

FOR THE LADIES

A WONDERFUL DRESS.

A wonderful dress was seen on a tall and stately beauty at a recent dinner party. It was of black taffeta, entirely plain, and of Princesse shape. The skirt being exceedingly long, had three small shaped flounces, while the corsage was slightly draped with jeweled lace and held to the shoulders with three small straps of pearls, while chains and chains of alternate diamonds and pearls were worn round the neck.

BOLERO OF ROSE-CLOTH.

There has sprung into being a little bolero built of fine cloth in some faint color of rose, green or powder-blue, a coatee destined to complete a corsette jupe of white pique or white linen, the whole forming a gown of particular "cachet" for the "plage" and casino. It is not difficult to picture the typical Frenchwoman's rendering of this slightly incongruous alliance, though the simple washing skirt and ornamental bolero is at once effective and in tune.

BLACK VELVET ROSETTES.

Black velvet rosettes are frequently to be seen, and always with good effect, on gowns where the velvet is used as trimming, and often when it is not used. One gown which is trimmed thus has a short pointed bolero worn over a bloused bodice of lace, the two fronts well separated and strapped across with half-inch-wide bands of velvet finished with fancy buttons. The choux of the narrow velvet come in, one at the neck, worn on the left side of the stock, and the other worn on the right side of the bolero about in the centre, with loop ends some three inches long falling below the edge of the bolero.

NEW WAY OF WEARING THE LONG CHAIN.

A new way of wearing the long chain formerly used as watch chains is to twist them around the throat as many times as their length will permit, then fasten the two ends together with a large handsome clasp of baroque pearl, turquoise or any stone that matches the costume or suits the fancy. If it ends with a pendant so much the better. One ingenious woman had a pair of old fashioned earrings, large and valuable, fastened to the pin of the set in such a way that the whole made a rather stunning pendant, odd but effective.

STEWART'S BEST CAPITAL WAS HIS WIFE.

Alexander T. Stewart, the prince of American merchants of his time, owed much to his wife. Men in New York City who know much about their early start, of their first efforts to climb the long ladder to fortune and prosperity, know that it was Mrs. Stewart's taste in color, prudence in investment and forecasting of the coming fashions that gave to the great firm its prestige, and aided it in its onward toward a plane of universal recognition as the leading house on the continent.

Many visitors, familiar with the interior of Stewart's great establishment, can recall the slight lady-like figure of the wife of the head of the firm, often seen there, going about, unpretentious, from department to department, from counter to counter, from clerk to clerk, inquiring here, listening there, attentive everywhere. When success had perched upon his banner of thrift and enterprise, the great merchant was prompt to admit that much of his exceptional good fortune was due to the woman who wave him, not her hand alone, but, with it, her head, well stored with mother wit and much good sense.—*Success*.

HOME FOR POVERTY-STRICKEN SPINSTERS.

If the wishes of the late Mrs. Fannie Carmody, of Evansville, are carried out by her husband at his death he will leave his property for the endowment of a home for old maids and widows. During her life Mrs. Carmody was a successful business woman. She was at the head of a large dressmaking establishment for years and made a great deal of money in business. This was judiciously invested, and at the time of her death it amounted to a fortune. Her husband has been successful in business and made considerable money.

The couple have no children and no relations, consequently the wife left her property to her husband with the suggestion that he use it to found a home. The idea of having such a home founded was the result of Mrs. Carmody coming in contact with her business career and seeing the sufferings and privations they were subjected to because of a lack of means or way to provide for life.

Since her death Mrs. Carmody has received numerous letters on the subject, and a few widows of means have asked for details, saying they have no heirs and are desirous of adding what they leave to the Carmody home.—*Chicago Tribune*.

STRANGE PROFESSIONS FOR WOMEN.

Women breadwinners have chosen strange careers for themselves in various parts of the earth. If not to adopt like professions, to act upon the principle which guided them to choose the one thing they could do that was near at hand.

For example, in Georgia a woman not only personally delivers mail over a forty-mile route, riding over the scantily settled region of Montgomery County thrice weekly during the entire year, but manages a large farm as well, doing much of the manual labor, such as plowing, harrowing, sowing and harvesting, and supports by her energy and courage a family of four, relates the *Ulca Observer*.

Not twenty miles from Savannah

there resides a widow who has for the last two years made more than a comfortable income as a government contractor, bidding for the removal of wrecks, anchoring of buoys, building of jetties and dredging.

