

The principal of one of the Chicago public schools has just published a book in which he sets forth the value of conversational power as a commercial asset. He points out that large salaries are paid to men who have conversational gifts, and that a young man will find few things of more value than the ability to express himself fluently and forcefully. Incidentally, reports the Chicago Tribune, the professor sets forth the methods which he has adopted in teaching his pupils in the public schools to converse. There can be no question that the ability to express one's thoughts easily and convincingly is a valuable accomplishment. It is probable also that to an extent the ability to converse well may be acquired, but the able talker, like the great poets, are born and not made. The "gift of the gab" is with some men a birthright. They begin when they are children to argue with and convince their fellows, and when they grow up they become successful lawyers, book agents or confidence operators. With no amount of special training can the average man ever hope to meet them in a conversational contest, whether the subject be the sale of a book or a gold brick, or the winning of a lawsuit. If in the overcrowded public schools the pupils are taught the fundamentals of correct, not to say elegant, use of the English language, the niceties of conversation as a fine art may perhaps be left for future acquirement.

A regular army soldier at Fort Schuyler was lately blown to pieces by the explosion of a stick of dynamite which he tried to break in two. A schoolboy in New York was about to be spanked by the janitor, who had been called in by a lady teacher to do the job, when a stick of dynamite which he had surreptitiously obtained was discovered in the lad's pocket. The spanking was suspended just in time, probably, to prevent the destruction of the schoolmaster, the janitor, the boy and the building. The soldier knew all about dynamite, but the lad did not. It was recklessness in one case and ignorance in the other. High explosives have their uses, but they are out of place when employed as dynamic forces in education.

Maggie, a mare belonging to Aaron Yocum, a merchant of Reading, refuses to work more than nine hours a day. Maggie is now 33 years of age, and is only worked occasionally, says a local informant, but she remembers the habits of early youth, and hangs into the nine-hour schedule. When she is hitched up in the morning at seven o'clock she will work hard all morning. When noon comes, however, Maggie insists upon going to the stable. At one o'clock she is ready for the afternoon's work, but at five o'clock will not go anywhere but to the stable.

The New York Jokester who entered a ten-cent cat at a pet stock show and took a first prize, and also exhibited "Puldeka Orphan," a broken-down car horse, at the horse show, remarks in an interview: "I never kick when the joke is turned on me. I have no patience with people who 'keep a joke up.' A man who will run a joke around till it is on its uppers and its tongue hangs out ought to go to bed with his natural brother, the lobster." This humorist has a considerable power of expression as well as a turn for hoaxes.

A woman in an Illinois town was so grievously stricken with disease that she sent each of her seven children for a different doctor, with the result that during the day at least three physicians responded to her calls. The woman died the following day. At the coroner's inquest held over the body the jury brought in the following verdict: "We find that the woman came to her death from bowel trouble and a complication of physicians."

A reporter lately took a census of a mile of Fifth avenue, New York, embracing the homes of many very rich men, and found just 15 children under the age of 12. There was an average of one child to three houses. Then the reporter transferred his attention to the East side tenement district, where he found in one flat house 63 children, or more than four times the number, found in the whole Fifth avenue mile.

The governor of Colorado proposes to appoint two pretty young women as colonels on his staff. The proposition is in every way commendable, and it is strange that the eminent fitness of women for such positions has not been recognized before. The sole duty of a colonel on a governor's staff is to wear gorgeous clothes, and it is obvious that a pretty woman can do that much better than a fat politician.

A Texas legislator was asked to apologize the other day for a statement affecting the house unfavorably. "I weigh 130 pounds," said he, "and own all the ground I stand on and can take care of myself here or outside." The apology was accepted.

Kansas is to revolutionize her treatment of the insane. Instead of crowding the patients together into one immense building, they will be placed in cottages similar to private houses.

GOOD HIVE FOR BEES.

Work That Should Be Done as Soon as the Busy Little Insects Begin Their Work.

Hives become unfit for good manipulation, and if not cleaned up every spring and put in good order we lose a great part of their usefulness. Bees carry in large quantities of propolis or bee glue, and plaster it over the inside of the hives and over the frames in such quantities that it almost disqualifies the frame hive for the use it is intended. Bees also build burr combs around the edges of the frames, and about in the inside of the hive; this also blocks good handling. While hives are made to prevent the building of burr combs as much as possible no hives entirely prevent it.

