

CHOICE MISCELLANY

He Refused a Million.

According to an Italian newspaper, Giovanni Bovio, member of the Italian parliament and a writer, was recently approached by a French banker who wished Bovio to allow his name to be used in connection with a matter of business to give the scheme character. The service, he intimated, would be worth a round million to Bovio, who declined it, however, without a moment's hesitation.

"There is no law," he wrote, "against my complying with your request, but it would be a crime nevertheless. You who have lived in Naples and others must know that I live from hand to mouth with my family by teaching and by writing and that the accumulation of a million would be an impossibility from that source. But my work makes me independent, and the million would be superfluous. You say that no one in Rome would know, that all would be kept secret, but would not I know it? You bankers may leave your consciences at the foot of the Alps and resume them again on your return, but I carry mine wherever I go."

Asked.

"If you really want to be smart and up to date," said a young woman, "there is one word you must drop from your vocabulary, and that is the word 'invited.' No person of any claims to standing uses it any more. You must not say that you have been invited to Mrs. Sparkler's dinner party. You mention simply that you have been 'asked.' You have been 'asked' to attend Miss Spink's wedding, and you have 'asked' a few people for dinner on Thursday. I am not informed as to what smart noun replaces 'invitation,' but I do not hold with those persons who use 'bid' or 'invite.' It is best, I think, to avoid the use of any substantive whatever in such a connection and to bring in the verb 'ask' as often as one can. If you cling to 'invited' you must expect to be considered as hopeless, just as if you played pingpong or collected souvenir spoons."—New York Press.

Airships and Air Currents.

Germany's greatest achievement is not the technical perfection of the air going craft; she has learned how to use the air currents as the birds do in traveling. This is a science; the ship is only its instrument. Airships will double and treble their speed by acting in harmony with the forces of nature, the primal speed maker. There is a working force only lately reckoned with even by builders of air craft, and that is the wind. Airships will use the trade wind to reach this continent because it always blows one way. That is as simple a proposition as that a low powered steamer should use the gulf stream. Air traffic to compete with rail or water must maintain as sure a schedule of travel. Germany has already mapped her airship routes to and from America.—Century.

Berlin an Idlers' Haven.

The finances of Berlin are in an even worse state than those of the empire and of Prussia. One reason for the enormously increased expenditure is the reckless way in which Berlin supports all sorts of victims of misfortune or of idleness. More than a fifth of the children living in the orphan asylums have both parents living. The town shelters support thousands who have no claim upon the town. Vagabonds in all parts of the empire hear of Berlin's reputation for indiscriminate charity and crowd thither.—Westminster Gazette.

Twopenny Box Prizes.

Edward Fitzgerald, disgusted with the apathy of the public when his "Omar Khayyam" was first published, strolled into Quaritch's shop and in high dudgeon dumped down a couple of hundred copies, telling the publisher to do what he liked with them. "They went into the 'twopenny box,'" and since then Mr. Quaritch and the second and other collectors have had to buy them back dearly. The other day at Sotheby's a copy of the despised issue turned up, and Mr. Hornstein had to pay £51 for it.—London Telegraph.

A Ready Answer.

The reform spellers are always ready with an answer. Since they dropped the final "g" from "egg" some one told Professor Brander Matthews that no self respecting hen would lay an egg with one "g" and that no self respecting cat would ever begin to purr with one "r." "I answered," says the professor, "that, on the other hand, no self respecting hen would ever stand on a leg with two 'g's' and that no self respecting cat would allow any one to stroke its fur with two 'r's.'"

Inside and Out.

Speaker Cannon at a dinner in Washington said soothingly to a young suffragette: "After all, you know, there is room for both men and women in this world. Men have their work to do and women have theirs. It is the woman's work to provide for the inner man, and it is the man's to provide for the outer woman."

Cheaper to Borrow.

Mrs. Anthony Hope, the American wife of the well known English novelist, is as celebrated as her husband for bonnets. At a dinner in New York during her American visit the lady expressed her disapproval of mercenary marriages. "Never marry for money," she said. "You can borrow cheaper."

DAIRY AND CREAMERY

POOR AND GOOD COWS.

There is a Very Great Difference in the Efficiency of the Animals.

"The Dairy cow may be considered as an animated machine that has for her mislot, the conversion of feed into milk and butter fat," says Prof. D. H. Otis of the department of a final nutrition of the University of Wisconsin. His studies of a large number of herds and of individual cows shows that there is a great difference in the efficiency of cow machines. One herd may produce from three to five times as much profit per cow as another herd in the same community. In the same herd one good cow not infrequently produces as much profit to the dairy farmer above the cost of feed and care as eight or ten poor cows.

