



For February festivities that take place on or near the fourteenth of the month, there are this year a host of charming novelties. The old-fashioned valentines are, of course, out of date for everybody but children, yet the sentiment of the day still lingers in the hearts and darts and pasteboard Cupids used on the new candy-boxes. What, for instance, could be a prettier remembrance for any young man to give his "best girl," or even a young woman for whom he had no particular regard but to whose family he was indebted for invitations to dinner or tea, dances or other functions of the season, than one of these candy-boxes? Two different styles are shown on this page—one covered with bright-red paper and decorated with a big bow of red ribbon, having in the centre Cupid himself, with his bow and arrows; the other simpler, but just as effective, covered with white crepe paper and decorated with a gilt arrow pierced through two hearts. If these boxes are wanted for souvenirs at luncheons or parties they can easily be made at home by a clever girl, for the crepe paper is very simple to manipulate. The heart-shaped pasteboard boxes can be bought ready-made at most stationery stores, and the hearts and arrows cut out of red and gold paper respectively, declares McCall's Magazine.

Even easier to make is the little round box shown at the top of the left-hand corner of this group. Any



round pasteboard box can be used as a foundation for this. It is covered with white crepe paper and a big red heart pasted in the centre. It adds to the appearance if the edges of the box are touched up with a line of gold paint, as shown in our illustration.

For serving refreshments at a Valentine party there is nothing more effective than heart and arrow ice cream or Charlotte russe boxes, and the best thing about them is that they can be so easily and quickly made. Buy some rather thin bright-red pasteboard at a stationery store, and also a sheet of white pasteboard. Then get some of the ordinary pleated paper cases that are used for Charlotte russe, bisquit glace, etc. An arrow is cut out of the white pasteboard, painted gold or covered with gilt paper and pasted across the large heart that has just been cut from the red pasteboard. A circle is then cut out of the heart, through arrow and all, the ice cream box inserted in the opening and held in place with a little paste.

The paper baskets can be even more quickly made, the foundation being the same sort of pleated paper case. In making the red paper basket, this is given a handle formed of wire, with red crepe paper twisted around it and a heart and arrow pasted at the top. The paper itself is simply covered with a frill of red paper, held in place by just a touch



MAKING VALENTINES.

A Modern Custom.
Frequently it happens that the modern valentine is sent by men as an expression of courtesy or to show appreciation of social favors received. For this purpose a pot of growing flowers, a daintily bound volume, a basket of glazed or tropical fruit or bon-bons in elaborate receptacles of satin, porcelain or crystal, are all welcome tokens to most women, who gracefully accept them in the same spirit in which they were sent.

In Shakespeare's Day.
In Shakespeare's time there was a practice of greeting the person met by saying, "Good morning, 'tis Valentine's Day," and the one who made the salutation first was entitled to a present. At this time the element of choice appears to have joined forces with chance, for it is written that divers young persons contrived to accidentally see each other before they saw anybody else on the morning of St. Valentine's Day.



Farm and Garden

PIGS AND CONCRETE.
I should like to hear from some of your readers in regard to concrete floors for pig pens. All our pens have concrete floors, therefore young and old must lie on it. Last winter most of our young pigs got lame, and as they grew their legs got crooked. They continued lame until midsummer. They acted as if they had rheumatism. I have talked the matter over with the owner of the place, and he seems to think concrete floors with plenty of bedding are the only sanitary place for pigs to lie on; but I know from observation that in cold weather pigs partly cover themselves with their bedding and lie directly on the floor. Will pigs get rheumatism from concrete floors that are well bedded? T. M. L. Monmouth County, N. J. [Concrete floors for pig pens are much more durable than wood, but not more sanitary if the latter are kept tight. Concrete floors are very cold and must be kept heavily bedded with fine material, or there will be more or less trouble of the sort mentioned, which is usually called rheumatism. The ideal construction for a pig pen floor is concrete with a two-inch plank under the sleeping place. This may be kept in place by a notch in the floor and should be so constructed that it may be easily removed for cleaning or for replacing when worn out.]—Country Gentleman.

