

The Farm

The Rambling Dog.

Dogs are, no doubt, excellent things in their place. "A place for everything and everything in its place," is put to scorn when a community that are in the sheep business allow a lot of useless curs to run about at random. Get rid of the curs, for if you don't they will get rid of your sheep.

Feeders For Bees.

For heavy feeding some kind of feeder should be used. Little wooden troughs are best, and may be made any size desired. The best kind is a two-inch block guttered out by cutter heads or wobble saws, cutting slots half an inch wide, and having stationary centres of an eighth of an inch thick to give the bees a foothold, which keeps them from drowning in the syrup. When open troughs are used, some floating material should be placed on the syrup to answer this purpose.

Soll For Seeds.

Sowing seeds in the fall is the surest and easiest way for the amateur to have an abundance of early flowers, says J. T. Scott in the Garden Magazine. There are, however, certain simple precautions to be taken. The seedlings must be sheltered from hot sun and the soil must be loose and moist. Prepare the seedbed well (not necessarily making it rich) by forking it over and over to the depth of at least one foot. Take off and level thoroughly; add one and one-half inches of finely sifted soil on top.

Light Brahmas.

A notable breed, which others have displaced in public favor. There certainly is no more beautiful bird than the Light Brahma, yet they have been gradually relegated to the background, until we scarcely ever see them. They are the largest of all the pure breeds, and weigh from fifteen to twenty pounds.



and the females ten and twelve. Their plumage is beautiful and they are exceedingly hardy. They are fairly good layers, yet they are becoming less popular each year. This should be hard to understand, as it is a pity that such a meritorious breed should be neglected or forgotten.—Home and Farm.

Co-Operation in Cattle Breeding.

A good many farmers who have but small herds are using grade bulls because they say they cannot afford pure bred ones. Why not do as neighborhoods do in draft horsebreeding, where a good pure bred stallion is bought by several farmers joining in the purchase. By this kind of co-operation among farmers in purchase of a prime pure bred bull, a neighborhood could soon grade up their common cattle till they are worth nearly double what they are now. In a few years by such neighborhood co-operation the cattle could be put finished on the market more per head, and grade beef cattle would be grown and fattened for the market with a large saving of grain and food-stuffs when it is remembered that such cattle could be put finished on the market weighing more than two to two and a half years old than common cattle could be made to weigh at three years old. Such a neighborhood bull would really be a money maker for those who are now using a grade sire. Such co-operation partakes of the farm and purposes of stock corporations in manufacturing, where several persons join their capital because no one of them could do the business. It is not a feature of industry, but can be applied to cattle and other live stock and growing as successfully as in manufacturing.—Indiana

Sound Clover Hay.

Refer to cut in the afternoons, for reason that the clover has but very little chance to cure before the dew will not be affected by it as the dew is cured. Next day, after the dew is off, cut your clover, giving it a good cutting either by hand or by a tedder, the clover is heavy it will be better to give two turnings or teddings. This time the clover will begin to show signs of being partly cured, and it isn't dry enough to break off the stems, heads and smaller stems, which are the best parts of the hay. Then get the rake and rake it into medium sized windrows. I prefer to do my raking in the middle of the afternoon and avoid raking in the evenings. Next day, if you are not sure the day is going to be such as to finish curing the clover in the windrow, take your fork and slightly tear the windrows apart, letting the sun have a better chance to shine on the clover and the breezes to pass through, which is a great aid in curing hay. After the dew is off, lift the clover off the ground and invert it. Then after dinner, if it is well cured, begin to draw in and mow away. A good way to test this matter is to

take some stalks and twist them together, and if they show no signs of moisture generally your clover is all right. If the day has been a bad day I would prefer to leave it a day longer by bunching it up.

Last year I spoiled what would have been choice hay simply by drawing it in when it was too full of moisture. The weather was very threatening, and I did not care to leave it in the field over Sunday, so drew it in; but next time when I have hay under similar circumstances I shall bunch it together and take my chances with the rain, and last year it didn't rain after all. The stock eat it and seem to like it as a change, but it is not choice hay.—C. F. B., in Massachusetts Ploughman.

