Bird Tails and Deer Horns That Are Useless to Their Possessors-Wan-

ton Destructiveness of Animals. Nature abounds with unexplained phenomena. Of what use, for instance, is the long tail of the male pheasant to a bird that has often to save itself by flight? In some varieties (as in the Chinese silver pheasant), the problematic appendage is nearly six feet long and makes it almost impossible for its proprietor to take wing at short notice. In running through the tangled underbrush of a tropical forest, the tail is hardly less obstructive, and is certainly not ornamental enough to compensate its undesirable tendencies. And again: of what benefit to its owner are the enormous horns of the Wapiti stag-antlers with a spread of fifty six inches and a weight of twenty-five pounds? side stretching left and right almost as far as a man of average size could extend his arms, they send out a number of lateral branches forming a system of hooks and prongs exquisitely adapted to catch against every bush, as the encumbered animal dashes along through the maze of of its native woods.

"I would not care for the bite of a mosquito if it wasn't for its whine," I have heard many people say, and it seems, indeed, not quite easy to understand of what profit the droning or buzzing sound of its wings can be to any blood-sucking insect. It merely serves to warn or annoy its intended victims, to whom it can hardly be more aggravating than to the whining little vampire itself.

A still greater enigma is the deadly virus of the African testee fly. In Southern Nubia, there are districts where herdsmen have to drive their cattle hundreds of miles every spring to avoid the bite of the little pest, whose private purpose is limited to extration of a few drops of blood, and whose interests have no imaginable connection with the subsequent agony of its victims. day or two after a stout steer has been bitten, strange swellings appear under his jaw and about the groins; the animal shivers and twitches, as if in extreme distress and finally dies in convulsions, often attended with outbreaks of fury, similar to those observed in an advanced stage of hydrophobia. The testimony of such travelers as Dr. Livingstone and Sir Samuel Baker leaves no doubt about the actuality of the described results; yet if a wasp should be provided with an apparatus to poison every pear it nibbles, the arrangement could hardly appear more preposterous. The gratuitous destructiveness of certain carnivorous animals presents a very similar problem. An otter in a well-stocked fish-pond will kill about fifty fishes for one it cats, and the murderous instinct of the weasel and the European pine-marten far exceeds the needs and conceivable interests of the little demons. An amateur poultry fancier of my acquaintance once lost twenty-eight imported chick-ens in a single night, all of them having been killed by a small sharp bite into the base of the brain. In three or four cases the murderer had gnawed the skull of its prey and torn open the neck in quest of blood, but, with those exceptions, the massacre seemed to have been prompted by a sheer wanton love of havoc. With a little more prudence, the poultry-loving marten could have re-peated his visits and banquets for a long series of nights, and have all his depredations credited to one or the other of the half-hundred different disorders fowls are heir to, for the hea-nouse harof them always on the sick list. But

that one night's mischief ended the game. The fiend was tracked to his loop hole and trapped the very next As a rule, defenceless animals are

dressed in the colors best adapted to conceal them from their enemies, and kind Nature goes so far as to vary the protective hue of certain creatures with the different seasons of the year as in case of the Norwegian grouse, whose plumage pock brown in summer but turns white at approach of winter.

same But the close study of that rule reveals some curious exceptions. In the Arctic regions where suow-white would be the best possible protective color, several species of seal are dressed in suits of black and dark brown that contrast strikingly with the bleak surface of the ice-fields, and attract polar bears and other connoisseurs of scal-skin from a distance of many miles. Sparrow-hawks often puruse tanagers or summer-redbirds, that try their best to escape by darting into a thicket of tangle-vines, but are betrayed again and again by a color that "flames as if it was going to set the woods afire," as Henry Thoreau expresses it. Several species of tropical finches are attired in even more risky hues-a glaring combination of white and scarlet or of yellow and dark blue; colors that cannot possibly escape the attention of even a casual observer. Butterflies fight the struggle for existence under similar disadvantages, and many species of their helpless caterpillars seem to have been colored expressly for the convenience of their chief enemies, the the predatory ichneumon wasps, that can hardly fail to see a coil of red and dark brown worms in a green tree. - New York Ledger.

