

THE LAST PAGE.

It is "womanlike," we know. Yet when we pick up a book we read but a page or so. Then we take a quick look at the last page—the end—and we fear no wild alarms. That the subtle plot may send, if he has "her" in his arms.

Then we start to read again; Chuckle at the hero's woes, at his struggles all in vain; Laugh because he never knows That the damsel young and fair, Who his vows of love has spurned Will be meekly waiting there When the final page is turned.

And the villain—all his fun Would be rendered flat and spoiled; All his schemes, as well begun, Would be very tamely foiled. If he knew the secret, too— Knew the truth his heart should haunt; What the heroine would do, How she'd tell him to "Avant!"

Often when the hero seems Just about to leave the race— Thinks his hopes are idle dreams, And the odds too great to face; Or the heroine, when she Wanders round, full of despair, We turn to the end, and see How it winds up happy there.

Father's rage or mother's scorn; Scheming, shrewd adventures; Make the hero, all forlorn, And it's ticklish, you'll confess, But we inwardly advise: "Clear up! This will soon be past." For the last page makes us wise— There he murmurs: "Mine at last!" —Chicago Tribune.

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goods." I proposed, carried away, by the excitement of the moment. "When do you think they'll get her?" "Oh, dear! It was the samples all over again. And when finally the much-hungered express agent produced the package he banged it down as though to say: "Thank heaven!" Persis proudly bore it to the tailor's, and started forthwith the continuous comedy of "Persis and the Tailor," and the continuous tragedy of "Persis and I."

May be I was unreasonable. I had had Persis a year and a half all to myself, and may be it was selfish in me to begrudge her to the tailor. Nevertheless, that tailor's operations was a systematic singleness of purpose that ground upon me mightily. I never could get ahead of him. Although I telephoned (ever so unexpectedly, I thought, to all save myself) and broached to Persis a drive right away, she always answered sweetly, but unyieldingly.

"That would be lovely, dear—but I have to go to the tailor's." Or else she already was there, and I rang her up in vain. That tailor seemed to know! When I arrived for lunch and found no Persis, 'twas a foregone conclusion where she was, and I needed not her breathless information when later she came hurrying in that the tailor had "kept her."

"The tailor cut into our evenings, for Persis went early to bed, and I sat melancholy and alone. "Oh, it's such a job to be fitted!" complained Persis, yet I could see that she was glorifying in the program. "I shall be so glad when I'm done with the tailor!" protested Persis; yet not for worlds would she have curtailed his attentions.

Persis was an angel, but she also was a woman. Did she grow impatient with the tailor because he kept her waiting, he dwelt upon the exquisite success that he was enabled to make of the suit, owing solely to her peculiarly artistic proportions—and she went away inspired!

"It's going to be a dream!" she assured me, radiant. "The style is the director's, and I look stunning! He says that not many women can wear the director's!" "When is it to be finished?" I inquired. "To-morrow," answered Persis. "They'll send it up in the morning. I've had my last fitting. Oh, Dick, it's a dream!"

"Persis," I addressed her as moderately as I could under the stress of the great news, "I am glad. I have calculated, and I pulled out my memorandum book, 'what, including to-day's trip, you have made eighteen visits to the tailor, averaging a mile and a half each, vertically. That is to say, your trips laid end to end, would reach from here twenty-seven miles into the country, and up into the air almost a quarter of a mile. You have been with the tailor thirty-six hours and thinking of him two weeks, and it's time you gave your husband another inning. Welcome back, darling!"

"How do you like it?" bubbled Persis, meeting me at the door the succeeding noon. "I gazed at the trim, rustly, stately little figure, whose eyes and smile and blushes were of old, but whose garb was a new acquaintance. "How do you like it?" laughed Persis, strutting like a pouter pigeon. "I do!" I declared. "Doesn't it fit, though?" exclaimed Persis, turning for me to see. "It certainly does—at last," I admitted. "Have you come to stay?" "My! But the women will be green with envy!" said Persis. "So will the men!" said I.—Edwin L. Sabin, in What-to-Eat.

AGRICULTURAL.

Feeding Rye to Hogs.

