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## ALONG LIFE'S TRAIL

By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK

Dean of Men, University of Illinois.  
(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### SEEING ONLY THE OBVIOUS

I SUPPOSE one of the main objects the person who invented the weather had in mind was to furnish an easy topic of conversation, and in this he has been eminently successful. In conversation, however, the most interesting things are those least expected, most original, and least obvious. Nothing palls upon one more than to be told something he already knows, or to have his attention called to something upon which he has already remarked.

I met Sweeney as I am going to the office on a bright sunny morning, and he remarks, "It's a fine day." Of course it is, and it would be only an imbecile who would not recognize the fact. During all the years I was acquainted with Mrs. Parrish I do not now recall that in our conversations, and she has the habit of fluent speech, she ever gave vocal expression to anything not perfectly obvious. If we were riding along a public road in the spring she would call attention to the fact that a rabbit was running across the road, that a farmer was turning green, that a farmer was plowing in the field, or announce to me how fast I was driving, though the speedometer was nearer to me than to her.

I recall once letting her read a letter which had come to me from a common friend who was spending the winter in South America.

"Did you know that Jane had been very sick in Buenos Aires?" she asked me a few days later. "And they are thinking of coming home in April."

Naturally I was aware of these facts, for they were gone into in some detail in the letter which I had the day before given her to read.

The alert mind in conversation picks out the curious, the interesting, or the previously unknown and springs it on one first. The greatest pleasure in conversation is not the obvious, but the unsuspected, and we too often choose the thing that is patently before us, and so we are stupid and dull.

Nancy finds no delight in the obvious. I came home the other day to find her on her knees dusting the books.

"Are you cleaning house?" I inquired.  
"No," she replied, "not at all; I'm climbing the Matterhorn."

### BEING A FOOL

I HAVE just been reading Chester-ton's "Saint Francis of Assisi." Whether or not the estimate which he places upon the life and character of the saint is a correct one, it is not for me to say, but it is, at least, interesting.

Francis was a man of fashion in his own humble community, who found joy in dress and in the spending of money and in the social activities in which young fellows of today find pleasure. He liked to make a show, and, I presume, was as boastful of his exploits as young men are today. Later, when youth and enthusiasm and physical courage were his, he became a fighter and set out bravely to war. Sickness came upon him, defeat stared him in the face, and he came back home to be made sport of, to be called a quitter and a coward, and in his association with the poor and the diseased and the outcast to be called a mountebank and a fool. And it was only when he was willing to be thought a fool that he became a saint.

Youth is not very different today from what it was in those early centuries. Youth still likes to make a show, as we need only to walk down the street to prove to ourselves. Youth is as brave and adventurous as it ever was in meeting physical danger. Give him half a chance, and the young fellow today will rush into war without questioning himself very closely as to the justice or the importance of the cause he is championing.

With reluctance, however, will he be a fool for any cause. What youth has always found it most difficult to face is ridicule. He can endure anything but laughter, and so he finds it hard to be a saint, for a saint has to be willing to be laughed at, if need be, in the defense of his principles. Youth can face danger or death without flinching; it can endure privations and never murmur; it shrinks from being thought a fool.

Gordon had been drunk the night before and had so attracted attention that he had been arrested and had spent the night in jail. He was a good boy at heart and a courageous one.

"Why did you do it?" I asked, for I knew it was not his habit.  
"I did not want to drink," he explained, "but the fellows would have laughed at me if I had refused. They would have thought me yellow."

We like to be thought brave or courageous, we even enjoy the comment which comes from being thought radical or extreme, either in conduct or dress. A good deal of satisfaction can be derived from being a martyr, but to be laughed at, to be thought a fool, even for the sake of principle, is too much. Only the saint can face that situation.

## Use Soy Bean Oil Meal for Poultry

New Feed Could Well Be Fed to Greater Extent Than at Present.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

With the rapid expansion of soy-bean culture in the Corn Belt states farmers of that region have at their disposal a new poultry feed which could well be used to much greater extent than is being done at present, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Poultrymen in the Pacific Coast states have used soy-bean oil meal for several years and consider it a most excellent feed for growth and egg production.

### Feed Value of Meal.

A number of feeding tests at various experiment stations have shown the value of soy-bean oil meal as a poultry feed. At the North Carolina station it was found that when fed in equal quantities with wheat shorts and cracked corn mixed with sweet milk soy-bean oil meal proved to be a most valuable feed and one to be recommended as a good ration for feeding to little chicks. One lot of chicks on soy-bean oil meal averaged 1.4 pounds when eight weeks old. From these tests it was concluded that the soy-bean oil meal could replace rolled oats in chick feeding.

Another series of experiments showed that soy-bean oil meal with a suitable mineral mixture is a better supplement to corn meal than meat scraps and is nearly as good as condensed buttermilk when fed to chickens for short-time intensive-feeding periods. A simple mineral mixture composed of bone ash, limestone and salt was used. To be most effective, the amount of mineral mixture to be added should be about 2 per cent of the ration.

### Add Mineral Mixtures.

The addition of the mineral mixture is necessary to prevent too great a growth of fat at the expense of protein growth. Hens responded in these tests to the use of the mineral mixture in a similar manner to that of young, growing birds. The mineral mixture, it has been shown, increases the value of the soy-bean oil meal as a protein supplement for growth and egg production more than 40 per cent.

A good mineral mixture is made of 90 parts bone phosphate, 20 parts salt, and 20 parts of limestone.

## Vaccinate to Prevent Hog Cholera Outbreak

Warnings against a possible serious outbreak of hog cholera this year were given out recently from three states. With the hog market definitely pointed in the direction of profits, this seems like a poor time to take chances on losing the hog crop to save a few dollars.