Laying Away a Corn Supply.

It is a common practice among corn growers to "lay corn by." When the season is an exceptionally good one and when the soil is free from weeds seed corn may be laid by with no evil results. In a dry season or a wet season or where weeds and vines grow rapidly and in untold numbers, laying corn by is entirely out of the question. To lay corn by too often means to let the weeds alone, or it may mean to let the surface crust cake, crack open and through the maturing season allow the much needed moisture to leave through surface evaporation. If possible get the cornfield free of weeds and vines, and after the hard rains of June and early July are over and the summer drought sets in run through the corn once or twice with a shallow working tool. It leaves the surface level, prevents surface washing and conserves the moisture. Weeds require moisture. When they grow in corn they feed upon the same plant food, take the same moisture that the corn plant feeds upon. Should there be a shortage of either plant food or moisture, the weed gets its part and lets the corn plant go hungry and thirsty. This is a very critical period in the life of the corn plant. If it is tended well, if it is to make its largest yields, the work must be done at once. Delay means loss. Be ready for the rush when the rains cease.—W. B. Anderson, in the Indianapolis News.

Save Seeds or Buy Them?

One of the most prominent seedsmen in this country recently told the writer that the demand for cheap seeds was alarming. He said he knew, as every trained seedsmen knew, that cheap seeds could only bring unsatisfactory results, but as a merchant, he could do nothing but supply the demand. Of course, there are farmers and gardeners who still buy the best seeds, but they are in the minority when the number of seed buyers is considered. The unfortunate part of this condition is that the demand for cheap seeds comes from farmers. The man with the small garden wants the best seed and pays the price; the man whose entire income depends upon his crop buys the cheap seed. Some of the smaller seedsmen have given up handling anything but the cheap seeds and our friend was afraid that after a time all seedsmen would be forced to a similar situation. Many of our correspondents complain that the seeds they buy are poorer each year, which bears out the statements of our seedsmen friend. Farmers can control the seed situation for themselves if they will learn how to save good seed and in view of the impression that seeds as a commodity are becoming poorer, certainly farmers should begin to look into the question of obtaining the best and then selecting the best from each crop until they are independent of the commercial seed situation, at least so far as the seeds for the main crop are concerned.

Economizing Pastures.

Farm pastures are never large enough, and some way of economizing them is very desirable. One way is to divide them into plots so that one part may be used while the other parts are recovering from the use of them. By this device it is possible to double the value of the grass so that more sheep may be fed on the same space of land, says American Sheep Breeder. This is most easily done by the use of portable fences, which may be easily moved and set up again where they are desired. Such a fence is made in this way: The panels may be made ten feet long and of pickets set upright; at equal distances apart there are three posts in each panel which project one foot below the bottom, and these are pointed. Each panel is ten feet long. In the setting up of this fence each panel is set somewhat out of the straight line and a worm is made of three feet out of the straight. Each panel when set up is put on a slight worm so as to support the fence against winds, and the corners so made are fastened together by short ropes fastened to the end posts of the fence panels. When setting up this fence two men are to work together. One has a steel bar or iron rod sharpened at the point. With this the holes are made in the row for each post to be set in. The posts are set with sufficient worm in it to support itself for the fence and one post goes in the middle of each panel. The posts are well set down in the ground by means of a mallet and the corners are well tied together by the short rope and as well by a loop made of the right size to pass over the top of the each two end posts.

The Populous Chinese Empire.

United States Consul Anderson, at Peking, reports the latest estimate of the population of China as 432,000,000.

A PUBLISHER'S CLEVER RUSE

How He Induced Phil May to Draw the Cover.

Phil May is one of those names which may always be considered living, so here are a couple of new anecdotes about him told by Marcus Mayer.

Phil May was a good-natured, light-hearted, careless Bohemian; but he had his thoughtful moods, when he would often regret that he had not devoted himself to a more serious branch of art.