A Diamond is Useful.

A St. Louis drummer, says the Globe-Democrat, says he has found by experience that a small diamond worn in the necktle-not in the shirt front-served as a badge of respectability wherever he went. If he went into a restaurant and found that he had forgotten his pocketbook he was never asked to leave his watch until he could pay his bill, and he was never asked to pay in advance by hotel clerk if he went to the hotel with out baggage. In short, wherever he went that little \$60 diamond proclaimed that there was a man who was not pressed for money and who could be

A Peculiar Fish.

A fish of most peculiar appearance, the like of which has never been seen by any of the many old fishermen who have inspecied it, was recently exhibited Pensacola, Pla. It was caught in the gulf with hook and line and is about five feet in length. The body is similar to that of a dolphia, and it has a bill like a needle fish. The tail is forked, and has two immense flux rising from the back. They are of a soft, bony substauce, and are of such peculiar formation that they give the fish the appearance of having a flowing mane .- Chicago

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

GREEN POOD FOR POWLS

Fowls want green food, especially in the season for it, and where they have their liberty they consume large quan-tities of grass; also vegetables, if they can get at them. When confined in lit-tle runs they should have a small sup-ply with their other food daily. Clover is always welcome. There is nothing they like better than cabbages, both heads and leaves. By sowing a bed in the garden with cabbage seed, early and thick, a plentiful supply of leaves can be furnished them before the transplanted plants head,-New York World.

VALUE OF SOAP SUDS AS A PERTILIZER. The wastes of the domestic washing contain some free alkali and some alkaline solution of animal matter derived. from the soiled clothing. The skin exudes a considerable quantity of nitrogenous matter and some ammonia com-pounds. These are dissolved by the alkali of the soap and become available nutriment for plants. Hence all the soapy wastes of the household should be turned to use, and either drained into a compost pit, where they can be absorbed,

CUT-WORMS.

or run direct into the garden, where they

We do not know of any better way of protecting cabbage, tomate and other plants from the depredation of cut-worms than to inclose the stems of the plants with paper. The paper may be applied when the plants are set out or afterward when the cut-worms begin their work. When the worms are very abundant some such protection is necessary, but where only a few appear we keep them in check by examining the plants every morning and killing all the worms found. A few years ago cut-worms were so abundant in ur gardens that all early vegetable plants were soon destroyed if not protected, but by persistent warfare on these pests we have so much reduced the number that we set out our cabbages and similar plants without protection .- American Agriculturist.

PEEDING OATS IN THE STRAW.

Threshing did not use to cost so much as it does by modern methods. The steam thresher does the work quickly and well, but that is about all that can be said for it. Counting cost of coal, help and other expenses, doing the work with the fluil in winter is quite as cheap. If the out crop is thus left much of it will never be threshed, but fed to horses and other stock in the straw. There is not waste enough in this oats to pay cost of threshing, provided the oats in the straw are fed to animals having good teeth and good digestion. If pigs have access to the manure piles they will root over and eat all the voided oats. Practically the largest part of the oats fed to horses in winter are fed whole. After the threshing has been been done the farmer thinks he cannot afford time to take the oats to mill, and the toll for the advantage of feeding them ground. It is the opinion of most farmers that they cannot afford the cost of grinding oats, except they have the facilities for grinding them at home, without carrying them several miles to mill. — Boston Cultivator.

PROFITABLE WOODLAND.

Cattle need some shade in the pasture fields during the hot days of summer, and nothing is better for this than to have a small piezo of woodland attached to the fields. Such a piece of woodland can be made profitable in various ways and prove a valuable adjunct to the farm. If the trees are properly attended to all of the fence posts needed can be grown right on the farm, and the wood pile kept stocked. New bean poles could be ings, and in fact the woodland would be of value in a dozen different ways. To do this, however, the underbrush must be kept down by thinning out occasionally. If the stock is kept out, young trees can be trained every year by giving them more freedom. If the woodland is used for a pasture the succulent grasses should be sown among the trees, and if the underbrush is kept down well they will thrive better during the hot days than if exposed directly to the sun's hot rays. The animals should not be turned into the woodland until the grasses have a good start, and are thoroughly rooted in the soil. If after a few seasons the woodland becomes depastured and the trees begin to look old and withered, the animals should be kept out for a season to give the growths a chance to regain their lost vitality .- New York Voice.