Few persons riding over the New London Northern Railway are aware that the company employs the only woman train dispatcher in the world. Her responsibility is great, her hours from 7 in the morning until 9 in the evening, her duties a continual nervous and mental strain. Recently the directors of the road complimented her upon her efficient service, and it is a pleasure to add she receives the same compensation paid the men occupying similar positions.

A Virginia girl has made a widespread reputation as well as a good bank account as a trainer of saddle horses.

ON A WOMAN'S POULTRY FARM.

One of the successful woman poultry farmers of the West is Mrs. Alma Cole Pickering, of Wisconsin. She established the poultry yards herself, and is the active manager of the place, suggesting and overseeing all improvements. The single comb white Leghorn, of which she has several varieties, is Mrs. Pickering's specialty. She made her start with a few common hens, but when these proved a success she began to take up thoroughbreds.

Like all poultry raisers, Mrs. Pickering has had many difficulties with which to contend. Some of her chickens were killed by a fierce hailstorm during the first year of her venture, and others later were devoured by rats. At another time over one hundred of the half-grown chickens were poisoned by eating a rank growth of toadstools that sprang up after the heavy and frequent warm summer rains. The chicks had never before been known to eat the toadstools, and Mrs. Pickering has since had to be careful to see that all toadstools are kept out of the chickens' feeding grounds.

She makes her greatest profit by selling eggs for hatching and mated birds for breeding purposes, and she has found a large demand for fancy stock, orders coming in even from so great a distance as British Columbia, Southern California and Massachusetts.

The house used to shelter the growing chickens faces the west, with a row of windows along the side. Outside are large scratching pens, where the chickens have free range in summer, when the pens are kept green with growing rye. One end of the long shed is partitioned off for young cockerels, the remainder, which is large and airy, being reserved for the hens. The floor is kept thickly littered with straw, and the birds get plenty of exercise scratching around for the grain that is purposely scattered through it. None of the flock are allowed out of doors in winter except in the finest weather. No attempt is made to keep the pens warm, although draughts are carefully avoided.

Mrs. Pickering never uses the prepared foods that are guaranteed to make hens lay. She believes most of them to be a positive injury to birds that are laying eggs for breeding purposes, and of doubtful value in forcing eggs production for the grocery market. She feeds the poultry according to the usual rules laid down in the first class poultry journals—with screenings, buckwheat, a little corn and sometimes a little hot meal mash of corn or oats or other ground food furnish two meals a day. A head of cabbage hung so they will have to jump at it a little is a good food and an excellent form of exercise. Table and meat scraps and bones are also given the fowls. She likes the single comb white Leghorn variety because of the beautiful purity of its plumage, its laying qualities and its hardiness.—*New York Tribune*.

FASHION NOTES.

A color scheme in jewels is just now one of the dress fads, i. e., all one's ornaments of one hue or in one stone on one occasion.

Long-haired felts of a soft and silky kind are to be one of the foremost novelties, and no doubt will prove very fashionable.

The vogue of earring and and bracelet is unquestioned, though not unbracketed, their use being a matter of individual taste, especially as to the former.

Pearls from single strand necklets to many rowed wide bands, pearls genuine and pearls in excellent imitation, pearls perfect and pearls baroque are the summer neck ornament par excellence.

A new way of wearing a lace veil has appeared. The veil is pleated and hung straight from the hat brim, which, of course, must not be too large. The effect is generally pretty and becoming.

Modistes hope to introduce old-fashioned brocades, or at least such effects in silk, this winter. Taffeta, chiffon and louisine are now favored silks, the new taffeta chiffon combining the qualities of both these fabrics.

The new coat of thick lace, which is one of the season's whims, is collarless, and demands that the blouse, which it entirely covers, except for an inch or so at the waist, shall be collarless also.

Although the Gainsborough seems the feature of the fall millinery world it will be by no means used to the exclusion of all others. The marquise shape, the three-cornered, the flat and numerous other shapes will still be to the fore.

Feathers as garnitures are almost a craze this autumn. Ostrich plumes for the Gainsborough, nageois, pompoms, heavy breasts and wings, quills, whole birds, cocque plumes, etc., are to be almost indispensable to the correct chapeaux with the advent of cooler weather.

Among Parisian novelties of the moment must be mentioned the new parasol frame with several covers, including one at least of lace, to be worn over a silk lining. The covers are so made that they can be taken off and put on at will, and the parasol may thus be varied to suit the toilet.



