A Biased Critic.

The man who shouts that times are hard,
You will observe full oft
Is looking for a berth in life
Particularly soft.
—Washington Star.

Popular with the Sex.

"He's an exceedingly gallant and sensible young man. I heard him say that a man is as old as he feels and a woman—"

"Oh, that's ancient!"

"Wait till I'm through. And that a woman is half as old as she looks."—Chicago Post.

Finality.

"That ain't law," said the attorney to the Bilville justice.

"I know it," replied the justice, "but it's me; an' ef ever I hear of you appealing from my decision I'll settle with you personally. Bailiff, clear the court!"—Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

In the Melee.

Attorney—Did you see the plaintiff strike the defendant?

Witness—Oi did, sor.

Attorney—And was the assault committed with malice aforethought?

Witness—No, sor; it wor committed wid a mallet behoind th' ear.—Judge.

Doubtful Recommendation.

"Can you make me a set of teeth that will look natural?" asked the patient.

"My dear sir," replied the toothcarpenter, "the teeth I make are so natural that they fairly ache."—Chicago Daily News.

A Reasonable Presumption.

First Passenger—I wonder why we are making such a long stop at this station.

Second Passenger (a traveler of experience)—I presume it is because no one happens to be trying to catch the train.—N. Y. Weekly.

A Stern Chase.

The Youth—Yes, I'm in business for myself, but I don't seem to be able to meet with any success.

The Sage—Nobody ever meets with success, young man. He must overtake it.—Philadelphia Press.

Why He Was Mad.

Farmer Hodge — Those confounded boys tied a tin pail to that dog's tail and ran him 11 miles. I'll sue 'em!

Mr. Cityman—Was it your dog?

Farmer Hodge—No. It was my pail.—Tit-Bits.

Pride.

"Her father, you know, started in life as a grave-digger."

"Oh, did he? I wonder if that's why her proud mother is so anxious to have the past buried?" — Chicago Record-Herald.

One of His Best Friends.

Flora—So you know Mr. Norox, do you?

Lena—Indeed I do! I'm one of his best friends. I was the last one to throw him overboard when he lost all his money.—Tit-Bits.

Proof.

"Do you think they are very much in love?"

"In love? Why, he sends her original verse and she thinks it's poetry."—Puck.

Positively Brutal.

Wife—I wonder if I could get a silk waist to suit my complexion?

Husband—Sure. Cutt & Slash are advertising hand-painted silks.—Chicago Daily News.

Almost Too Generous.

Patience—Is your minister liberal in his views?

Patrice—Oh, yes; he often preaches for two whole hours.—Yonkers Statesman.

He Knew Her.

Mrs. Gabbleton (at the seashore)—Must I keep my mouth closed while in the water?

Gabbleton—Yes, if possible. — Chicago Daily News.

ROAD & FARM IMPROVEMENT.

SOME LUCKY FARMERS.

Money and Other Valuables That Went Astray Recovered by Illinois Tillers of the Soil.

Illinois farmers and country people have the most wonderful luck in recovering lost money, valuable papers and other articles. Names and places are given in instances of recent date when large amounts of money have been recovered.

A few weeks ago C. O. Johnson, who lives on a farm near Sycamore, discovered that he had lost $310 in money and some insurance papers. He had kept the money in a box in an upper room, and having occasion to go to the box he found it missing. He made up his mind that it had been stolen, but a part of the contents of the box was found in one of the outhouses a few days later. A portion of the money was recovered.

Within the last ten days Mrs. Mary Crowell, of Oregon, Ill., lost a $100 bill. She advertised in the Ogle County Republican for it and finally got it back by an extraordinary run of good luck. John Reed, the janitor of the Presbyterian church, gathered up a lot of stuff and threw it in the furnace, in which there was a fire. Reed thought he saw something that looked like a crisp note and jerked it out of the furnace before it was ablaze. In the dim light he took it to be a dollar bill, but when he got near a lamp he found it worth 100 times that much. He took it over to Mrs. Crowell, who promptly gave him a tenth of it.

Theodore Rossow, a German farmer living near Bloomington, went into town one afternoon recently, and it was on Friday, too. Rossow drew $300 from the bank. It was in crisp bills and he slipped the whole of it in a large envelope. Then he went to the hitching post where he had left his horse and buggy, and did an unheard of thing. He took the envelope out of his pocket and shoved it, money and all, under the seat cushion. He had some more errands to do, and when he got back to the hitching post the animal, buggy, money and all was gone. After looking all over town for his rig, he applied to the police, who joined in the search. In an hour or two a stray horse and buggy were reported in a remote section of the town, and Rossow's turnout was there discovered. A search under the seat cushion disclosed the envelope with its valuable contents.

