

It is reckoned that there are now seventy-two different races of men inhabiting the earth.

A Yale professor is quoted as being of opinion that football makes the students sluggish in their studies. The London Lancet records 109 cases in which participants in football games played in 1892 in Great Britain received injuries so serious as to require hospital treatment.

An Oklahoma merchant carelessly allowed a few castor beans to get mixed with his oats. He probably thought nothing of it at the time, and sold the oats to a stable keeper. Several of the horses to which the grain was fed sickened and died. Veterinary surgeons said it was the result of eating the castor beans. The stable keeper sued for damages and the careless grain dealers were compelled, by order of the court, to pay \$550.

According to the Chicago Herald, after a long struggle the company organized to catch porpoises for their skins has gone into the hands of a receiver. There has never been a time when the company could supply the demand for porpoise leather to be turned into shoe leaces, but in spite of the excellence of the leather for shoe uppers, its price has always prevented its getting a hold upon the market. The oil of the porpoise, of great value for several purposes, is only slowly becoming known to the public.

That floating wrecks constitute a serious danger to shipping cannot be disputed. The danger is so obvious, indeed, declares the New York Times, that it is natural that it should have engaged the attention of the British House of Commons, since, as the first of maritime Nations, Great Britain has the greatest stake in safety at sea. The Secretary of the Admiralty's explanation that no war ships would be sent out to destroy derelicts, since there was no record of a ship striking a derelict, was effectually disposed of by the suggestion that that may have been because nobody was left to tell the tale. There seems to be no reason why every derelict sighted should not be destroyed. It is worth the while of any commercial Nation to reimburse its merchantmen for the trifling expense and detention they incur by stopping to destroy derelicts. If this were done whenever satisfactory evidence of the destruction of a derelict was furnished, the highways of the ocean would soon be cleared.

In an article on "Rate of Natural Increase in the United States," by Herman Hollerith, published in the Journal of the American Statistical Association for March, 1891, page 177, it was stated that when the age tables for the census of 1890 were compiled it would be found that the ratio of children under ten years of age at the census of 1890 to each 100 of the total population at the census of 1880 would not be much, if any, over thirty; and again on page 178 this is more exactly estimated at 30.2. The Census Office, says the New York Recorder, has just furnished the figure for the total population under ten years of age at the recent census, and gives this number as 15,209,000, which when compared with the total population of 1880 gives us a ratio of 30.32, instead of 30.2, as estimated. In other words, the falling off in our rate of increase as estimated has been substantiated by the returns of the recent enumeration. This ratio of population under ten years of age to the total population at the previous census, indicating as it does the ratio of the survivors of those born during the previous ten years, to the population has been gradually falling from 39.5 for the decade 1840 to 1850 to an average of 33.7 for the two decades from 1860 to 1880, and now, as we see, has actually fallen to 30.3. The significance of this is apparent when we consider that if the same ratio of addition to our population due to births had been maintained from 1880 to 1890 as from 1860 to 1880, we should have had at the census of 1890, 337 children under ten years of age for each 1000 of population at the census of 1880, or 16,903,000, instead of which we find only 15,209,000, or 1,700,000 less. In other words, had our rate of increase due to births been maintained during the last ten years we would have had nearly two millions more children under ten years of age, and our aggregate population would have amounted to 64,300,000. This would have been equal to the most liberal estimates of our population, and the fact that the actual enumerated population did not equal the estimates can be explained entirely by the falling off in the birth rate during the previous ten years.

## FOR FARM AND GARDEN

### SPECKS IN CREAM.

Specked butter is a source of annoyance to many butter makers, who attribute the trouble to many causes, but seem ignorant of a remedy. The explanation is simple. The specks are the result of the surface of the milk cooling more rapidly than the underneath. Aeration is the remedy for it, by reducing the temperature of the milk to that of the atmosphere. The further cooling of the milk being uniform, no specks are produced.—[New York World.]