He was always making good resolutions and planning great things for the future. Calling on him early one morning, a friend found him, much to his surprise, busy at work on a fresh series of drawings. He had discarded his old, scrawled over drawing board for a brand new one, at the top of which he had written: "How much to do, how little done." This mood, however, would pass, and he would have long spells when it was almost impossible to get work from him.

On one occasion he had agreed with the proprietors of a leading illustrated weekly to do them a colored design for their Christmas number.

The date fixed on for its delivery passed by, but no design. Letters and telegrams remained unanswered, and a personal visit to his house only elicited the fact that he had gone off to Paris without leaving any address. The publishers were almost at their wit's end, but one of the heads paying a week-end visit to Margate was astonished and overjoyed to see May basking in the sunshine on the front. Without showing himself he learned where May was staying, and engaged half a dozen sandwich men to parade up and down before his window with boards bearing various legends: "What about our Christmas cover?" "We are waiting for that cover," etc.

This had the desired effect, and in a few days they received one of the most spontaneous and brilliant designs that even Phil May had ever turned out.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Blindness banishes some of our best blessings.

Fetters of silk may bind as fast as cotton.

Many blessings are willed because we will not wait.

He is only weakened by trial who runs away from it.

Forgiveness is one of the privileges of friendship.

It takes seed as well as soil to make things grow.

A little money makes a big man with some people.

Many a problem comes as a test of our prayers.

Great and sacred is obedience. He who is not able, in the highest majesty of manhood, to obey, with clear and open brow, a law higher than himself, is barren of all faith and love.—James Martineau.

Made to Order.

The scheme of Joseph Frey, head gardener at Lincoln Park, Chicago, to breed a national flower by crossing the chrysanthemum and the Siberian aster will excite much sympathy and interest in this country. It is a matter of sentiment only, but sentiment is a powerful factor in our social and national life. Those who underrate it show their ignorance of human nature. Heretofore suggestions for a national flower have contemplated only the choice of some existing variety, but Mr. Frey proposes to produce a combination of red, white and blue on one stem. Should he succeed no doubt the floral emblem would be popular, though its coarseness and size will prejudice it in the minds of those who prefer more dainty and less conspicuous blossoms. Scientifically this project cannot fail to attract attention as an illustration of the progress in hybridization which experimenters are now making with both fruits and flowers.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

As to Blushing.

The habit of blushing is almost invariably a cause of great annoyance to its possessors. Very frequently it seriously hampers them in the ordinary affairs of life, for blushing is accompanied by confusion of mind, nervousness and hesitancy.

The two main points in the treatment of shyness, which is the great cause of blushing, are, first, open-air exercise, and, second, the society of others. Open-air exercise is good for all the morbid disorders, such as an excessive shyness, while the social life makes for self control and that savoir faire we all seek to attain; for the latter enables us to go through life without betraying awkwardness and timidity.

Abnormally sensitive people may find the cure a lengthy one, but if they persevere the very mental effort which is put forth to accomplish the remedy will aid them in acquiring control over their tell-tale blushes.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

An Absent-Minded Man.

"I'm up against the banner absent-minded man of my life," said George Moser, the clerk of the Costes House, this morning. "He went away last Tuesday, and we found, of all things in the world, that he had left his evening dresscoat and prayer-book behind him. Wednesday we received a wire. 'Send left luggage my hotel,' but he didn't say where it was and he left no address when he went away. Yesterday I got an indignant letter protesting against our carelessness, but it was written on plain paper and contained no address. So the dresscoat and prayer-book are still undelivered, and we can't find their owner."—Kansas City Times.

SOME QUEER COMPETITIONS.

Frog Catching Contests, Prizes Given For Singing Larks and Other Odd Struggles Are Closely Fought.

T Silvertown, in Devon, they frequently have cock crowing competitions. The owners of the birds take them to the village schoolroom and set them crowing one against another. In the last competition there were few of the cockerels requiring encouragement; in fact, the difficulty was to get them to stop at all. The winner succeeded in crowing fifty-one times in seventeen minutes.

