

### SPEED OF THE CARRIER PIGEON.

Blue Rocks Travel at the Rate of 32.8 Miles Per Hour.

Some years ago Griffith made some observations in a closed gallery on the speed attained by "blue rock" pigeons and English pheasants and partridges. The two first mentioned flew at the rate of only 32.8 miles per hour, while the partridge made but 28.4 miles, and these rates were considerably in excess of what they made in the open. The carrier pigeon is a rather fast flying bird, yet the average speed is not very great. Thus, the average made in 18 matches (The Field, January 22, 1887), was only 36 English miles an hour, although in two of these trials a speed of about 66 miles was maintained for four successive hours. In this country the average racing speed is apparently about 35 miles an hour, although a few exceptionally rapid birds have made short distance flights at the rate of from 45 to 52 miles an hour. The longest recorded flight of a carrier pigeon was from Pensacola, Fla., to Fall River, Mass., an air-line distance of 1,183 miles, made in 15 1/2 days, or only about 76 miles a day.

### Petroleum Briquets as Fuel.

The manufacture of petroleum briquets has become a somewhat important industry in France. The briquets consist of either crude or refined petroleum, mixed with certain chemicals, the nature of which is kept as a trade secret, and are made in molds under a pressure of 300 pounds to the square inch. They weigh only half as much as coal in the same bulk and give twice as much heat. They keep in good condition indefinitely, are not dangerous in any way, burn with a white flame about eight inches in height and give off neither smoke nor odor.

### The Welsh Language.

At a recent elatediffid at Dolgelly, Wales, one of the principal speakers stated that in 1871 as many as 1,000,000 persons spoke Welsh, but in 1891 the number had fallen to 311,250—a decrease of 68,750, though the population had meanwhile increased.

### Are You Using Allen's Foot-Ease?

It is the only cure for Swollen, Smarting, Tired, Aching, Hot, Sweating Feet, Corns and Bunions. Ask for Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder to be shaken into the shoes. Cures white and red spots, itching, and sore spots. 25c. Sample sent FREE. Accept no substitute. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

It is estimated that the cost of restoring the palace at Avignon, France, would be about \$1,400,000.

FITZ permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. 23 trial bottle and treatise free. Dr. R. H. Kline, Ltd., 261 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

The Jewish population of London has more than doubled within twenty years.

J. C. Simpson, Marquis, W. Va., says "Hall's Catarrh Cure" is a very reliable cure of catarrh. Druggists sell it. The F. J. CRENEY & Co., Toledo, O.

Polo is probably the oldest of athletic sports. It has been traced to 600 B. C.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, etc. A bottle of the police of London look after \$200 miles of roads and streets.

Pilo's Cure is the best medicine we ever used for all affections of throat and lungs.—Wm. O. Easdale, Vanuren, Ind., Feb. 10, 1900.

Russian physicians assert that horse-dung is more nutritious than beef.

### BALL TEAM ON THE ROAD

SWINGING ROUND THE CIRCUIT WITH A PROFESSIONAL NINE.

Announces That Confront the Ball Tossers—Drawing for Berths—A Peculiar Class of Men Who Esteem it a Great Privilege to Entertain the Players.

From the moment that the professional ball player finishes a series of games on his home grounds until he has completed the trip around the circuit that is provided by the league schedule he is harassed by two fears. The first and the greater is that he may be allotted the upper berth in sleeping-cars, and the second the dread of losing his playing form by lack of exercise.

A third annoyance, notwithstanding the fact that the best of hotels are provided for the players by the club owners, is the occasional lack of sufficient food. That is, these strong, healthy ball players insist that they do not always obtain what their appetites demand. And there is a reason for their complaint, although it is not the owner's fault.

It is the sleeping car berth, however, that is really the bane of the professional player's existence. He will endure almost anything in the way of discomfort without a complaint, but will grumble during the thousand and five hundred miles of travel, grumble and complain like a spoiled child, if he is compelled to sleep, as he describes it, "under the car roof."