HOW TO BUILD UP HORSES. Many flat-sided, long-backed, slack-

loined horses are receiving liberal patronage on account of their defects siderably masked by layers of fat and flabby muscle. Condition does not simply mean the presentation of a good appearance, but signifies the ability to endure work and maintain health. The two latter abilities cannot be possessed without liberal feeding and plenty of exercise. Good condition requires time to produce. The work of conditioning ought to begin fully two mouths before The daily exercise and quantity of food should be increased in like ratio, until five miles a day is given a draught horse and eight or ten a light | the plumage. horse. Drags are detrimental to the process of conditioning. A great invigorator of the horse is rubbing. Nothing, next to good feeding, gives him more vim. A plentiful supply of good, clean, thick cotton rubbers should be on hand, and the horse should be vigorously rubbed after his exercise until he is perfeetly dry. Groom while the circulation of the skin is active, as after exercise is far more beneficial than at any other time. The death rate among heavy stallions during the season is much higher than need be, which is largely the result of abruptly putting horses into the trying ordeal of heavy service and constant excitement, without building up the system in the manner indicated .-Canadian Live Stock Journal.

POULTRY HOUSE ON WHERLS.

The chief cause of disease among restrained fowls in hot weather is close confinement. Even if allowed an earth floor it soon becomes contaminated, and its corruption emits death-dealing gases. | the gardens of the British Embassy, and Most "movable poultry houses" are was perhaps the tallest tree in Rome. It prettier in theory than available in was historical as having been pierced by practice. If built to move they are sel- a cannon ball during the attack on the dom moved, because too heavy and un- city in September, 1870. It was strapped

axle spliced by a blacksmith, making it ten feet long. The best wheels were placed on this and a light house built over them. The highest part just allows the whoels to revolve, and the roof slopes

rapidly to the caves on either side. The ridge is directly over the axle and the caves only eighteen inches high and six feet from it. This makes the house ten by twelve and the wheels are profrom the weather. When completed it rests on the wheels. It must now be raised two or three inches and supported on a frame which rests on the axle at each side near the wheel. It will not quite balance. Under the end which rubs place a flat runner. This arrangement can be moved easily and the fowls kept always on fresh grass or plowed ground. The same plan would make a prime movable yard that could be much larger because lighter, but would have the disadvantage of not sheltering the wheels .- New York Tribune.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES. Spade up yards; keep the fowls scratch-

Protect animals from flies and the See to the cucumber and melon will be very valuable for all garden crops.—New York Tribune.

Good soil and culture make good

A tight barn is better than an open one to keep hay in.

Twenty-five healthy fowls are worth 100 half sick ones. Too steady feeding on one kind of grain has a bad effect.

Ripe grass loses nearly one-half its value when cured as hav. Cut early and grow a second crop of

orchard grass and clover. Provide shade for your poultry yards these hot days. It is necessary.

Beware of that innocent, measley, cominable pet cat around chicks. If your hens lay soft-shelled eggs they are perhaps too fat. Put them at work

Keep your chickens tame. They do better in every way; besides, it is a great deal of satisfaction.

Forcing chicks too hard in their feed, where they have a limited range, will lop over the combs of cockerels.

If you are searching your flocks for the good layers, select the pullets that have large core's and long bodies. Give the birds chopped onions occasionally. They are among the best of

foods and are often a preventive against Give the growing chicks a variety of food and don't allow them to become stunted in the first two or three months

of growth. Do not allow your chicks to remain in a coop on the damp ground, for roup will be sure to follow such experiments. Every care should be taken to avoid

If possible young pigs should be kept in out of the cold rains; also from run-ning in the grass that is wet from rain or dew. Many bowel troubles arise from such exposure. This is true of all young animals.