During the honey season bees frequently build out some of their combs in which they store honey so wide that they can scarcely be placed back in the hives without bruising the combs and killing bees. These combs should be trimmed down to the proper thickness by shaving off the surface with a sharp knife. The frames should be cleaned of propolis and burr combs, thus putting the frame in the best shape for good handling during the honey season.

We can clean up the hives nicely by beginning with a clean one and setting the frames with contents, bees and all, into it from another; then this one may be prepared for the next colony, and so on until the entire number of hives are put in good shape and with but one empty hive to start with.

This is the important work to be done in spring and should be done just after the weather gets warm and the bees are beginning work. Transferring bees from old hives into new ones, and all the work of cutting out and straightening up the combs in the frames should be done at this time. Some who are not well posted become discouraged with combs that have turned black and think them worthless, but by no means is this the case, for after brood is reared in combs they all turn black, but are not impaired from usefulness.—A. H. Duff, in National Rural.

HOUSE FOR BANTAMS.

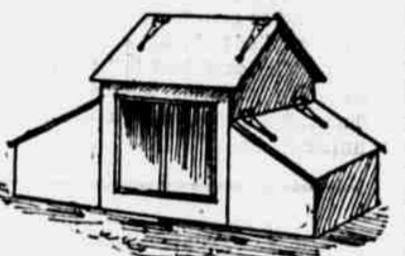
A Hint or Two for Country Boys Who Desire to Own Some of These Charming Birds.

The boy who owns bantams, or who has an ambition to own some of these charming little pets, can build a fine little home for them according to the plans illustrated herewith. Get three large grocery or dry goods boxes and



HOW TO ARRANGE THE BOXES.

place them together, side by side, as portrayed, first having cut down the two end boxes along the dotted lines. The opening in the center box is cut out for a window of two panes of glass. A little door in the rear admits the bantams. The roofs are put on as shown, being hinged to open, as suggested by the dotted lines. One side room serves as a roosting room, the other side room furnishes the laying



THE HOUSE COMPLETED.

quarters, while the central room is for the scratching quarters. The outside and center boxes have openings cut through between them. This little home will accommodate from six to twelve inmates, according to size of boxes. It can be placed under the shade of a tree in summer, and taken into the stable or into a shed in winter. If the floor is kept well covered with dry chaff, the birds will be very comfortable.—Webb Donnell, in Farm and Home.

BITS FROM BUZZDOM.

Swarming hives should be kept in a cool place. A swarm may be induced to enter a hot hive, but if it is too hot they are liable to desert it.

Use young larvae for the rearing of queen bees. Bees always select the younger larvae, and apiarists may well follow the bees in this matter, says Mrs. Ella Henson.

Sometimes, when bees have started combs, and some eggs are laid, an extremely hot day will cause them to desert the hive. This can be avoided by having the hive in a shaded place, or by erecting a four-pole simple shade over it.

Bees seldom desert a hive after they have made a large beginning on combs and eggs, or when a frame of brood is supplied to them.

Close students of bees insist that bees never gather honey and pollen on the same trip.

Honey-gatherers carry twice as heavy loads as are gathered by the pollen-gatherers. The reason for this is that the honey is heavier than the pollen, bulk for bulk, and that the honey is taken into the bee's sack, while the pollen is carried on the ends of the legs.—Rural World.

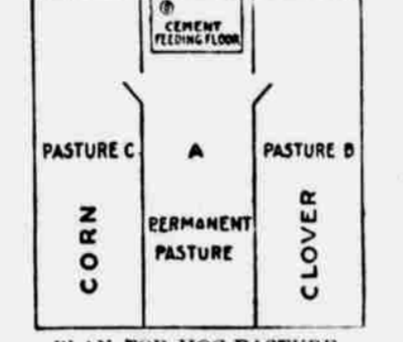
The size of the hives must be settled by the locality of the apiary. No one size of hive will answer perfectly in all places.



PLAN FOR HOG PASTURE.

Recently Brought Out by One of the Instructors of the Minnesota Farmers' Institute.