LATE CROP OF STRING BEANS.

On rich and warm soil, if frost does not appear too soon, a late crop of string beans may be grown for pickling, as they can be picked at any stage of growth. The seeds should be planted without delay, however, and some early variety used. Pack them in brine and use them as wanted for pickling or for the table in winter.

CORN OIL.

The corn grain has, in addition to its starch element, a tiny germ in which lies its life principle. This germ is formerly separated and thrown aside as waste. Lately it has been found that this germ is rich in oil which can be utilized. The germ is now separated from the starch and crushed. The oil gathered from it finds a ready market, and within the last few years millions of dollars' worth of this oil has been exported to Europe. After the oil is taken from the germ the gluten left in the cake is used for varnish and the residue is used for cattle food.

ENRICHING THE SOIL.

An acre of soil nine inches deep, if of ordinary fertility, is estimated to weigh about 3,000,000 pounds, and contains about 2000 pounds of nitrogen, 3000 pounds phosphoric acid and 6000 pounds potash, but these elements are not in a condition in the soil to provide the necessary plant food except by a slow process. The roots of plants are capable of reducing them, hence every crop that is grown and plowed under represents so much of the inert substances that have been changed by the plants and made available. Such crops do not add mineral matter to the soil, but bring it within reach of the farmer. In the course of time, if the crops are removed from the soil, the land will become poor and sterile.

GETTING GOOD PRICES FOR WHEAT.

Farmers who hold back their wheat for higher prices sometimes lose more than they gain, even if prices should advance a little, as the longer wheat is held the more it will shrink in weight. Higher prices are uncertain, but the shrinkage in weight seldom fails. Now wheat often brings better prices than the average for the several months following; there is also a saving of storage room; the farmer gets immediate use of the money and there is also less risk of loss by fire, weevil and other causes. It may be proper for farmers to hold on at times, but there is always as much risk in losing as there are opportunities for gaining by so doing.

DESTROYING ENGLISH SPARROWS.

A paper published in New South Wales, Australia, tells how farmers destroy English sparrows out there. They make a double coop and put one or more fowl or chickens in one compartment, leaving the other empty. When feeding they scatter a little wheat in the empty compartment, which is soon found by the sparrows. After about a week they soak the wheat in vinegar and sugar. After the sparrows have become accustomed to this, they add a little strychnine to the vinegar and sugar and allow the wheat to soak about twelve hours, then dry it and scatter it in the empty coop. One or two grains is enough to finish any sparrow, and if it is given every day at the same place in the same way, and dead birds removed if any die in the coop, hundreds of them may be destroyed, but if the dead are left it may frighten away the others. We think the same plan might also destroy many rats if they were allowed to get into the coop. Very few if any of our useful birds will go there, as they do not feed with the poultry.

BEST CROPS FOR THE DAIRY.

In dairying it is not always possible to say just what crops are best adapted for feeding, for the difference in soil and climate produce widely different results. Nevertheless, it is possible to bring the matter down to a pretty close analysis, so that even a beginner will not go astray. It is hardly wise to accept the crops that one finds growing on the farm as the best that the soil will produce. A little experiment with other crops may soon convince us that past farming has been all wrong. Our aim should be to find out which of some half a dozen crops produces the greatest profit to us. Then our attention can be devoted to the improvement and development of those crops, and we cannot fail to make advances in farming that will prove of benefit to us and to others who will listen to our experiences.

Now, in the matter of raising crops for dairy purposes it has been pretty conclusively proved that, acre for acre, cow peas give a greater amount of good milk and butter fat than any other crop that we can raise. It is not only the abundance of the crop produced to the acre, but the amount of nourishment which the crop furnishes. The cows like the cow peas, and they have their milk flow and quality improved. But there are soils and climates where it may not be wise to raise cow peas. Consequently it is necessary to consider some other crop for the dairy cows. Next to cow peas alfalfa probably gives the greatest yield of milk and butter fats. This crop has many advantages which are thoroughly appreciated, and where it thrives well it cannot be excelled for dairy purposes. In considering these two crops, however, for dairy purposes, it must be remembered that they both increase the dairy output much more when pastured green than when cut and fed. On the other hand, pastured grass never yields nearly as much to the acre. In fact, nearly all the crops yield two or three times as much when cut and fed than when pas-

tured. But the cows enjoy the pasture better, and the grass enters more quickly into the economy of the cow's life, and increases quality and quantity of milk. Undoubtedly the ideal way of dairy practice is to part pasture and part cut and feed the grass. In this way we increase the milk and butter products, and at the same time get more from a given field. A good deal of the success of dairying depends upon the proper balancing of these two methods of feeding.