For some time before the cock crowing competition begins the birds are fed in a special manner peculiar to each owner; the secret of the art of feeding is very closely guarded. For about three weeks prior to the competition the food is carefully dosed, and made as stimulating and exciting as is possible. When the bird is sent to the show a timekeeper stands in front of it during the crowing contest; he marks the number of crows and the variation of notes in a given time, which is generally fifteen minutes.

Paris has just had a cock crowing competition open to the whole world. The birds in the Paris competition are brought by their owners in darkened boxes. As each competitor's turn comes the cock is suddenly taken out into the light of day and placed on a platform.

The bird imagines that he is there to herald a supposed dawn, and begins to crow vigorously. At the same moment a special timepiece is started. The utterer of the greatest number of cock-a-doodle-does in a quarter of an hour is the one which is proclaimed champion cockerel.

At Huddersfield they have an association for the promotion of lark singing. The association has now been in existence for about twenty years, and last year 313 birds were entered for the various competitions. At each "sing" about fifteen birds are entered.

These contests, together with lark breeding, form a very attractive hobby to many people in Huddersfield and the surrounding villages.

The manner in which such competitions are managed is very interesting. As a rule the birds are kept for a considerable time in the dark, and when the competitor's "turn" comes he is brought in his darkened cage before a mirror. Light is thrown upon the mirror, and when he sees his own reflection he takes it to be a rival.

After about half a minute in which to scan the "enemy," his cage is taken in front of the window. As soon as this takes place he bursts into song, spreading his wings and singing for a considerable time. Still, he is remarkably sensitive while singing; the least thing, such as taking out a pocket handkerchief, may put an end to his lay.

The bird also abhors a noise, so absolute quiet must be maintained in order to give him fair play. Last year three birds sang for about ten minutes without cessation, thus gaining the championship.

Frog catching contests are just about the newest thing in these competitions. The greatest struggle in the "fancy" occurred a short time ago, and resulted in a victory for James Alern, who recently won the fishing championship.

The frog catching challenge was issued by John Leger, who last summer caught thirty conralto, sixteen soprano, ten tenor and twenty-seven bass frogs in three hours.

The conditions of the contest stated that any frogs whose legs were under two inches should not be counted. Altogether, about 200 men went down to the ponds chosen at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and the contest lasted for two hours.

The contestants had red flannel for bait, and were armed with small shotguns and clubs. The first frog captured was a large one of the bass variety, and he was felled with a club. When "time" was called the winner of the competition had nineteen frogs.

In some variations of frog catching contests the expedient of spearing frogs in their holes is sometimes resorted to, but this is not a very successful method. After the competition mentioned a prize medal was given to the winner at a dinner held in his honor.

Plowing contests are quite common in the country. The man who was best known as the champion plowman won about \$10,000 in prizes. This was Jim Baker, of Ipswich. Being a thrifty man he amassed a comfortable competency as a result of his success in these competitions.

A novel competition was recently started by a Newfoundland fleet during fishing. This was a competition to see who could eat the largest quantity of salted cod. The winner in this case was seized with a terrible thirst; he drained off a decanter and fell unconscious to the ground. The contest proved fatal, inflammation of the stomach being produced.

The members of the Hoxton Constitutional Club have taken part in a novel prolonged smoking competition. Seventy of the members were each supplied with an eighth of an ounce of slag tobacco. The object of the competition was to decide which could keep his pipe going the longest, no second lighting being allowed.

The winner, a gentleman named Mr. Sanderson, succeeded in keeping his pipe going for one hour and ten minutes, so he was proclaimed the victor amid loud cheers.

In a similar competition held at the Shoreditch Constitutional Club this

performance was eclipsed. The winner of the first prize succeeded in keeping his pipe alight for one hour and twenty-nine minutes, during the whole of which time he was smoking continuously.

A cigar smoking competition has taken place at a club in Thallingen. In this case the object of the competition was to decide who could smoke a cigar for the longest possible period without letting it go out. The prize winner succeeded in smoking his cigar for seventy-four and one-half minutes. Not one of his competitors had a record of over one hour.