### COLD FRAMES.

Every progressive farmer has his cold frames, for he realizes the advantages to be gained in the way of big money for vegetables out of season. Spinach and lettuce bring high prices in mid-winter, as do many other vegetables.

The management of cold frames is so simple that it is surprising that more farmers do not use them. The only difference between a hotbed and a cold frame is the absence of bottom heat in the latter, which has not, like the hotbed, fermenting stable manure beneath the seeds.

The usual method of making cold frames is to take a back piece of twelve-inch plank and a front of six-inch. The side pieces are sawed out to correspond with these two widths. The soil being well prepared, the frame is then set on it, enough earth being banked up around the outside to keep away the water of cold rains. A glass sash should be fitted closely, so as to exclude all air and prevent the heat accumulated during the day being lost at night.

### CEMENT FLOORS.

Cement floors can often be made much cheaper than wooden floors. A cement floor well made will be as solid as rock and will last as long as needed. They never rot or break through, do not leak and cannot be rooted up by hogs. The floor can be laid level or in any shape desired. Remove the loose soil from the surface down to solid ground or hard-pan, and fill up with sandstone a foot or more in depth. Level the top by breaking the stone quite fine with a heavy hammer. Make the first coat of cement thin enough so it will pour down into the stones, thus cementing them firmly together. The finishing coat should be made just thick enough to level nicely. Make the cement about an inch deep above the stones, then if it is properly laid there will be about six inches deep of solid cement on the surface. The deeper the loose stone foundation is under this the better. Use the best cement and sharp sand for this work. It should be mixed thoroughly, about two parts sand to one of cement.

Although any farmer can, with a little practice, make a good cement floor, it might be better to hire some one who has had experience in laying such floors, as much depends upon having the cement and sand properly mixed. The floor must be allowed to dry thoroughly before using or before freezing weather. For box-stalls or stable floors cement has no equal. It will make a water tight floor for the silo. A cement floor should always be well covered with straw—better for the floor and the stock. This kind of floor can be laid in horse-stalls, but if the horses are to be sharp-shod or stand on the floor much of the time, it would be best to cover the cement with plank.—[National Stockman and Farmer.]

### THRIFTY SHEEP FOR GOOD WOOL.

The best sheep is the one that produces the best fleece of wool and the best carcass of mutton. To do this they must be kept in good, thrifty condition. Food is needed to maintain animal life and heat to make growth of bone, muscle and wool. The nutriment necessary to maintain life and heat is taken from the food first, and if there is any surplus it is used for growth. The growth of flesh may be stunted and no after treatment of the animal will entirely overcome the effect. If the growth of the wool is stunted the effect will show both in the quality and quantity. Stinting the feed, so as to cause an unthrifty condition of the fleece weakens the fiber and often induces what is called cotted fleece. Exposure to storms, especially to cold rains, will often produce the same effect. To grow the best fleece of wool that the animal is capable of it is necessary that the sheep be kept in a good, thrifty condition. The growth of wool must be steady from the time one fleece is taken off until another is ready for the shears, the same as the growth of flesh must be a daily gain from birth to maturity, if the best carcass is obtained. Sheep

do not need pampering; on the other hand, they should not be stinted. The feed and care must be sufficient to keep the animal in thrifty condition, and the more fully this is done the better will be the results. The cost must, of course, be considered, but under no circumstances is it a good economy to stint the feed or the care at the expense either of the flesh or wool. Because sheep, if given the opportunity, will shift for themselves, they are often neglected and, therefore, do not pay as they should.

In many cases a small improvement in the quantity or quality of the fleeces will make the difference between profit and loss in the keeping of sheep. Unless we except hogs, there is no kind of stock on the farm given average treatment that is paying a large profit. In fact, in many cases it requires good management to realize a profit at all, and in many cases with sheep, if the value of the feed is taken into consideration, there will be positive loss.

This loss is largely due to want of care during the winter. So long as there is plenty of pasturage the sheep do well enough, but as soon as they must depend upon the feed that is given them they begin to run down and the growth of wool is affected. The kind and quantity of the ration must vary with different conditions. If the shelter is poor more corn is needed than when the quarters are comfortable. With dry, warm quarters and plenty of good water and good hay, very little grain will be needed.