In respect to corn, rye, sorghum, oats and other grasses, it may be said that they all have their usefulness in dairy practice, and most of them can be raised with direct benefit; but they should be regarded more as incidental parts of the business. The main dependence should be placed upon the two or three crops which give the highest results off a given amount of land.—W. E. Edwards.

RENEWING MEADOWS INJURED BY DROUGHT.

Just what to do with meadows which have been injured by drought is a problem. Where the ground is suitable for growing corn, oats, beets, etc., undoubtedly the best plan is to plow and devote to some cultivated crop for two or three years. To supply pasture and hay for next year sow timothy this fall on fall grains and next year put on six to ten pounds of good red clover seed per acre, harrowing it in with a smoothing harrow. This will furnish pasture during the latter part of the season, providing the weather is at all favorable for a good catch of the grass and clover seed. Where pasture must be used this fall and early next spring there is possibly nothing better than winter rye. Sow this now as soon as the ground can be prepared and when four or five inches high turn on the live stock, taking care not to graze too closely. The rye starts early in the spring and will furnish pasturage usually ahead of clover or timothy meadows. By pasturing just enough to prevent heading an immense amount of green feed can be secured.

Hay cannot be secured the first year from seed sown on fall grains. The only way to get a hay crop the first season is to sow timothy or clover or both on a field especially prepared for this purpose. The seeding should be done in early spring, just as soon as the ground can be worked. It may be necessary to delay the seeding of clover until all danger of frost is past. See that the seed is covered to a depth of one to one and one-half inches. If the season is at all favorable, a fairly good crop can be cut the first year. Where clover is seeded alone sow ten to twelve pounds per acre. Where timothy is seeded alone, sow eight to ten pounds. Where they are mixed, sow six pounds of clover and six pounds of timothy. This may seem a little heavy, for some localities, but it is much better to put on a heavy seeding than to get only a part of a catch.—*American Agriculturist*.

HOLLYHOCK FOR HENS.

Somebody says hens are as fond of hollyhock leaves as cats are of catnip. In fact it is found that cats like the hollyhock and will eat it as the fowls do. An authority urges the planting of hollyhocks for chicken food, and gives directions for their cultivation. For a hedge row there are few if any flowers more attractive or more suitable; but when used to feed the poultry the flowers it seems must be sacrificed. We would suggest that they be planted in quantities sufficient both for ornament and for hen food.

"I have been using hollyhock for poultry green fodder," says this poultry man, "for twenty years. I learned the trick from a Hollander. I saw him feeding armfuls of the leaves to his hens. Ever since that I have sowed hollyhocks regularly. The trouble is very little. The plant is a biennial. That is to say, it requires two years to come to blossom. In the first year it merely develops the root and lots of leaves, of large size, on soft stems from one to three feet high. These leaves are tender and the hens relish them.

"I cut off the rank clumps of leaves a number of times during the first summer. By planting every year I keep one or another part of the patch covered with new plants. The second year, when the plants begin to send up the large flower stalks, I cut them off as often as they sprout up, not letting the canes grow at all. Cutting off the cane or flower stalk seems to throw the forces of the plant to the formation of leaves. For seed I let some of the thickest plants stand uncut each year."

Another feature of the plant and one that does not so commend it to the suburbanite, is the decided attraction that it is for cats. In a rear garden, dear to ourselves, the clump of hollyhocks is a center of rivalry and feast for the numberless cats of the neighbors.—*Farm, Field and Fireside*.

POULTRY NOTES.

Have you been feeding your fowls milk? They will relish it and give you an egg or two.

The soil in the yard should be spaded over at least once a month to keep out germs of disease.

The older broods should not be neglected simply because some young ones require attention.

Don't be too strict on the hens and require them to lay every day. That is an impossibility.

Sow a patch of rye for your fowls next spring. It will make early pasture for them just at the time when there is no grass.

All meats for fowls, if raw, should be fresh. Tainted meats produce bad flavored eggs and are apt to have disease germs in them.

Don't let the young ducks starve because they seem to eat their heads off. They will grow fast and make up for the large amount of food they consume.

If you have no trees in your poultry

THE VALUE OF IRRIGATION.