Very frequently when the ball clubs make long jumps, like the trip from New York to St. Louis, a special car is furnished to the players for the trip. There they live, a happy, laughing, good-natured crowd, until it is time to retire on the first night out.

If there be a young player or two young players on the team, woe to them! They get the upper berths without any consideration. It is part of their initiation into the business, and proud indeed is the beginner the first time he is allowed to draw for the chance of a lower berth. He knows he is no longer considered a novice.

In the drawing, the manager of the team first reserves a lower berth for himself, another for the captain, one for the business manager, if there be one, and lower berths for as many newspaper representatives as happen to be traveling with the club. All the other sleeping-car tickets are put into envelopes and sealed. Then the players are permitted to draw, beginning as a rule with the man who has been longest with the club.

After the drawing has been made, some of the players who are thrifty, and who are willing to submit to a "room in the attic," now and then sell their lower berths to companions, who are ready to advance half a dollar, sometimes less, for the privilege of sleeping "downstairs."

In some of the clubs an arrangement is in vogue whereby the pitchers are given the lower berths. This is especially true of the teams where the pitcher also happens to be the manager. He insists that good pitching is the most important part of the game, and that the pitchers should be given every opportunity to rest in order that the team may be successful in its games on the road. The other players, on the contrary, maintain that the pitchers work only once in three or four games, and have ample time to recuperate.

The feud between the pitchers and the other players of a professional baseball nine is almost as old as the game, and it has yet to be settled in a manner satisfactory to both sides. Long experience has taught the professional ball player how to take life easy in travel. Almost all of his journeying is done in the hottest months of the year and very wisely in his dress he adapts himself to prevailing conditions. Loose shirts, low collars, thin louncing coats and airy caps make him the envy of men who sweater and fume in apparel more dignified but far more distressing, when the dust is flying in clouds that threaten to suffocate the passengers, and when heat waves, radiating from embankments and level stretches, undulate continuously through the car.

Dominoes are popular with the ball players. It is easy to carry the box of pieces around and there are always candidates for the postgame. On some teams two men who are fond of cribbage will begin on the very first trip to play a series of games, and will prolong it indefinitely. Two players of the Boston club once played more than two thousand games of cribbage in a season. The other members of the team insisted that this pair counted "fifteen two, fifteen four" in their sleep.

There are still games at cards now and then, but if it comes to the manager's ear that the stakes are high there is sure to follow a little private hearing in the morning, at which the player is cautioned not to repeat any more "five-dollar-limit games."

At the more important stations along the railroad the small boy, by some institution that is all his own, invariably manages to pick out not only the train on which the ball players are traveling, but the car in which they ride. If, among the gaping urchins, there happens to be one who, at some time in his life, has been taken to the metropolis and has seen a game of "real league ball," it devolves upon him to point out the celebrities to his more unlearned companions.

"There's Mathewson!" shouts a tow-headed, freckle-faced lad, and in a moment Mathewson, the pitching wonder of the baseball world for a year, is the centre of two score inquisitive eyes.

"Say, he only looks like a great big boy himself," says one youngster, who seems rather disappointed not to find an aged individual with streaks of gray in his hair.

"So much the better," declares another. "It just shows what a boy can do if you give him a chance. Hey, Natty, show us how to throw an out-curve, will you?"

Not infrequently I have seen the big pitcher of the New Yorks condescend to give the urchins a demonstration of curve ball pitching. And rest assured that the next time the "Eagle Eyes" of the village played the "Young Rusties" of the adjoining hamlet, they had for their pitcher the youngster who by that time enjoyed the reputation of having been "one of Mathewson's boys." With that prestige to start with any team would go into the game with the battle half won.

