

CYCLING ODDITIES.

SOME CURIOSITIES IN THE WORLD OF WHEELS.

A Three-Year-Old Rider Who Makes Ten-Mile Trips—A Fancy Rider's Startling Trick—Perilous Ride.

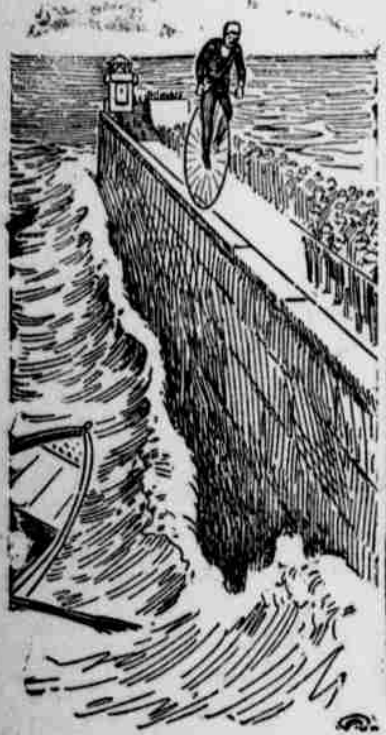
WOULD you like an introduction to the youngest bicycle rider in Chicago, if not in the world, asks the Chicago Times-Herald. This is his picture. The young man is just three years old and he lives at 2760 Commercial street, Ravenswood. His name is Allison Friedberg. He rides an odd little baby bicycle, the wheels of which are only sixteen inches in diameter and the seat twenty-two inches from the



A THREE-YEAR-OLD BICYCLE RIDER.

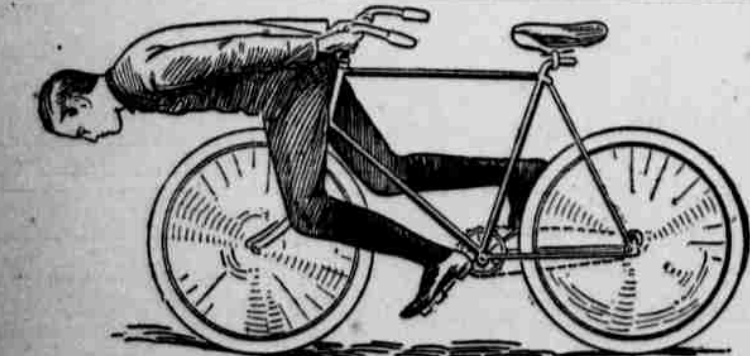
ground. Not long ago he rode from Ravenswood to Lincoln Park and back, a distance of ten miles, in less than half a day. He learned to ride very easily, and is not at all afraid.

A FANCY RIDER'S STARTLING TRICK. It is a matter of frequent comment that the safety does not present the opportunity for fancy trick riding that the ordinary did. With all that, some very remarkable "stunts" have been



A PERILOUS RIDE.

thought out by the professional entertainer, one of the most startling of which, as performed by young Lee Richardson, is herewith illustrated. The rider turns himself around and suddenly lies down on the handle bar, his feet out ahead. In this uncomfortable position he rides, twisting the pedals with his hand. Then he turns over, so to speak, and takes the almost indescribable position shown in the illustration, looking as though he was



A STARTLING TRICK.

pulling his wheel along after him by main force.

PERILOUS RIDING.

The attention of the foolkiller is directed to the young men who race with railroad trains, cross railroad bridges on the ties, ride down steep flights of stairs or peddle along the brink of precipices, after the manner of Maltby, who recently shocked the wiser people of Aberdeen, Scotland, by his perilous ride on the narrow top of the wall of the ocean pier. That Maltby can do such a trick is not so remarkable as that he is willing to do it all for a little notoriety.

A SIMIAN CYCLIST. "Little Joe," a most intelligent orang outang, of Portland, Oregon, learned to ride in three lessons, so his press agent says. Like all beginners, he is very enthusiastic, and shows a bad temper when forced to dismount from his bicycle, which is of special construction with a twenty-inch wheel. "Joe" has a brother, who is a resident of Spokane Falls, where he is giving exhibitions. The brother is booked for a metropolitan appearance during the next theatrical season.

NEW DEVICES AND INVENTIONS. The latest device for the production of rubber tires, for which an American patent has been secured, is officially described as "A protective covering for pneumatic tires consisting of a padding over the tire, a circumferential spring-metal band lying upon said padding, and a flexible metallic cloth fitted over and surrounding said band

DRESS DEVICES.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN FEMINE FASHIONS.

Handsomely Trimmed Wrappers With Bishop Sleeves—Naval Jackets With Vest—Other Dainty Designs.

