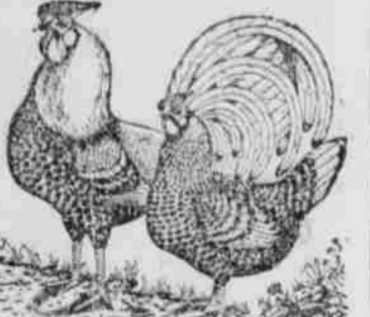


# The Farm

**A Safe Crop.**  
Sweet corn is one of the safe crops for the farmer near a large town. While the corn is high in price it can be sold at a good profit, but when, as during the present season, sweet corn is cheap and plenty, it is still a paying crop to feed to milk cows. A Worcester County milk farmer estimates the value of large sweet corn at five cents a dozen simply as a milk producer.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

**Sillet For Hogs.**  
Japanese millet is excellent for silage, having a nearly solid stem, and thus being better adapted to keeping than many other fodder crops. It will produce twelve tons or more of green fodder to the acre. The advantage over corn is that it stands dry weather somewhat better and may be sown later than corn. Soy-beans have the advantage over either of these crops in containing protein, and when mixed with corn make a balanced ensilage, thus cutting down the grain bills. But with the amount of land limited, it might be better to plant all corn and buy the grain, since no crop gives so great a bulk of cattle food for the labor and expense required as corn.—Boston Cultivator.

## A Pair of Silver Spangled Hamburgs.



One of the most beautiful, as well as useful breeds of chickens.—Farmers' Home Journal.

**To Kill a Cat's Ovipositor.**  
A Reader, Dunlop, Ohio: I would like to know what remedy to use to kill the worms on a cat.

At any time before the calf is ten days old the horn germ can be killed by clipping off the hair from over the button, then crossing with lard around it, then moistening the end of a stick of castile soap and gently rubbing it on the spot over the horn button until the skin begins to slip, and the job is done. The stick of soap must be kept wrapped in paper, all except the end used, so it will not dry, or it will melt; I might add, while this seems like a humane way to remove the horns, it is a very painful way, as it causes a slow burning pain for hours, and, besides, animals that are thus dehorned in calfhood are just as pugnacious as though they had horns. All there is of it is that they can't do the going that they could with the horns; but they can do a lot of bawling.—C. D. Smead, V. S., in the Tribune Farmer.

## To Raise Cucumbers.

Set some half-barrels, without ends to them, in the ground and fill with manure, covered a foot deep with well-purified earth. Put three or four plants in each of these half-barrels and make some sort of a trellis above them, perhaps narrow poultry wire would fill the bill. Do not set too many half-barrels to burden you with the labor of keeping the roots moist in a dry time, for a few plants will furnish you with all the cucumbers you can use for the table or for pickling, if the vines can be properly supported and the roots are kept moist, especially if you will gather the cucumbers as fast as they come on, permitting none to go to seed on the vines. I have also seen cucumbers raised with little water in the following manner:

Fill a barrel with rich manure, and place it where you wish the cucumbers to grow. Several inches above the bottom two small auger holes a few inches apart. Plant a cucumber seed near each, being in a well-prepared hill or ridge around the barrel. Keep water in the barrel when rain is scarce and the vines will keep green and thrive as long as they are in bearing.

## The Farm Horse.

The most concentrated food should be the most concentrated food. Feed most of the grain there, and but little hay. At night divide the hay into two equal parts for the horse to work hard with his stomach stuffed with hay.

An Illinois farmer gives his horses a dry bed by nailing two by fours on the stall floor an inch apart. This gives the liquid manure an opportunity to drain back. The droppings are kept clean by the use of a strap iron hoe made for the purpose, which fits into them.

It is never a safe plan to drive an animal with so loose a rein that you cannot instantly command the situation if necessary.

The difficulty of disposing of common grades of horses is as much in finding buyers for them as in getting respectable prices.

A stable blanket is very desirable, even for a farm horse not at work in winter. It conserves heat by preventing a too rapid radiation from the body. It keeps the hair more glossy, and, in a large measure, prevents soiling the hind limbs while lying down. A wool or part wool blanket is best.

An experiment station says that the closer a draught horse is to the ground, the better both for service and endurance.

If you expect the best work from the team, let them keep a steady gait and do not urge them into a forced or rapid gait.—Horse Breeder.