POULTRY OUTLOOK.
Poultry fowl of all kinds has steadily advanced in price for the past three or four years, but that is no reason for killing off your stock at this season of the year, feeling you cannot afford to keep and feed same at the present prices of food. You will find that the prices of market poultry and eggs has advanced in the same proportion, and the profits in keeping poultry is greater than ever before, notwithstanding this additional food expense. It costs more to raise mature fowl, and seems a hard strain on the pocketbook, but when the surplus cockerels are ready to market, the prices you can obtain for same will in most cases pay for all the food used in raising them to market age, and you have your pullets as a profit, either to sell at good prices to people that want layers, or keep them yourself for supplying the market with eggs, and at the present prices of eggs there is a handsome profit in keeping them. Do not kill any of your promising pullets for market, they are too valuable as layers.—Am. Poultry Journal.

INDIGESTION IN CALVES.
Dr. David Roberts, Wisconsin State Veterinarian, says: "Indigestion may occur from many causes, as costiveness, a too liberal supply of milk; too rich milk; the furnishing of the milk of a cow long after calving to a very young calf; allowing the calf to suck the first milk of a cow that has been hunted, driven by road, shipped by rail, or otherwise violently excited; allowing the calf too long time between meals, so that, impelled by hunger, it quickly overloads and clogs the stomach; feeding from a pail milk that has been held over in unwarmed (unscalded) buckets, so that it is fermented and spoiled; feeding the milk of cows kept on unwholesome food; keeping calves in cold, damp, dark, filthy or bad-smelling pens. The licking of hair from themselves or others and its formation into balls in the stomach will cause indigestion in the calf."

BLACKHEAD DISEASE.
Investigation of the black head disease has been continued at the Rhode Island station with interesting results. The experiments are described in a sixty-four page bulletin just issued, but after reading it through the fact is evident that by no means all is known about the disease, since even under all precautions and changes of method losses from this cause were not wholly stopped. Evidence seemed to point to the source of the disease from some cause after the birds were hatched. It was shown that by removing the turkey eggs three or four days before hatching, washing with a cloth moistened with 90 per cent. alcohol, finishing incubation in the machine, and keeping the poults for a few weeks on a disinfected board floor and keeping them away from ordinary fowls, losses from blackhead disease were reduced from 80 per cent. to about 15 to 20 per cent. It is thought that the disease may be conveyed by common fowls and prove fatal to the turkeys while not necessarily fatal to other fowls; but the precise way in which the turkeys catch the disease does not seem to be settled.—American Cultivator.

COST OF SILOING.
Figures have been gathered by the Department of Agriculture from some thirty-one farms with reference to the time and labor consumed in putting up silage and the cost per ton. In estimating the cost of filling a silo a rate of 15 cents an hour was made for men and the same for a team of horses. Engine hire was rated at \$4.50 per day, including the engineer, twine at 11 1/2 cents a pound, coal at \$5 a ton; and gasoline at 12 cents a gallon. Ten hours were considered a day's work. The cost of silage storage, as determined by this investigation, varied from 46 to 86 cents on the various farms. The average yield per acre was 9.1 tons, and the average cost per ton of silage cut daily per man was 4.9 tons, and the average cost per acre for putting the corn in the silo \$5.98.—Farmers' Home Journal.

GOOD TREATMENT PAYS.
Kindness to a horse isn't merely sentiment; it is sound business. The horse that is well cared for will do more and better work than the horse that is neglected, ill fed or abused. The most practical kindness to a horse, next to good and proper feed, is a good horse blanket for the winter months. Exposure to cold and sudden changes in the weather makes a horse liable to ailments such as colds, influenza and pneumonia. Stiff joints and muscles, too, are often brought on by exposure or by leaving a horse without a blanket in the cold barn after he has been worked. A good horse blanket, properly used, will prevent diseases of this kind and often save more than its cost in medicines and doctoring.—Farmers' Home Journal.