The permanent pasture, A, can be seeded down to June grass, white clover, blue grass, timothy, in fact, almost any grass that will not freeze out. Pasture B is for clover for summer grazing, also for winter grazing if wanted and possible. Pasture C is for corn or green corn fodder raising. Just before laying the corn for the season sow 15 pounds of clover seed to the acre and cultivate it in when going through with the corn cultivator the last time, usually not deeper than two to four inches. By this time the ground is generally quite well



PLAN FOR HOG PASTURE.

shaded enough by the corn to hold the necessary moisture to insure a good stand of clover, even in a dry season.

The next year pasture C will be your clover grazing ground, and in pasture B the clover sod will be turned under for corn and seeded down to clover again, as before. Every year change the clover on the corn pasture and the corn on the clover pasture. By this continual exchange of grazing ground the pasture soils will be getting richer every year and growing larger corn and more clover. This is also a good place to pick out your seed corn.

Make the feeding floor of cement. It was stated that it was thought to be better not to have a roof above the feeding floor, so as to get all the sunshine on top of it, but that there could be a three-foot tight board fence around the sides of the floor, to keep off the chilly winds. Fig. D is a water barrel with an automatic fountain.

Provide dry, comfortable sleeping quarters with plenty of light, sunlight being the best disinfectant. On a cold winter day you will frequently see the hog go out to grass on a clover field if he can get at it. If each pasture contains 15 acres the plan outlined will be sufficient for 150 to 175 swine.—Arthur Seebach, in Breeder's Gazette.

THE BALANCED RATION.

Those Who Consider Its Existence a Fingment of the Imagination Are Very Much Mistaken.

To be a successful dairyman a man must know a good deal about the effect on the animal system of the ration he feeds. A one-sided ration is sure to work injury to the animal at some time of its career. Unbalanced rations are frequently the cause of dyspepsia in animals as well as man. An opinion seems to prevail that an animal has a stomach and digestive system so much superior to that of man that any kind of food can be consumed without bad effects. All investigations show that this is not the case. A well-balanced ration is doubtless the most healthful ration. The rations are over-balanced according to the kind of food that is most abundant in each neighborhood. In the corn belt the feeding of corn to cows becomes often almost a vice, with the result that the dairy qualities in the cows are eliminated by the strengthening of the beef-producing powers. In sections of the country where timothy is extensively grown the animals are fed on this so exclusively that indigestion often results. In regions where clover is the cheapest food the amount fed is so large as to result in frequent losses from bloat. A combination of foods to make a balanced ration is the thing to be desired, and this cannot be done unless the cow owner puts some thought and investigation into the subject.—Farmers' Review.

NOTES FOR SHEEPMEN.

Stick to your breed. The conditions for a healthier wool trade are more favorable.

Less crossing and better blood line breeding would be a blessed good thing for the country.

More sheep will be imported this year than ever before, particularly of the very high class variety.

Each succeeding week shows signs of an increasing wool trade and the outlook is more promising.

At the rate sheep-shearing plants are being put up in the west it looks like an early abandonment of the old hand-shearing process altogether.

Advices from abroad reveal a very unsatisfactory condition prevailing in the woolen manufacturing centers many of the factories producing only a very small percentage of their full capacity.

The London wool auction sales now in progress are not at all satisfactory. Merinos barely commanding a price equal to the closing values of the last series, and all cross-breeds have declined from five to six per cent.—American Sheep Breeder.

SHAKING PALSY.

A Disease Peculiar to Old Age That is Seldom Cured But May Be Abated.

Shaking palsy, or paralysis agitans, as it is called by physicians, is a nervous affection in which there is a weakness, almost amounting to actual paralysis at times, combined with a constant and uncontrollable jerking of the muscles, says Youth's Companion.

The affection is classed among the diseases of old age, but is not very rare in younger persons, and may occur even in children. As a rule it begins gradually, the first thing noticed being an unsteadiness of the hands, or perhaps a trembling movement of only one finger, generally the thumb. With this there may be moderate pain, which is supposed to be rheumatic.