**Improve the Breed Mares.**  
We think the greatest reason why so many ordinary horses are bred on the farm comes from relying wholly upon the stallion and paying little attention to the character and breeding of the mares, says the Michigan Farmer. In horses uniformity is worth money in any market, especially in those of good class, whether they are heavy draughts or carriage teams, and you cannot get uniformity in the product except through kindred blood. You cannot breed a mare of Percheron and trotting

blood and another with coach, Clydesdale and trotting blood to the same stallion, and get a pair of matched colts. Nature will not belittle herself, and she has declared so often and emphatically that "like produces like," and what you sow so shall you reap, that it is useless to attempt longer to do the impossible.

So the first thing a farmer should do when he starts raising horses is to get broad mares of the class he wants, and with more or less of the blood of the breed he proposes breeding them to—the more the better. This will be found equally advisable, whether his proposed raising draughts, carriage horses or roadsters. And such mares should not be matched haphazard, but after careful examination of the stallion and his breeding, and some of his colts, if possible. But do not condemn a stallion because he gets some poor colts until you examine their dams. As a rule, you will find most of the trouble is with the mares, not the horses, although, of course, there are worthless stallions of all breeds.

## Practical Poultry Points.

The critical period in the forming of the feathers, which calls for frequent feeding, and when they have passed that stage the chicks become hardy. The hatching need not be more than eight feet square for each family and can be doubled.

It is possible, it is best to have changeable yards, but if used, a less number can be kept to the acre. If the yards are kept clean by an occasional spading, however, green stuff may be grown elsewhere and thrown over to them. This may consist of cabbage, grass, turnip tops, kale, mustard, lettuce, etc.

Water must not be neglected or the means given irregularly. Care must be observed not to feed too much, as overfat birds will lay few eggs, and such eggs will not hatch.

A good poultry manager is always among his fowls and observes everything.

The large fowls should be hatched in March if early pullets are desired for winter laying. This applies to Brahmas, Cochins and Plymouth Rocks. If the manager finds this impossible he should at once substitute cocks of the Leghorn breed, which, crossed with large hens, make good, marketable chicks and produce pullets that mature early.

Crossing pure-bred cocks with common hens is excellent, but "fancy poultry" is not profitable to any but those who understand thoroughly the mating and selection of the several breeds.

Unfavorable surroundings cause more disease, puny and unhealthy birds, and general loss in the poultry yard, than all other causes put together.—E. S. Suidt, in The Cultivator.

## Handy Feed Lots.

Every stockman should have at least three feed lots, handy to the barns. They will be found very convenient for use, time about, in feeding so that they can dry out in bad weather or to feed in, one day for the next. In good weather it is often desirable to spread the feed on Saturday for Sunday. For convenience in separating or sorting stock these lots can be especially handy.

In dairy farming, says E. W. Jones, in the Epitomist, the cows have to be let to be milked, and in many cases they are left in the inclosure over night, in which case very rich lots are soon the result. If several such inclosures are available one or more may be cultivated the following year and fine crops will be grown year after year without the labor and expense of handling it. A combination of this sort, it seems to me, would solve the problem of keeping up the fertility in tobacco growing and trucking. A herd of thirty cows here last year produced enough manure for three or four acres during the grazing season. The urine is a very valuable element that is otherwise lost, but is in this way saved.

In hog feeding, this arrangement is of especial value, for more than any other animal, need a change of feeding places. Where the feeder is pensing them they can be fed in another lot so that the stock hogs may clean up the remnants of the corn feed, which often is not palatable to a full-grown hog. Then, too, several feeds should be put out in the different lots and the hogs turned to them as needed.

Feed lots should be on well drained land with shade and running water, if possible. The fencing should be the best, suited for either cattle or hogs, and should be connected by easy ascending gates. For cattle some arrangement for feeding in the way of troughs or racks must be provided if we are to feed them out of doors in the winter.

## Mozel For Self-Suckers.

A simple yoke for a self-sucker that will be found efficient can be made of ordinary rope halter for the head piece. A light bar of iron is twisted and bent as shown. Forward part of twisted end is attached to halter close to jaw. One side of fork passes on either side of cow over breast extending back midway. Straps or ropes are attached as shown to pass around back and belly to hold securely in place. This allows the cow perfect freedom of action to eat and drink and in feeding on pasture, but immediately she turns her head to suck herself the yoke toward the side she turns will jab it into her body.—Geo. Rammel, in The Epitomist.

## Speech Lost and Recovered.

Arthur Speck, of Gloucester, England, received such a shock on hearing of his father's death that he lost the power of speech. Recently he went to a football game. In his excitement he tried to cheer and succeeded in doing so. He can speak as fluently as ever now.