If the sheep are kept thrifty the growth of wool and the increase will be sufficient to keep the sheep profitable. Good feed and good shelter will not only make a heavier fleece, but one of a better quality, ensuring a better price and an increased income.—[St. Louis Republic.]

### HINTS ON POULTRY.

Oats are excellent for laying hens. Steamed rice is good for young chicks.

Geese should never be picked in cold weather.

A good hen should lay at least 140 eggs during the year.

Goslings grow more rapidly than any other kind of bird.

It is necessary to feed meat in some form during the winter.

Egg eating is apt to be developed by too close confinement.

The Black Minorca lays the largest egg among Spanish fowls.

Puddles are not the proper sources of water supply for chickens.

Sugar beets, carrots and turnips are good winter food for poultry.

If turkeys are carefully managed they are profitable on any farm.

Cochins mated with game or brown Leghorn cocks make good crosses.

The white flesh of the Langshans makes them a desirable table fowl.

The water given poultry during the winter should have the chill taken off.

Bright combs are a sure indication of good health and freedom from disease.

Tame chickens will lay more eggs and take on flesh faster than half wild ones.

Chickens cannot be crowded together in large numbers without breeding disease.

Dorkings are valuable for crossing on other breeds where compactness of form is desired.

Your chicks are growing rapidly now and should not be crowded in their night quarters.

When hens are moulting the accumulation of feathers should be cleared out at least once a week.

Egg foods are those which contain lime for the shell, albumen for the white and carbon for the yolk.

Geese feather more rapidly where they have an abundance of fresh water and run on a green pasture.

### FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Wheat is a good crop to get a seedling with.

Honey which is properly kept will, like wine, improve with age.

The great point in successful apiculture is wintering bees safely.

Glucose in moderation does not prevent the candying of honey.

Both comb and extract honey should be kept in a warm, dry place.

The mortality among young turkeys is chiefly due to dampness and lice.

Bees require warm weather to properly ripen and seal their stores, if fed.

A colony should never go into winter quarters with less than 35 or 40 pounds of honey.

By burning a little sulphur in the room where comb-honey is stored, the moth worm can be kept out.

The nectar in flowers does not become honey until after the watery part has evaporated in the cell where the bee has deposited it.

## A FORT IN THE AIR.

### PLAN OF A GERMAN CAPTAIN FOR REVOLUTIONIZING WAIR.

Many Ascents by Balloons.—The Science of Aeronautics Part of Military Education in the Realm of the Kaiser.

### BARON MAXIMILIAN WOLF

Von Stolberg Schroeder is all at a Kearney street hotel. For the convenience of friends the gentleman is content to be addressed as Captain Wolf. He is a retired officer of the German army, a typical son of the Fiederland. The Captain does not speak English fluently but employs gestures with the freedom of a Frenchman, and a very similar air. He is solid, black-bearded, spectacled, a student by the very look of him. The only picture he had was taken some four years ago, and since that time he has visibly matured. The German navy," says the Captain, "has about 400 balloons designed for carrying and dropping bombs. The bomb is released automatically—by clock work. It is easy to drop bombs into a city by studying currents, but to hit a ship would be extremely difficult. A land force attacking a naval force thus would be at

loons sailed out of Paris during the siege and reached the banks of the Rhine. The airships so-called have been failures. None of them have been any better than the old-fashioned silk bag, whipped hither and about at the mercy of the wind, and some have been much worse.

"There are so many things to be considered, power, lightness, strength, susceptibility to control. Now, my airship must have an engine. It cannot be heavy, or it defeats its own purpose. All the material of the ship must be durable and yet it cannot have great weight. I think an engine of a single horse-power will be sufficient, and yet—" Here the Captain shrugged his shoulders.

