

THE ALASKA INDIANS.

How They Live, Their Manners and Customs.

The native races in Alaska number about 25,000; Russians, 300 or 400; Americans and others, 500. The Indians can be divided into three great classes: The Innuit of Yukon district; the Aleutian and the Tusk of the Sitkan district. And these again are divided into tribes, settlements and families. These are largely in a condition of degraded superstition, and liable to all the horrible cruelties of heathenism. The old, sick and useless are put to death with various cruelties and disgusting rites.

The Indians are again subdivided into various families, each of which have their family badge. The badges are the whale, the porpoise, the eagle, the coon, the wolf and the frog. These crests extend through different tribes, and their members have a closer relation to one another than the tribal connection. For instance, members of the same tribe may marry, but not members of the same badge. Thus, a wolf may not marry into the wolf family, but may into that of the whale.

Upon all public occasions they are seated according to their rank. This rank is distinguished by the height of a pole erected in front of their houses. The greater the chief, the higher his pole. Some of these poles are over 100 feet high. Mr. Duncan, the missionary, relates how, upon one occasion a head chief of the Nasse river Indians put up a pole higher than his rank would allow. The friends of the chief whose heads he would thus step over, made fight with guns, and the over-ambitious chief was shot in the arm, which led him to quickly shorten his stick.

Their houses are from twenty-five to forty feet square, without a window, the only openings being a small door for entrance, and a hole in the roof for the escape of the smoke. The door is three or four feet above the ground level, and opens on the inside upon a broad platform, which extends around the four sides.

In front of their leading houses and at their burial places are sometimes immense timbers covered with carvings. Those that attended the Centennial will remember such posts. These are the genealogical records of the family. The child usually takes the totem of the mother. For instance, at the bottom of the post may be the carving of a whale, over that a fox, a porpoise, and an eagle—signifying that the great-grandfather of the present occupant of the house, on his mother's side, belonged to the whale family, the grandfather to the fox family, the father to the porpoise, and the himself to the eagle family. These standards are from two to five feet in diameter, and often over sixty feet in height, and sometimes cost from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Forming the entrance to the house was a hole through this standard, but latterly they are commencing to have regular doors hung on hinges. Among the Sticksies these badges, trees or totems are usually off to one side of the door.

A man wanting a wife sends a message to that effect to the girl's relations. If he receives a favorable answer he sends them all the presents he can procure. Upon the appointed day he goes to her father's house and sits down on the door-step with his back to the house. The relations who have assembled there sing a marriage song, at the close of which furs and calico are laid across the floor and the girl is escorted over from the corner where she has been sitting, and takes her seat by the side of the man. Then dancing, singing and eating are kept up by the guests until they are tired. In these festivities the couple take no part. After this they fast for two days, and then after a slight repast they fast for two days more. Four weeks after they come together and are recognized as husband and wife.

Among the Nelaunes and Talcolins, when a man dies, his widow is compelled to ascend the burning funeral pile, throw herself upon the bonfire, and remain there until the hair is burned from her head, and she is almost suffocated. She is then allowed to stagger from the pile, but must frequently thrust her hand through the flames and place it upon his bosom, to show her continued devotion. Finally the ashes are gathered up and placed in a little sack, which the widow carries on her person for two years. During this period of mourning she is clothed in rags and treated as a slave.

Among the Chukchees the old and feeble are sometimes destroyed. This is done by placing a rope around the neck, and dragging them over the stones. If this does not kill them the body is stoned or speared, and left to be eaten by the dogs. Occasionally the old are killed. Then they are taken, stupefied with drugs, and, in the midst of various incantations, bled to death.

Among the Tusk and many of the Orarian tribes the bodies of good men are burned and the ashes carefully preserved. But in some sections, where wood is scarce, the bodies of women are not considered worth the wood that would be consumed in the burning, and they are either cast out to be consumed by the foxes and crows, or cast into the sea as food for the fishes.

A summary cure for crying babies is to take them to the seashore and hold them in the water until they cease crying. As soon as they can walk, children are bathed in the sea daily, and they learn to swim about as soon as they do to walk. Festivals are given on erecting a new house, naming of children, marriages, deaths, etc. These festivals consist of dancing, singing and feasting. Some of them are so expensive as to impoverish a whole circle of relatives.—*American Antiquarian.*

Subaqueous Gardens of Nassau.

