

**Slips of the Pen.**  
The best writers are not free from slips of the pen, and some such slips are very curious, says the Liverpool Post. Wilkie Collins, in some mysterious way, makes the moon to rise in the west. Rider Haggard, in "King Solomon's Mines," contrives an eclipse of the new moon for the diversion of the natives and the entertainment of his readers. Coleridge places a star between the horns of the crescent moon rising in the east. Shakespeare makes a clock to strike in ancient Rome at a period 2,000 years before striking clocks were invented. Robinson Crusoe, on abandoning the wreck, strips off his clothing in order to swim to shore. This, however, does not prevent him from filling his pockets with biscuits. And Anthony Trollope describes Andy Scott as "coming whistling up with a cigar in his mouth."

**Doing One's Best.**  
This habit of always doing one's best enters into the very marrow of one's heart and character; it affects one's bearing, one's self-possession, says London Answers. The man who does everything to a finish has a feeling of serenity; he is not easily thrown off his balance; he has nothing to fear, and he can look the world in the face, because he feels conscious that he has not put shoddy work into anything, that he has had nothing to do with shams, and that he has always done his level best. This sense of efficiency, of being master of one's craft, of being equal to any emergency, the consciousness of possessing the ability to do with superiority whatever one undertakes, will give satisfaction which a half-hearted, slipshod worker never knows.

Twenty-one husbands who reside in Bayonne, N. J., have met and organized the married men's Anti-Euchre and Home Preservation Society. They declare it is high time their wives and other men's wives were cured of the progressive euchre habit, and propose to use all their efforts to establish such a cure.

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

It's an awful handicap for a girl to have a younger sister who is a real beauty.

**Ladies Can Wear Shoes**  
One size smaller after using Allen's Foot-Ease, a new powder. It makes tight or new shoes easy. Cures swollen, hot, sweating, itching feet, ingrowing nails, corns and bunions. At all druggists and shoe stores, 25c. Don't accept any substitute. Trial package Free by mail. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N.Y.

There is more steel used in the manufacture of pens than in all the sword and gun factories.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c. a bottle.

A man knows less after marriage than a woman does before.

Pico's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. Samuels, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1903.

A machine for condensing sea fog into drinking water has been invented.

Export, the organ of the Central Commercial Geographical Union, of Berlin, in a recent issue says: "England is to maintain supremacy even in her own markets against the United States, Belgium and Germany, she will have to emulate those countries in their scientific methods of manufacturing and doing business."

Nine-tenths of the external trade of the Bahamas, which amounted to \$1,275,000 last year, is with the United States. The principal exports of the islands are pineapples and sponges, and the imports flour and earthen glassware.

Cost of Hauling Freight.  
The cost of hauling a ton of freight a mile on Great Britain's greatest railway is 1.45 cents, on the Pennsylvania, forty cents, and on the New York Central, forty-one cents.

**\$100 Reward, \$100.**  
The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have no other faith in its curative powers than they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

**The Teacher Interested.**  
"Miss Biggs is interested in you, pa." "How so?" "Why, to-day, after she had told me seven times to sit down and behave myself, she said she wondered what sort of a father I had."

**Beaten in Our Own Field.**  
Philippine imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof for the calendar year 1903 show an increase of approximately 10 per cent over those of 1902. The figures are \$2,102,915 for 1903 and \$1,909,679 for 1902. Of the total for the two years the United States secured only about 25 per cent. More than three-quarters of the trade was captured by our English and European competitors.

**Dogs in the Army.**  
The "dogs of war" in these days assist in field hospital work. In Germany and Italy St. Bernard dogs have been trained for years so as to aid, after an engagement, bearer parties in their search for the wounded, especially at night. Russia, apparently, has no canine corps, and Major Richardson of Carnarvon, England, who has made a specialty of training ambulance dogs, has received a commendation from St. Petersburg asking him how many he can supply for service in the Far East.

