

HINTS ON SWIMMING.
 As the season of swimming is now here, a few hints to learners may be useful. The first essential is to know how to use the hands aright, with the view to keeping the head well out of water, and the next is to keep one foot on the bottom until sufficient confidence is acquired to raise it at intervals. After few trials the learner will be able to raise it altogether.

Then, be not in a hurry to use the hands, as if life depended on striking out, but try and acquire deliberation. Let every stroke have a full sweep of the arms, and let the feet take care of themselves. It is not necessary that the feet should be raised to the surface of the water. The body, from the shoulders downward, should be kept at an angle of 30 degrees to the plane of the horizon. This inclination, with every forward movement, will tend to throw the head out. Sperm whales, when frightened, sink their flukes and throw their heads out of water to obtain their highest speed. The head of the sperm whale is flat at the front, and is one-third the size of the body; the head of a finback is pointed; the one throws his head out, the other rushes through the water horizontally.

The learner who wishes to acquire the art of swimming for recreation and not for professional purposes ought to pay little attention to the movements of the feet until he has perfect control of his hands; then the feet will instinctively come into play and perform their part with much thought. Who thinks of his feet when walking? In the early stages of learning a swimmer does not seem satisfied until he brings his feet to the surface. This has a tendency to strain the body just above the hips and to bury the head. Swimming in a seaway the body will take many positions, according to the height of the waves encountered. Sometimes it will be vertical and at other times more or less inclined to keep the head out.

It is well for a beginner to have a person with him to keep his hand under the chin at first, while the use of the hands is being acquired. These hints apply only to common horizontal swimming, that having been acquired and confidence obtained, there will be no difficulty in learning, all the other movements, such as swimming on the side or on the back, diving or turning heads over head, forward or backward.

Remember this, too, that if a person taken with cramps will throw himself upon his back he will float without effort, even if his legs should be drawn up. Never neglect to stuff the ears with cotton wool. Many persons have attributed deafness to taking water through the ears when swimming.

SMOKING PIPES IN ENGLAND.
 Perhaps the customs connected with the habit of smoking and using tobacco in America and in England are as interestingly characteristic of the two nationalities as any other traits. There is nothing undignified about smoking a short "brier" or meerschaum along the streets of London, Birmingham, Manchester or any of the great English cities. A gentleman is none the less a gentleman because he does this. Indeed to smoke a cigar in preference to a pipe argues either expensive tastes or the pecuniary ability to gratify them. What would our ladies think of a well dressed young man coming down Broadway about 4 in the afternoon with a nicotine blackened pipe in his mouth? Horrible suggestion! Yet in this country a man considers it in perfect good taste to walk into another's office with a cigar stump stuck firmly in one corner of his mouth. Moreover, he does not take it out even to talk. Such behavior in London would be construed into an intentional insult.

There are those who would scorn to commit theft in the common acceptance of the word who yet do not hesitate to evade paying their just dues to the city or state whose privileges they enjoy. Yet the latter is only theft on a broader scale. The money which they thus dishonestly retain must be paid by others, and the injury done is no less certain because they cannot trace it.

To appreciate a difficulty is an important step toward overcoming it; and that is a far more hopeful condition of mind which admits the duty and fathoms the difficulty than that which rushes in unprepared and unaware of the need of preparation.

AS WE CLIP HUMOROSITIES.
 "I will keep it Mummy," as the wise dealer remarked when he filled the foreign-labeled champagne bottle with the fermented juice of the domestic apple.

In ancient cosmography Atlas was represented as supporting the world upon his shoulders. We could never imagine what supported Atlas, though, unless he married rich.

"We must be careful how we take a lady's part when a man speaks insultingly to her in the street. He may be her husband, you know.

"According to the statistes with regard to the national debts of the world, this idiosyncratic ball would be worth about 65 cents on a dollar at public auction.

A German scientist avows that hair grows after death. Very likely, but how it survives cooking and chopping, and appears long and vigorous in the wash, is what we call upon science to answer.