# Sunday Sermon

## A Scholarly Discourse By Rev. D. H. Overton.

Brooklyn, N. J.,—Sunia, morning the Rev. Daniel H. Overton, pastor of the Green Avenue Presbyterian Church, preached on "Confessing Christ." The text was from John xii, 42-43: "Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God."

We have mentioned here in the text two of the greatest privileges and duties of our lives, namely, that of believing in Christ, and that of confessing Christ. John, in telling the story of Christ's work, is explaining that there were so many who thought they saw the wonderful works Christ did before them, did not believe on Him. He explains this by saying that this has ever been the experience of the prophets, Isaiah, who said: "Who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?" He complained of blinded eyes, and of hardened hearts, and of thickened wills. If these things were true of the prophets of the past, it is this the experience of them all, then it is not strange that it should be Christ's experience. Isaiah said that the Lord had revealed to him many things that he wanted to say to them, but their minds were so dull that they could not understand Him. He went over the Holy City most of all, because of the stubbornness of the wills of its inhabitants.

Yet even though this was Christ's experience, as it has been the experience of every prophet, His word and His work did not return unto Him empty. Some believed, and followed and confessed. And as we read in the text, but did not confess their belief. They were timid, hesitating, half-hearted Christians. It is of such that I would speak this Sunday morning. And leading up to this I would speak first of believing on Christ.

This, of course, is fundamental, and all-important. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." Without faith it is impossible for Christ to be anything to us, or for us to be anything to Him. It is faith that links our lives to His that brings Him near, and makes Him real to us. We must believe in Him or we cannot reap the benefit of His great and glorious work for us. Every Christian, then, must believe in all of the New Testament faith, in the condition of the blessed life. This is true of all life's relationships and it is supremely true of our relationship to God. There is little that we can do for us unless we first believe in His heart and lives to Him. Faith is the channel that lets the life of God into the soul of man.

But this is what I wish to emphasize: Our faith must be strong enough to lead to confession. It must lead to confession, to service, to sacrifice. The faith that settles us to no task, and that leads to no changed and better life is a false and useless faith. I say that because I believe in it as much as the faith in Christ is of the kind. It is a visionary, general, half-hearted, spasmodic faith that leads to nothing permanent, and takes us nowhere worthwhile. It is a faith that was well represented in that crowd that followed Christ, that they loved the glory and praise of men more than the glory and praise of God.

There are very many to-day who make that mistake. They love the praise of men, of their comrades, more than the praise of God, and so they fall in doing their full duty to God. They are afraid of what some of their friends will say if they come out and make a bold confession of their faith in Christ. I believe this love of the praise of men, and the fear of what other will say, is keeping many from their well-known duty toward God. Oh, let neither false fears nor false loves keep any one back from duty, his full duty, toward God and His church.

## The Sure Foundation.

Some are all their days laying the foundation, and are never able to build upon it to any comfort to themselves or usefulness to others; and the reason is, because they will be mixing with the foundation, stones that are only for the following building. They will be bringing their obedience, duties, and good works, and are like unto the foundation. These are precious stones to build with, but unmet to be first laid, to bear upon them the whole weight of the building. The foundation is to be laid in grace, mercy, and the blood of Christ. But if the foundation be of grace, it is not at all of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. If anything of our own be mixed with grace in this matter, it utterly destroyed the nature of grace, which, if it be not alone, is not at all.—Owen.

## Stole Prison Socks.

Says a South African newspaper: "An amusing case occurred in the magistrate's court at Durban lately when a recently discharged convict was charged with stealing his prison socks. The accused alleged that he forgot to change them when discharged, but was returned to prison for another month."

## Lacking in Style.

Tailor (standing off and inspecting tin)—You don't like that evening suit? Why, my dear sir, the fit is absolutely perfect, every line.

Cholly—I know it. It fits me too well. The other chap will say I couldn't possibly have had it made to order.—Chicago Tribune.

## Extinction of Chinichillas.

Chinichillas have been so much in request for furs in the last few years that the species is in danger of extinction in Chili and Bolivia.

# CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NOTES

JUNE THIRD.  
Faith: What It Is, What It Does.—  
Heb. 11:1-40; 12:1, 2. (Consecration Meeting.)