Within the last month a farmer living near Sterling sold some farm products for which he was paid a sum of money considerably over $1,000 in cash. It was late in the evening, the banks were closed, and the man was afraid to keep the money in his house. During the afternoon he had killed a calf, which he intended to ship to South Water street in the morning. The carcass was hanging in the shed, and wrapping the money in an old newspaper he secreted it inside the carcass and went to bed. The next morning the old man overslept himself, and by the time he was well awake he found that his hired man had shipped the calf to Chicago and the money went along. The farmer got aboard of the first train and landed in South Water street on the same day, soon finding the commission man to whom it had been shipped. He found the carcass and inside was the package of bills.—Chicago Tribune.

PAINTING FARM BARNS.

How to Do It Quickly and with a Minimum Expenditure of Money and Labor.

The first coat of paint may be put on the siding intended for a barn in a fraction of the time it usually takes, by piling up the siding as here illustrated. Paint six boards at a time, slide them to the farther side, then six more, and so on.

When one row is completed, three strips of siding are laid on the row of boards at right angles to allow the

PAINTING BARN SIDING.

air to circulate between the different layers. As much surface can be gone over in this way in one day as could be done in three days when the siding is nailed on the barn, besides, if the boards are matched and beaded, the paint can be rubbed into every crevice much more thoroughly than where the painter stands on a ladder.—P. J. Rohr, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Milk Must Be Cooled Quickly.

In cooling milk the work should be done rapidly. It is not enough to set the cans in cold air; they should be set in cold water. Anything cools more rapidly in cold water than in cold air, for the reason that the air is to a considerable extent a non-conductor. Water absorbs very rapidly heat from any object placed in it. If it is desired to have the milk cool in a very short time it should be stirred after it has been in the cold water for some time, as the milk at the sides of the can will be quite cold while that in the middle of the can will be still hot.—Farmers' Review.

SKILLED FARM HELP.

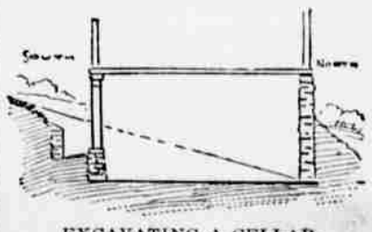
In No Part of This Great Country Does the Supply Approach to Fill the Demand.

The farm labor problem seems to get harder each year. Let a man run a farm on Cape Cod and he will find that expert farm hands are harder to obtain than anything else that good farming demands. Let him go straight to California, and he will find about the same story. California farmers are surprised to learn that eastern farmers are crying for help—well-trained help! We have daily letters from people all over the north who fairly beg for men and women who are dependable. This lack of skilled helpers is actually changing the plan of farming in many sections. Farmers find that by using fertilizers and complicated machinery they can alone or with little help work their farms fairly well—with grass, grain or fruit—often selling the latter on the trees. It is true that the use of fertilizers and machinery have enlarged the possibilities of one-man farming, yet it frequently happens that the farms on which this plan is followed are naturally suited to the crops which demand hand labor. If this failure to obtain skilled help were confined to any particular section it might be accounted for, but, so far as we know, there is no part of the country where the supply equals the demand. In theory one would think that the short courses at our agricultural colleges would be crowded with boys and hired men eager to fit themselves for more useful work. If something of this sort could be brought about such colleges would truly prove a blessing to farmers, for without skilled and really helpful helpers the farmer is often unable to utilize fully the scientific information so freely given him.—Rural New Yorker.

FARM BARN CELLAR.

When Scientifically Constructed It Is Not a Bad Thing to Have, Everything Considered.

A barn cellar is usually built where the land slopes toward the sun, so the exposed wall may have windows to admit sunshine. It sometimes happens that one's barn must be built upon a northern slope. In this case a well-lighted cellar can be secured by following the plan shown in the cross section of such a barn cellar as illustrated. The dotted line shows the natural slope of



EXCAVATING A CELLAR.

the ground. An excavation is made outside the southern wall some six feet wide, the earth being retained by a wall. The bottom of the excavation slopes away from the cellar, to turn water away from the wall. This is conveyed by a ditch or drain across the end of the building to the lower ground. The northern wall is protected by throwing up a bank of earth against it.—C. L. Heintz, in Farm and Home.

Success in Poultry Raising.

To make the poultry business pay four things are necessary. The one embarking in it must have a natural liking for the pursuit; must ascertain exactly how much capital can be invested in the business; must make a study of the most approved plans and methods of starting the enterprise, both as to the breed of fowls selected and the arrangements for their accessible markets and the best manner of reaching good customers in those markets, and then proceed to work with patience and persistence. In a modified way the same principles apply to poultry keeping on the farm.—Farmers' Voice.

Sugar as a Wholesome Food.

The increased use of sugar in the army ration of the German soldier, of whom great muscular exertion is required, makes it apparent that the masses of the people would be greatly benefited by its increased use as an article of diet. The more cheaply sugar can be produced by improved methods of cultivation and manufacture, either from the cane or sugar-beet, the more easily it can be placed within the reach of the consumer, and the better it will be for the general health of the working class and the vitality of the race.—Farm and Fireside.

Doing Chores by Daylight.