The trembling movement is often intermittent, at first coming and going without apparent cause; but later it becomes permanent and extends to other parts, finally involving both arms and legs. Less frequently the neck muscles participate in the movements, the head then nodding, turning or moving from side to side. The muscles of the face and the tongue may also be implicated.

In conjunction with the trembling the muscles are weak, and may be almost incapable of voluntary movements, and the patient feels tired and longs for the constant shaking to cease. The trembling does cease during sleep, and it is also less marked when one executes voluntary movements.

The onset of the affection, although commonly gradual, as we have said, is in some cases very sudden, following some great mental or physical shock.

In later stages of the disease the muscles of the body become more or less stiffened, the back is bent, the head is inclined forward, and the various segments of the arms and legs are slightly flexed one on the other.

The rigidity of the muscles of the face gives a fixed expression of sadness, of indifference, or it may be of bad temper. There is a peculiar gait, something like that of a drunken man, who has to walk very fast, or even run, to overcome his tendency to fall forward.

Shaking palsy is seldom cured, but it does not always get worse, and may continue for years without apparent change one way or the other. The general condition of the patient is usually below par, and the chief indication of treatment is, therefore, to improve the nutrition by tonics and a generous diet. Some relief to the constant and fatiguing tremor may be obtained by the patient's making slow voluntary movements, or by massage.

PRESENT WAS TOO FAST.

Story Told an Attorney by His Colored Barber Who Had Been Victimized.

"I'm glad you came in, sah, I se'ntly is, fo' I wish t' ask yo' fo' a little information about th' law."

The colored barber in the McGraw building pushed the head of Attorney William E. Thompson back to the head rest of the chair, says the Detroit Journal, and then went on:

"Yo' see, sah, it was this way: Th' other day a man comes in yeah, sah, an' he says t'me, says he: 'Mistah Ba'bah, does yo' want t' mek yo' honey gal a Crissimus present?' I natchelly says 'at I sho'ty does, so he puts 'ees head in his pocket an' pulls out a lady's watch that appeared t' be a ve'y swell thing, sah, ve'y swell, indeed, sah."

"I says: 'Mistah Man, wha' yo' want fo' 'at watch?' He said 'at he wanted eight dollas'. Then we ba'gained back an' fo'th, an' finally he said 'at I could have 'at watch fo' fou' dollas' an' a half, an' I paid him th' money. I put 'at watch in my pocket an' I reckoned 'at it would bring great joy t' my honey gal. Th' next day I looked at th' watch t' see what tme it was an' shu's yo' live, it was two hours' faste' than th' city hall clock, an' two an' a half faste' than th' gov'ment clock. I set 'at watch again an' th' next morn'ing at nine o'clock my watch was half-past fou'."

"Th' day befo'e yeste'day 'at man came into th' shop jes' as pleasant as could be. He said: 'Hello, Gawge, how's th' watch?' Natchelly I was mad at him, but he soon began t' explanation it an' finally he said: 'Gawge, old boy, yous been monkeyin' with th' hal' spring of 'at watch. Neve, monkey with th' hal' spring, said he. Then he zamines 't watch again an' he said: 'Gawge, I'll take th' watch t' my jewele' an' he will fix it up all right, but, remembah, yo' mustn' monkey with th' hal' spring."

"He took th' watch away with him an' 'at is th' last I have seen of 'at man or my watch or my fou' dollas'. An' what I would like t' know is, can't I have 'at man 'rested f'r laceny from th' pusson?"

Improved Escalloped Oyster.

The addition of chopped celery and a white sauce makes of escalloped oysters a rich and substantial dish. The sauce is made with a cupful of milk, a heaping teaspoonful of butter, one cupful of oyster liquor and one tablespoonful of flour. Brown a small cupful of bread crumbs in a very little butter, or, if preferred, rolled cracker crumbs may be used without browning. Put a layer of oysters in the bottom of the baking dish, season lightly with salt and scatter over a little of the chopped celery before adding some of the white sauce. Repeat this order till a quart of oysters and all of the sauce and celery have been used. Cover the top with a thick layer of bread crumbs and bake for not more than 15 minutes.—Detroit Free Press.

Cucumber Jellies.

Make a small quantity of strong lemon jelly, using but little sugar, add to it the pulp of one grated cucumber and set in fish-shaped molds.—Good Housekeeping.