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS.
Two Ways. Choose Which?
 There are two usual ways of doing what Nature sometimes does incompletely, namely, to relieve the bowels. One is to swallow a drastic purgative which evacuates profusely, abruptly and with pain, the other is to take Hostetter's stomachic which, by the effect of which is not violent, but sufficiently thorough, not only relieves the bowels, but also acts upon the system as a whole, and he cannot hope to escape the debilitating effects of such a treatment as long as he has the habit of using it. The restoration of a regular habit of bowels, on a renewal of a healthy tone in the intestinal canal, besides restoring the action of the bowels, the latter arouses a dormant vigor, imparts a beneficial impetus to the action of the kidneys, and counteracts the early twinges of rheumatism, a tendency to gout, and malaria in all its forms.

Farm Work.
 Home Gardening.—Chief of all things is rich ground. Some is naturally better than others, but none is nearly good enough without large additions of manure, of which horse and cow have no superior. Put on what you regard as an excess, then double the quantity, and if you will continue the operation every spring you will have it about right.

Where there is plenty of land, the preferable form of a garden is a long rectangle, the rows the longest way permitting of horse cultivation. Where the plot is small, necessitating cultivation by hand, it is still wise to have the longest rows or beds possible, since even then the cultivation can largely be done by hand plows.

Be sure the garden is broken up deeply and the manure put largely near, or if it is very fine, on the surface. The surface ought to be worked over before planting, by harrow, rake or roller, until there is not a clod as large as a boy's marble, and no stones or lumps left to be removed, even for raising sweet potatoes. The cultivation ought to be nearly level throughout the season.

Cranberry Culture.—Years ago, when the entire cranberry crop of the country was obtained from the wild "cranberry bog," rakes and rakes of a peculiar construction were used in gathering this fruit. In using these implements the vines were usually broken off or pulled out by the roots, and large quantities of weeds, grass, and mud got mixed with the berries, all of which had to be picked and washed out before the fruit was ready for use or market. The cranberry rake is still used on some of the wild plantations, but much of the fruit gathered with this implement is badly bruised, causing it to decay much sooner than the hand picked. Gathering by hand is now considered preferable to any other mode, not only as being the least injurious to the vines, but also to secure clean, sound berries. As the hand-picked fruit commands a better price in market than that gathered with rakes, the extra expense of gathering it is more than made good to the cultivator.

There is a pest, the peach louse, that should be carefully looked after. An examination of the young branches of the trees will show many of them to be fitted with a scale not larger than the hull of a flax seed, and placed very close together, so close that they appear to overlap each other. Under these little scales are thousands of eggs that will soon be hatched out by the warm sun and will play havoc with the young bark and the fruit of the trees. The best way to exterminate them is to cut off and burn the young branches that are very badly affected. Where the cutting away of the larger branches would injure the tree, the best way to destroy the pests is to wash them with fish oil or with a strong soda made of whole oil soap. The trunk of the tree may be subjected to the same kind of a washing. A few hours devoted intelligently to this work will repay the fruit grower ten times over in a large crop of superior fruit, and will save his trees from destruction for many years to come.

Watering Horses.—The water given a horse should be pure. Do not have the well in the barn-yard, for the wash will soak into it, and pollute the water. If a running brook of clean water be convenient, lead the horse to drink from it. A good cistern can be made of a large hoghead sunk half a foot in the ground and the water from the barn yard led into it will be preferable for the horses than too cold well water. A horse needs at least two pails of water a day, and if given half a pailful before meal, or four times a day, it will be sufficient, unless, when hard at work in sultry weather. Do not give warm water at any time of the year, but the chill may be taken off in winter, so that it may not be icy. Do not water or feed directly after coming in very warm, and do not work hard immediately after eating heartily.

In regard to getting the best yield of choice honey try and have all your colonies very strong when the honey flow comes. This is best accomplished by feeding a thin syrup of honey each evening, commencing about six weeks before the expected yield. Give room in the sections as soon as needed, to delay swarming as long as possible. You cannot expect to extract much honey from weak colonies. Honey should not be extracted before it is sealed up by the bees, or it may sour on your hands.

If sprouts appear on new set trees you can easily pinch them off with your thumb and finger, and throw the growth where it is wanted. But do not cut off all the growth. If you dwarf the top of a young tree that is making a rapid growth, you are dwarfing the roots. If you allow too much top on a feeble tree you will kill the tree.

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