F. A. Zimmer, state veterinarian of Ohio, points to the fact that hog cholera runs in cycles and that it is due this year. About the time the hog raiser concluded in other years that the disease was disappearing, it has reappeared in acute form to take a toll of millions of dollars.

Dr. R. A. Craig of the veterinary department at the Indiana Agricultural college believes that a large corn crop and a good price for hogs will bring about a heavy movement of feeder hogs and cholera infection will become widely scattered. Furthermore, because of low prices, few hogs were immunized during the past two years, thus adding to the amount of material for cholera to work upon. Thrashing gangs and visitors during the fall are largely responsible for spreading the disease from local areas because people do not practice what they know about the control of infectious diseases.

Vaccination is now generally recognized as the reliable method of preventing cholera when properly administered. While hundreds of farmers are vaccinating their own hogs successfully, there are many advantages in employing a skilled, established veterinarian who is known to be reliable and who will do his work for a reasonable price. At any rate, avoid the drifter who offers to do the job cheaply, but seldom is ever heard from again.

## Silage and Fodder Made by Stacking Green Corn

Another form of silage may be made by stacking the bundles of green corn which have been cut about 20 feet in diameter and 20 feet high. The bundles should be distributed evenly over the surface with the butts laid to the outside. This will keep the outside higher than the center so that it will be necessary to fill in the center before the stack is completed. Thorough tramping will be beneficial. About eight inches around the outside of the stack will spoil but as only the butts of the stalks are affected by this, the loss is not serious. The top of the stack should be kept covered with a foot or two of straw or hay during the winter to reduce spoilage.

According to the Minnesota experimental station, stack silage cures somewhat differently from ordinary silage and has a sweet molasses odor and flavor which makes it palatable to all kinds of live stock. The results obtained with stack silage, however, have not always been satisfactory. The method is only suggested here as a possibility. Under many, if not most, conditions it would seem that handling the immature corn as fodder would be safer.

## Showers for Swine Aid to Sanitation

System for Washing Before Entering Killing Pen.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A shower-bath system for washing hogs before they enter the killing pen was recently installed in a large packing plant at Salt Lake City as a means of improving sanitary conditions about the place in general and particularly to aid in maintaining the scalding vat in a clean condition. Hogs normally are dirty and dusty, and if not thoroughly washed before killing will carry many impurities into the scalding vat. Maintaining the sanitary condition of the scalding vat has been one of the most troublesome problems of meat-packing plants.

The shower installed in this plant at a suggestion from Dr. E. P. Durham, in charge of federal meat inspection at Salt Lake City, consists of a battery of five water nozzles of the overhead fire-extinguisher type which cannot clog by corrosion. As the floor of the pen is of concrete, even the feet of the hogs are thoroughly cleaned.

The practice has not only reduced the contamination of the water in the scalding vat, but has also served to do away with the dust which ordinarily arises from dirty hogs, thus protecting the employees of the killing section of the establishment from infection and irritation of the nose and throat.

The benefits of the plan greatly outweigh the slight expense of installation and operation. Officials of the United States Department of Agriculture state that the practice of washing hogs prior to slaughter is suitable and advisable in any plant, whether under federal supervision or not.

## Flour Middlings Useful in Making Pigs Thrive

Flour middlings and those other wheat products, standard middlings and red-dog flour, are good feed for hogs, according to a series of tests reported in a new bulletin by E. F. Ferrin and M. A. McCarty of the Minnesota agricultural experiment station.

While these by-products of the flour mill have long been fed to pigs, there have been no very definite guides for intelligent selection among the three, or for determining whether it pays to use any one of them. It is for this reason that the bulletin, which is for free distribution, has been issued.

In the tests, hogs were fed four rations. The first ration contained yellow shelled corn, tankage, and alfalfa pasture; the other three contained the same ingredients with the addition of either standard middlings, flour middlings, or red-dog flour. The quantities of corn and tankage were reduced in each case to meet the addition of the wheat by-product.

As a result of the tests the bulletin says that it is profitable to substitute a wheat by-product for a part of the corn and tankage fed to growing pigs on alfalfa pasture, provided the mill feed does not cost more per pound than corn. If the differences in prices are normal, flour middlings should be given the preference.

## Growing Hay Crop Need Not Harm Soil Fertility

Growing hay need not injure the fertility of the soil if proper methods are followed, say workers in the field of soil fertility at the New York State College of Agriculture. If conditions have been made favorable for clover through the addition of sufficient lime and phosphorus, the timothy field may be maintained for one year without further fertilization.

In some cases, however, it seems desirable to keep the land to timothy for more than a year. It should then be top-dressed with manure each fall or winter. Six to eight loads to the acre have usually been found adequate, providing 25 pounds of acid phosphate are mixed with each load of manure. An alternative procedure is to top-dress in the early spring at the rate of 200 pounds or more to each acre with a mixture of equal parts of nitrate of soda and acid phosphate.

This method of utilizing fertilizers in rotation has been found to result in a much larger than average yield of timothy, while at the same time there is no lessened yield of the other crops grown in rotation.

## FARM NOTES

Corn silage is a better feed than corn fodder.

Scrub cows are manufacturers; they turn profits into losses.

More acres of soy beans than alfalfa were planted in Ohio last year.

Blueberries seven-eighths of an inch in diameter have been produced on an experimental farm in New Jersey—which eventually should make blue berry pies less infrequent.

In soil fertility tests at the South Dakota experiment station the addition of phosphorus alone has increased the yield of all crops about 30 per cent. These tests have been carried on for 15 years.

A better ration is always an economical one. Six profitable changes in feeding methods were reported in one month to the state college at Ithaca by those who had finished their correspondence courses.



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