

### American Silk Culture.

About 60,000 silk worms are at work on the farm of Frank Graf, Birmingham, Pa., and right lively, too, some of them being almost done, and straw-colored cocoons are piling up thick and fast. The worms are being supervised by Miss Martha Hamilton, living at Mr. Graf's, and she flatters herself that for her first attempt she is doing remarkably well. She bought the eggs, and after they had hatched, at which time they are as fine as a hair, and have to be lifted about with a camel's hair brush, immediately proceeded to feed them on mulberry leaves. Their growth is very rapid, and in six weeks' time they are of full size, being nearly two inches long. They are perfectly ravenous in their appetite, and it is no small job to find enough food for them, and the country for miles around was scoured on search of mulberry trees, which are not numerous in that vicinity. When the whole mass would begin their feast on the leaves the noise made by their sounded like rain falling on the roof.

While feeding, the worm is said to be of a light green color, and soft as velvet to the touch. Along the body there are nine small breathing-holes. The insects, as would be imagined from their eating powers, have strong serrate jaws, which soon eat through a leaf. Some of the worms have escaped from their mistress, and gotten up on the roof of the barn, and are there spinning away at their cocoons. The silk while in the worm is a gum exuded in two strands. These unite and form one thread of silk. The worm in starting its cocoon first makes an outer covering of floss silk, within which they spin the silk, bending the head and body up and down the crossing to every side, entirely surrounding the body, as a protection against the wind and cold. Thus in making a covering for itself this insect makes the covering for thousands of gaily-attired women of all ages and every clime. The cocoon made, the worm passes into a chrysalis state, and comes forth a moth ly to lay eggs and then die. Thus does the race continue.

The silk grower, however, if he wants the eggs, allows the worm to go through all these stages; but if he wants the silk he "chokes" the worm while in the chrysalis state, for if it is allowed to eat its way out the thread of the silk is broken and valueless. The chrysalis is "choked," or in other words killed, by heating it over a fire or throwing it into boiling water. The labor attending this silk industry is not a light one, and whether there is any money in it remains to be seen. Mrs. Fogg, at Kennett Square, Chester county, is raising silk worms, but only has about 3,000 of them.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

### Lioness and Rats.

The following incident about an old lion's last days is taken from the last report of the Dublin Zoological Garden: The closing weeks of her useful life were marked by a touching incident worthy of being recorded. The large cats, or carnivores, when in health, have no objection to the presence of rats in their cages. On the contrary, they rather welcome them as a relief to the monotony of existence, which constitutes the chief trial of a wild animal in confinement. Thus, it is a common sight to see half a dozen rats gnawing the bones of which the lions have dined, while the satisfied carnivores look on contentedly, giving the poor rats an occasional wink with their sleepy eyes. In illness the case is different, for the ungrateful rats begin to nibble the toes of the lord of the forest before his death, and add considerably to his discomfort. To save our lioness from this annoyance, we placed in her cage a fine little rat-terrier, who was at first received with a surly growl, but when the first rat appeared, and the lioness saw the little terrier toss him in the air, catching him with professional skill across the loins with a snap as he came down, she began to understand what the terrier was for; she coaxed him to her side, folded her paw around him, and each night the little terrier slept at the feet of the lioness, enfolded with her paws, and watching that his natural enemies did not disturb the natural rest of his mistress. The rats had a bad time during those six weeks.

**A Desperate Fight With Rats.**  
A German named Grossman keeps a beerber sloop in Franklin, Pa. Two of his children were sent into the cellar a short time ago to get some Swiss cheese, which was stored in a vault formerly used by a brewery. An army of starving rats disputed their passage, and while the elder of the children fought the animals with a piece of iron, the other returned to the saloon and screamed for assistance, saying that his brother was in the vault surrounded by rats. Mr. Grossman and two neighbors armed themselves with clubs, and hastened to the rescue of the boy. The fight that met their eyes as they entered the vault was one such as they had never before witnessed. The army of rats seemed to number thousands. The men joined in the contest, but so numerous and persistent were the rats that they were more than an hour in conquering them. Dead rats lay piled on every side, and their number was so greatly reduced that the survivors were driven to their holes. Eight hundred and ninety dead rats were carried from the vault. The carcasses filled a large two-horse wagon box, and were a good load for a team to draw away.