In a comparison Prof. Otis made between two herds of dairy cows in Wisconsin dairy districts, it was found that in one herd the two best dairy cows produced 419 pounds of butter per cow per annum. Comparing the production of the poorest cow with that of the best two in the herd, and averaging the three, the yield of butter per cow was lowered from 419 to 313, a reduction of 106 pounds of butter per cow for the year. In the second herd the average production of the two best cows in the herd was 427 pounds of butter. A comparison of the production of the poorest cow with the two best showed the average yield lowered from 427 to 301 for a cow, a reduction of 126 pounds per cow. In both instances the poor cow reduced the average of the two best cows to the average yield of the entire herd.

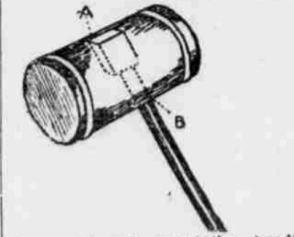
The investigation shows that it is possible for a few poor cows in a herd to so reduce the profits realized from the good cows that the entire herd is kept either at a loss, or at but small profit. The depressing influence of poor cows will be eliminated when the dairy farmer keeps records of the production of his individual cows so that he may discover and remove as soon as possible all "star boarders."

Ripening Cream.

It is very essential in cream ripening to agitate the cream frequently to insure uniform ripening. When cream remains undisturbed for some time the fat rises in the same way that it does in milk, though in a less marked degree. The result is that the upper layers are richer than the lower and will sour less rapidly, since the action of the lactic acid germs is greater in thin than in rich cream. This uneven ripening leads to a poor bodied cream. Instead of being smooth and glossy, it will appear coarse and curdy when poured from a dipper. The importance of stirring frequently during ripening should therefore not be underestimated.—Prof. John Michels.

To Make a Wooden Maul.

A maul that never comes off the handle may be made by boring a 1/4-inch hole in the center of a suitable stick. Cut a mortise in the back as shown in the accompanying illustration.



tion at A and insert the handle which has a square knob at the end on the other side. Fasten a small strip of leather at B. The head of the maul should be about 10 inches in length.—Effingham Co., Ill. D. I. Deviney.

To Prevent Damage.

Every farmer should have a good rooey yard well built, and sowed to alfalfa or some green foliage for spring use, so that the hen can be controlled during the early crop season, as a very large number will sometimes damage a crop to a very large extent in its early stage.

Are you giving your hogs any roughage? They need it; not much, of course, but some alfalfa or clover hay will give surprising results. Feeding tests have shown that corn meal, alfalfa hay, with a small amount of shorts gave profitable results and produced a good quantity of meat.

There is a successful fox farm on Prince Edward Island. Skins in their green condition are valued at from \$200 to \$250 each, one or two being \$450.

Push the lambs for the early market. Corn meal will fatten them up quickly and make nice meat. There is a flavor about meal fed lambs that is not produced by any other feed.

Sunshine is one of the best ingredients for healthy chicks. Provide a good run in the sunshine for the youngsters. It's necessary to their health.

The Amateur.

The house dog's left the kitchen door. Where once with faith complete He lingered hourly to implore Some dainty tidings to bestow. With mournful bay he went away. Nor gave one backward look. Home is no place for dear old Tray Since Gladys learned to cook.

She says that eggs and meat are not Required by you and me. She tosses string beans in the pot With epicurean glee. We struggle with the bill of fare That she reads in a book. Indeed, this life is full of care Since Gladys learned to cook. —Washington Star.

Waiting For Something to Turn Up. "I witnessed an incident yesterday which reminded me of darkest Russia." "Tell me about it." "A small boy threw a banana peeling on the sidewalk in front of a fat man who couldn't see the ground." "Of course you warned the fat man?" "Well, no-o-o. To tell the truth, I was anxious to see what would happen."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Feeding. Let blessings rest upon our men, Though 'tis no sumptuous repast. Accept the gratitude we feel. At even such chance to break our fast. For here's a soup of water hot. A pudding made of wholesome bran. Potatoes steaming in the pot. A herring smoking in the pan. No sign of meat? No, none of that. Yes, tender steak might taste right nice. But nowadays a plutocrat Is any man who has the price. —Philadelphia Ledger.

The Worth of His Money. Lochinvar had swung the fair young girl to his saddle and was spurring the steed to its utmost efforts. "Why such mad speed?" inquired the heroine. "We are well beyond pursuit." "I hired this horse at a dollar an hour," explained Lochinvar, swinging the whip once more.—Chicago Post.

A Glimpse of Green. Yonder is the river bank, Where the willows lean. Don't you see it's showin' A purty glimpse o' green? The trees air gittin' ready. They've lost the winter look. Pathway to the river— Fellers, bait yer hook! —Atlanta Constitution.