What is an Amerind? A Gerind? An Irind? A Swind? A Spanind? A New Words for Polind? These are not words from Our Language, nonsense verse.

They are possible additions to the American language. The first is already recognized by certain scientific gentlemen in Washington. It is a word manufactured from the words American and Indian, and has been adopted by many ethnologists as a convenient abbreviation of the phrase American Indian. In this age of popularized science, observes the Chicago Post, the new word may be taken promptly into the common speech. More than that, it will at once suggest analogies. The politician of the future will not speak of the German-American, but of the Gerind. In like manner, the Irish-American will be called Irind, the Swedish-American a Swind, the Spanish-American a Spanind, the Polish-American a Polind, and so through the multitudinous variety of hyphenated Americans. The purist will protest, of course, but the busy majority will find in the new words the decisive virtue of brevity. To the serious-minded they will express that gradual process by which the foreign-born citizen is taken up into the heterogeneous mass now called the American people.

A Steamship Having Left Chicago a Few Days Ago for Europe by Way of the Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, a Mississippi Ship Channel.

Chicago paper remarks that there should be another ship channel to the Atlantic by canal connecting with the Mississippi. That such a route will be opened before many decades roll by may be regarded as certain. Sometimes it is argued that the difficulties in deepening the Mississippi to the sea are too great to be overcome. Engineers do not talk in that strain. The English are radically improving the Nile by dams and the removal of obstructions. They have recently cut channels through the "sudd," or floating vegetation, that obstructs the Upper Nile, forcing it down stream for a distance of 250 miles. An open channel, from 100 to 400 feet wide, and 20 feet deep, is the result along that stretch, and the time required for the transportation of supplies has been reduced from 12 months to six weeks. A ship channel in the Mississippi is merely a matter of money in a reasonable amount. Engineering science will do the rest.

An incident which shows that love knows no language, or rather needs none, occurred recently in New Jersey. Robert Bingham, 65 years old, who can speak no other but the English tongue, was married by Justice Kaufman in Camden the other day to Helena Lutousky, 24 years old, who could talk only in the Polish language. "How in the world did you make known that you loved each other and desired to get married?" asked the justice. "The only thing left for me to do is to marry you in both languages. Fortunately I can speak Polish." All of the questions concerning the marriage were answered in English by Mr. Bingham, and were then repeated in the Polish language and answered by the young woman.

When pessimistic folk mount one of their favorite hobbies and rant about the decay of the home and the home instinct, and the scarcity of women with the feeling of motherliness in their hearts, says the Boston Transcript, there should always be at hand some one to deny their statements and back up the denial with the fact that in the last three years 53 baby waifs, charges of the city of New York, picked up in streets and byways, have been taken into good homes, and many of them legally adopted.

An old negro named Ephraim, having been sworn on the jury in a murder trial in one of the southern states, for some time stubbornly resisted a verdict of guilty for no other apparent reason than his strong aversion to capital punishment in general. Finally the foreman explained to him that it was a question either of hanging the prisoner or hanging the jury, and that it all depended on him. "Fo' Gawd, sah," replied Uncle Ephraim, "on dem reasonments de pris'ner am sho' guilty."

The humorous and unusual experiences in the life of a metropolitan clergyman are told by Rev. David M. Steele, of New York city, in the Ladies' Home Journal. Mr. Steele declares that the prospective bride is always nervous until the time for the marriage ceremony, when she is calm and collected. The groom is exactly the reverse; always cool until he comes to face the clergyman, when his nerves invariably give way.

Twenty-four of the leading bankers, professional men and merchants of Richland, Mo., entered into a covenant to parade on May 1 in shirt waists, marching through the principal streets. At night they gave an entertainment and supper to introduce the shirt waist as a substitute for the "spike-tail" and tuxedo.

Gravestones and monuments are being made of the marble saved from the Stewart mansion, Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street, New York, which is being demolished to make way for the "march up town."

MOONSHINER TO BE AN ACTOR.

Old Billy Price Engaged to Give Realistically Performance in Melodrama.