A woman cannot become a successful lawyer. She is too fond of giving her opinion without pay.

### FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

#### Recipes.

**APPLE CREAM.**—Peel and core five large apples; boil them in a little water till soft enough to press through a sieve, sweeten, and beat with them the whites of five eggs. Serve with cream poured around them.

**PRESERVED TOMATOES.**—A pound of sugar to a pound of tomatoes. Takes six pounds of each, the peel and juice of four lemons, and a quarter of a pound of ginger tied up in a bag. Boil very slowly or three hours.

**PICKLED PEACHES.**—Nine pounds of peaches, three pounds of sugar and three quarts of good cider vinegar. Peel the peaches and stick two cloves in each peach, then put them with the sugar and vinegar in a porcelain lined kettle. Cook from five to ten minutes.

**CREAM SHERBET.**—Put the yolks of six eggs and a dessert spoonful of vanilla into two quarts of cream. Place on the fire in a stew-pan and let it come to a boil, then strain. Add three-fourths of a pound of loaf sugar and stir until dissolved. When cold set on ice or freeze as ice cream.

**CORN WITH TOMATOES.**—Cut the corn from the cob and put it with an equal quantity of tomatoes that have been sliced and peeled; stew these together for half an hour, then season to taste with salt and pepper and a little sugar; stir in a liberal piece of butter and simmer a few minutes longer.

**RAW CABBAGE.**—A nice way to prepare raw cabbage is as follows: Select a fine good head; chop finely in a bowl what you think will be needed, and to every quart add one-half teacupful of thick, sweet cream; two table-spoonfuls of strong vinegar or lemon juice; one cupful of white sugar, and mix thoroughly.

**HOT CROSS BUNS.**—Take two cups of milk, three of sugar, two eggs, half teacupful soda, half a cup of yeast, a little nutmeg and flour to make stiff enough to roll; let it stand over night; in the morning roll out small, set them close together in a pan, let them stand and rise again and bake in a moderate oven.

**APPLE CHEESE.**—Peel and quarter a quantity of apples, stew them with a little water, a good deal of sugar, the thin rind of a lemon and a few cloves, or a stick of cinnamon. When quite done pass them through a hair sieve; and to one quart of the puree thus obtained add half a packet of gelatine, dissolved in water; mix well, pour into a mold, and when set turn it out and serve with a custard poured about it. It is well to remember that the puree must be thoroughly well sweetened and flavored to carry off the insipidity of the gelatine.

#### Training Dairy Cows.

In a business like dairying, where so much depends upon the quantity and the quality of the milk, the owner will inevitably lose money, and eventually go to the wall, unless special care is exercised in the selection of the cows. Whatever the breed, first the inferior ones, and next the ordinary cows, should be conscientiously weeded out year by year. It makes no difference what the breed may be, these will always be found. Not that there is no choice; there is, and they must be selected with a view to what is wanted, whether butter or cheese. Whatever the breed, none but the best breeders should be selected to perpetuate the race, and as fast as developed the best should be retained. There is also much in this question of development. An animal that, under good care and attention, will turn out a superior milker, will, under adverse treatment, prove worthless. When the first calf is produced, the heifer should be carefully handled; she should be milked clean, and every means used, by good feeding and warm stabling, to produce as uniform and large a flow of milk as possible. The calf should not be allowed to suck; it should be raised by hand, but on the cow's own milk, just as drawn. The cow should be trained to give her milk freely. Good care and feeding will bring her milk freely if she has it in her; if not, discard her at once.

The education of a heifer to give her milk freely consists solely in gentle handling and milking so that the cow may feel relief in the operation. Holding up the milk, and kicking and running about, are always the result of improper and brutal handling.—*Practical Farmer.*

#### Poultry Notes.

Heavy fowls sometimes receive severe injuries in trying to fly down from high perches.

Chickens are always healthier when they have plenty of sand and gravel about them.

Any family can keep fowls on their premises without more trouble, at merely nominal cost.

Breeding stock should be kept up to the full measure of their natural vigor, but never forced beyond it.

One cannot reasonably expect to raise strong and healthy fowls if they are kept in a starved or neglected condition.

The molting of fowls is but only a natural process with most animals in changing their summer coat for a winter one.

