

The first Roman journal, published over 2,000 years ago, appeared only once a year. This paper intended to be read by the public, was known by the title *Annales Romanorum*. The editor of this paper was the "Pontifex Maximus," whose duty it was to chronicle all the important events of the year. The news was written on white wooden tablets and attached to the residences of citizens. It must have been a curious sight to see the old Romans crowding around these tablets to get a glance at the latest news. But the first after the knowledge and the curiosity of the people grew rapidly and in such a measure that the pontifex, the only issuer of a journal, found himself obliged to issue a daily. It is interesting to know that some of these journals, having reached the age of 2,044 years, are still in existence. The name of the first daily journal was *Acta Populi Romani Diurna*. It appeared daily, either as "Album," i. e., the tablets hung out in public, or the contents were written with red chalk on the walls of the houses. The contents of the journal comprised what would be classified as daily news in our modern papers. Doubtless it will interest some of our readers to peruse a verbal translation from the oldest journal extant, issued 168 years before the birth of Christ:—"Cousul Scinius was the acting judge today. There was a heavy thunder storm, and the lightning split an oak at the foot of the hills of Veii. In a hoister at the foot of the hill of Janus there was a fight in which the landlord was badly wounded. The selling of meat which had not been inspected. The money thus paid was used to erect a chapel to the Goddess Laverna. The broker Ausidius fled from town today, taking money with him belonging to other people. He was caught and had to refund the money. The brigand Demiphon, who was captured by Officer Nerva, has been crucified today. It must be of interest to journalists to know that Julius Caesar, the greatest of all Romans, paid special attention to journalism. He saw the necessity of instructing the people in everything occurring in the State, and we find this quotation in Suetonius:—"Julius Caesar, as soon as he had entered his public office, caused not only to be written, but also spread among the people, proceedings of the senate." This was the first political paper, and as it contained news about buildings, births, deaths, excursions and anecdotes, it can be likened very much to our modern papers. It seems incredible, but it is proved, already in the olden times there were stenographers who took down the speeches made in the Senate, or in public. They were called "notarii," and we find a place in Suetonius where Augustus is angry because the stenographers reported the speech of Caesar for Metellus in a very imperfect manner.

Good Hay.
Probably there is no one thing produced on the farm, which is preserved in worse condition than hay. It is neglected until too ripe, is then scorched by the sun or moulded by damp and fermentation. Cutting and curing need radical reform. It is not all careless neglect or press of other business. In many cases it is stubborn error in our opinion as to the proper time to cut hay. It is so hard to eradicate hoary error in this, as well as in other respects. Reformation has to give precept and example with patience. Agricultural societies, when conducted by farmers, give premiums for the purpose of stimulating improvements in the management of the farm. If they are managed by horse jockeys, racing will be the main feature. If by railroad men and hotel keepers, the main object will be to get a crowd; so to add largely to railroad fare and hotel bills. Then we say, if farmers are managing societies, we know of no one item on which premiums could be more profitably given than on samples of well grown, clean, sweet hay cut at the season when most nutritious. Hay is becoming an item of the greatest importance as we are changing from grain to grass and stock farming. In view of the fact that managers of the societies always need some hay, provision might be made to buy and use the hay presented for premiums. The agricultural papers have been calling attention to this subject, but it will need the aid of agricultural societies by every other influence to correct the errors and practices in cutting and curing this important element in raising cattle, horses and sheep. There have been some valuable experiments made as to the value of cutting hay early, and a faithful report of the results would aid materially in the reform in contemplation.

Worth Pawning.
When Lever, the novelist, was residing near Dublin, the Hussars arrived in that city, and they were made into a great attraction, owing to the Earl of Cardigan being their Colonel and the numerous duels and quarrels that had occurred in the regiment. After a levee at the Castle, one of their officers, Lever recounts, was walking down Sackville street, one sunny afternoon, in his full dress, and he was met by two Irishmen fresh from the county. Quite staggered at the glittering and gorgeous apparition clanking toward them, they riveted their eyes on the blazing gold, blue and crimson figure, and, with a wondering gaze, the one exclaimed to the other, with a sharp nod in the ribs and a look of exquisite fun, "Begorra, shouldn't I like to pawn him!"

Dry as a Specific Gravity Bottle or Flask.
It not infrequently occurs that a clean, dry sp. gr. bottle or flask is wanted for use, and in hurried drying sometimes gets cracked. The following little device has been found useful: Wash the bottle or flask with distilled water and drain it for a moment or two. Then wash with a little strong alcohol and drain the bottle a second time. The alcohol need not be wasted, as it is but slightly tainted by the residual water from the first washing. When the bottle is again drained it remains wet with the diluted alcohol. Pour in a little dry ether and wash the bottle out with this. Again drain, and the warmth of the hand or very little extra heat will then completely dry the bottle or flask. The alcohol must of course be strong, and the ether dry, or the device fails.

DIARRHEA IN FOWLS.—Recent scientific researches have proved that the disease which is developed in the intestines, passes into the blood, and multiplies itself there with extraordinary rapidity. This is the cause of the diarrhea which may be taken by birds who pick about among the dung-heaps or eat the grains that have been soiled by contact with it. If a few flies, or an ant, or a tick, or a worm, in fact, has caused its death, the birds should be immediately taken out of the poultry-yard and isolated. The poultry-yard should be thoroughly cleaned, and the dung removed, and the plants, perches, and soil washed with plenty of water. The water used should contain five grammes of litmus, or rather a little more of potassium permanganate. When two days have passed without a death occurring, the birds need no longer be isolated. Those which show signs of prostration, depression, or sleepiness. These signs may be found sufficient to stop the progress of the contagion, and the birds may be employed as soon as the disease makes its appearance, they will reduce the losses to an insignificant figure.

THE CARE OF PIGS.—A farm is not complete without pigs, and they are green fowl to pick, and a field is often the most profitable when it is growing a good crop of tender clover. The clover should be cut as a crop, and five to six to be cut at the trough. Pigs that are getting clover or grass can be fed corn without the injury it would do them were they confined closely to green food and deprived of green food. When the grass is short, a feed of fodder corn is important, and especially for sows that are rearing young pigs, as such grain increases the milk and keeps both sow and pigs in a healthy condition.

With a new "radiograph" for recording the intensity of the sun's radiation, Mr. D. Winstanley has observed that the sun's rays are not equally intense at all times of the day. The instrument shows a rise in the temperature before sunrise, owing to solar radiation. A more remarkable circumstance, however, is that, a fall of temperature indicated a little after sunset, the index mysteriously rises just before midnight and sinks again, although the sun is then directly over the opposite hemisphere.

The microphone has been successfully employed by Prof. Milne, of Tokio, Japan, to announce the preliminary signals of an earthquake. He places the instrument in pits remote from the roads, and he is careful, also, to exclude all insects, the movement of which would, of course, affect the indications, and lead to false inferences.

An artificial eye for fishing, made and employed by Indians on the Pacific coast, was exhibited some time ago at a meeting of the California Academy of Science in San Francisco. The eye, which the Indians would ultimately expect to use in fly-fishing.

We can detect the work of the sunbeams in the flash of the lightning and the roar of the thunder, in the turning of the compass-needle to the north, in the weight of the air, in the absence, as certainly as in the growing plant or the running stream.

Some remarkable facts are being elicited by the investigations of naturalists in Europe. In the stems of certain fungi of three genera, 77 tunnels by a species of ant, and it is asserted that the presence of the ants is actually essential to the existence of the plants. The tunnels are filled with crystals of calcium carbonate, and the insects which form them are not less than three months old when they begin to tunnel.

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