A writer describing Nassau, N. P., in the *London Queen*, says: "The subaqueous gardens of the Bahamas are one of the most interesting scenes imaginable, and more than fulfill any idea that fancy may create about them. They are really fairy gardens, for far down in the clear green water were brilliant sea grass, flowers and vines, while many species of fish, varying in hue and size from a green and golden minnow, to two ounces in weight, perched on the ponderous jaw-fish, clad in a silver coat of mail and weighing over five hundred pounds, dash through the shrubbery or placidly float in a grotto. Conches in which pinkish pearls are concealed may also be found there, and with them nearly every species of shell fish indigenous to tropical seas.

The orange crop of Southern California is assuming large proportions. One of the most successful growers in that State is Mr. Brisswiler, who sold his last year's crop of fruit at the rate of \$15 per tree, aggregating \$25,500. His crop of grapes he sold for \$9,000.

The First Paper Maker.

Who was the first paper-maker? If the reply to this query should be, as is quite likely, that some old-time inventive genius was the man, it will be incorrect. The date of the invention and the founding of paper making is not definitely known. The common wasp's nest, which was always kept at a safe distance and often knocked down with a stone during the rambles of boyhood, was composed of the rami of the most delicate and elegant kind. As spiders were spinners of gossamer webs of intricate and exquisite pattern when primitive man went about dressed in the shaggy skins of beasts, and could neither spin nor weave the beautiful and fine cloth fabrics of to-day, so little wasps, when people of a later and somewhat more advanced age had recourse to such rude and unsatisfactory substances as wood, stone and brass, the bark of trees and the hides of animals on which to preserve memoranda, were making a material of far greater excellence.

They made their paper, too, by very nearly the same process employed by man at the present time. Indeed, several of our best discoveries in regard to building, architecture and manufactures of various kinds, if they have not been derived from acute observation of the work of certain animals, including insects, have, when compared with their constructions and their manner of making them, been found to show a wonderfully close resemblance. The beaver gave men their earliest and most serviceable knowledge concerning dam building, and to-day no workman can surpass this animal's skill and precision in the erection of such structures.

Nature is a great teacher, and especially does the paper-making of the wasp illustrate how valuably suggestive she may sometimes be; for, assuredly, the wasp was the first to show that it did not always require rags to manufacture paper, that vegetable fibers answered for this purpose and could be reduced to a pulp, and that to make the paper strong and tenacious the fiber must be longer.

The first thing the wasps do when about to build a nest is to collect, with preference for old and dry wood, fibers about one-tenth of an inch long and finer than hair, and put them into bundles, which they increase as they continue on their way. These fibers they brush into a sort of lint, and cement with a sizing of glue, after which they knead the material into paste, like paper mache, and roll up a ball; this they trample with their feet into a leaf as thin as tissue paper.

The ceiling of the wasp's chamber, to the thickness of nearly two inches, is often constructed by putting, one above another, fifteen or sixteen layers or sheets of this prepared paper, and between these layers spaces are left, so that it seems as if a number of little shells had been laid near one another. Next they build up a terrace composed of an immense number of the paper shells into a light and elegant structure, like a honeycomb, has been constructed, and in the cells thus formed they rear their young.

That the wasp was the first paper-maker will, we think, hardly be disputed. As patent laws did not probably exist in the days when wasps first began to multiply on the earth and to build their houses of paper, the field has been an open one up to comparatively later days, and has been well improved and enlarged upon. The quality has been much improved, the quantity greatly increased and the uses to which paper has been successfully adapted are many and marvelous. The wasp was building much higher than he knew when he went in to the paper-making business. He was a genuine Christopher Columbus and really discovered the paper world.

Cabinet Recreations.

The members of the cabinet sometimes have very amusing interviews with ladies, as the following will illustrate:

Young lady—Mr. Secretary, I have called to see if you can tell me when Captain— is to be ordered away, and where he will go to?

Secretary—"I really do not know. Do you wish him ordered away?"

Young lady—"No, indeed" (this with a very conscious look and a slight increase in color); "only, if you were, I would like to know, you know; for you see," pulling out her handkerchief and putting her little gloved finger in her mouth, a la Maggie Mitchell, "you know Mr.—, now don't you?"

Secretary—"How should I?"

Young lady—"Then I'll tell you" (this with a look of determination). "I'm going to marry him, and if you are going to order him off, why we want to get married before. That is all."

Secretary—"I have not thought of ordering him away, and since he is going to engage in such pleasant business will not."