Needed a Trustworthy Organ. Mrs. Jones—Joseph, is the Planet a reliable newspaper? Mr. Jones—Absolutely, my dear. Why do you ask? Mrs. Jones—I wish to write to the editor to ascertain what will take ink stains out of the carpet.—Sunday Magazine.

Lagidam. [With apologies to William Shakespeare.] Take, oh, take those tips away. That you mail to lambs unshorn And those lies you print that say, "Stocks will break tomorrow morn!" But my margins bring again— Bring again— And my childlike faith in men, Faith in men. —Puck.

More Conservation. "Marry me?" he asked. "Yes," she replied. "They were both romantic, but as conscientious members of the Society For the Conservation of Words and Phrases they could say no more."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Heartless Enmity. He did not libel me nor laugh Nor sneer, his hate to show. He just displays a photograph They took long years ago. When trousers tight and coats so queer And headgear small and flat Made me a gibbering freak appear. I'll never forgive him that. —Washington Star.

Sure Thing. Bill—I see the thickness of a razor edge has been reckoned at about one-millionth of an inch. Jill—I'll bet that discovery was made before the man's wife started in on her corn!—Yonkers Statesman.

When Bossy Returned. Hey, diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle. The cow jumped over the moon. So the people said: "Nix on beef at that figure! We will eat Hay-O, Bath Mitts, Shredded Peat and bean soup. Whereupon The cow came down full soon. —Chicago Tribune.

Quit Making Calls. "I haven't seen anything of Brown for several months. What's the matter?" "Nothing. He's got a job now where he doesn't have to sell anything."—Detroit Free Press.

A Kill Joy. As sure as I say all is well And start to draw a cheerful breath A life insurance man drops in, And, with a sad and sickly grin, He gloomily begins to tell How common and how sure is death. —Detroit Free Press.

Proof Positive. Harker—They say Timkins has got to be a first class vocalist. Parker—I guess that's right. At least the neighbors don't shoot when he tries to sing.—Philadelphia Press.

A Literary Puzzle. Now, I have read the lyric gems And parodies a few. But can any life I could not tell Which were the best. Could you? —Judge.

Liberal. Barkeeper—This is tin. Patron—Tin! I thought it was five. Have one yourself.—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

TEDDY BEAR PUZZLE.

String Can Be Taken Out, Though It Looks Impossible. Years of use having failed to dim the popularity of the Teddy bear, a Tennessee man has adapted the toy



to a new use by making a puzzle which will give the average person plenty of exercise for his or her wits. Of course, like any other puzzle, once solved it is quite easy. The puzzle consists of a Teddy bear, in a sitting posture, with its forelegs outstretched. There is a hole in his nose and in each forepaw, and through these a double cord is passed. The ends of the cord pass through the paws and on each end are metal rings, much too large to pass through the holes. By making the proper use of the loops in the cord, however, the latter may be removed from the bear and replaced with ease. The basic principle of the puzzle, that of making the secret in the proper manipulation of the loops, is not strictly new, but the adaptation of this principle to the Teddy bear will insure its popularity as a puzzle.

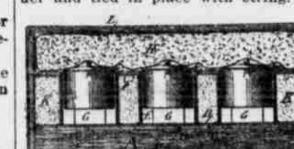
CHEAP FIRELESS COOKER.

A cheap and efficient fireless cooker was made by the writer as follows: A box measuring 34 1/2 inches long, 12 inches wide and 16 inches deep inside measure was bought from the grocer. After lining it well with newspapers lapped at the corners and tacked in place, a bed of newspapers A was placed on the bottom to a depth of 4 inches. The false bottom B was then nailed above them, and a sheet of asbestos placed upon it. Three pieces of sheet zinc, 7x26 1/2 inches, were made into cylinders and soldered at the joint. These cylinders were then soldered to a sheet of zinc,



Cross Section Through One of the Zinc Cylinders. D, cut to fit the false bottom, B, the cylinders being spaced 10 inches between centers. To facilitate the soldering of the cylinders E to the zinc plate D, small ears may be left in the cutting and bent outwardly.

The holes the diameter of the outside of the cylinders, 10 inches between centers, were made in a board 1/2 inches long and 8 1/2 inches wide, and nailed in place around the cylinders, the cylinders being nailed to the board F. A strip of asbestos was then wrapped around each cylinder and tied in place with string.



A Cheaply-Constructed Fireless Cooker. The space around the cylinders was now well packed with sawdust, K, and the small strips of wood, I, were inserted and nailed to the box to complete the shelf F. Three half bricks, G, and three enameled-ware pails 6x6 1/2 inches covered by an old feather pillow, H, which in turn was pressed firmly over the pails by a hinged lid, L, held closed by a suitable fastening, completes the cooker. To improve the appearance of the box the outside, with the exception of the bottom, was padded with paper tacked in place and covered with cretonne. Handles placed at the ends were found useless as well as ornamental. The novelty and efficiency of this cooker lies in the use of the half-bricks, G, which being placed around the gas burner, or on the stove with the pall resting on them, while bringing the contents of the pall to the boiling point, absorb considerable heat (the hotter they get the better). They are then used as shown in the illustrations.—Scientific American.