There is nothing unreal or vague about faith; it is not shadow, it is substance. No one ever obtained honor without faith.—faith in God, in men, in an ideal, sometimes only in himself. God is a spirit. If He could be pleased without faith, He would be pleased with the unspiritual. We can do nothing but believe in Christ; we cannot even do that entirely for Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

It is the matter of faith, "faith a loaf is better than no bread"; indeed, it soon grows into a whole loaf. Those that emphasize their doubts will have more to emphasize. Illustrations. Faith is like the photographer's sensitive plate, which has become a most powerful aid to astronomy, recording millions of stars invisible through the largest telescopes. Faith is a bridge over a stream, the farther the stream, the more we must rest on solid piers. Every check, and bank-note is based on faith; so faith is the financial system of the kingdom of heaven. Uranus and Neptune were located by the eye of faith before they were seen by the natural eye. Science is founded on faith.

Is the unseen world a reality to me? Do I occupy myself too much with the things of sense? Is my faith growing constantly stronger?

No man knows to what heavenly splendors his eyes may be opened if he will only cultivate and cherish faith.—F. A. Noble.

A true faith can no more be separated from good works than the light of the candle from its heat.—Jonathan Edwards.

Surely it is preferable, if possible, to suspend our bridge of faith from the granite piers of knowledge.—D. J. Hill.

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR JUNE 3.  
Subject: The Gentle Woman's Faith. (Matt. vii, 24-30—Golden Text: Matt. xv, 28—Memory Verse, 30—Topic: Bringing the Unsaved to Christ.)

I. In heaven borders (v. 24, 25). "From thence He arose." This is, after delivering the discourses at Capernaum, "Barnes of Tyre and Sidon," Tyre and Sidon were heathen cities on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Their religion was a base and corrupting nature worship. Baalzebub, the name adopted by the Jews as a name for Satan, was one of their deities who was supposed to be the author of "all the pollutions of idol worship." "Into an house." In all probability the house of a Jew. Edersheim thinks He must have tarried here several days; the fact that He desired to be kept hid, but could not, would suggest this. "No man knew it." He judged it proper to conceal Himself awhile from the Pharisees, who were plotting against Him. "Could not be hid." It seems that He was personally known to many in this country, who had seen and heard Him in Galilee.

II. A mother's request (vs. 25, 26, 27). "Whose young daughter." The actual sufferings of the daughter were great, but the sufferings which the mother endured by sympathy were still greater. "An unclean spirit." Matthew says her daughter was " grievously vexed with a devil." This was certainly a sad case. Nothing can destroy the peace of a home more than to have a daughter possessed with Satanic influences. The spirit that possessed this girl was an unclean—a vile spirit. "At His feet." This at once shows the humility of the woman.

26. "Woman was a Greek." By language, the Jews called those who were idolaters Greeks, or Gentiles. A Syrophenician by nation. A Syrophenician, Phoenicia belonged to the Roman province Syria. She was a Syrian of Phoenicia. Matthew says she was a woman of Canaan. "Hounded." Hounded means pursued and on her knees at His feet she poured out her request. "Would cast forth." She believed He had power to do this. Matthew says she "cried unto Him saying, Have mercy on me, O Son of David." This she said for mercy; she knew she could make no claim upon Him in any other way. "The devil." etc. Here is a plain, straightforward confession. There is no effort to cover up the family troubles, and gloss over matters, and make it appear that, after all, her daughter is "quite respectable."

III. Faith tested (v. 27, 27). "Jesus said." This woman's discouragements were great: 1. Her advantages had been somewhat limited, such as a man, with but little means of even obtaining the light of the Hebrew Scriptures. 2. At first Jesus did not reply to her request (Matt. 15:24, 3). "Heu Jesus did speak He seemed to repel her. The soul seeking salvation frequently meets these same tests, and many become discouraged by them. The disciples were annoyed. They said, "Send her away, for she crieth after us." This has been greatly misunderstood. "Send her away" according to Oriental idiom means "send her to grant her request, cure her child and let her go." "The children." The Jews, "First be filled." They are the favored people. The gospel was first to be offered to the Jews, and to them our Lord's personal ministry on earth was chiefly restricted. "Nor meet." It is not suitable—the proper thing to do. "Children's bread." To take those blessings that belong to the Jews. "Unto the dogs." For "dogs" read "little dogs," household pets, such as ran around the table at meal time. This was the severest test of all. The Gentiles were considered by the Jewish people as no better than dogs, and Jesus only used a form of speech which was somewhat insulting, but not very offensive to the hearer. Would her woman resent it? Would her pride at last be stung? No. She "shrunk and shivered" into nothingness at His feet, and her faith still held on to the desired blessing.