Young lady—"Oh! Mr.—, ain't you good? I'm so glad. Now I'll have plenty of time to get ready."

Another young lady sends in her card and is admitted, when the following colloquy takes place:

Young lady—"I have called to see if you will not give permission to Lieutenant—to come here from A—?"

Secretary—"Any of his near relatives sick?" scanning her closely.

Young lady—"No, sir. His friends want to see him so much, and you can have him come if you want to."

Secretary—"Oh! I see how it is. If you will say you are his sweetheart, he shall come."

Young lady—"Yes, sir, he is!" saying this with both hands hid in her face.

The secretary says that he gave permission to that officer to come, telegraphing to him to that effect within the hour. All secretaries are not like the one we are speaking of, so young ladies must not presume upon the above incidents; for they might not be as successful as our two fair friends were.—*Washington Letter.*

What it Costs to Run a Locomotive.

The New Jersey Central Railroad Company keeps a record of the cost of running locomotives. It shows that an average day's distance traveled by a locomotive is 100 miles. The work for a month is 2,600 miles; but some locomotives exceed this, as in the case of No. 121, which in December last made 6,460 miles. In doing this 133 tons of coal were used and thirty-seven gallons of oil to keep the machinery in order. The company says that \$12.86 is the average cost for 100 miles for men, fuel and repairs. In the case of No. 121 the cost for repairs for the month was \$22.58.

If you boast of a contempt for the world, avoid getting into debt. It is giving to gnats the fangs of vipers.

TIMELY TOPICS.

The late Ser. Parry, the English lawyer, who was the last of the ancient order of sergeants except Ser. Ballantine, the others having retired or been raised to the bench, died from poison by the escape of sewer gas, his wife having preceded him a few hours from the same cause. He was a finished speaker, and with Mr. Justice Hawkins, led for the crown in the Tichborne prosecution. He and his wife were both born the same day, were taken sick the same day, and died the same day.

The bull-fights of Spain are a remnant of the barbarous ages, at the accounts of which, even, we shudder. It is therefore a relief to learn that the young Queen Christine attended one soon after her marriage only because she "regarded it as a social duty, and that she was very much shocked by what she witnessed." It is stated, moreover, that the king had some difficulty in getting her to go at all, and then was obliged to use all his persuasive powers to induce her to throw the key for opening the bull's cage. Later, when a man and horse had been wounded, she drew her veil over her face, and refused to give the sign which allowed the fight to continue, although finally, with great reluctance, she did so.

A sportsman explains why he receives the many sea-serpent stories with a grain of allowance. He was hunting on the shores of a lake in the wilds of Michigan, when he saw what he believed to be a monster snake, fifty or sixty feet in length, and ten or twelve inches in diameter, with humps on its back two feet in length. At first its course was almost directly toward his place of concealment. When he was about to run for his life, the "serpent," then a few rods away, changed its course, and resolved itself at once into a colony of otter swimming in single file. His inference is that sea animals may sometimes travel in the same manner, and give sailors the opportunity of drawing the long bow.

A gentleman formerly connected with the Philadelphia Ledger is said to have discovered a simple form of audiphone, which he has tried with satisfactory results, although he is very hard of hearing. A few days ago he was explaining the principle of the audiphone to some friends, and to illustrate his remarks, put a folded newspaper between his teeth, bending it over in the form of the audiphone. To his surprise he found that he could hear as well with the newspaper as with the audiphone. He subsequently attended an auction sale, and putting the catalogue between his teeth and bending it down with one hand, heard all that was said, although without some such contrivance he could hear nothing.

The suit of Budd Dobie vs. the Southern Ohio Fair Association, of Dayton, Ohio, has just been tried before the United States district court for that district. The suit was brought to recover \$2,250 from the association on a contract, in compliance with which that amount was to have been paid for an exhibition of speed by Goldsmith Maid on the track of the association, September 30, 1875. The association claimed that it was not an exhibition of speed, the time being 2:29, 2:24, 2:44. The plaintiff made a plea for a judgment for a quantum meruit, that is, for so large a proportion of the contract price as the performance was worth, if not the whole amount. The judge decided, as a point of law, that no such partition could be made in special contract, and that the claim must stand or fall in its entirety. A great deal of expert testimony was taken as to the merit of the performance, but the jury failed to agree.