THE SUBJECT TREATED BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

Professor Elwood Mead's Testimony—Its Great Aid to Agriculture Fully Set Forth—The Area Requiring Assistance—Enormous Values to Land Thereby.

The value of irrigation as an aid to agriculture and the enormous value that would be added to the land of the arid region by providing it with water was discussed before the industrial commission by Professor Elwood Mead. Prof. Mead was formerly the State Engineer of irrigation of Wyoming, and he is now expert in irrigation of the Department of Agriculture. He declared that irrigation is destined in the near future to occupy in the United States a leading place in national affairs.

Heretofore irrigation has been looked upon as a sectional industry, but the experience of the past fifteen years has shown that this is a mistaken idea," he said. "In southern Louisiana and southeastern Texas an area larger than many New England States has had its value increased from \$2.50 to \$5 an acre to \$50 to \$100 an acre through this agency, and promises in the course of another ten years to make this country an exporter instead of an importer of rice. All along the Atlantic seaboard irrigation is becoming an essential adjunct of market gardening, the application of moisture being found as profitable as that of fertilizers. The irrigated districts of Italy and France have an average rainfall equal to that of the New England States, and recent experience in the middle West seems to make certain that the lesson of the new world, like that of the old, is to be that no agent of agriculture or horticulture is so effective as the ability to apply moisture at the right time and in the right amount."

In about two-fifths of the United States, exclusive of Alaska and the recently acquired insular possessions, the ability to grow crops is dependent on irrigation. This is not because the land lacks fertility, but because its lacks moisture. Wherever this has been supplied the land becomes exceedingly productive. In seven States and two territories irrigated agriculture is the chief resource. The cities of Denver, Salt Lake, Los Angeles and many other towns of lesser size and importance are as much the creation of irrigation as the orchards and fields which surround them. Without the winter forage which is grown in the irrigated valleys of the immense stock ranges of the West, the suffering and losses of range cattle and sheep would every year be disastrous.

Owing to the lack of accurate records, in many States of any records whatever, we do not know and cannot know the number of miles of irrigation ditches and canals, or the area which they water. It is known that there are over 10,000 ditches and canals in Colorado and about 6,000 in Wyoming. There are more than 75,000 in the United States. In the construction of these there has been expended not less than \$200,000,000, and over \$500,000,000 has been expended in the construction of ditches and laterals and in preparing land for the distribution of water over it without taking into account the fences and habitations necessary for the cultivation of this land.

Continuing, Professor Mead said: "The States of Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado and Utah, in accepting the Carey grant to actual settlers at 50 cents an acre, and as these States have the privilege of selecting the best lands, within their border and lands known to be susceptible of irrigation, this can be taken as the estimate of those best irrigated arid land. After irrigation land values range from \$5 to \$100 an acre in the northern half of the arid region, and from \$20 to \$1,800 an acre in the southern half, the high-priced products of southern California and Arizona being the cause of the greater values in the south. The enhanced value of land is not the only evidence of the wealth created by irrigation in the arid West. It is more strikingly shown in the augmented values of rivers. To illustrate this it may be stated that a right to fifty inches of water in California recently sold for \$50,000. This was a wholesale price. It is worth more at retail. The estimated value of the rights to Colorado streams is \$50,000,000. This does not include structures for diverting but represents the value of the titles to the streams in their natural channels. In the East the use of water has not as yet become sufficiently systematized to assign it any particular value as a merchantable commodity. In Texas and Louisiana the party furnishing water for rice irrigation receives one-third of the crop. In other sections of the East it depends on the cost of the service, and is but little influenced by the value of the water itself."

"The area thus far reclaimed is far less than that awaiting irrigation," he said. "The great rivers of the arid regions, the Snake and Colorado—are as yet almost untouched. Practically all their waters run unused to the sea. The area irrigated by the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers in California can more than be doubled, and similar illustrations could be made in every State and territory of the arid region. In the humid section irrigation has only just begun, but the fact that during the past five years Louisiana has brought a large acreage under irrigation than any arid State shows the possibilities of this form of agriculture in the humid East. The thing most needed to promote this growth is to define the status of water and enact adequate laws to govern its diversion and use. When this has been settled it will be time to determine what provision shall be made for the construction of works of too great magnitude and cost for private enterprise, of which there will eventually be a large number."