"The principle of this airship," he continues, "is possibly better shown by the pictures than by anything I can say. The engine occupies the centre. The air paddles are worked by an endless chain and will revolve with great speed. The well body will be filled by the employment of ammonia. Equilibrium is secured by the wind-lift fans.

"Since a boy of seventeen I have studied the balloon," went on the Captain, getting guttural in a fervor unobserved before, "I studied him in school, I studied him in the army, and ever since. I did it for love of the Fiederland first. Then I did it because the subject became an engrossing one.



DROPPING BOMBS ON AN ENEMY.

great disadvantage, and probably lose its ammunition. Before sending up a bomb balloon it is necessary to send up some dummies so as to determine the currents. It is impossible to do this with such certainty that a ship could be selected as a target. An entire fleet, closely grouped, would make a fine target though.

The Captain has paid particular attention to aeronautics as a branch of military science. It is partly for the purpose of spreading knowledge that careful experiments in this direction have given him that he now visits this country. He would like to form a sort of school of soldier balloonists—a reserve.

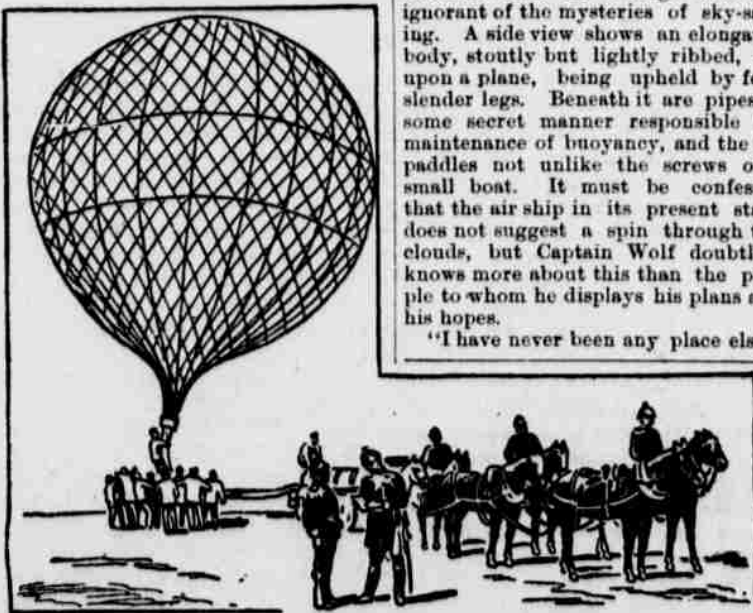
"You had with Mexico a war. Go up in balloons. No ship can come near and be not seen, nor torpedo boats. There is no studio in this country for such."

"Have you made many ascensions yourself, Captain?" he was asked.

"Oh, 547 trips now. Never very long ones. Once I was upstairs twelve hours and floated from Berlin to Danzig."

Captain Wolf has, like other aeronauts, invented a flying machine. He does not, like other aeronauts, place unbounded faith in it. He thinks it will be a success. He is sure that the principle is correct and that the mechanism is superior to any other ever devised for the purpose. But it will take much money to find out. The Government ought, it seems to him, to take an interest in so important a matter.

There is a Deutscher Balloon Sport Club that has among its members the finest army engineers, the best chem-



SENDING UP A SCOUTING PARTY.

ists, mathematicians reckoned among the scholars of Germany. Of this organization Captain Wolf is a member. While, as the name implies, the object is partly recreation, there is a deeper and more serious side to the gatherings. The design is to keep abreast of aeronautics, and, in case of war, to be ready to offer a balloon corps, ready equipped, to the service of the country. Most of the club members are ex-army officers, who have never become wholly reconciled to a life of peace.

"Really, not such a great advance has been made," continued the Captain, in a vernacular quaintly beyond representation in type, "since bal-

"Think what a magnificent thing to have a fleet of air-ships! How the present methods of army and navy would be revolutionized! Where would the modern cruiser find to hide? What the good of a march across the Alps? I tell you the air-ship must come. It may not be my ship, but the future will see it. Wise men have said it, and not dreamers; men who do the thinking of the times. Maybe my ship will never be made. I have only models. To build it full size would cost thousands of dollars, and—" Once more the German Captain gave a French shrug.