In feeding young hogs the rye may be fed either ground or soaked to growing hogs. It is not desirable to feed the whole grain dry. The better method of feeding is to grind the rye and feed it as slop. As to which is the more economical method, will depend on the question of grinding. The man who does his own grinding will find it more profitable to grind his rye and mix it with some corn and oats ground, feeding this combination as slop feed. Where it is necessary to pay for the grinding, the soaked grain will probably be more economical, as soaking costs but little, twelve hours' soaking is sufficient. Rye makes a splendid feed for growing pigs. It should be free from the disease known as "ergot," as rye which is thus affected is poisonous to stock.—J. H. Skinner, in Indiana Farmer.

Improper Feeding of Horses.

Much has been written concerning the short rations which many farmers use during the winter for their horses, because they do little work, but there is the other side of the question, the overfeeding and the improper feeding, which is quite as bad in its effect as scanty rations. Horses should be fed in accordance with the work required of them, although this does not signify that because a horse practically does no work during the winter his rations should consist of a pint of grain and all the hay he will eat. Improper feeding of hay is exceedingly injurious. In the ground feed that is given horses not worked a great deal there should be but about one-third corn or even one-quarter corn, one-quarter bran and one-half oats. The roughage of hay at a feed should be about the quantity he will consume in three-quarters of an hour. Add a little oil meal to the grain ration once or twice a week, exercise the horse daily, and when work is given him gradually, which will increase as spring draws near, gradually increase the ration. The plan on which a horse should be wintered, if he is not worked a great deal, should be to give him food enough to keep him in good condition and store away a little extra strength for the heavy farm work of spring, but not enough to make him fat or give him indigestion.

Feeding Sheep in Troughs.

The design of a sheep trough illustrated this week is one which has been found entirely satisfactory, all things considered; it is some little trouble to make it, but its superiority over the average trough is so great that the labor spent in its construction will be well spent. As shown, the trough is twelve feet long, sixteen inches wide, twenty-two inches high, tapered as shown. With the exception of the slats, which are one-half inch thick, and two and one-half inches wide, the trough is made of inch lumber. The sides, which are nailed on the edge of the bottom, are six inches wide. The end pieces, or legs, are three inches wide and extend six inches below the bottom of the trough as shown. These legs are, of course, fastened securely to the trough after the latter is built and are independent of the rack itself. The rack is built by nailing the slats one foot apart on pieces three inches wide and twelve inches long, and are then hinged to the sides of the trough so that they rest on the edges of the trough when closed. Two hinges on each side (strap hinges, of course) will be sufficient. At about the middle of the racks a bent hasp is fastened so that when the racks are in place they may be held so by turning the hasp to the other side over a staple and holding it in place with a bit of wood. In this arrangement either rack may be let down and the trough thus filled from either side.—Indianapolis News.

Two Mistakes.

It is a mistake to allow colts and calves to remain out in wood or field through winter storm and cold with no other shelter than a fence corner or tree trunk. Hardening them, some farmers call it. It is surely a case of the survival of the fittest if they survive it and do well. The bony, scraggy colt and calf brought up in the spring may live out its allotted time in spite of such usage, but it is at a loss. If you trust to the mercy of nature, she asks pay for it in shortened days or stunted growth. The other day, passing a large field, I saw one lonely calf, its back parts to the storm, covered with snow, shivering in the fence corner. Not a shed or straw stack in sight. And I thought of the proverb concerning the merciful man. Stock should never be turned into corn stalk or wood pasture in winter without having something provided in the way of shelter, which they can reach in stormy weather. Better not sell off all the straw to the stowboard, and use it in covering rude sheds for cattle and other stock. Our cattle are now far removed from their wild ancestry and do not bear cold and exposure well. Again, it is a second mistake to confine horses and cattle too closely. They require plenty of fresh air. The stables and cow sheds should be as warm as possible to make them, but they should be provided with good ventilators. Cows standing in a close atmosphere, laden with the poisonous exhalations from their own bodies, pass that poison back again to diseased lungs and milk. Some exposure to the cold and fresh air is necessary for the well being of the cow. It is a tonic that shows up quickly in her appearance. You can kill or weaken your stock by lack of care, and sometimes you can weaken them by too much care.—Ida Shepler, in The Epitomist.



TROUGH FOR SHEEP.