A diet of gruel made of pure potato starch will soon cure scours in calves when all other means fail. No milk is given. A Massachusetts farmer says he lost many calves annually until he found

Any grass land that will not yield a am and a nalf of key per acre should bebroken up at once after mowing and planted with something; even a crop of millet will pay better than neglect and no late crop at all.

It has been discovered that a few hens with young broods kept and fed in an onion patch are an excellent remedy for the prevalent maggot. A hen turkey cooped with a score of young ones will clear all the flies and young maggots from an acre of onions.

One ounce of alum dissolved in one quart of water will be sufficient as a remedy against squash bugs and cucum-ber beetles. It is also an effective remedy for the cabbage worms. It should be sprayed on the paints by means of a syringe with a fine rose nozzle.

A bundle of straw for the young chicks to scratch in is always welcome among a broad of growing birds. The activity indulged in brings in play the muscles that increase their size and vigor; this always benefits and assists, when they want to feel sick and ready to fall out of rank.

A sprained hock will swell considerably and should be treated without delay or spavin may ensue. Cold-water bandages should be applied until the swelling is reduced, when some active liniment well rubbed into the skin will be useful. Rest is advisable, and freshcut grass with a bran mash once a day would be helpful.

A sieve is a very useful as well as necessary article, to keep about the coops.
The pail of ashes may seem to be fine
enough to please the daintiest hen, but
sift them and the sharp cinders will come on top and can be usefully used about the The finer ashes are of course used runs. for dusting. If the ashes are mixed with dust or fine dirt, some claim they are better, claiming that wood ashes are too strong-that they mar the luster of

A Statue of Columbus.

The Italians of New York city have raised over \$5000 for a statue of Columbus and are to hold a fair for the fund in the fall. It is expected that their compatriots throughout the country will con-tribute about \$10,000. The design for the monument includes a pedestal of Italiau granite fifteen feet square, a column of Carrara marble four feet in diameter, and a bronze statue of Columbus in the uniform of an Admiral with his right hand extended. Bronzes on the base will represent Italian genii hovering about a globe and Columbia pointing up at the navigator. The sculptor is Gaetano Russo, of Rome. The monument will be erected, probably at the Battery, in 1892. -Picayune.

A Famous Palm Tree.

A prized palm tree in Rome was blown down during a recent gale. It stood in handy. They are frequently be to high, increasing their wei so longs, t.

Having an old son sheltering, I disc.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

BEAN SOUP.

Soak over night one pint of good dry beans; throw off this water, parboll fifteen minutes, and put to boil in plenty of cold water with half a pound of fat pork cut in slices. Simmer slowly till soft, adding more water as needed. There should be two and a half quarts of it when done. Cut the pork in dice, and rub that and the beans through a coarse sieve or colander. Have ready one pint of cooked and thinly-sliced carrot; if very large cut the slices in quarters. Mix, and heat up with one quart of new milk, adding water if too thick. Just before serving add two ounces of butter, and pepper to taste. The pork may be omitted, and more butter, or a cup of cream used in its place .- The Housewife.

COOLING AND SERVING MELONS. If there is room in the ice-box and plenty of time put the melons there. Otherwise wrap a wet towel around them and stand them in a draught to cool by the evaporation of the water on the cloth. To keep watermelons over night in a large tub of cold water is an excellent way to cool them. Do not lay ice upon the cut surface; it makes the fruit watery

and destroys the substance.
Of course the ordinary slicing of melns is generally understood, but a little ngenuity applied to the matter greatly aproves the appearance of the fruit and increases the enjoyment of cating it. Cut off the top of the melon and then, using a fork and tablespoon, take up convenient sections, letting the seeds drop out as they will, but do not break the pulp apart to reach them. This is a much more acceptable way of serving than in great slices or wedges, always providing there is no stint in quantity. watermelon is frozen as an ice the flavor is much improved by the addition of any such acid fruit juice as current, lemon, cherry, or lime juice, with a palatable addition of sugar .- Chicago News.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Coffee boiled longer than one minute is coffee spoiled.