Why do you put off doing chores until after dark? Sundown comes so early. And yet sunshine is cheaper than kerosene. Plan to use the daylight. Night was made to rest in and to enjoy one's self with the paper or with the family. And then, note the smile on the face of the hired man when he learns that night sees the end of his day's work. He will be all the more ready to be up early and to do a faithful day's work if he knows that evening will bring rest.—Midland Farmer.

An Item in Roadmaking.

It is a common error in road making to endeavor to secure routes covering the shortest distance between fixed points. For this purpose the road is often made to go over a hill instead of around it. A road halfway around a hill or through a valley is sometimes no longer than a road over a hill or through a valley. The difference in the length, even between a straight road and one that is slightly curved is less than many suppose.

POINTS FOR BUILDERS.

How a Man Handy with Tools Can Put Up a Barn Without the Aid of a Carpenter.

Many people in the rural districts cannot always engage a regular carpenter to build a house or barn, but often a handy man with tools can do considerable work if he only has a few rules to work from. These illustrations represent the roof of a building 24 feet wide.

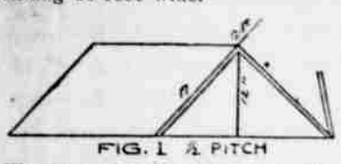


FIG. 1 ½ PITCH

Fig. 1 is what is known as one-half pitch, one-half the height of width, and if a hip roof is wanted the rafter would be 20 feet and six inches long.

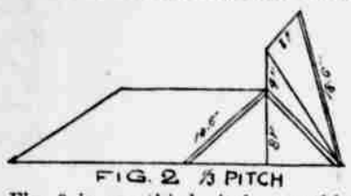


FIG. 2 ⅓ PITCH

Fig. 2 is one-third pitch, one-third the width.

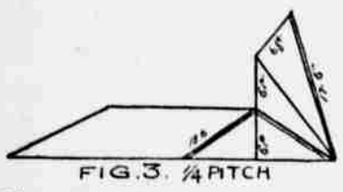


FIG. 3. ¼ PITCH

Fig. 3 is one-quarter pitch, one-fourth the width.

Roofs can be put on any building if the above rules are followed. House rafters should be two feet from centers, including partitions. To know how much sheathing is wanted, get the surface foot of exterior and roof, and the same rule applies for siding, only it will be necessary to add one-fifth more for lap and waste. Also, add one-fifth more to floor to make good tongue and groove and waste. All floor beams should be 16 inches from centers, the same as studding.

One bunch of lath containing 100 lath will cover a space one foot high and 60 feet long. Seven pounds of lath nails will lay ten bunches of lath. One barrel of lime will cover 25 yards of plaster, two coats. One load of sand will mix one barrel of lime. One thousand shingles will cover 144 square feet if laid five and one-half inches to the weather. One keg of shingle nails will lay 10,000 shingles.

To build a stairs properly, have the well hole not less than one foot shorter than the height of ceiling, and to get the height of stairs, measure from floor to floor and see how many steps it will take to reach the second floor if they were seven and one-half or eight inches high. Never have them over eight and one-half inches high. Steps should be ten inches wide. Stairs two feet ten inches are a good width. Estimate no less than $12 for each and every door and window, with casings and trimmings complete.—John F. Lape, in Farm and Home.

FARM TELEPHONES.

That They Are Multiplying in All Parts of the Country Is a Pleasing Sign of Progress.

Some of our readers have lately mentioned in letters the convenience of the telephone. They save many a long, hard drive in the cold. One farmer arranges to go to the post office, to the store or neighboring village or railway station for the neighborhood and so a half day's work or more is saved to man, for men and animals. It is economy in time, in wear and tear of carriage, in the exposure and use of horses, and in ways too numerous to catalogue.

But one of the chief uses of the farm telephone, as we conceive it, is in its social benefits. It brings the people in touch. What one knows of importance can be known by all. If there is a farmers' institute, a lecture, a meeting of the lodge or grange, a party or social event of any kind, the fact is easily communicated. This gives a real, live, friendly social touch. You are no longer an isolated family, left out in the cold; you belong to a community. You are not withering away or rusting out in a rural or pioneer home, but you are in healthful contact with those who sympathize with you and are ready to lend a helping hand if you need it. You may not need it, but the knowledge that you can have it and that you are a living part of a modern, civilized, Christian community is a source of comfort and of equanimity which has its own value.

Dollars and cents do not make up the whole of life. Why do Americans flock to the cities? One reason is that they feel the need of the social contact and the various privileges which come from community life. If our wives and daughters will be made happier, if the killing isolation can be overcome and our families be brought more into organic connection with the great live world, it would be worth more when a life's history is written than anything that can be computed in money.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Relief in Sight at Last.

Poor country roads are given as a cause of agricultural depression in testimony before the industrial commission. The farmer is at a disadvantage in the market, and the cost of carrying on his work and delivering his produce is greatly increased, thus lessening the profits which rightfully belong to him. Fortunately there is a distinct movement in favor of better roads, not only in the north and west, but in the middle states and south.