# FARMERS' CORNER

**Drinking Fountain.**  
To make a fountain, take a jar of about four or five gallons capacity, and with the aid of a small point of steel (say three cornered file broken off) and a hammer, make a hole about two inches from the top of the jar (it should be an earthen one). The hole should be only about as large as a pea. The jar should be filled with water and covered with a pan, and the whole, by a quick motion, turned bottom side up. The hole in the jar or crock should be a little below the top of the basin. When the fowls drink out the water the hole is above the water line, in rushes the air through the hole and down drops the water in the jar, raising the water in the basin up to the hole and no farther. They cannot fill up this fountain with dirt.

**Game Fowls.**  
I am a game fowl specialist, and have been for years, having formerly tried many other breeds and found the game far more profitable. I have imported and bred all the leading strains of English, Cuban and American game fowls, and know from experience that a game hen is the best of layers—laying at all times, cold or hot. They are healthy hustlers and great foragers, making a living cold days, and laying where breeds with less pluck and go-ahead ability would freeze. A game hen will hatch and rear to maturity with less attention, a larger percent of chicks than any fowl living, which is most certainly profitable to the farmer. These chicks will mature to two-pound broilers as early as Brahmas or Rocks. Their flesh is sweet, juicy and tender, with a flavor like wild game. They dress away far less than any other fowl, being of fine grain and compactly built. Regarding the male, no more beautiful or graceful fowl ever crossed a lawn than a game cock in full plumage, and we be to the hawk, dog or hog that dare assail one of his mates. It is a queer specimen of humanity, indeed, who does not admire the lordly game fowl.—Alfred Graham, in the Epitomist.

**Profit in Onions.**  
Onions seem to be a scarcer article than I have known them to be in many years, writes T. Greiner in Farm and Fireside. Those who have had their patch of Gibraltar or Prizetaker this year have found it not only as easy as any other year to raise the crop, but especially to sell their bulbs at a good price. Mr. Collingwood writes me that his onions went like the hot-test of hot cakes and that the "new onion culture" promises to be one of the most profitable departments of the farm.

My patch of onions grown from summer sown seed and intended for earliest green onions for spring sale appears to be in the very best condition for wintering. I have the White Portugal, White Queen or Baletta, Prizetaker, White Pearl and Brown Australian all showing off equally well at this writing.

Whether they will winter equally well is quite another question. If they do winter the crop will undoubtedly prove to be a very profitable one, perhaps one of the most profitable that could be grown in a garden. Even if most of the plants take a notion to go to seed I can pull them up in time to be used as green onions, and with the stock of dry onions as low as I expect it will be next spring people will be more anxious to get green onions than ever before.

However, it is only these earliest green onions that pay so well. Later in the season they are usually very plentiful and are offered at prices which seem to leave but very little margin of profit for the grower.

**Ventilation and Dairy Barns.**  
Have you examined your roof boards and rafters where they have been alternately wet and dry from the animals below? If not, take a fork and prick into the wood and find out.

If there is no serious trouble yet, by all means, before the barn is filled with hay again, put in the King system of ventilation. Make the ceiling above perfectly tight, so that not the smallest current of air can circulate from stable to loft. Provide the hay shutters of whatever form, with coverings quickly closed, and put these at the floor or ceiling; and put these they will be left open, and strong air currents will form, defeating the effort of the regular line in its work of carrying out moisture and foul air. Remember always that complete insulation of the stable is of first importance. No amount of skill in floc construction will avail when the stable lacks the above quality.

When men talk or write about ventilation they do not mention anything but floc construction, which is the simplest and easiest part of barn ventilation. Have one dead air space, and far better two, in the wall, using matched lumber for the outside, inside and between, with a coat of building paper against each boarding. Make every door double, and the windows also; put in a cement floor and I will guarantee the King system to keep that barn as dry as your house living rooms, and this from experience. I was examining today the loft of our barn, that has been built five years, and the shingle nails that prick through the roof boards have not rusted. The ventilating flues have carried out the moisture, and this last

winter has been the most trying in my memory. I speak of these things now, early in the season, before new barns are built and before hay is put in, so that in the old ones the flues may be built in the most convenient places. When most convenient to have them come down in the centre of the barn, if they are in the way during the feeding or cleaning out manure, build the flue permanently from the floor above and then build a smaller flue that will just pass inside the main flue, and have it hung with weights, so it can be quickly raised out of the way and lowered again at will.—H. E. Cook, in Tribune Farmer.