It will be well for those who are limited to a small garden to appropriate a portion of it to a grass plot for their fowls.

All kinds of feathered life seek the shade from the burning rays of the sun, and we should imitate nature by providing it in abundance.

When the poulterer discovers the appearance of disease in his flock, he must make an effort to stop it at once, and not leave them to their fate.

The best rule both as to the quantity and time is to give the fowls a good meal in the morning, and the second shortly before going to roost.

One great element of success in keeping poultry is undoubtedly a real interest in the work—a love for it—on the part of the owner or attendant.

Now is the time to carefully feed and tend your young cocks in order that they may be well developed and in good condition before cold weather sets in.

A box in which a trio of full-grown fowls is confined for a few days' journey need not be larger than twenty inches wide by eighteen inches high and deep.

#### Stable Manure the Best Fertilizer for Corn.

Among the reports of experiments with fertilizers at the Cornell university experiment station is an interesting one in regard to their use on corn, and which goes to show the superior value of stable manure. As stated, the experiments made by Professor Caldwell on corn included the application of a large number of fertilizers, and they extended through five years. Among those which were followed with an actual decrease in the crops, as compared with the products of unmanured plots, were phosphate of soda, nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia and sulphate of lime. Some of these, mixed with other fertilizers actually increased their effect, among which was plaster with stable manure. The results from stable manure, fourteen tons per acre, much exceeded those from the use of mineral fertilizers or of fish guano. The longer effect of stable manure in the soil would doubtless fully repay the increased labor of applying so bulky a substance, and its value ought to stimulate farmers to use all practicable means to prevent its waste, and to apply it to land in the most economical manner.

#### Advantages of Soiling.

Soiling saves fences, one of the most expensive features of ordinary farming, prevents the propagation of weeds and prevents stock from wasting more fodder than they eat by trampling it down. It doubles the amount of stock which can be kept on any given amount of land, and there is a vast increase in the amount of valuable manure that may be saved. There is some additional labor, but the returns are so much greater that soiling is the system of the present, as well as the future, of agriculture.

#### Jack.

"Jack" would at first sight appear to be a familiar abbreviation of John, and to be applied in that sense. It occurs in jack-tar, roasting-jack, hook-jack, jack-of-all-trades, jack-boots, jackey (gin): jack, a part of the machinery of a loom and of a pianoforte; jack, an engine for raising heavy weights; jack-knife, jack-towel, black-jack. In some instances where the word occurs, such as rickass, jackdaw, jack-an-apes, jack-a-leuc, jack-pudding, it is manifestly derived from Jack, the familiar name for John; but in the examples above cited the true etymology is to be found in the Celtic or Gaelic deagh (d before the vowels e and i is pronounced j), Desch (or jeagh), the Cymric da signifies good, fit, appropriate, excellent, well.

A jack-tar is a good sailor; a roasting-jack is an instrument fit, appropriate or good for the purpose of roasting. A jack-of-all-trades is one fit to turn his hand to anything useful; a jack-knife is a good, useful and large knife; a boot-jack is good to pull off boots. Jackey, a slang word for English gin, means also strong ale, and among children a species of sweetmeat, and is in all these cases synonymous with something good, as the French call a sweetmeat a bon-bon, or as the Scotch call them goodies. Black-jack is an old name for a large bottle of black leather, good to hold beer and other liquors. Beaumont and Fletcher have preserved the words: "There is a dead sea of drink in the cellar, in which goodly vessels lie wrecked, and in the middle of this deluge appear the tops of flagons and black-jacks, like churches drowned in the marshes."—*All the Year Round.*

#### A Boy's Fight with a Tiger.

A Japanese boy about thirteen years of age went into a jungle in the province of Djokdjakarta cut some grass. On arriving at a brook he saw that it was almost dried up and that numbers of fish were sprawling in the mud. The boy immediately set to work catching as many fish as he could, and in doing so went up the rivulet. He perceived there on the side of the hill a large opening, out of which some water was flowing. Thinking that more fish might be caught there he crept into the opening, but scarcely had he advanced a few steps into the grotto, when he was attacked by a tiger. Without hesitation the brave boy drew his grass knife, which he wore behind in his girdle, and with it gave the attacking tiger a couple of cuts on the head. The tiger, still more enraged, now sprang upon the body of the boy, grasped him with his claws and began to roar frightfully. The brave boy did not lose his presence of mind, but in spite of the most dreadful pain he went on continually cutting into the tiger's head with his grass knife, with the fortunate result that the monster at length drew its last breath and the brave boy, although terribly mangled, got away and could return home to inform his parents of the event. The villagers who afterward went out to bring in the slain tiger formed a regular procession.