Farmers who read the papers ought to be able to resist the blandishments of the swindlers who are perpetually preying on their unsuspecting good nature, for the press has taken much pains to expose the operations of the wily rascals. But the swindlers are smart, and have nothing to do but invent and put into operation new plans for imposing upon the farmer. The latest plan, which has been successful to some extent in New York State, is "census-taking." A gentlemanly fellow appears with a series of blank papers, upon which he is gathering for publication the statistics of the leading farms in the State, and he sets down as the farmer dictates, the number of cattle, bushels of grain, etc., and makes out a grand showing very pleasing to the farmer, and apparently useful to the farming community. When the list is completed the gentlemanly operator asks the farmer to sign his name at the foot of a blank space at the bottom. The rest is easily guessed. In a month or two he is notified that his note for \$150 or so, is due at a neighboring bank, and being in the hands of an innocent third party, he must pay it, and the "census" becomes the worst kind of an income tax.

The annual reports of the English and Scotch co-operative societies are now being published. The profits divided among the members of the societies range from one shilling three pence to two shillings eight pence on the pound sterling of purchases made during the year, and seem to average about two shillings, or ten per cent. Stating the amount in dollars, a member of one of these co-operative stores, about which Mr. Holyoke gave so much interesting information during his late visit to this country, receives at the end of the year \$1 in the way of profit for every \$10 worth of goods he has bought. This is clear gain to him, for he gets his goods at the regular market prices, and is besides assured that what he buys is of good quality and free from adulteration. The Manchester Co-operative Wholesale Society, from which the co-operative stores buy their goods, is a federative institution composed of 584 societies comprising 305,161 members. It has a capital of \$705,000 on which it pays five per cent. interest, and its profits are divided among the branch societies in proportion to their purchases, just as the individual members divide their profits, among the individual members.

A correspondent of the *Journal of Education* protests against the fun poked at geographical names in Maine, and thinks them no worse than the unmusical and unmeaning names of places in Massachusetts. He says: "Our Indian names are descriptive of their location, as well as sonorous and musical. There is Pen-cob-bee, 'the sloping rocky place'; Ken-ne-bee, 'the long-water-place'; the Andros-coggin, corrupted from Amos-kegan, 'the fishing-place'; the Pre-sump-cot, 'the cleft-rock-place'; the Saco or Sauk-tuck-et, 'the

discharging-tidal-stream'; the Piscataqua, or Pesco-tuck-ak, 'the divided-tidal-stream-place'; the Cobscookcook, 'the place where there is an abundance of sturgeon'; and the musical name, Aboljagamez-cus-cus, 'the place of the inflowing stream.' He thinks that Chelsea is not half so beautiful as the Indian name Winne-sim-et or Winne-askim-et, 'at the good spring,' and does not see that the badly-corrupted word Boston is pleasant to any one but a native, than its original Indian name, Wishawmut, 'at the great ferry,' nor that Dorchester is preferable to Matapan, 'the stonthrowing-place.' Good old Governor Winthrop gives us Wenantuck-set, 'at the beautiful tidal stream,' but his descendants must give it the disagreeable name of Plympton. The most rhythmic name quoted is that of a brook in Mt. Vernon, N. H., the Quinquapassacassanagog.

A Pet Dog's Fatal Bite.

A recent dispatch from Wilmington, Del., to a New York paper, says: Richard G. Alexander, well-to-do citizen of Delaware City, was bitten by a dog supposed to be mad one day last month. As he was sitting in his doorway, holding a pet dog in his lap, the animal sprang upon him and sank its fangs deep in his cheek and upper lip. It then dashed away through the neighborhood, and before it was killed bit about twenty other dogs. Since he was bitten, Alexander has been fearful of the hydrophobia, and took many different remedies. On Monday morning last he first felt what are believed to have been symptoms of the disease; he complained of a pain in the back and a palpitation of the heart, but attributed them both to torpidity of the liver. On Thursday morning, when he went to wash, he found that he experienced an aversion to water that he could not overcome. He ate a hearty breakfast, but could drink nothing, and stoutly maintained that nothing ailed him. His fortitude in resisting the dread malady is characterized by the physicians as one of the most remarkable things they have met with in their practice. He refused to have a doctor called in until he had a spasm, and when medical aid was finally called, he composed himself with great effort. The doctor at that time was not convinced that Alexander had the hydrophobia until he remarked that he felt that he wanted to sneeze all the time and could not. The fangs of the dog had torn the cartilage of the nose, and the first symptoms of the disease in such cases is a morbid feeling in the wound. Soon after this the spasms became violent, and to soothe the patient, strong opiates were presented, but he could not swallow. Toward evening he became very violent, but after the spasms begged to be killed, and pleaded with those present to leave the room, or he might grievously punish them. The spasms grew more pronounced, and frequent, and finally it required the united force of six men to hold him. He died in great agony last night about eleven o'clock, just forty-five days after being first bitten. A general outbreak of hydrophobia is feared in the neighborhood, as many dogs were bitten by the dog that caused Alexander's death, and not killed.