The Inter-State Commerce Commission receive \$7,500 a year.

company that I am with contain some element of fraud. A slight accident that would cause an uninsured man no inconvenience, becomes serious if he happens to be carrying an accident policy. My duties are largely with this class of claims, and the amusing experiences that I have met with would fill a book.

"A few days ago I was summoned to a hospital to examine a man who claimed to have had his hearing totally destroyed by the premature explosion of some blasting powder. I had an idea from the start that the man was scheming, but all the tests that I could apply had no effect whatever, and apparently he was stone deaf. Still, I wasn't satisfied, and resolved to try a little strategy. Coaching the nurse beforehand how to act, I entered the room hastily and cried: 'The hospital is afire! Never mind the deaf man! It is too late to save him! Save yourself!'

"Then we both hurried for the door, but the patient was quicker and reached it before we did. He had the good sense to realize that the game was up, and never showed up again."—*Detroit Free Press*.

THE DIGNITY OF AGRICULTURE.

It Holds Forth Splendid Promises to Young Men of Ambition.

Within recent years it has come to be acknowledged that the vocation of the farmer is the most dignified of all the sciences, and as an art it is excelled only by those of painting and architecture. In its highest forms it is the most learned of all the professions. A knowledge of geology and chemistry and their relations to the soils lies at the very foundation of scientific agriculture. The problems that arise from the complex nature of the soils and their origin require the best thought of the best minds to solve. More educated young men should be farmers. Agriculture opens a wide field leading to influence and power, one, too, that is not filled to repletion. It holds forth the most splendid promises for young men of ambition. It is filled with liberalizing tendencies, a noble conservation and the most healthful and invigorating influences. The day is not far distant when agriculture will attract men of the largest capacity and the highest executive ability, and be regarded as the greatest of all the professions. Let any one who is familiar with what agriculture was a hundred years ago compare its condition then with what it is to-day, and he will search in vain for the same proportionate elevation and progress among its followers in any other branch of human industry. Many of those engaged in agriculture now are men of high elevation and broad reading. Many of them have extensive and valuable libraries, and take numerous journals devoted to their business. Agriculture moves along in its own quiet, dignified but irresistible way. It has no booms, so to speak, but it gathers strength with each decade and with every accession of knowledge, and will forever be the most important branch of human industry, and the greatest necessity for the human race.

If the young men who are measuring tape and laces would surrender their work to the young girls who are seeking employment and turn their attention to the pursuits of agriculture there would be less misery and more contentment in the land; there would be more independence and less servility; more men and fewer creatures; more happy wives and comfortable homes, healthful children and cheerful mothers. A woman surrounded by all the active agencies of a well-kept farm and living in a beautiful country home, "with fountains and flowers and sweet evergreens," has those environments that develop the sweetest graces and highest impulses of her nature, and make her virtues shine resplendent above the world of frivolity and fashion. She becomes a true woman, the happiest of wives and the best of mothers. Such a home of such a wife realizes our highest ideals of human happiness. It is a home where intelligence reigns and ennobles work, and work crowns intelligence with honor and profit.

A young man who is in search of an easy place, with no responsibility, will never be a master and will never control others. He who selects a vocation because it is easy is already effeminate.—*Southern Farm Magazine*.

The Art of Photographing Birds.

Strangely enough, it is not always the more rare and shy birds which are most difficult to photograph, but, on the contrary, very common and usually unobscured species, when approached with photographic intent, are exceedingly wary. This is the case with our familiar robin, and also with the kingbird or bee-martin. Time and again have I spent an entire afternoon endeavoring to photograph this saucy flycatcher, but without avail, and it is only very recently that I succeeded in inducing one to sit for his portrait, and even he condescended to do so only when his fatherly solicitude was aroused and I disturbed the peace of his young family. On the other hand, blue jays, which are notoriously wild, I have had no difficulty with, provided the time chosen was late summer or early autumn. I find that at this season they readily approach within range of my lens if their cries are imitated while in hiding. Many birds have habits which greatly facilitate matters once they are learned.—A. H. Verrell, in *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly*.

Lunch in the Water.

In the recent heat wave in Rome four swimmers made up a party at 11 o'clock in the morning and proceeded to take their breakfast in the Tiber. They appeared on the river bank carrying a table loaded with dainties, pushed off and had their meal without returning to the bank, and, what is more surprising, without touching the bottom.

Bamboo Pens.

Bamboo pens have been in use in India for over a thousand years, and are still preferred to steel or quill pens.