### FOR THE FAIR SEX.

#### Fashion Notes.

Tucked dresses grow in favor.

Ten rose and oren colored gloves are fashionable.

Kerchief gowns are as popular as ever this summer.

Red mitts give a brilliant effect to a black costume.

Tar soap is the French specific for incipient wrinkles.

Organdy muslin edged with lace is used for kerchiefs.

Fashionable English women are carrying tasseled canes.

Traveling costumes grow more and more conspicuous.

Buttonless gloves of undressed kid are worn by little girls.

Ladies on all occasions adorn themselves with flowers.

If balayages are worn they must be irreproachably fresh.

Bullet-shaped pearl buttons are used to fasten lawn dresses.

Spotted and small-figured fabrics grow in popular favor.

Veils of rose-colored illusion are worn by pale girls in England.

Gray, which has so long been out of favor in Paris, is revived.

White cheese cloth makes a beautiful inexpensive Greek costume.

It is the custom abroad to wear flowers wherever they can be worn.

Zones pointed back and front are again worn with dressy toilets.

The Jersey collar, for children, is a square yoke, bordered with lace.

The fashion of wearing flowers, either natural or artificial, never goes out.

Collars and cuffs of tartan silk are worn with white dresses by little girls.

Four-cornered hats turned up with rosettes of lace are made for little girls.

Cascades of lace down the front of the corsage appear on many dressy suits.

Black toilets are as much worn at Parisian weddings as colored or white ones.

Summer slippers are made of unbleached linen trimmed with alpaca braid.

Shawl-patterned stuffs in gold and orange are used to brighten black dresses.

Young girls wear their hair in a broad queue, fastened by a bow of bright ribbon.

Jersey hoods are turned inside out to show the lining, according to the latest caprice.

Glorified cotton and sublimated linen are the material of the popular summer gown.

A new ulster pattern is almost tight fitting and has a plait at the back forming the skirt.

The thinnest of starch is used to stiffen underskirts since the day of soft stuffs came in.

When bonnets are small they cannot be too small, and when large the larger the better.

Cream-colored Surah with a scarf of Languedoc lace is used for the prettiest summer hats.

White Japanese sashes, embroidered in bright colors, are worn with dark woolen gowns.

The bows worn on sleeves are now set on the inside seam instead of the outside, as formerly.

Gilt rakes or hoes are stuck in the scarfs of nun's veiling, which trim rough hats at the seaside.

India muslin cloaks, bordered with Mechlin lace, are made for little girls to wear at the seaside.

The Empress Eugenie objects to the publication of long stories about her journey to Zululand.

A weak solution of carbolic acid in air water will cure summer pimples and simple eruptions.

Basques with a Watteau plait in the back are the newest patterns for making up thin woolen goods.

The Jersey is worn by every woman under fifty who can persuade her dressmaker to fit one for her.

It is impossible to name a material too brilliant or too rich to be used for an outside garment this season.

Polka-dotted calico and cambric and lawn suits can be bought next to nothing. The day of speckles is past.

Lace shawls are folded into kerchief this year, except when worn by middle-aged ladies of conservative tastes.

Lace parasol covers are made into ties by simply plaiting them near the center and fastening them at the throat in a cascade.

Lace scarfs are made into mantles by fastening them together near the center, to make an Arab hood. The ends are loosely knotted in front.

Narrow net lace edge with saw-tooth points is substituted for dotted net. It is gathered in double rows around the neck and wrists of gowns.

Whole gowns are made of Turkey red for little children. Poetical souls compare the wearers to fireflies, but the hard-hearted murmur, "Lobsters."

Reticules just like those carried by our grandmothers are revived, and carried on the arm at the elbow, not swung to the belt as side pockets were last year.