The Doctor's Pigeons.

The carrier-dove has been utilized for another service in the cause of humanity. Dr. Harvey J. Philpot, of England, writes as follows to the *London Telegraph*: "I have made valuable use of the carrier or homing pigeon as an auxiliary for my practice. So easily are these winged 'unqualified assistants' reared and trained that I am surprised they have not been brought into general use by the profession I belong to. My *modus operandi* is simply this: I take out half a dozen birds, massed together in a small basket, with me on my rounds and when I have seen my patient, no matter at what distance from home, I write a prescription on a small piece of tissue paper, and having wound it round the shank of the bird's leg, I gently throw the carrier up into the air. In a few minutes it reaches home, and, having been shut up fasting since the previous evening, without much delay it enters the trap cage connected with its loft, where it is at once caught by my gardener or dispenser, who knows pretty well the time for its arrival, and relieves it of its dispatches. The medicine is immediately prepared and sent off by the messenger, who is thus saved several hours of waiting, and I am enabled to complete my morning round of visits. Should my patient be very ill and I am desirous of having a daily report of him or her, next morning I have a bird to bring me the tidings. A short time since I took out with me six pair of birds. I sent a pair of them off from each village I had occasion to visit, every other one bearing a prescription. Upon my return I found all my prescriptions arranged on my desk by my dispenser, who had already made up the medicines.

Hunters', Skaters', and Coasters' Perils.

At Ilion, Ohio, three boys were drowned while skating.

A breech-loader in the hands of Rosa Grier, of Griswoldville, Ga., caused the loss of one of his feet.

Peter Cramer, of Plymouth, Ind., fell on the ice while skating, and was so seriously injured that death followed.

Mrs. Jane Davenport, of Ann Harbor, Mich., fell on the ice, and striking her head against a sharp plank was instantly killed.

E. H. Loomis, of Brooklyn, Mich., shot a squirrel, and climbed the tree to get it. He fell forty feet, and had several bones broken.

Owing to a broken shoulder and concussion of the brain, William S. Pollard, of Virginia City, Nev., will not slide down hill for some time.

Alexander Jameson, seventeen years of age, of St. Louis, went hunting on Sunday. His time is fully occupied now tending a shattered leg from letting his gun fall.

Frank Fagan, twenty-five years of age, of San Francisco, Cal., went duck shooting, got excited at the sight of game, lost his head, fell out of his boat and was drowned.

John Braidwood was surprised to see the ramrod of his gun go through the trees after passing through his hand. He was trying to draw a charge, at Bruce, Mich.

While dragging his gun by the muzzle through a place of brush, Harvey Ecker, of Hastings, Mich., thought he was enjoying Sunday. But the charge intended for the game went into his body, owing to a treacherous twig, and his friends buried him on Tuesday. He was sixteen.

The first iron works in America were erected in 1719, at a place called Falling Creek, a branch of the James river, near from Jamestown, the first settlement of the Virginia colony, thirty-two miles from the sea.

WHAT A "BLIZZARD IS."

A Graphic Description by One who Knows Whereof He Speaks.

"The papers want to know what a 'blizzard' is, and they turn up their noses at the word, but them as has been there 'can see where the joke comes in. I've shook hands with one or two blizzards, and here's the affidavies to prove it."

He drew off his boots. Three toes were missing from the right foot, and the big toe alone remained on the left. Two fingers were gone from the left hand, one ear shriveled out of shape, and his nose seemed to have no life in it. He was a rough looking old chap, and he was warming his heels on the steam-pipe in the cabin of a ferryboat along with several other passengers.

"Well, what is a blizzard?" asked one of the crowd as the old man pulled on his boots.

"What's the weather here, to-day?"