## EPWORTH LEAGUE LESSONS

SUNDAY, JUNE 3.

### Serving by Self-Denial.—Rom. 15, 1-3.

The claim of Christ was that he came to meet the greatest need of the world. He did not formulate a code of laws. He did not leave an ecclesiastical constitution. But his whole life and work centered in a great ideal or the world. He would save men, as individuals, and save them into a new society, the kingdom of God.

The work of Christ was revolutionary. It was the suppling of new and transforming motives. The great motives outside the kingdom were, first of all, self-preservation, then self-service, and then self-exaltation. These had faded continuously from the beginning. When Christ came he rejected them all. "When he gives the power of an endless life to man he supplies the motives which fit that life. The true glory is not in getting but in giving; the richest life is that which contributes most to other lives.

Selfish living is disorganizing living. Carried to its logical conclusion, it would build a wall of selfish concern about every individual so high as to shut him out from his fellows and from God. And that is precisely the inevitable end to which selfishness moves. Selfishness is more than sin; it is spiritual suicide.

The failure of our Christian experience comes when we lose sight of the fact that Christianity is a life of transformed purposes, aims, and ideals. It comes when we try to graft upon the stock of self-assertion of the foreign and unassimilable ambitions of self-seeking. Self-seeking is barbarism; in its refined form it is paganism; in any form it is opposed to our faith, and it has no place in our practice. He that would save his life shall lose it.

Christianity is not asceticism. It is not a system of negations. It says "Thou shalt not" more than "Thou shalt do." It restores deranged functions to right uses. Ambition has its important place in the Christian scheme.

In the new life in Christ there is larger scope for sanctified and chastened ambition. "Greatest the best gift." The life which Christ Jesus gives is the greatest gift which can come to anyone. It is the largest enrichment and endowment that can be bestowed. Its right use and fruitful activity offer the opportunity for nourishing a holy ambition. It must be made to count for Christ.

# Uncle Sam's Dead Letter Office Brought Up-to-Date

Postmaster-General Cortelyou says he is desirous of modernizing the postal service in every respect. He is at present paying particular attention to the division of dead letters, in order that all of the enormous amount of work there may be properly handled. Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Dr. Gray has been giving his personal attention to this division, and has recently materially strengthened the force by the addition of a number of competent clerks from other divisions under his supervision.

The dead letter office is becoming one of the most important divisions of the department, and the skill that is being developed by the employes in their own particular lines is something more or less remarkable. As a result of the enlargement of the force the accumulation of mail, numbering upward of 300,000 pieces, has been completely wiped out, and the work is now up to date.

The monthly report of the division of dead letters shows that the number of unopened letters on hand on February 28 last was 43,000, against 230,000 on January 31. This reduction is very pleasing to Mr. Dr. Gray, as it shows the efficiency of the force under his direction. In the month of February of the present year 109,000 more letters were opened than were opened in the same month last year. Last month 78,000 letters were returned to the senders, and altogether 738,000 letters were disposed of in various ways. The dead letter funds delivered into the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General amounted to \$1312.57 for February.

Few persons, perhaps, realize the immensity of the work performed by this division. Established in 1825 with an insignificant force, it has grown to be the largest division of the Postoffice Department, employing 140 persons three-fourths of whom are women. An aged employe, recently deceased, after a continuous service of more than forty years, recalled that he and one other clerk were able in the most leisurely manner to open all dead letters received. The same person recalled the fact that it was the custom at one time to convey unreturnable dead letters to what is now the White Lot, south of the White House, where they were buried.

The division is divided into several sections. The employes in each of these have specified duties, in which they become amazingly dextrous. In the opening section, for instance, there are experts who have each opened in excess of 3500 letters in one day. Surprising proficiency is also attained by the clerks engaged in correcting wrong or insufficient addresses. Thousands of apparently hopeless cases of misdirection are set right by these employes.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the department to lessen the amount of dead matter by means of printed circulars and posted notices to users of the mails, giving advice as to means of avoiding loss to mail matter by observing proper care in addressing, etc., the number of pieces received in the division of dead letters continues to increase, reaching a total of 11,500,000 in 1905. Letters and packages bearing the addresses of the senders are, under the rules, when delivery is not possible, returned directly from the postoffice of destination to the senders. It is surprising that this important method of insuring the return of mail matter, authorized half a century ago, is not more generally employed in correspondence.