**Pruning Forest Trees.**  
It is possible that some of our readers desire to improve the timber plots on their farms, and will therefore be glad to have a few hints on the best method of pruning young forest trees. We copy the following from an article on the subject in the Indiana State Board of Forestry, just issued: "Pruning forests is not always right, but when it is done at an early stage of growth it is practicable. It will very materially aid to the best trunk formation. It is found to produce the best results if applied when the trees are from 12 to 14 years old and is not too heavily done. The limbs should be cut off smoothly and as closely to the body of the tree as it can be done not to tear or disturb the bark on the body. The limbs are removed as high up as the woodman can execute the work well with an ax or pruning knife. When the pruning is performed in this manner the cuts sooner heal over and no bleedish is formed to injure the wood value when the tree is cut for saw timber. If the limbs are cut off at a short distance from the body, the snag left dies and rots down into the body of the tree and forms a permanent blemish to the wood.

The best time to prune is from the last of June to the first of February. The sap will not exude from the cuts to attract insects, sprouts will not form at the junctures and the wood does not rot at the cut. If the pruning is done at the season of greater sap flow all the above points are reserved." This topic will be better explained under the report of the work done in timber culture on the State Forest Reservation the past year.

**Horse Notes.**  
With many men fast driving is simply a bad habit. Regular and proper grooming adds much to the value of a horse. When a horse is excessively hot he should be cooled off gradually. A horse with long legs and flat sides is not generally an easy keeper. In intrinsic value, no road horse equals the easy, rapid, enduring walker. Freedom, power to move easily along, is a great point in a young horse.

Well rounded ribs, deep flank, and short legs indicate good assimilating power. Many cases of diseased feet are the result of leaving the shoes on too long. The death of many horses is caused by the sudden change from cold feed to new.

With growing colts, to give strength, elasticity and power, the right kind of food is indispensable. High tempered, sensitive horses are more easily spoiled by too much talk than slow, quiet methods. Do not buy a horse with a narrow or shallow chest. There is not sufficient capacity for the lungs.

A moderate, quick walk either when under a load or when empty, exhausts an animal less than a snail's pace. A horse for use does better with just enough food to replace the wastes of his system, and of a kind to keep him feeling well.

Mares in foal should have exercise and moderate work, but under no circumstances should they be subjected to harsh treatment. The actual cost of feed, added to the service fee, represents the amount which horses you raise stand you. What they are worth above this is profit.

**A Promising Young Diplomat.**  
There is a certain small boy, named Bertie, who lives on Green street not far from Twentieth, who will make a diplomat some day. He has a sister one year younger than he is. Last Christmas their grandmother gave them an aquarium containing two beautiful little goldfish. One morning Bertie went in to feed the goldfish, and he found only one fish instead of two. Sad to say, the other one had jumped out of the aquarium during the night and had died.

"Sister," Bertie announced at breakfast, as soon as they sat down to the table, "your goldfish is dead!" The little girl was terribly shocked and forgot that most goldfishes are exactly alike and that she and her brother had never made a division. But after the period of mourning was over she asked one day: "Bertie, how did you know it was my fish and not yours that died?" Bertie was nonplussed for a moment and driven into a corner, so he took refuge in an air of superior contempt.

"How did I know?" he repeated scornfully. "Hub! Isn't that just like a woman!" And the little sister meekly accepted her brother's decision.—Philadelphia Press.

# AGRICULTURAL

**Poultry Versus Waste.**  
There is one economic merit in poultry keeping that many farmers do not take into consideration, and that is the large amount of waste grain that they pick up and convert into meat and eggs that would otherwise be wasted as an exchange. It does not cost much to keep fowls on a farm, and no class of people can produce eggs and fowl flesh as cheaply as the farmer.

**Alfalfa For Hogs.**  
Wallace's Farmer says alfalfa hay, when fed to brood sows in winter should be cut fine and fed with a little meal. For two years now we have wintered our brood sows on plain alfalfa hay without cutting, and they put it up clean. Not a spoonful of grain is given them until they farrow. The effect of alfalfa is seen in the splendid quality of the pigs produced and the abundant yield of milk by the sows.—Hoard's Dairyman.