"Well, you add five or six degrees of cold to it, take off your clothes and walk around for three hours, and you'll have a slight comparison. A blizzard haint 'zactly a two-edged sword nor a bullet, but it lives next door to 'em. You'd better twice over be coted in a tornado. I'd take the chance of outrunning a prairie fire quicker'n livin' through a January blizzard."

"Tell us about 'em."

"The first one I ever seed," said the old man as he held up the stumps of his missing fingers, "was down in Nebraska, close to the west line. I had a ranche, and was well fixed. The livin' room for me and three herders was about twenty feet square, with a big stove in the middle. On the fourth day of January, 1859, there wasn't a flake of snow on the ground, and at four o'clock in the afternoon it was warm enough to go in my shirt sleeves. Half an hour before the sun went down the sky was clear and blue. I stood looking off at a herd of horses, feelin' as if I wanted to go bar'f, when all at once a shiver climbed over me. It was as if ice-water had been poured down my back. There was a moanin', roarin' sound away to the westward, another shiver, and the next minit it was dark and the blizzard had come. Quicker than I can tell you the sky turned black, night set in, and mountains of snow come boom'n' along before a gale blowing eighty miles an hour."

"Well?" said some one as the old man paused.

"Wall, there she was. That blizzard was born in the Rockies. She'd whirled 'round and 'round, gettin' stronger every minit, lifted herself out of some awful canyon, tore along the crags and peaks, and finally tumbled down on the level and started eastward, mad as a grizzly and powerful as a million runaway horses! Them three herders weren't half a mile away, and all mounted, but yet only one reached the cabin. The other two were struck as dumb and numb as if hit with cannon balls, and they weren't out of their saddles a minit before they were covered with six inches of snow."

"Must have been cold?"

"Cold! Mebbe it wasn't! I didn't have no thermometer to look at, but I didn't want one. Our jug of whisky froze solid and split the jug in ten minits. Frost settled on the taller cable within an inch of the light. Every board in the ranche cracked and popped with cold. We had a big stove, but the fuel was mostly under a shed fifty feet away. I thought to go after a load, but as I opened the door I fell back as if ten thousand needles had been fired into my face. That one breath of the blizzard froze my nose and ear."

"And you were out of fuel?"

"Yes, in half an hour I burned up stools, benches, tables and all else that would burn, but after midnight the fire went out. Then I lost my toes—frost-bitten even when I was dancing over the floor. Ours was a tight cabin, and yet there was a foot of snow on the floor before daylight. The awful wind drove it through the crevice. Did you ever hear the gale which goes with a blizzard? Well, you'll face a cannon sooner than hear it a second time. The wind screamed louder than a locomotive whistle. It ragged and raved like a giant in chains, and it struck down every livin' thing it came to. All at once it would stop blowin' for half a minit, and the stillness would be awful. Then I'd hear a sigh'n and groan'n' afar off, as if poor lost children were cryin' for home. Then the groan'n' would change to a screech—the screech to a loud shriek, and the gale would whirl 'round and 'round the cabin as if bound to lift it from the earth in its teeth. That gale knocked over trees a hundred years old, and rolled rocks weighing a thousand tons down upon the level!"

"And about your stock?"

"When that blizzard struck my ranche I had 500 cattle, 2,000 sheep and about 300 horses, all alive and kickin'. It died away about daylight, and after an hour's work we got out of the cabin and through the snow. Far as the eye could reach all was a dead level. Gulches, ravines and dips had been filled up with from five to thirty feet of snow. Every horse, sheep and steer had been down in his tracks to die and be confined in white, and we two, frost-bitten and frozen, were fifty miles from any white man. Don't sneer at a blizzard! You'd better meet a thousand sea tigers!"—*Detroit Free Press.*

A Whistling Buoy.

A new buoy has been invented by M. Perrin, of Havre, which includes the novel feature of announcing its position by means of whistling, and hence is known as the automatic whistling buoy. In shape the body is similar to the ordinary conical buoy, except that it is made flat. On this are fastened two small tubes, through which the air goes into the interior, and between them a tremendous whistle is fixed. Around the whole is a hand-rail, and two steps are placed, so that the summit may be reached from a boat for painting, repairing and other purposes. Besides, there is a manhole. From the bottom of the cone a large iron tube, about thirty feet long and between six feet and seven feet in circumference, is attached. When in use, more especially in a heavy sea, the wind, on going down the small tubes in the top, is immediately forced out through the whistle by the perpetual bobbing up and down of the buoy. The noise, it is expected, will be so great that it will be heard for miles off from the place where it is moored, thus giving ample notice of the dangers that surround it.