BARON VON STOLBERG SCHROEDER.

But for all Captain Wolf was so assured that the picture of his air ship would be self-explanatory, it would not thus strike the average beholder ignorant of the mysteries of sky-sailing. A side view shows an elongated body, stoutly but lightly ribbed, set upon a plane, being upheld by four slender legs. Beneath it are pipes in some secret manner responsible for maintenance of buoyancy, and the air paddles not unlike the screws of a small boat. It must be confessed that the airship in its present stage does not suggest a spin through the clouds, but Captain Wolf doubtless knows more about this than the people to whom he displays his plans and his hopes.

"I have never been any place else."

makes reckless risks of his neck and limbs, but with no idea of any scientific value being connected with his calling. He usually dubs himself "professor," a case of pretense that a good look at his exposures. Captain Wolf, on the contrary, is a student and scholar, and would be accepted as such on his appearance alone.

While the realm of cloud and sky has engaged most of the attention of Captain Wolf he has not neglected other lines. Among his inventions is a bomb, that sinks when hot, rises when cool, and rising blows any passing enemy from the water, or, as the Captain yesterday expressed, "Poo! There you are."

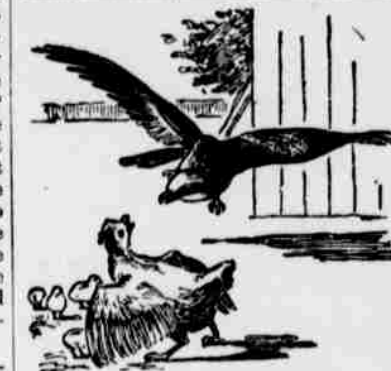
In his collection of pictures are several showing experiments by the German Balloon Club, the different shaped balloons, the methods of securing them in storms. He has drawn up a plan for a balloon shelter, in which the extended bag may be housed. It is flanked by music stands and refreshment booths. Altogether the Captain is a most enthusiastic aeronaut, so much so, indeed, that the bomb that blows hot and blows cold is likely to suffer from neglect.

"They had a great fair in Chicago, Captain?"

"Yes," responded he, with a shade of doubt, "a great fair, but not half the chance for ballooning that there is here."—San Francisco Examiner.

### Hen Against Hawk.

There was an interesting ornithological exhibition in the dooryard of George Benefield, near Raymondville, a few days ago. An old hen and her brood, parties of the first part, were wandering about the yard in search of grasshoppers, when a big speckled hawk, party of the second part, sailed down from a neighboring oak and pounced upon a chicken. The old hen flew to the rescue, and a terrific battle ensued. The hawk appeared to be in a paroxysm of rage and heeded not the approach of the party of the third part in the person of Miss Effie Cowden, who was standing but a few steps away when "the war began." She seized the hawk by its wings and thought to wring its neck, but it wasn't that kind of a hawk. It turned upon and made desperate efforts to strike her in the face with its beak. There is no telling how long the combat would have continued or how it



A TERRIFIC BATTLE ENSUED.

would have terminated if Mrs. Benefield had not come to the rescue. She broke the hawk's neck with a hoe. The bird measured something over four feet from tip to tip of its wings.

### A Deer Among the Cattle.

While a big herd of cattle, being driven from the ranch to market, was passing through the Snohomish Valley, Wash., an immense deer, the largest ever seen in those parts, bounded out of the woods and joined the drove. Partly because of the difficulty of cutting out the animal from the middle of the herd, where it quickly worked its way, and partly through curiosity as to what it would do, the cowboys did not molest it. The deer remained quietly walking with the herd for eight hours, and finally entered into a corral with the cattle at Snohomish, where it was captured.

### The Fashionable Pelisse.



This model for winter wear shows one of the newest forms of traveling wrap. It is a revival of the old-time pelisse, and when made of broadcloth and trimmed with bear it is particularly effective.—Chicago Record.