**When to Dig Potatoes.**  
Potatoes are ready for digging as soon as the tops fall down. It is best to dig them early in the day and allow them to remain on the ground for a few hours, when they should be taken to the barn and stored in a cool, dark, dry place; but it is not advisable to place too many in a single heap. All diseased or injured potatoes should be removed from the lot, or they will have more or less effect upon the whole, as they will be the first to decay. Potatoes may be stored in mounds during the winter, but are not easily utilized in that condition.

**Mutton vs. Wool.**  
It is claimed that mutton at five cents a pound will pay better than wool at thirty-five cents. Such claim depends upon conditions. A good merino will pay more in wool than can be derived from common sheep, while a breed of mutton sheep will give a greater profit than can be derived from sheep that are not bred with an object to be attained. Farmers who keep sheep also make a profit in the manure and in the utilization of the waste materials consumed, but sheep require feeding as well as other stock, and should not be expected to seek their food entirely at any season of the year.

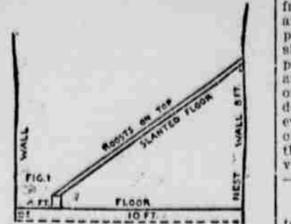
**Disease Spots on Fruit.**  
Writes a farmer to The Epitomist: "I have found that from trees with their roots deep in the subsoil, even if they fruit freely, neither apples nor pears satisfy, because disease spots develop in the fruit when they are on the verge of ripening, if not before, rendering them of no value, because decay so quickly sets in. To have good fruit, either of apples or pears, the roots of the trees must be active surface, fibrous ones, otherwise the crop will be much reduced in value. Some sorts are greater offenders than others, it is true, but even the best can be readily spoiled if the conditions are not right."

**Fattening Hogs.**  
Those who are fattening hogs on corn as an exclusive diet should try an experiment in feeding a variety. Take two lots of hogs, allowing one lot corn only and the other lot a variety, which may include corn, bran, scalded chopped clover, skim milk or ground oats. The hogs will grow much faster and increase more in weight on the mixed food than on corn, while the quality of the flesh will be improved and the cost per pound of pork will be less than if corn is used exclusively. The reason is that a variety promotes digestion and is more "balanced" in the elements required by the animals.

**Ringworm in Calves.**  
This troublesome difficulty is apparent during the winter more than at any other time, and is due to a vegetable parasite. It is not a dangerous disease, but is far from pleasant, and as it is contagious, considerable effort should be made to overcome it. It usually appears on the neck of the animals, working toward the face, and soon leaving bare spots. If the trouble is noted on the calves, treat them at once by taking one part of carbolic acid, four parts of glycerin and six parts of olive oil and mixing thoroughly. Rub thoroughly into the skin about the parts infested after first washing the parts thoroughly with warm water made soapy with carbolic soap. Other animals in the barn, especially calves, should also be washed with the mixture to prevent contagion. Wash every other day for ten days.

**Where to Place the Incubator.**  
There are good places for the incubator and bad places. Much depends upon the atmosphere of the room in which the incubator is placed. The kitchen is said to be a good place for incubators, since the air in that room is usually moistened by the steam of pots and kettles upon the kitchen stove and can be kept at about the right temperature. But remember that the insurance company which insures your farm house will probably object to your placing an incubator in your kitchen. Whenever you make changes in your buildings or additions thereto, or desire to put an incubator in your cellar or any part of the house you must get permission of the company who insures your buildings, otherwise you will make your insurance policy invalid and thus secure nothing on insurance in case your buildings should burn.