Chutes For Grains.

In a great many farm barns the feed, being grain is kept on the upper floor, and all that is fed out is carried down in one way or another. An American Agriculturist writer has a barn arranged thus and with no suitable space in the basement for a grain bin. As a way out of the difficulty he put in some grain chutes to run from the bins above, as shown in the accompanying cut. In some cases the chute could be allowed to drop directly from the bin above without any joints. Under few circumstances will a chute with less than half pitch be satisfactory. Oats will run through such a pitch with little difficulty. Wheat or rye will follow even a less slant, but with bulky stuff like ground feed there is considerable danger of clogging.

The interior of the chute ought not to be less than six inches square—six by eight would be even better. The interior should be free from all obstructions. The hopper shaped device just



A GRAIN CHUTE.

under the bin is quite necessary with oats and ground feed to give greater headway. The cut-off (A) is an ordinary draw supported by two cleats on either side. An extension is also made to the rear board of the chute so that it projects about half an inch outward, thus giving chance for holding a bag if necessary.—Connecticut Farmer.

Practical Farm Dairying.

Thinking, perhaps, the experience of a "common" farmer with a common herd would be interesting as well as instructive, I submit this: During the year ended April 1, 1903, our herd averaged a trifle over 300 pounds of butter each. We sold the same at twenty-two cents net. During the last year we sold parts of the cows. At the present time I am milking four October cows, which make an average of forty-two pounds a week. It would be somewhat difficult to average them to April 1, but I am confident the four will make 400 pounds each next year. The cows are common Jerseys. Not one is registered. No two are alike, nor is there one which could compete in the show ring. In fact, they are what Mr. Pack would call "scrubs."

They are stabled in a rather cold up-ground stable, confined in stanchions, and let out twice a day for water and put back immediately, except on pleasant days, when they are given an hour's run. Their feed consists of plenty of good oat straw and timothy hay twice a day, and shredded corn fodder or chaff at noon. The grain ration is four quarts of whole oats and bran mixed and four quarts of buckwheat rinds once a day. They are watered at a trough from which the ice has been removed beforehand. They have no ensilage or summer grain; are well bedded, but never curried. They are treated kindly, but in no sense are they under different conditions than are, or should be, in reach of every farmer. We try to have them dry through September. While I fully agree that cows will do better with scientific surroundings and better breeding, still there is better money for the plain farmer with a common herd of full blooded Ayrshires, but the scrub cow is where we got the start to do so, and, in defense of this much abused beast, will say that many a one with a reasonable chance would surprise the fellows with the high-priced families.—Lee Hathaway, in Tribune-Farmer.

Poultry Notes.

See that there is vigor and activity in the male bird. Changing hens to new quarters is apt to check their laying. It is best to cook cut clover hay and then mix it hot with ground grain. Even if the chickens do belong to the wife, you should help her with the heavy work. Exposing fowls to heavy wind storms is as dangerous to their health as is rainy weather. Crowded roosts at night will bring colds to the flock about as quickly as anything we know of. Heavy forcing will no doubt increase the egg yield, but it will cripple the stamina of future generations. Sifted coal ashes should be spread, several times a week, upon the dropping boards. Never use wood ashes. Feed the morning mash before giving water to drink. It is a mistake to allow a fowl to become chilled by drinking cold water while the crop is empty. It is a very easy matter to improve the farm flock, and now is the proper time to look over the flock and select a few of the very best pullets and mate them up with the best cockerel upon the farm. They can be confined in a wire netting yard adjacent to a portion of the poultry house. The use of the lead pencil in putting down in black and white the number of eggs and fowls produced and the price received for them is a good way to change the mistaken belief that hens do not pay for their feed. A record should be kept of the fowls and eggs consumed for family use. This is the season when many farmers are moving from one locality to another. Changing hens from one place to another is a good way to cause them to stop laying. They may be coaxed to resume operations sooner than they would otherwise by changing their diet. Give something new and they will come to their meals with an appetite.