But if there are small boys to watch for the ball players along the railroads there are larger boys to entertain them when they reach the various cities of their destination. There is a peculiar class of men in every city of the United States where a professional baseball is played who spend a great portion of their time and no small portion of their money entertaining the players.

They get nothing in return for it, and expect nothing more than to have it generally known that they are friends of Davis, Lajoie, Doyle, Collins, and one hundred and one men who have made baseball famous. If the player wants to smoke, the cigars are his. If he wants to drink, there are drinks so long as he wants them. If he desires to go to the theatre, his accommodating patron will secure the tickets, even though he be obliged to pay a premium for them.

When the players are on the road they seldom get morning practice, and that affords them no little worry. Constant exercise is necessary once the season has fairly begun. A ball player does not train to the fitness of a college athlete competing, for example, in a rowing crew, but even then he stiffens up quickly and his playing form vanishes if he does not keep his muscles in proper trim. Strange to say, with the knowledge of this truth, there are few of the players who exert themselves further than to walk around the block now and then. They are always willing to take the chances.

There are not many of the players who are early risers. It is true, too, that there are few who are in any great haste to get to bed. The tendency of many of them, who have graduated from minor leagues, where they have not been fed on pate de foie gras and a few similar delicacies, is to eat all there is on the bill of fare when they first sit at table in a first class hotel.

The veteran knows better. Experience has taught him a lesson. In fact the veteran ball player is something of an epicure, and he is inclined to be rather abstemious than otherwise. A hearty breakfast is perhaps the best meal of the day. At luncheon a little soup, perhaps a vegetable or two some ice cream, and slice of water-melons in season. That's all before the game—a queer combination, but a ball player with an overloaded stomach is an abomination to his manager. At night, and here is where the professional player grumbles, and really has a grievance, the dinner is often cold. The player, after finishing the game, changing his uniform, and preparing himself for the evening, arrives in the dining room when the dishes are beginning to cool and the waiters are impatient to get through. But there is misery in store for the waiter who shows it.

Not a moment that the player is not under the watchful eye of the manager. Sometimes he believes that he is not, and when he should have been in bed at 11 o'clock he fixes up a dummy in the bed, which the manager may see if he peeps throughout the key-hole to ascertain whether everything is all right.

Next salary day, however, he discovers that that dummy has cost him a fine of ten dollars. If he is wise he takes it gracefully. He knows that if he does his duty on the field and plays excellent ball in the next few weeks he is likely to find the ten dollars returned to him.

Professional ball players, notwithstanding their years of discretion, are a great deal like overgrown boys, and they have to be treated as such. They may get a little boisterous in public now and then, but almost never are intentionally offensive. Each year finds them growling about the hard work that falls to their lot to travel around the country and have a good time, and each year they declare will be their last.

But they are around next spring hunting up the old trials and tribulations, including the lower berths, as if they had never gone through them before.—John B. Foster, in Collier's Weekly.

**A Bee Census.**  
The last census figures showing "bees, honey and wax on farms and ranges" in the United States have just become available. From this source it is learned that the total number of farms maintaining bees in 707,261, representing 4,109,626 swarms. The value of these four million old swarms is estimated to be \$10,183,513. The apiculture industry shows increased activity in some sections of country and a notable decrease in others. The aggregate figures show a loss in the production of honey, indicating that farmers are now devoting more attention to the production of the latter. The value of the 61,196,610 pounds of honey and the 1,765,315 pounds of wax produced by the country's bee swarms during a year is estimated to be \$6,664,904, a very liberal return on a capital representing only ten odd million dollars.

### FARMERS' CORNER

The Place for Fowls.  
It is not creditable to farmers that their fowls are induced to lay eggs in horse troughs, under the barns or in locations other than nests in the poultry house. There should be a place for all flocks, and the fowls should not be allowed to utilize places intended for larger stock. A large flock of hens will sometimes make the stables and barns filthy and will roost on wagons, carriages or implements if allowed the privilege.