Of the letters and parcels opened in 1905 there were enclosures of money—\$76,983; drafts, etc., in 70,404; photographs in \$2,315 and postage stamps in 316,557. Those containing merchandise numbered 331,426. The actual money found amounted to \$59,101.16 and the face value of the commercial paper found was \$1,603,187.30. The last annual sale of undelivered merchandise included 115,000 articles, made up into 8102 lots, and the proceeds, excluding all expenses, netted \$764,401.

The beneficence of the service is illustrated in small degree by the distribution from time to time, among the benevolent institutions of the District of Columbia, for the use of their inmates, of undelivered periodical and other printed matter suitable for the purpose. This distribution includes magazines, pamphlets, picture cards, etc.—Washington Star.

## A Butcher and a King.

An incident connected with King Edward's visit to Biarritz is told in the Echo de Paris. The King witnessed the arrival of cross-country competitors at Villa Macheuil. Now, this villa belongs to a worthy and prosperous Biarritz butcher, who had been invited by the committee to place it at the King's disposal. The butcher's bosom friends held the view that it was absolutely indispensable that the master should do the honors of his villa to the King of England, his guest. So the butcher fetched out his Sunday suit, arranged his braces outside the knitted waistcoat which he invariably wears, stuck his hat over his ears, and, freely perspiring under the blazing sun, awaited his august visitor. King Edward arrived and got down from his motor car. With a fine scorn for the protocol the butcher walked up to his majesty, tapped him on the shoulder, and said in a drawing voice, "Come, do not stop in the sun. Go up to the salon." A friendly shove accompanied these words. The King glanced the situation at a glance, smiled, and obeyed, leaving the butcher to chey proudly his penny Havana on the doorstep.

## Spain's Navy Gone.

Since her war with the United States in 1898 Spain has dropped to sixteenth place in naval strength. Her navy to-day consists of three second-class battleships, four armored cruisers, thirty-six other cruisers, nine sailing gunboats, thirty-seven gunboats, thirteen torpedo boats and destroyers, and forty-two other vessels. Officers, 780; men, 6000.

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Postmaster-General Cortelyou says he is desirous of modernizing the postal service in every respect. He is at present paying particular attention to the division of dead letters, in order that all of the enormous amount of work there may be properly handled. Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Dr. Gray has been giving his personal attention to this division, and has recently materially strengthened the force by the addition of a number of competent clerks from other divisions under his supervision.

The dead letter office is becoming one of the most important divisions of the department, and the skill that is being developed by the employes in their own particular lines is something more or less remarkable. As a result of the enlargement of the force the accumulation of mail, numbering upward of 300,000 pieces, has been completely wiped out, and the work is now up to date.

The monthly report of the division of dead letters shows that the number of unopened letters on hand on February 28 last was 43,000, against 230,000 on January 31. This reduction is very pleasing to Mr. Dr. Gray, as it shows the efficiency of the force under his direction. In the month of February of the present year 109,000 more letters were opened than were opened in the same month last year. Last month 78,000 letters were returned to the senders, and altogether 738,000 letters were disposed of in various ways. The dead letter funds delivered into the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General amounted to \$1312.57 for February.

Few persons, perhaps, realize the immensity of the work performed by this division. Established in 1825 with an insignificant force, it has grown to be the largest division of the Postoffice Department, employing 140 persons three-fourths of whom are women. An aged employe, recently deceased, after a continuous service of more than forty years, recalled that he and one other clerk were able in the most leisurely manner to open all dead letters received. The same person recalled the fact that it was the custom at one time to convey unreturnable dead letters to what is now the White Lot, south of the White House, where they were buried.

The division is divided into several sections. The employes in each of these have specified duties, in which they become amazingly dextrous. In the opening section, for instance, there are experts who have each opened in excess of 3500 letters in one day. Surprising proficiency is also attained by the clerks engaged in correcting wrong or insufficient addresses. Thousands of apparently hopeless cases of misdirection are set right by these employes.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the department to lessen the amount of dead matter by means of printed circulars and posted notices to users of the mails, giving advice as to means of avoiding loss to mail matter by observing proper care in addressing, etc., the number of pieces received in the division of dead letters continues to increase, reaching a total of 11,500,000 in 1905. Letters and packages bearing the addresses of the senders are, under the rules, when delivery is not possible, returned directly from the postoffice of destination to the senders. It is surprising that this important method of insuring the return of mail matter, authorized half a century ago, is not more generally employed in correspondence.

Of the letters and parcels opened in 1905 there were enclosures of money—\$76,983; drafts, etc., in 70,40