Old Billy Pritts, for years king of the moonshine gang operating in Somerset and Fayette counties, Pennsylvania, is the latest star to flash upon the histrionic firmament. After living for 40 years as an outlaw with a price on his head, Pritts was run down and captured by revenue officers last August. Aided by his two sons, he stood siege for nearly a day and was wounded in the leg before he surrendered, says a southern exchange.

Pritts was taken to Uniontown, where he was held for trial in the United States district court. His patriarchal appearance so impressed several of the town's business men that they went on his bail bond. He was at Uniontown when he first saw a play. He was greatly impressed. The production was one of the melodramatic type and showed life in the wilds of the Tennessee mountains. A battle with moonshiners was one of the features of the play.

It was at the height of the battle that Pritts laid the foundation for his stage career. The play-acting moonshiners were being slowly overwhelmed by the revenue officers when Pritts, with the experience of an old campaigner, saw an opening. Leaping from his seat he yelled:

"Look out, boys! They're comin' up behind! Give it to 'em back through the brush!"

Pritts made the hit of the evening. A Pittsburgh theatrical man who was in the audience hunted up the old moonshiner after the performance and made him an offer. He explained the nature of stage work, and offered him more money each week than the old man had ever seen in a bunch in his life. Pritts was delighted.

"I guess," he said, sorrowfully, "I can't ever go back to my 'stillin' agin, an' I reckon the money will come in handy. What'll I have to do?"

"Do?" responded the theatrical man, "why, just what you've always been doing. You'll be my leading man. I'll get up a play and have you make whisky on the stage. There'll be a battle with revenue officers, and you'll save the heroine's life and be pardoned and live happy ever after."

"But," said Billy, with a grin, "I don't think I'll be pardoned. They caught me dead and I guess I'm in for it."

"Oh, but the play will come after," said the theatrical man. "After you've served your time, you know."

"I can't understand," Billy went on. "They tell me it is agin the law to make whisky. That's what I'm arrested for. Wouldn't it be agin the law to make it on the stage as well as any other place? Then if I'm to fight the officers every night I guess I'd be in jail for the rest of my natural."

After the make-believe features of the business were explained Pritts agreed to sign a contract.

"I've got a still up in the mountain that is just the thing," he said. "Good for 60 gallon any day. I'll have 'er brought down so you can look at 'er."

Thus the new theatrical star was discovered. Pritts will be put on the stage as soon as he is out of his present troubles.

ELECTION EPISODES.

Amusing Incidents of the Recent Political Contests in England.

At a place called Beccles, during the recent elections, says Youth's Companion, a voter was observed going to the polls in a donkey-cart. The donkey was profusely decorated with the radical colors, while the voter wore a Tory rosette. Challenged as to this seeming inconsistency, he cheerily replied:

"Oh, I'm going to vote for F—, the conservative candidate; my donkey's for S— (the radical); but then, he's an ass."

Kingston-on-Thames was contested by Mr. Skewes-Cox in the conservative interest. His opponent was a Mr. Burt. The radical agent placarded the town with:

"Ex-Skewes-Cox and vote for Burt." Nevertheless, in spite of this artful invitation the Tory nominee was returned with a very respectable majority.

The member returned for South Oxfordshire, Mr. Hodge, was a local man, and he was opposed by Mr. Samuels in the radical interest. The fact of Mr. Hodge's residence in the division naturally gave him an advantage, and this was thought to be discounted by the radicals in the following way. Thousands of placards were distributed, bearing the words:

"Mr. Samuels if elected will live here."

Unhappily the bill-posters employed by Mr. Samuels' agent were destitute of a sense of humor, or else they were secretly of conservative proclivities, for a great many of the announcements found their way to the walls of pigsties and ramshackle buildings.

In and Out.

Ida—Ever since Harry asked for your hand he has been drinking heavily. Aren't you worried about his outcome? May—Yes; but I'm more worried about his income.—Chicago Daily News.

Philosophic Paps.

What joy one little baby brings! When he his nightly squall begins I hug him to my breast and bliss My lucky stars he isn't twins.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Keep Your Bowels Strong.

Constipation, or diarrhoea when your bowels are out of order. Cascarets Candy Cathartic will make them act naturally. Genuine tablets stamped C. C. C. Never sold in bulk. All druggists, roc.