Never put tea leaves on a light colored carpet; they will surely leave a stain. Boil clothespins in clean water once a

nonth, and they will be much more durable.

In packing bottles or canned fruit for moving, slip a rubber band over the body of them. Warm dishes for the table by immers-

ing them in hot water, not by standing them on a hot stove. To beat the whites of eggs stiff, with ease, they should be cold, with a very

small pinch of salt added. Cut a piece from the top of old kid shoes and insert it inside the ironing holder you are going to make.

Never slice apples for making pies; quarter and core, and if an apple is arge cut each quarter in two pieces.

Open canned fruit an hour or two before it is needed for use. It is far richer when the oxygen is thus restored to it. Add two tablespoonfuls of kerosene to the pail of water with which you

wash grained or other varnished furni-Sift a tablespoonful of pulverized sugar over the top of two-crust pies before baking, and see how delicious it makes

Mix stove blacking with spirits of turentine. It will take off the rust, polish easier, and stay glossy longer than when water is used.

When you are hurried and a postagestamp will not stick, moisten it and rub it on the flap of an envelope, and then quickly put it in its place. Make boiled starch with a weak soar

suds made of white soap, instead of with clear water, and you will have no difficulty with its sticking. Egg shells are somewhat porous, and like butter and cheese absorb unpleasant

odors. Therefore, eggs should be kept in asweet, cool, clean place. A small teaspoonful of powdered borax added to a bowl of cold starch will give

more stiffness to linen than any of the numerous things I have tried. All floor and whisk brooms should be thoroughly wet in scalding hot brine be-

fore using them. It will effectually prevent the straws from breaking. Add a tablespoonful of borax to a pan of hot soap-suds; put your table silver in it, and let it stand two hours. Rinse it with clear water, and polish with a soft

cloth or chamois. Beat an egg thoroughly in a bowl and add one teacup of cold water to it. Use nough of this to thoroughly moisten coffee when making it. Keep in a cold place, and waste no more eggs by dry-

After thoroughly sweeping a dingy carpet, wipe it with a damp cloth par-tially wrong out of a mixture of water and ox-gall in the proportion of two tablespoonfuls of the latter to a gallon of lukewarm water.

Do not wring woolen underwear through a wringer. Use the hands and shake it thoroughly before drying. When perfectly dry fold it smooth, but do not See if the odor is not more agreeable than when a hot sad-iron has passed over them

Granulated sugar is the purest brand; onsequently the cheapest. Do not use: quite as much as of other kinds-one-half nch less for a cupful. Cake batter made with granulated sugar requires longer beating than usual, as the sugar is longer in dissolving.

Save the small paper bags carefully which groceries come in; they are useful in many ways. Slip the hand in one when you black the stove, and you will not soil it. When flies abound, slip them over the clean lamp-chimneys durthe day. After fruit is canned draw them over the can, and label them plainly the action of the light causes more fruit to spoil than any other one thing .-American Agriculturist.

A White Raccoon.

William Jones, of Philadelphia, has received a white raccoon, which was captured in the eastern part of Ohio. It is said to be the only animal of its kind and color in this country. It is not more than a year old, and the coat is as white as that of the whitest Spitz dog. "Whitey," as the raccoon is called, is quite playful and rather affectionate .-

The Argentine Republic has an area as great as all Central and Western Europe. combined; about 1,620,000 square miles,

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

The English delight in feathers. Long plumes are more frequently seen

An attempt is being made to introduce perfumed gloves.

Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt has never been photographed.

Two more cooking schools are to be pened in Boston, Mass.

Vice-President Morton's daughters are complished horsewomen. Blondes are said to be disappearing

ooth in England and in America Queen Victoria is said to entirely lack usideration for those about her.

Queen Victoria's dinner hour is no ntil nine o'clock in the evening. A well shod foot is as necessary beauty's outfit as a well gloved hand.

Outdoor garments for children are much ornamented with gold braiding. Kate Field says that the term "old maid" has become obsolete in America. Gauze is used in warm-weather sleeves instead of embroidered or velvet sleeves. Female typewriters abound in Washngton, and find their profession very

A Boston woman who invented a shoe ewing machine sold the patent for \$150,000.

ucrative.