In the first large illustration white dimity is handsomely trimmed with delft blue and white embroidery and insertion to match, blue satin ribbon forming the stock collar, cuff bows and tied semi-girdle at the waist line. The closing in cen-



LADIES' WRAPPER WITH BISHOP SLEEVES.

re front is invisible under a band of insertion. The gown is shaped in the favorite princess style, fitting smoothly below the waist where each cam is gradually widened to produce the fashionable fluted effect in the skirt. The bishop sleeves are gathered up and bottom, cuff bands finishing the wrists. A frill of embroidery and a band of ribbon with bow forms the faint decoration. The gown can be made up with or without lining, the style being equally well adapted to wool, silk, cotton or linen fabrics, washers, batiste, grass linen, cambric or China silk, and are favorite materials with lace, embroidery, ribbon, gimp or bias bands for decoration.

The quantity of material 44 inches wide required to make this tea gown for a lady having a 36-inch bust measure is 6½ yards.

NAVAL JACKET OF BLUE WOOL.

For yachting, boating, seaside or ordinary country wear no other style of jacket is half as fetching or appropriate with a sailor hat as the one delineated in the second large picture. Navy blue wool canvas cloth and white buck are the materials selected, the rest and collar of duck being decorated with rows of blue braid. Single bust larts and under-arm gores perform the smooth adjustment, the neck is finished with a standing collar and the lower edge is shaped in rounded outline. The naval jacket is of fashion-



NAVAL JACKET, WITH VEST.

ble length and flares widely in front, the broad sailor collar forming pointed covers to the waist line. The duck collar is removable and overlaps the canvas collar to within an inch of the edge. Two handsome white pearl buttons decorate each front. The back and sides fit closely to the waist line, falling below in rippling folds that are induced by the shaping. The sleeves are in gigot style, shaped by single seams and are of fashionable size, the fullness at the top being arranged in side plaits with a single box plait at the top. Jackets in this style can be made to match or contrast with the skirt and are adapted to the linen, cotton and woolen fabrics that are now so vogue for summer wear. Insertion, embroidery, bias bands, braid or gimp can be used in decorating or a

plain finish can be given if so preferred.

The quantity of material 44 inches wide required to make this jacket for a lady having a 36-inch bust measure is 3½ yards.

SHIRT WAIST OF GRASS LINEN.

Grass linen, with figured design in white embroidery, is here stylishly worn with white linen collar and cuffs, which can be made removable or attached permanently as desired. The great variety of styles in the hitherto popular summer shirt waist argues for it an unprecedented vogue this season. The style here presented is unusually attractive and sensible, being very generally becoming,

the fullness at the neck and shoulder edges produces a soft and graceful effect over the bust. A box plait finishes the right front edge through which buttonholes are worked to effect the closing with studs or buttons. The back is gathered at top and joined



SHIRT WAIST OF GRASS LINEN.

to a yoke lining with straight lower edge, the double pointed yoke being placed over the gathers and stitched firmly down on its lower edge, thus insuring a durable finish. A shaped neck band completes the neck when the rolling collar is made separately.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

COMMON PURPOSE COW.

The following is a good description of the common purpose cow. Suppose a farmer desired to raise some small grain, and some corn, and some truck, such as onions, cabbage, etc., and in providing the necessary tools he would conclude he would not fill up his tool house with a variety of implements adapted to each crop, but would just buy one eight-inch plow. He knows it is too small for field plowing, and too large to cultivate cabbage and onions, but it is about half way between—a common purpose tool. You would hardly give that man credit for real good judgment. Cows are the dairymen's tools in a certain sense, and should be specially adapted to their work.

HARNESS POLISH.

Four ounces glue, one and one-half pints vinegar, two ounces gum arabic, half pint black ink, two drams isinglass. Break the glue in pieces, put it in a basin and pour over it about a pint of vinegar; let it stand until it becomes perfectly soft. Put the gum in another vessel, with the ink, till it is perfectly dissolved; melt the isinglass in as much water as will cover it, which may be easily done by placing the cup containing it near the fire about an hour before you want to use it. To mix them, pour the remaining vinegar with the softened glue into a sand pan upon a gentle fire, stirring until it is perfectly dissolved, that it may not burn the bottom, being careful not to let it reach the boiling point—about eighty-two degrees C. is the heat. Next add the gum, let it arrive at the same heat again; add the isinglass. Take from the fire and pour it off for use. To use it put as much as is required in a saucer; heat it sufficiently to make it fluid, and apply a thin coat with a piece of dry sponge; if the article is dried quickly, either in the sun or by fire, it will have the better polish.—American Farmer.

THE FINE-TOOTH COMB IN CROP CULTIVATION.