Bismarck's Measure. Bismarck is credited with drinking one gallon of French brandy in a one-night session. Bismarck claimed that so long as alcohol wasted its effect upon the brain in keeping up sprightly thought and conversation it had little effect on the rest of the system.

PUFF PASTE RECIPE.

How to Make the Kind That Melts In the Mouth. Puff paste should never be called by its christened name unless it is deserving of the title. It should be as light as air and melt in the mouth like a snowflake on the river. It has been supposed to be indigestible, but when it is light and dry and flaky it is perfectly safe to be eaten. It is only the soggy, heavy pastry that refuses to be separated by the gastric fluids and becomes like lead in the stomach in a very short time. Puff paste is not often a success the first time it is made. It requires practice to make it well and a certain light touch which only practice brings. If the young housekeeper makes her paste according to this recipe she will find it an excellent one:

One pint of good butter, one quart of flour sifted, three-quarters of a teaspoonful of salt and a teaspoonful of ice water. Chill a mixing bowl with cold water. Wash the butter in cold water by working it with a spoon until it is soft. Divide it into four parts, roll in a napkin and put it on ice. Mix the flour and salt together and gradually mix in one part of the butter. Some people use their hands, while other people mix it with a spoon or knife. When the butter and flour are well mixed pour in the ice water very slowly. Do not stir the pastry, but cut it with the knife until the water is absorbed. Sprinkle the rolling board with a little flour, toss the ball of paste on with the knife and then pat with the rolling pin until it is quite flat and about an inch thick. Roll very lightly and quickly the whole length of the paste at every stroke.

When the paste is rolled out lay one of the quarters of butter in a little flour and roll into a long, thin piece and fold it into the pastry. Pound it lightly into a flat cake and roll again. Repeat with the rest of the butter, putting in a quarter each time and patting it and rolling it deftly and quickly. When the butter is all rolled in the pastry may be patted and re-rolled as often as your strength will permit.

Each time the paste is folded over the butter a small bubble of air gets in, and this does not escape unless the pastry is patted down. The motion for rolling should therefore be very light indeed and always away from you. The folding and rolling should continue until all streaks of butter are absorbed. Always put the puff paste on the ice to harden before it is baked. It should be very cold when it is put into the oven.

How to Clean Aluminium. Olive oil is an excellent cleanser for aluminium ware. After washing the articles and drying them rub with a cloth which has been saturated with oil. It will keep the ware bright and free from rust.

Style in Writing. Many things go to make a great writer, says Conan Doyle. One is style. No man in the world has a natural style. To get style he must turn to the best writers and imitate them. Surely, Stevenson has helped many a lame dog into a "style." The young writer also needs never-ending patience. When I began to play a game of ping-pong with myself on one side of the net and editors on the other, and my manuscript as the ball, I needed as much patience and philosophy as any man upon this earth.

Smugglers' Retreat for a Sanatorium. Steep Holme, an old-time hangout of smugglers, may be the site for a big sanatorium. This island is about the size of a forty acre field, rises two hundred feet out of water, and its five forts make it the Gibraltar of the Bristol Channel. It is said, to be free from dust, and one of the most beautiful spots in the world.

An Incomplete Landscape. Mr. Kreezus, the multimillionaire, was entertaining a friend at his elegant country home. "I was born and brought up in this neighborhood," he said, "and when I was a boy I used to think what a fine thing it would be to have a house on this hill. It's the highest point of ground, you will notice, within a circuit of several miles, and the view from here is extensive." "It is magnificent!" exclaimed the visitor.

"Yes, and when the time came that I could afford it I gratified my boyish ambition by buying the land round here and putting up this house." "I have been in a great many places, and I have never seen a finer landscape than this." "That's what I used to think, but I don't like it now as well as I did when I was a boy." "What makes the difference?" "It isn't complete." "Not complete? Why, you own the landscape, don't you?" "That's the trouble. I own all of it but that eight-acre patch over there beyond the creek, about six miles away. The old curmudgeon that owns it won't sell it to me at any figure." And Mr. Kreezus sighed dismally.

A Live Town. Some are inclined to call this a dead town, when for some time there has not been a night that something hasn't been going on worth mentioning. A moving-picture show every night, a revival at the Methodist church, with good music and gospel preaching, and a skating rink and lodges, and everything that human inclination for variety could wish, and then to think the town dead. If there is anything about the town that is dead you are it. You had better wake up some. Just think of a town this size with two bands like ours!—Mount Airy (la.) Press.

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