A Cincinnati girl is said to have eaten wenty-seven dishes of ice cream in one

Tam O'Shauter crowns of velvet or silk are put in ladies' straw hats and considered very novel.

Reefers and blazer jackets are made in silk, serge or flannel and are the favorites for outdoor wraps. For girls of from six to nine, the

blazer in tartan plaid or fancy checked cheviot is much worn. There still remain in Michigan two omen who draw pensions as widows of

Revolutionary soldiers. Queen Victoria presented Miss Ten

nant, Stanley's fiaucce, with her minia-ture and a lock of her hair. If you wish something in outdoor wraps exceptionally pretty get a flaunel

reefer with gold or pearl buttons. Valerie of Austria, Archduchess, etc., has renounced all claim to the throne in

order to marry the man she loves. In garments for rainy days those of striped serge surface, in Russian circular and Lonsdale shape take the lead.

Mrs. Houghton, a real estate dealer at Spokane Falis, Washington, is said to have made \$250,000 in four years. White alpaca braid, the quite narrow

or wide Hercules braid, is a favorite trimming for children's fancy dresses. The profile on the standard silver dollar is that of Miss Williams, of Philadelphia, who appears to be a school teacher. Ladies' shirts are in greater variety as the demand increases. Dotted muslin, percale and linen are used in neglige at-

Jessie Carson, a plucky girl, has for several years been driving a stage be-tween Osage and Park Rapid, in Minne-

Butterfly bows for hats are made of everything-lace, velvet, filigree work, metalic and bullion gauze, jet, pearl and tinsel cloth

Now the swagger girl has adopted the dude silk sash, and with her blazer, shirt and four-in-hand looks too sweet for anything. Miss Fannie Edgar Thomas, whose pen

now earns her a very handsome income, says she was working for only \$1 a week a few years ago. The modern corset was introduced in the twelfth or thirteenth century and

was worn by men as well as by women until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, One of the newest shades of color is oncy-blue, which is charmingly effective

combined with gray. It is said to be the favorite color of the Empress Eugenie. One of the most noted of Kansas belles is Miss Clark, of Leavenworth. She is a blonde, with blue eyes, a peach-blow complexion, and a beautiful mouth, which reveals pearly teeth.

The only protection for the redundant letter-writer is notepaper, three and a half by six inches. Onton and porcelain blue, robin's egg green and shell-gray are the tints most admired.

The Empress of Germany dresses so simply and so inconspicuously that she might easily be mistaken for some young country matron on a first visit to the city rather than the wife of the Emperor.

Women have recently been admitted into Greenwich (England) Observatory, and four have joined the staff of the Astronomer Royal. Their duties will require attendance at all hours of the

The delicate, soft shade of brown called blondine with ivory white is one of the newest and prettiest combination, both for gowns and millinery. The color is also combined with the popular pumpkin vellow.

Measures are on foot to open female medical colleges next fall in St. Petersburgh and Moscow, and a plan of establishing commercial colleges for women in various large cities of the empire is in preparation.

Oxford College, England, has thrown open its medical examinations to women. This, to be sure, does not give to women the certified right to practice under English law, but it is one more step toward opening educational advantages

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E. A. Rood, Toledo, Ohio, says: "Hall's Catarrh Cure cured my wife of catarrh fifteen years ago and site has had no return of it. It's a sure cure." Sold by Druggista, 75c. A CRILD was born in St. Louis recently without eyeballs.

Confirmed.

The favorable Impression produced on the first appearance of the agreeable liquid fruit remedy Syrup of Figs a few years ago has been more than confirmed by the pleasant experience of all who have used it, and the success of the proprietors and manufacturers, the California Fig Syrup Company.

FITS stopped free by DR. KLINE'S GREAT NERVE RESTORM. No Fits after first day's use. Marvelous cures. Treatise and \$3 trial bottle free. Dr. Kline, 631 Arch St., Phila., Ps. For a disordered liver try Beecham's Pills.

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