Charity visiting costumes in England

consist of a plain, straight skirt of dark blue flannel and a jacket bodice of the same, made and finished in "tailor style."

Instead of the elastic band and button used hitherto for closing the parasol, there is now a circle of cord, ivory, celluloid, black buffalo, or imitation shell, whatever matches or contrasts with the prevailing color or colors of the parasol.

Belts are not worn with the fashionable shirred basques, but two pieces of embroidery set edge to edge are set at the waist line between the shirred spaces.

The Alencon point, used on dresses of nun's veiling, is invariably an imitation, but it is a very good imitation indeed and would deceive any but the best judges.

#### Some Fashion Fancies.

Everything that is novel, striking, picturesque and becoming is permitted, provided it is not incongruous. The loveliest imported costumes are made of cream silk muslin over soft cream silk or satin, with trimmings of satin and plaited lace or fringe and embroidery upon tulle or silk net. They cost, but French costumes always do cost, and they are not "aesthetic." They are too elaborate and conventional for that, but they are excessively rich and distinguished-looking, and there are occasions when this is necessary. Dresses of this description are not made with a straight bodice, but with glove-fitting basques, which are hollowed in upon the hips, or with overdresses consisting of casaquins drawn away from the front and forming flat side paniers.

A feature of the elegant toilets are the multitudinous flounces, or rather narrow ruffles, which cover the skirts in front and below the drapery. Some are gathered, but the most delicate are laid in the finest plaits, and the supreme touch is to put small waves of exquisite muslin or filmy crepe lisse over others of silk or satin until the effect of foam is produced.

A dress that made a sensation at the Newport casino lately was of silk net, fine mesh, embroidered with straw over straw-colored satin. Straw embroidered fichus had been seen before, but never an entire dress, and this was most artistically executed in wheat ears, oats and grasses with the finest split straw. Such embroidery cannot be bought, and it was, indeed, the fact that the wearer had accomplished the work herself. She had seen a small piece of such embroidery worn by a friend, and her ambition was excited to possess a dress of it.

Shirring has become so common that it is no longer distinctive; still it is effective. All the recent dresses, of whatever material, are made with shirred backs, short apron fronts, and all-round bodices. The skirt hangs straight at the back, and the shirring consists of from five to seven rows below the line of the belt.

The latest style of overdress is the "smock frock," and it is copied after the garment worn by the English carter, or team-driver. Such a man does not sit on or in his wagon, but he drives his load, walking beside his horses, cracking his whip, and wearing a "smock frock" winter and summer, over his corduroys. This frock is neither more nor less than what would be called a straight "pinafore" if worn by a child, with the fullness gathered in, and shirred down front and back into rather narrow limits, leaving plain spaces at the sides. The sleeves are shirred from the top down in the same way for several inches, but in a coarse fashion, and the new overdresses strictly follow copy, except that the shirring—"gauging" it is called in England—is more neatly done than in the carter's frocks. The carters also wear them loose—the young ladies add a belt, gather the slightly full sleeve into a broad band which descends half way upon the arm, and edge with lace. The prettiest are made of soft twilled Corah silk, cream white or robins' egg blue, and when the frock is cut rather long and placed over a skirt trimmed with many tiny gathered ruffles upon a slender, graceful form, a singular transformation is effected, and the carter's homely frock becomes a part of one of the sweetest and subtlest things in art or nature.—*New York Graphic.*

#### A Feminine Stock Gambler.

The ways of heaven are inscrutable, no doubt, but the ways of women are past finding out. An ancient dame, bowed under the weight of many summers, entered an office on Montgomery street and ordered the stockbroker who inhabited that cell to buy immediately for her shares in a certain stock to the amount of \$300, all her worldly wealth. The broker being a kind-hearted man, and not having a very good opinion of the aforesaid stock, advised her not to buy. But the old lady, having confidence in her judgment, insisted, saying that if the broker would not purchase for her there were others that would. Whereupon the idea struck the man of shares and margins that it would be a good thing to humbug the old girl for her own good. He therefore told her that he had bought the stock as ordered, and the old party was content. Next day down went the stock, and our venerable friend lost her \$300 and about a thousand more—that is, she would have lost them had the broker acted squarely with her. Down she came to the office, weeping and wailing and gnashing her teeth, or rather her gums, for teeth she had none. "Oh, Mister—" cried she, "oh, if I only had my \$300 back again I'd be content, and never, never, never risk it any more. It's all I have in the world." This and much more did she pour into the broker's sym-

thizing ear, and he made answer thus: "Madam, if you will give me your word of honor never to touch stock again, I'll take your risk myself and hand you back your money." What pen can describe the shower of blessings invoked on the head of that worthy broker? The promise was sacredly given, the \$300 returned, and the old lady marched straight out of the office, across the street, and invested the entire sum in Ophir, losing the whole in about twenty minutes. Such is woman's constancy.—*San Francisco News Letter.*