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FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Farm Notes.

Dark stables are injurious to the eyes of horses.

No other animals should be tolerated in a yard with sheep, for it will only result in vexation and loss.

A bag of hops as large as the two fists, placed in a bin or store of grain, will, it is said, kill or eradicate all grubs and insects from the grain. The dead ones can be removed by fanning.

Shelter is one of the first objects in wintering sheep successfully. Farmers often condemn barns and sheds as unhealthy places for sheep, when it is a want of ventilation that does the injury.

Milk paint for fences or barns is made by mixing water lime with skim milk to a proper consistency to apply with a brush. It will adhere well to wood whether smooth or rough, to brick, mortar or stone, where oil has been previously used.

A farmer in Bangor, Me., observing that wheat was being picked from the seeds of standing grain, and seeing at the same time flocks of yellow birds flying about, shot some of them. On opening their crops he found only three grains of wheat, and by actual count 350 weevils.

Particular care should be used in cleaning milk pans and cans. Many cases are on record of diseases in families from using milk infected with noxious germs from foul milk cans. Milkmen upon again receiving the cans should cleanse them with boiling water.

Cattle like a change of diet occasionally, as men do. Keeping cattle on hay or straw alone is a little like living on bread or potatoes, or meat alone, with nothing except that one dish. Therefore feed some roots, as well as hay and meal or shorts. If you haven't the roots on hand, be sure and have a supply next winter.

Cabbage has a superior value for feeding purposes. English cattle feeders assert that their beasts progress faster on cabbage, mixed with plenty of fine-cut wheat straw and cotton cake, than with any other vegetable. Cabbage contains one part flesh-forming substance to three of heat-producing, while in potatoes, the flesh-forming is only one to twenty. Cabbage is also rich in mineral matter.

How to Sweep a Room.

To sweep and dust a room properly is an art, and like all fine arts has a right method. Well done it renovates the entire room, and the occupant takes possession feeling that "all things have become new." It is not merely a performance to be done by the hands, but a work into which taste and judgment, in other words, brains, must enter. Are these closets opening into the room to be swept? Arrange the shelves, drawers or clothing preparatory to sweeping day; then let this be the first to be swept. Cover the bed with soiled sheets, as also all heavy articles that cannot be removed; first, however, having carefully dusted and brushed them. Remove all the furniture that can easily be set in hall or adjoining room, having first dusted it; then, taking a step-ladder, begin to sweep or brush or wipe the cornice and picture cords and pictures. Draw the shades to the top of the window or, if there are inside blinds, dust them carefully. Open the windows. All the dust left in the room now is in the carpet or air, and the current of the windows will soon settle it.

Now begin to sweep, not toward a door or corner, but from the outer edges of the room toward the center, where the dust will be taken up with a small brush and dust-pan. Go over the room once more—this time with a dampened broom; that removes the last bit of dust and gives the carpet a new, bright appearance. Replace the articles of furniture as soon as the air is entirely free from dust, uncover the rest of the room and dust them. All this seems an easy thing to do, but there is not one in a hundred will follow out the details. Some will sweep the dust into the hall, or from one room to another, and then wonder why their house is so soon dusty again. Others forget cornice and pictures, and thus leave a seed of future annoyance; while a third class will do all but using the damp broom, which is as the finishing touches to a picture.—*Chicago Alliance.*

Household Hints.

Soft soap should be kept in a dry place in a cellar, and should not be used for three months after it is made.

A French chemist asserts that if tea be ground like coffee immediately before hot water is poured upon it, it will yield nearly double the amount of its exhilarating qualities.

Table cloths should be but slightly starched, and folded lengthwise, after ironing quite dry on the right side, first down the middle, then putting each selvage edge to the center, pressing them down on the right side; next placing the two double parts, thus folded, together, and then doubling the other way in the same manner.

To preserve the aroma of coffee, add the white of one egg to every pound of coffee just before it is quite cold. Stir it thoroughly into the mass, so that every berry will be wet with it.

To clean lamp chimneys, hold them over the nose of the teakettle when the kettle is boiling furiously. One or two repetitions of this process will make them beautifully clear. Of course they must be wiped upon a clean cloth.

To wash a black and white cotton dress, have a tub partly filled with hot water, add one large tablespoon