**Improvement in Farming.**  
This is an age of improvement on the farm, as well as in other kinds of business. The farmer must read and study, and be awake to everything that will advance his interests, in order to keep at the front; and he must be there in order to succeed. It is utterly useless to try to farm as our grandfathers did, if we are to keep up with the procession. It is good economy to purchase new and improved implements if we use judgment in buying. We may just as well ride on a spring seat in plowing as harrowing as to wear ourselves out in walking day after day behind the team. On no account should an implement be purchased unless it can be housed when not in actual use. Hemlock boards and shingles are far cheaper than implements, and it is economy to have a tool shed. Judgment is to be used in the breeding and feeding of stock, that the farmer may possess something really valuable and worth showing to his friends, because this is the stock that it pays to keep.—F. H. Dow, in The Epitome.

**Developing the Colt.**  
The future usefulness of the colt depends upon nothing so much as the feed during the first year of its life. To be useful in any way a horse must have good bones, and, above all, good joints. Bones are built, like the rest of the body, from the feed consumed by the young animal, and if the food does not contain the elements essential to the growth of bone it is evident that there will be a weakness in this part of the organism. The milk from the dam contains a large proportion of the most necessary mineral substances, such as lime; but the colt seems to require much more in a short time and may be seen trying to take occasional mouthfuls of soil.

Probably no materials at the farmer's disposal contain more mineral or bone forming material than bran and oats, and the colt should have plenty of these and good clover hay from the start. It is quite safe, as a rule, to give as much as two quarts of these concentrates mixed, per diem as soon as the colt can be taught to eat them, and this may be gradually increased, and character should be closely studied, however, and the ration gauged accordingly. These concentrates and clover hay, being rich in protein or flesh forming material, induce rapid tendon, as well as bone, and the right kind of feed, and nature will do the rest, so far as bodily development is concerned.—J. H. Griswold, of the Canadian Experiment Station.

**Scours in Sheep.**  
As I have until last winter depended on hay and sown cornstalks, fed along with cornmeal or oats for sheep feed, I had not had up to that time any serious trouble with scours in sheep. But last winter we had a shortage of hay, so we fed the sheep once a day all the millet they would eat. At noon they were fed a ration of meal and wheat bran, half and half, mixed thoroughly, and then a few cornstalks. We fed the millet for the morning ration, and at night the sheep had all hay they would eat.

When they were about half wintered, I noticed that one of the late lambs and an old sheep had lain down and refused to eat. I drove them up and watched them, and found that they had the scours. Then I looked after the flock and found that several of the old ewes had the scours. I stopped feeding the sheep millet, and fed hay instead for three days. Then I fed them one-third millet with two-thirds of hay for their morning meal, and had no more trouble; but the lamb and the sheep that refused to eat died.

Sheep when ailing often are cured by a change of diet. Sheep require plenty of water to do well. There is nothing that will deteriorate a flock of sheep so badly and so quickly as being deprived of plenty of good water. When sheep have free access to water they will drink many times during the day, and this they should have if one wishes a fine, healthy flock of sheep.—E. M. H., in New York Tribune Farmer.

**Feeding Late Crops.**  
Most farmers suppose the usefulness of the hotbed is over when the weather is warm enough to begin planting out-of-doors. They allow it to grow up to weeds and remain idle except during the two months or so when it is in use for starting plants. The bed may be used much more. The glass may be used to protect plants during nearly all the year when it is impossible for them to live unprotected. It is impracticable to raise many crops in the hotbed, and its utility is largely as a means of preparation or starting plants which are to be transplanted into the open air. But as such it may be made more useful than it is by many farmers.

Crops which have to be planted late in New England, like beans, squashes, etc., may be started in the bed under glass as soon as the tomato plants are out, or earlier, and with a little care can be got ready for market much earlier than otherwise. Squashes and cucumbers are easy to force in this way, as they may be readily transplanted if care is used. They may be put in paper baskets, strawberry baskets, or removable pots, and thus allowed to attain some size without danger in transplanting. It is best to put beans in baskets or pots, as they are tender and more sensitive than most plants. There is no reason why beans may not be transplanted in this way. I know one gardener who started 300 hills one year.