#### Some Feats in Swimming.

Somewhat over forty years ago, a seaman belonging to her majesty's ship Orestes threw himself overboard as a means of escaping punishment for some offense. He was picked up by a fishing boat seven hours afterward off the coast of Spain, and stated that he had been swimming toward the land all the time. About the same period, two men swam up the river Mersey from Liverpool to Runcoorn; they accomplished the distance in something less than four hours. Passing over a long interval, during which many swims were recorded of a few hours' duration, we come to the more recent exploits of Captain Webb, certainly the most remarkable swimmer of whom we have authentic record. After some notable achievements in the Irish sea, he undertook the astonishing feat of swimming across the whole breadth of the English Channel, despite its very rough sea. On the first attempt he could only reach part of the way, and was for safety brought back by an attendant steamer. His second attempt, in 1875, was quite successful; he swam for nearly twenty-two hours continuously, from Dover to the French coast near Calais; he was supplied occasionally with refreshments by persons near at hand, but he never touched boat or ground during this prolonged interval. In the same year a young damsel, Miss Agnes Beckwith, daughter of Beckwith, the teacher of swimming, gave clear proof that the weaker sex is strong enough to achieve remarkable results in this art; she swam down the Thames from London Bridge to Greenwich, amid the crowded shipping of that part of the river. In a spirit of emulation, Emily Parker, daughter of another professional swimmer, slightly exceeded Agnes Beckwith's distance by swimming from London Bridge to Blackwall. Cavill, another swimming master, accomplished the distance from Dover to Ramsgate; he was six hours and a half doing the feat, but he was more distressed with the heat of the sun beating down upon his head and the sunshine glaring in his eyes than with fatigue. Quite recently the London public have been astonished by proofs of the great length of time that persons can remain floating with or without swimming. At the Westminster aquarium is a large tank constructed for the temporary reception of a live whale. In this tank Agnes Beckwith remained afloat for thirty hours, without touching ground or sides of the tank, singing a little and occasionally reading a newspaper to pass away the dreary monotony, and taking refreshments handed to her. The water had a strong infusion of salt thrown in to it to increase its buoyancy. Since that time Captain Webb has eclipsed everything else of the kind known. In the recent month of May he remained in the whale tank no less than sixty hours continuously, floating all the time, and never touching sides or bottom.—*Chambers' Journal.*

#### Words of Wisdom.

Giants in the closets are often but pigmies in the world.

Kindness is stowed away in the heart, like rose leaves in a drawer, to sweeten every object around.

Without earnestness no man is ever great, or does really great things. He may be the cleverest man; he may be brilliant, entertaining, popular, but he will want weight.

Property left to a child may soon be lost; but the inheritance of virtue—a good name, an unblemished reputation—will abide forever. If those who are toiling for wealth to leave their children would but take half the pains to secure for them virtuous habits, how much more serviceable would they be. The largest property may be wrested from a child, but virtue will stand by him to the last.

#### Facts for the Curious.

A rifle ball moves 1,000 miles per hour.

A hand (horse measure) is four inches.

Rapid rivers flow seven miles per hour.

Electricity moves 288,000 miles per hour.

The first lucifer match was made in 1829.

Gold was discovered in California in 1848.

A mile is 5,280 feet, or 1,760 yards, in length.

Until 1776 cotton spinning was performed by the hand spinning-wheel.

English solicitors practicing before the borough court of Derby must now wear wigs and gowns. The matter had been seriously discussed by the magistrates, who decided that the dignity of the court required the wearing of robes and wigs; and, as the lord chancellor has approved the resolution of the magistrates, the solicitors have received instructions accordingly.