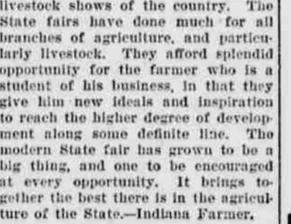
**A Good Chicken House.**  
We built a chicken house last spring like this one and find it gives entire satisfaction. Size ten by sixteen by eight feet high, from sill to eaves. We have a window in each side and back end and door in front. Now for the roosts. Take a two by four scantling and spike it above one of the side windows, then take some boards and make a trough about fourteen feet long and let two feet project out at the back end of the building; put trough two feet above the floor. Now take matched lumber or some that will fit up close



and nail one end to the trough and the other end to the two by four scantling and make it full length of trough, then take boards that will reach from trough to the two by four and cut notches in them for the roosts to lay in and put upper end on hinges. When you want to clean the house, rake the droppings down into the trough and then rake them out the back end into a box or something that can be hauled away. The roosts will be high enough to walk under and put nests along the wall under them. Fig. 1 is end of trough. Floor is fifteen inches off the ground.—Fred E. Denny, in The Epitomist.

**Increasing Demands For Livestock.**  
The large and rapidly increasing city population of this country demands a large supply of meat each year, and farmers are coming to realize the importance of livestock as never before. Small farmers are breeding and feeding more animals, and every where we see manifest interest taken in this important branch of agriculture. In our agricultural schools young men are eager to study livestock with untiring interest. The State Livestock Association meetings and short courses in stock judging at the various agricultural schools are well patronized, and only go to show the attention that farmers are giving to this subject. Several factors figure prominently in the advancement and improvement shown along this line. Through our county and State fairs, and larger exhibitions, farmers are coming to recognize the difference between superior and inferior animals. The agricultural press has come to be a mighty potent agent in the work of education. Farmers and stockmen, particularly, read and study. The agricultural colleges and experiment stations are putting much important information in livestock work. American farmers are coming to recognize the value of improved blood in herd flock and stud. Breeders are breeding better, feeders are feeding better, and marked improvement is seen on every hand. Among the various forces which are at work for the progress and advancement of agriculture, there is no one agent doing so much for livestock interests as the big livestock shows of the country. The State fairs have done much for all branches of agriculture, and particularly livestock. They afford splendid opportunity for the farmer who is a student of his business, in that they give him new ideals and inspiration to reach the higher degree of development along some definite line. The modern State fair has grown to be a big thing, and one to be encouraged at every opportunity. It brings together the best there is in the agriculture of the State.—Indiana Farmer.

**Maple Syrup Making.**  
Concerning the niter or malate of lime nuisance in maple syrup a New England domestic writer has said: It is well under way where a reversible current evaporator is used. By having the evaporating pan constructed with partitions extending lengthwise instead of crosswise and with a syrup faucet on both sides at the back end, as shown in the illustration, by changing the regulator gate from side to side and thus changing the current or flow of sap every few hours



and by so doing bringing the syruping off first on one side and then on the other, so niter will become burned on the bottom of the evaporator. It will come out with the syrup as a precipitate and can be entirely removed by the use of a thick felt filter. The filtering must be done while the syrup is boiling hot, and it is order to have all the niter form in a precipitate it is necessary to bring the syrup to 219 degrees F. If it is filtered before that degree is reached much of the niter will still be in solution and appear in the syrup if boiled afterward to standard weight and in the sugar it sugared off. If syrup is boiled to eleven pounds weight and then "set tied" without filtering, it usually has a cloudy appearance, and if put up for market in pans or bottles will deposit a sediment in the bottom after awhile

**Women After Middle Age.**  
After middle age the average woman begins to care more for her woman than she does for men. Her allegiance undergoes a psychic change, her eyes are opened, her judgment cleared, and she learns to appreciate her own sex fully. The characteristics that seemed to her hateful frailties long ago, are defended now as their poetic distinctions. She sees in every girl the fair mirage of her own youth; in the pathetic, care-worn face of the young matron, the gentle heroism of her other years; in the mother of a grown family her own queen days when sons and daughters suddenly grew tall and produced her. And for them all she has a chastened affinity. Men have passed out of her calculations. They are the things with whom she failed or succeeded, from lover and husband down to her youngest son. And, however much she remains dependent upon them, she is no longer related to them in the same way. She has survived them and returned to her own.—Independent.

Professor Flinders Petrie recently told an audience at Owens College, Manchester, England, that one spot in the ruins at Abydos, in upper Egypt, tells a continuous story running back to 5000 B. C. The remains of 10 successive temples have been unearthed.

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