The old notions about the delicacy of some plants are losing ground. It is no longer thought necessary to observe, with superstitious exactness, certain hours in the day for hoeing beans, and others for cabbage. With proper care, any plant may be transplanted and forced at the will of the gardener. For some things which take a long season to mature, as water-melons, this method of forcing is especially useful. For this purpose, too, the cold frame is fully as good as the permanent hotbed. In many cases it may be more convenient, as it can be readily constructed anywhere. It requires only sash and a few boards and is made without digging.—W. E. STERNE, American Agriculturist.

**Green Manure Crops.**  
The best time to begin with green manure crops for plowing under is as soon as the ground can be worked, as it is then possible to grow two crops during the year. It is customary with some to sow rye or crimson clover in the fall, to be turned under in spring, but the mistake made is in not following with another green manure crop, whenever possible by which method three crops can be plowed under in twelve months, though the rule is only two crops. Farmers, however, are not partial to losing a year's time without some return in the form of a crop that can be harvested, for which reason they plow the crimson clover under the plant corn, or follow the rye with a potato crop.

As crimson clover adds a large amount of nitrogen to the soil when plowed under it is really a salable crop, the farmer providing a home market therefor as it saves him the cost of the same amount of nitrogen in commercial fertilizers that he might be compelled to purchase, and although the corn crop brings cash, yet the crop takes from the soil the fertility thereof, and the gain may not really be as large as supposed when the receipts and expenses are compared, especially if the soil is not fertile, as it costs more to grow corn on poor soil than on that which is fertile, owing to the larger yield on rich soil reducing the cost per bushel of corn, the proportionate outlay for labor being less.

Crimson clover should be plowed under when the plants are in blossom, and just beginning to ripen the seeds, for then the crop contains the largest amount of nitrogen, for the longer it can be continued into the warm season before cutting or plowing it the greater the advantage for the bacteria to work on the roots. If plowed under, and the ground seeded to cow-peas, another nitrogen-gathering crop can be plowed under, and if the cow-peas grow rapidly there may yet be another; but as the land should again be seeded to crimson clover in August, it is better to turn under a single heavy growth of cow-peas, though if crimson clover is not desired there may be a second crop of cow-peas, which should be followed by rye in late fall.

The decomposition of so much green material in the soil will result in the disengagement of considerable carbonic acid, which will also exert some chemical effect on the inert plant foods of the soil, thus increasing the proportion of available mineral matter, but some soils may be rendered sour; hence the use of lime, late in the fall, when harrowing for the latest crop seeded, will be an advantage, as it will neutralize the acid of the soil and assist in putting it in better condition for the work of bacteria the following summer.

In some experiments made it was found that lime did not increase the yield of seeds or vines of cow-peas, but such results may be due to the fact that lime acts slowly, and that where such soils were limed better results will be obtained another season. Some of the advantages gained are the accumulation of nitrogen in the soil, the rendering soluble of unavailable mineral matter, the protection of the soil with covered crops, the addition of large amounts of humus-forming material to the land, and the mechanical changes in the soil. The only disadvantage is the loss of the land upon which a marketable crop can be grown during the year, its value depending upon the kind of crop and the capacity of the soil.

Among the other green crops that are seldom used may be mentioned corn, millet, turnips, rape, sorghum, soy beans, etc., but the crimson clover and cow-pea crops are preferred. It is claimed that turnips, by reason of their deep penetrating roots, appropriate a large proportion of the mineral elements of the subsoil, which are brought to the surface when they are plowed under, thus following cow-peas as an aid in increasing the amount of available mineral matter, but the nitrogen from the cow-peas is a clear gain to the farmer, being derived from the atmosphere, while the mineral matter is taken from the lower portions of the land and brought within his reach. Any method, however, that renders the plant foods in the soil more available should be adopted.—Philadelphia Record.

### FEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Mercy is often egotism dressed in white. Real virtue is a breastplate; sham virtue a cloak.

A woman with the explanation habit is the terror of man.

There never was a dissension that diplomacy could not modify.

Attitudes and platitudes are the stock in trade of the stupid.

To be consoled the mind must be touched first, the heart follow.

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The courtesy of rejection might be studied without loss of profit. To decline, yet keep a friend is a fine art.—Philadelphia Record.

**STUFFING CHILDREN'S MINDS.**  
Mark Twain Criticizes the Mental Over-training of the Young.

In a small pamphlet entitled "English As She Is Taught," Mark Twain makes a needed protest against the attempt to cram the memories of school children with information far beyond their power of assimilation. The result often is that the poor little minds have a sort of indigestion which is to the true pedagogues more pathetic than it is amusing. Twain gives some of the answers in physiology by pupils in public schools:

Physiology is to study about your bones, stummock and vertebra.

Occupations which are injurious to health are carbonic acid which is impure blood.

We have an upper and a lower skin. The lower skin moves all the time, and the upper skin moves when we do.

The body is mostly composed of water and about one-half is avaricious tissue.

The stomach is a small pear-shaped bone situated in the body. The gastric juice keeps the bones from creaking.

The Chyle flows up the middle of the backbone and reaches the heart where it meets the oxygen and is purified.

The salivary glands are used to salivate the body.

In the stomach starch is changed to cane sugar, and cane sugar to sugar cane.

The olfactory nerve enters the cavity of the orbit and is developed into the special sense of hearing.

The growth of a tooth begins in the back of the mouth and extends to the stomach.

If we were on a railroad track and a train was coming, the train would deafen our ears so that we couldn't see to get off the track.

John Bright is noted for an incurable disease.

**Growth of the Great Cities.**  
The growth of Berlin the last ten years has been phenomenal. Chicago is the only one of the world's great cities that has increased in population at so rapid a rate, and it is a question as to whether it or Berlin now has the more people.

A census taken very recently gives Berlin a population of 1,901,567, which makes it the fourth city in the world, according to the records, being exceeded in population only by London, New York and Paris.

In 1900 Chicago had 1,843,000 people. The Chicago newspapers claim that its population is now larger than Berlin's.

In 1890 the United States became the only country with three cities of more than 1,000,000 population, each, and still holds that distinction with New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. Should Boston's grand plans of territorial expansion and annexation be carried out a fourth city will be added to this before the next census is taken, and St. Louis will probably not be far below the million mark.

The growth of our cities has surprised the nations, but it is a pity that it has been accomplished to such a great extent by draining the rural districts and the small towns.

In the south the growth of urban and rural population has been remarkably proportionate, a fact which speaks well for this part of the country.—Atlanta Journal.

**Crowns of the Edwards.**  
Not one of the Edwards was crowned with his queen in Westminster Abbey, except the first king of that name, and it is furthermore remarkable that the coronation of Edward I and Queen Eleanor was the first that took place in the present Abbey of Westminster. King Edward II was crowned alone, for he was not married at the time of his accession; the third Edward was a boy of 14 when he was crowned; Edward IV was unmarried at the time of his coronation; Edward V, though he was born in the abbey's house at Westminster, where his mother had fled for sanctuary, and was so nearly crowned that even wild fowl for the coronation banquet had been ordered, was never actually crowned, and Edward VI was a boy of 10 when the ceremony was performed. Hence, from the auspicious occasion upon which the good Queen Eleanor went to Westminster Abbey with her husband until the present day, no Edward has been crowned with his wife.—London Chronicle.

**An Aphorism Revised.**  
Take care of the pennies and the pounds will spend themselves.—New York Press.

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