The contest is still on between the old-fashioned and the new-fashioned cultivation of coarse crops. The old fashion says: "You can't make me believe that your new-fangled weeders and smoothing harrows can tell the difference between a corn plant and a weed." The new fashion retorts: "Your dull hoe and soddy corn rows drove the boys off the farm." It is a sort of guerilla warfare upon the outposts of the two systems. The sober seeker after truth would like to see the real issues joined, for he is tender both of his back and of his young plants. The impartial student of the question will find that the new-fangled machine does not distinguish between species of plants, but it does have a brutal respect for strength, and will tear out the hair-like tendril of a just-sprouted weed but leave unharmed the deeper rooted corn or potato plant. But it will leave the weed if once well established; therefore "early and often" is a by-law of the process. On the other hand, if the smoothing harrow or weeder can scrape along a piece of sod, a flat stone, or an old corn stub, it appears to enjoy the destruction of a young corn plant equally with the crow or chipmunk. A clean surface in preparing for the crop is therefore another necessity of successful use of the new corn culture. With these things in mind the new method can be made a great improvement on the old, by any farmer.—American Agriculturist.

RINGING TREES.

Architects will remember that the old books on buildings advise that the trees intended to be cut for timber should have a ring of bark cut around the trunk in the latter part of the winter preceding the autumn season in which they are to be felled. This advice seems to have been founded on experience, but so far as we know it is never followed in modern times. Very recently, however, M. Mer, of the forest school of Nancy, in answering an inquiry as to the best means for preserving wooden telegraph poles from the ravages of insects, explains the effect of "ringing" growing trees in a very interesting manner.

According to M. Mer, a tree intended to be used for a telegraph pole should be cut in the autumn, and during the preceding winter should have a ring cut out of the bark, down to the wood, near the upper part of the trunk. If this is done the ascent of sap in the spring is prevented, as it is well known that the sap circulates just under the bark. The tree never-

theless grows, consuming as nutriment the starch grains laid up in the sapwood. When the season's growth is over, the starch in the sapwood is gone, but, as fresh sap has not been allowed to circulate, no new starch has been deposited in its place to supply the next season's growth, and when the tree is felled its tissues contain no starch, and consequently no food for insects, which feed upon wood, and which, according to M. Mer, only eat the wood for the starch which they find in it. To inject wood with sulphate of copper, as is often done, M. Mer says helps to complete its protection, but only on condition that the starch is first removed as he suggests.

FLOWER GARDEN AND LAWS.

Very much of the beauty of flower beds and borders depends upon keeping them scrupulously clean and neat. The Dutch or scuffle hoe is the best of all tools for hoeing and stirring the ground around the plants. Such plants as dahlias, gladioluses and hollyhocks require to be staked, but the stakes should be as short as possible and not conspicuous; and tie rather loosely, especially dahlias, so as to allow the stems to expand without being injured. The flowers will come more perfect if the small and weak shoots are removed. The faded flower stems should be removed from roses and scarlet geraniums; it improves their appearance and strengthens the plants. Roses are greatly benefited by an occasional soaking with guano water, especially the ever-blooming varieties. It is a good practice to insert small pieces of brushwood rather thickly among the plants of petunias, verbenas, and Drummond plox, for the support of their spreading stems; this will prevent them from being beaten to the ground by damaging rains, and give the mass of flowers a more elevated and improved appearance.

It is sometimes asserted that lawns should not be cut close during dry weather, in order that the grass may better shade the roots. We do not think there is much point in this. Of course, but little of mowing is required when the grass suffers for want of rain, but it is an erroneous idea that moisture is preserved around the roots of plants by the shade of their luxuriant growth; this is a fallacy, as are all methods which propose to mulch with a growing crop. This is well exemplified where efforts are made to secure fine lawns by sowing oats with the grass seed for the purpose of shading the grass. The oat plant is the master of the situation, and exerts its right by absorbing all the nutriment, and so the grasses perish.—The Silver Knight.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Cut green bone produces a wonderful growth in young chicks. See that the chicks have plenty of water and that it is not fouled. Milk is a valuable addition to the ration. The hen is an egg machine, and if you would run it successfully, you must learn how to run it properly. Do not expect to get a dozen exhibition fowls out of a single setting of one dollar eggs. If you do you will be doomed to disappointment. While ducks and geese do not seem subject to roup or cholera, they will often become lame and droopy if too closely confined in damp and close quarters.

Use the kerosene can about the nest and coop, to keep off the lice. There is nothing better than kerosene oil to keep the old and young stock free of such pests.

Don't let the chicks get wet, but if they are caught in a sudden shower, a warm basket behind the kitchen stove will do wonders for them, even when they seem almost gone.

Eggs on the farm produce more cash between crops than anything else, and in that respect have done more to help farmers to tide over the interval from harvest to spring than may be conceived of.

If you have given the hen proper care while she has been on the nest, she will not be bothered by lice, but to make assurance doubly sure, it is safe to give her a dusting with Persian powder.

Farmers should plant part of their gardens for their poultry. They should not let the poultry gather it for themselves, but they should furnish them in their enclosure plenty of vegetable food—lettuce and cabbage will be eaten with relish and be beneficial. The purslane weed will be good food when it is in your way in the garden. Turnips and tomatoes are quite palatable to healthy chickens. Cucumbers would be eaten, but they are not good food for young fowls.