Simple Fashions

New York City.—The demand for fancy waists seems ever to increase. This one, designed by May Manton, is equally well adapted to the odd bodice



FANCY WAIST.

and to the entire gown and to a variety of materials, but in the case of the model makes part of a costume of violet crepe de Chine, with a tucked yoke, full front and cuffs of chiffon in a lighter shade and trimming of ecru lace. The shirtings of waist and sleeves are arranged on continuous lines that give the fashionable breadth of figure and the garment over the shoulders provides the drooping line without which no waist is quite up to date.

The waist is made over a fitted lining on which the yoke and front and various parts of the waist are arranged. The waist proper and the sleeves are shirred and the closing is made invisibly at the left shoulder seam and beneath the left front. The sleeves are wide and full above the

spring frocks, as well as various em-broideries. A good many graduated bands of taffeta, satin and velvet will also be used. In some cases these bands are very smart, but on the other hand they are apt to accentuate any tendency to stoutness. These bands of satin ribbon are most useful where renovations are concerned; for instance, in order to lengthen a frock a new bounce may be added beneath a band, and all of us who patronize the cleaner realize that some things must shrink a little.

Newest Materials For Stocks.

The newest materials for stocks are cross-stitched canvas, mummy canvas and coarse linen, with Russian and Hungarian embroidery effects in the vivid national colors.

A Revolution In Lace.

Last year one couldn't get lace coarse enough. The thing was perhaps overdue, which accounts for the revolution in favor of more dainty, fragile trimmings.

A Caprice of Fashion.

Only a gathered cap in lieu of a sleeve is another of fashion's caprices for summer dress gowns, reviving an old-time mode.

A Quaint Effect.

Many evening gowns have borrowed that quaint old fashion of opening over a gay petticoat in front.

Circular Skirt.

Full skirts, that are confined over the hips, yet take soft and graceful folds below, make the latest shown. This May Manton one is circular and is arranged in small tucks at the up-

A LATE DESIGN BY MAY MANTON.



per portion that give a yoke effect, but is left plain at the front, so avoiding unbecoming fullness. The model is made of tan-colored foulard figured with brown and white and is trimmed with folds of the material stitched with silk, but all the fashionable clinging materials are admirable and trimming can be applique of any sort.

Both skirt and folds are circular and the latter are shaped to fit smoothly over the foundation, which can be tucked at the upper edge as illustrated or arranged in gathers as preferred. The quantity of material required

Shirt Waists Still Warm.

As is customary at the beginning of every season, the positive announcement is made that shirt waists are no longer fashionable, and that every skirt must have a waist to match; yet, strange to say, the shops are full of the most fascinating designs for shirt waists, and seamstresses and dressmakers alike are busy making blouses. The truth of the matter is that the shirt waist is an absolutely essential garment, and can no more be dispensed with than a coat or skirt. In a handsome costume it is not so fashionable to have a waist of different material from the skirt, but none the less, with the coat and skirt there are many occasions when a cloth waist, in fact, one of any material excepting lace or linen, silk or satin, is most uncomfortable to wear under the coat and when the smart separate waist is the only correct style.—Harper's Bazar.

Fancy Trimmings.

Fancy trimmings, as well as buttons, will be a feature of the early

for the medium size is ten yards twenty-one inches wide, eight yards twenty-seven inches wide, or five and one-half yards forty-four inches wide.

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THE KEYSTONE STATE

Latest News of Pennsylvania Told in Short Order.

Dr. S. R. Maison, county inspector for the State Board of Health, made the following statement relative to the smallpox situation in Clifton Heights: "The town will in all probabilities be visited by an epidemic, and unless some action is taken it will prove very serious. Four hospitals are quarantined and only two watchmen are employed. I have advocated the removal of patients to a contagious disease hospital, but the health authorities have not acted on the matter. Unless the authorities take stricter methods in suppressing the disease the State Board of Health will act at once."

Within a few days the United States Steel Corporation will close its option for its May supply of pig iron. The price at which the option was secured, \$13 a ton, makes the iron a bargain at the present. In all about 35,000 tons will be needed next month. It will be purchased from the Bessemer Furnace Association and one of two independent valley merchant furnace operators.

P. M. Sharies, of West Chester, has given \$500 to the managers of the Chester County Hospital for the construction of two receiving rooms and a fireproof elevator and stairway at the institution.

