thirty cents each.

In another case a piece of ground intended for wheat was plowed the preceding fall and again in May, when it was sown with salt, and afterwards plowed twice before sowing. On the 1st and 2d of September, wheat was sown at the rate of two bushels to the acre. The crop when harvested yielded, according to the estimate of the owner, Mr. John Parke, not less than forty bushels of grain to the acre, with a luxuriant growth of straw. From these and many similar cases the inference seems to be that salt is a specific for the wheat crop, imparting solidity to the grain and firmness to the straw.

Planting Strawberries in September.

A reader of Scribner living in New Jersey writes to know if strawberries planted in the early part of September, will bear a crop of fruit next year. To this inquiry I would say, Yes, under the following conditions: 1st, the soil must be rich, deep and mellow; 2d, the plant must be of this year's growth, with healthy roots, and plenty of them, and must be transplanted in moist or damp weather, and if the weather continues dry, must be watered freely a few times, always in the evening when the sun has gone down; 3d, the strawberry bed must be mulched before cold weather sets in, with yard manure, to be left on until Spring. With such treatment, a bed of strawberries may be set out in September that will yield, as quite as much fruit as if put out in the Spring, but enough for family use, and the berries will be, on the average, of larger size than those of the Spring planting.—P. T. Quinn, in Scribner for September.

Farmers' sons should spend more of their time at home in the evening, and in rainy weather, reading good books and papers, and laying up a supply of valuable information, that will be needed when they become men and participate in the native duty of citizenship. Knowledge can only be acquired by study. It can't be bought. It doesn't come by intuition. Wishing for it will never secure it. Nothing but downward hard study will obtain it. If farmers are ever to have the influence and equal classes possess, they must possess equal intelligence; and this intelligence is only gained by improving their spare moments profitably. If we belonged to the brute creation, we might get along by eating and sleeping and enjoying our ease; but as we are human beings, distinguished from the brutes by having minds, we should make the distinction between ourselves and them as great as possible, by giving our mental powers the largest and widest culture possible.

CORN MEAL FOR STOCK.—We are not prepared to adopt Mr. Llaus W. Miller's exclusive diet for dairy cows but there can be no doubt that in the regions where the drought has cut off the crops of feed corn-meal will be found a valuable auxiliary in carrying stock through. Hay is selling in many places at twenty dollars a ton from the field, which indicates thirty or more as the winter and spring price. Mean while corn is quoted at fifty to fifty-five cents in the city, and as delivered in bulk at the sea-ports for about sixty cents a bushel. This is but little over twenty dollars a ton, and is thereby more profitable for feeding than hay. It is very largely used when hay is under twenty dollars a ton, and the use should be increased, as the price of hay rises. The reports of the corn crop and the price are likely to be low. Straw, corn-fodder, swale hay, may all be used to advantage in preparing cut feed with Indian meal.

GOOD COWS.—The largest recorded yield of a single cow that is well authenticated is that of an animal kept at the jail at Lewes, England, in eight consecutive years she gave 9,730 gallons, an average of more than 1,210 gallons a year. She was milked in one year 325 days and gave 1,239 gallons, which made 540 pounds of butter at the rate of a pound of butter from 20 pounds of milk. An Ayrshire cow recently yielded 300 pounds of butter after calving—between March 10, 1868, and Jan. 10th, 1869—besides supplying a family with milk and cream. It must be apparent that the proportion of butter will vary, not only with the breed but with the season of the year. The milk of the Ayrshire cow is generally richer in butter than that of the Short-Horn but not so rich as that of the Jersey or the Brittany. The best returns of butter are generally got late in the Summer or early in the Fall, in September or October.

HAIR DRESSING,

nothing else can be found so desirable. Containing neither oil nor dye, it does not soil white cambric, and yet lasts long on the hair, giving it a rich, glossy lustre and a grateful perfume.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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There is a considerable commerce in trade between France and England. A ton of good size and in fair condition will fetch one shilling in the London market, and a dozen of the extra quality are worth £1 sterling. Market-gardeners employ them to keep down insects.

Schreck's Mandrake Pills.

Will be found to possess those qualities necessary for the relief of an inflamed prostate, and to start the secretions of the liver and give a healthy tone to the entire system. Indeed, it is no ordinary remedy in medical science, to have invented a remedy for these stubborn complaints, which develop all the resources of medicine, to have discovered a cure, a simple, easily-dressed by making, and acknowledged to be effective, for the relief of the human system. That the properties of certain vegetables combined with the medicinal qualities of the Mandrake Pills will be found to possess those qualities necessary for the relief of an inflamed prostate, and to start the secretions of the liver and give a healthy tone to the entire system. Indeed, it is no ordinary remedy in medical science, to have invented a remedy for these stubborn complaints, which develop all the resources of medicine, to have discovered a cure, a simple, easily-dressed by making, and acknowledged to be effective, for the relief of the human system.

PUBLIC REPORT

POLICEMAN.

I have not enjoyed good health for several years past, yet have not been able to take any rest, and every one belonging to the several classes of ailments, which are usually associated with the body, from debility, almost refuses to believe that I am not a patient of the hospital. I have never heard of Vegetine until I read of it in the Standard. I have since tried it, and have found it to be a most valuable remedy. It has cured me of all my ailments, and has given me a new lease of life. I have since tried it, and have found it to be a most valuable remedy. It has cured me of all my ailments, and has given me a new lease of life.

HEART-FELT PRAYER.

Dear Sir,—I should be wanting in gratitude, if I did not thank you for the relief you have given me. I was attacked about eleven months ago, with a severe attack of rheumatism, which was accompanied by a severe attack of neuralgia. I have since tried it, and have found it to be a most valuable remedy. It has cured me of all my ailments, and has given me a new lease of life.

MAKE IT PUBLIC.

Dear Sir,—I have heard from very many sources of the great success of Vegetine in cases of rheumatism, neuralgia, and other ailments. I have since tried it, and have found it to be a most valuable remedy. It has cured me of all my ailments, and has given me a new lease of life.

Has Entirely Cured Me.

Dear Sir,—My daughter, after having a severe attack of whooping cough, was left in a feeble state of health, and was unable to get on her feet. I have since tried it, and have found it to be a most valuable remedy. It has cured me of all my ailments, and has given me a new lease of life.

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Ayer's Hair Vigor,

For restoring Gray Hair to its natural Vitality and Color.

A dressing which is at once agreeable, healthy, and effective for preserving the hair. Faded or gray hair is soon restored to its original color, with the gloss and freshness of youth.

This hair is thickened, falling hair checked, and baldness often, though not always, cured by its use. Nothing can restore the hair where the follicles are destroyed, or the glands atrophied and decayed. But such as remain can be saved for usefulness by this application. Instead of fouling the hair with a paste, as is often done, it will keep it clean and vigorous. Its occasional use will prevent the hair from turning gray or falling out, and consequently prevent baldness. Free from those deleterious substances which make some preparations dangerous, and injurious to the hair, the Vigor can only benefit but not harm it. If wanted merely for a

HAIR DRESSING,

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