STIRRING IMPROVES SOIL.
Turning or stirring the soil increases the amount of soluble elements of fertility. This fact does not seem to be fully understood by a large proportion of farmers who consider that plowing is merely an aid in killing off some of the weeds. Were it not for the fact that our land becomes foul with weeds unless we plow and cultivate we would as a rule raise much smaller crops than we usually do, as many farmers would forget to cultivate as often as they should. Weeds are excellent reminders; they act as a tonic, as it were.—Farmers' Tribune.

WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING.
The pleasantness and healthfulness of the life of the scientific farmer should be emphasized. The work of the superintendent of the farm involves a life very largely out of doors. With the introduction of rapid transit, the telephone, rural delivery, many of the advantages formerly available only in cities and towns, are now shared by the farmer. The management of a large estate furnishes opportunities for the exercise of high intellectual ability. Thus the superintendent of a farm may look forward from the outset to a pleasant, wholesome, profitable and useful life.—Colman's Rural World.

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HUNG WITH BOY FROM TRESTLE
While walking on the trestle of the Erie Railroad at Riverside, N. J., forty feet above the Passaic River, twelve-year-old Edward Berger missed his footing and fell between the ties, striking the steel framework in his descent to the icy water.

As the boy fell Chris Naumann, of 449 Main street, with a friend, Peter Brueck, started across the trestle on their way from Hawthorne to Paterson. They saw the boy struggling in the river and Naumann ran to the nearest pier and clambered down the steel work. At the base of the pier, which is barely wide enough for a foothold, Naumann took off his overcoat and threw one end to the boy, who was clinging to a cake of ice.

The boy caught the coat and Naumann hauled him to the pier. He was exhausted and unable to help himself, and Naumann, who is big and muscular, put the boy on his broad back and started up to the top of the trestle. He had first instructed Brueck to see if a train was coming. Naumann reached the top of the trestle and had started to walk across with the boy on his back when Brueck began waving his arms wildly. An express, which Brueck saw had lowered the helpless boy between the ties with one hand and was hanging himself to a tie with the other.

The express roared above them, and following it as swiftly as his legs could carry him came Brueck, who marvelled at his friend's escape. Brueck helped Naumann and the boy back onto the trestle.

The two men carried Berger to his home in River street and left him with his mother, not stopping long enough to tell the story of the boy's double peril and Naumann's gallantry. The boy recovered enough to tell it himself.

SHADOW-TAG.
Shadow-tag is a good game for the early morning or late afternoon, when the shadows are long and clear. It may be played in any clear space where there are one or two trees, or a house, to afford shadows. For the shadows are the "goal," where the players are safe, and the child who is "it," instead of tagging the others, tries to step on their shadows as they run from one shade to another. It is great fun, for unless you are careful your shadow is apt to bob up unexpectedly and will be stepped on before you know it. We played "shadow-tag" very successfully on a roof garden, where two sheds gave us the necessary shade and an open space of sun in between made the shadows of the runners very distinct.

In cold weather, when you need to exercise, and don't know exactly what to play, it is a good idea to run races and let one of the children find prizes for the races. The prizes may be anything she finds at hand—the more ridiculous the better—but it makes the race more interesting to have them, particularly if they are presented with a speech. It is well to let all the players have prizes, though of course the winner receives the first prize.—Elizabeth Webb, in the Washington Star.

An Almanac Church.
In the tower of St. Botolph's Church, Boston, England, are 365 steps, corresponding to the days in the year; the church has twelve pillars, fifty-two windows, and seven doors, representing the months, weeks and days in the week.

In the west porch, says the Church Eclectic, are twenty-four steps, (ascending to the library above), representing the hours of the day. Again, on each side of the choir are sixty steps, leading to the roof, denoting, on one side the minutes, and on the other side the seconds of the hour.

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