It is doubtful whether State Treasurer Harris will take the Judges' salary mandamus case to the Supreme Court. His term expires on the first Monday in May, and while he has not decided what he will do, it is predicted he will not appeal higher, but honor the warrants for the salaries of all Judges under the new law and at the same time pay warrants of those he refused to honor for the amount accrued on February 1. It is not expected that Mr. Harris' successor, Mr. Mathews, will raise the question.

General orders were issued from the headquarters of the National Guard of Pennsylvania announcing that the division encampment will be at Gettysburg July 23-29. An order was also issued announcing that the season for rifle practice was opened on April 1 and will close on October 31.

After a coroner's jury rendered a verdict that James Briscoe, of Plymouth, came to his death through negligence, the result of a blow administered by Charles Jennings, of Norristown, the latter was arrested on the charge of murder. Briscoe died a week after he and Jennings quarreled in Norristown.

Four children of Mr. and Mrs. William Burke were burned to death at Sebastopol, a suburb of Pittston, at 1 o'clock the other morning. The victims are Helen, aged 14 years; James, aged 12 years; Mary, aged 8 years; and Michael, aged 6 years.

The family retired at the usual hour at night, and about 1 o'clock A. M. Mrs. Burke was awakened by the crackling of flames. She awakened her husband and it was discovered that a wall of fire separated them from the two rear rooms occupied by the children. The parents made several attempts to reach the children, but failed, and were forced to jump from the second story window to escape death.

After a service of three years in the Philippine Islands with the Twenty-eighth Infantry, Sergeant Edward T. Painter arrived at his home here today, from San Francisco, where he spent three months in the Government hospital convalescing from several wounds received at the hands of the bolomen of the islands. He bears on his face a great scar eight inches long. His right foot was nearly severed and his left arm rendered almost helpless. Alderman John F. Donohue, of Wilkes-Barre, noted as a thrasher of wife-beaters, received word that he is one of four heirs to the large fortune of his uncle, John Jeffers, of Ireland. Alderman Donohue will leave soon for the settlement of the estate, which is believed to be worth about \$200,000.

With her face cut and bleeding, Miss Richards, a 17-year-old girl who lives in Jeaneville, and who is a high school student, reported her escape from a negro assault here today. Miss Richards was on the road to Hazleton. Concealed behind a bush, the negro attempted to assault Miss Richards and partly succeeded, but after a desperate struggle she escaped. Policemen are now on the track of the negro.

In a friendly sparring match, between Henry A. Thomas, of Birchrunville, and Charles Goodman, of Phoenixville, the former was knocked down and his skull fractured in coming in contact with the floor. He died at the local hospital. Goodman was arrested, but released on the finding of a verdict of accidental death rendered by a coroner's jury. The two men were the best of friends.

Postmaster E. H. Graves of Coatesville, informed the postal authorities at Philadelphia that Frank H. Stevens, general clerk at the Coatesville post office is missing. Stevens, who is 27 years of age, is a son of William Stevens, of West Brandywine Township. He was a trusted employee of the post office, where he had a clerical position since July, 1901. He has a wife and two small children. It is said that several hundred dollars of the postal funds are missing.

In court at Reading, Frank Ward-luff, aged 17 years, convicted of casting an illegal ballot at the recent election, was sentenced by Judge English to pay a fine of \$20 and undergo six months' imprisonment, while Joseph Hays and Charles Fry, convicted of procuring Wardluff to vote fraudulently, were sentenced to pay a fine of \$25 each and undergo an imprisonment of nine months.

An unidentified sailor in the United States navy was killed by a train at Morrisville.

Robbers broke into the United Brethren Church, Mechanicsburg, and stole the contents of a charity box intended for the poor of the town.

At a conference between representatives of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Plate Workers, it was decided that the Amalgamated Association call a special conference to consider the proposition of the company to make a reduction of 20 per cent. in wages.

The list of dead in connection with the Priebrick explosion is now ten. Miss Sophie Faulds having died in the Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton. The condition of Miss Martha Heberbrand is so critical that her death may occur at any moment.

The South Penn Oil Company's employees state that the company lost 100,000 barrels of oil during the March floods through the breaking of pipe lines and the washing away of tanks. The greatest loss was two miles west of Evans City, where the main pipe line was broken in several places. The loss amounted to \$200,000.