Coaling contests often take place between British warships. The world's coaling record belongs to the battleship Mars, however. She took aboard somewhere about 1570 tons at an average rate of a fraction above 241 tons an hour. This is a great advance upon the record of 212 tons an hour established by His Majesty's ship Majestic a short time ago.

Quite the biggest competition is a battleship building competition which has been entered into in the United States of America. The Government naval yard at Brooklyn is competing with the Newport News Shipbuilding Company as to which can build a battleship the best and most cheaply. The time limit is forty-five months, and President Roosevelt will be the judge. In this case the stake amounts to the gigantic sum of \$500,000.—Pearson's Weekly.

CHANGING PLANT LIFE.

How Luther Burbank, the Famous Horticulturist, Accomplishes His Ends.

The processes by which he (Luther Burbank, the famous horticulturist) works are not new or peculiar. They are in accord with well-known and unalterable laws of nature. The principal methods used are selection and crossing.

Nature is using these same processes every day. The bees and the wind carry the pollen of one flower to fertilize another, thus bringing about the crossing of species. The struggle for existence, and a thousand circumstances of growth and development, tend to weed out the unfit among the plants, leaving the best to survive. This is selection. But where nature's operations are largely left to chance and accident, Mr. Burbank gives them intelligent direction and his results are sure and immediate.

He takes two plants whose life habits, structure and environment may have been wholly different. He brings them together, implanting the pollen of one upon the stigma of the other. As a result the species are thrown in a state of perturbation—set to "wobbling," as it were. The life tendencies are broken up by the shock.

The plants resulting from the crossing may resemble one or the other of the parent plants. These are not important. Some of the plants will combine the best qualities of the parents; from these improved varieties of fruits and flowers are produced. Some of the plants will be different from either parent—perhaps unlike any other plant in existence; from these unusual variants new plants may be developed.

He selects his original subjects from far and near. He brings a raspberry from Siberia to combine it with a blackberry from California. He brings a plum from China or Japan to combine it with a native apricot.

An experiment is built up on the foundation of a common wild flower, as the daisy, for example. In another experiment a flower from Australia may be used. He brings a cactus from Central America to cross with a species from Arizona.—Success.

Clouds of Dragon Flies in Patagonia.

"A number of years ago," said J. M. Southard, of California, "I was traveling in that desolate part of South America known as Patagonia, a region I do not care to visit a second time.

"Among its curious phenomena I distinctly remember the clouds of dragon flies which are to be seen on the barren plains. These insects fly before the strong winds that blow from the interior, and rush through the air as though in terror of the gale which they precede. Nearly all blue, but now and then one is seen of a brilliant scarlet color. You encounter a storm of these flies without any warning of their approach, the air a few feet above the ground being darkened by them, and men and horses in their path become absolutely covered with them. They are larger, somewhat, than the ordinary dragon fly, being about three inches in length.—Washington Post.

Would You?

If you were the hired girl— Would you like to serve five breakfasts between 7 and 8 o'clock and be rebuked if they were not all hot and crisp?

Would you like to warm up dinner, after your dishes were all washed, to oblige a careless member of the family who had not been working, but had merely stopped for a little longer chat with a friend?

Would you like to hear your mistress discuss your shortcomings with every stranger within her gates?

Would you feel inclined to handle silverware, cut glass and dainty china with loving care when the room in which you rested and slept looked either like a poorhouse dormitory or an incipient rummage sale?—Buffalo Courier.

Chimney Stacks Left Standing.

Some curious beliefs still linger in country parts. For instance, in Hertfordshire when ancient houses are destroyed, the chimney stacks are left intact, the popular theory being that the houses are still in existence, while these remain standing. This may be a survival of some ancient but now almost forgotten legal right.—London Chronicle.

Olive Oil for Nerve Disorders. Sufferers from nerve disorders should certainly try the olive oil cure. The best and purest olive oil must be obtained, and one teaspoonful three times a day is the dose if the victim of neuralgia, anaemia or disordered nerves is in a hurry to be cured. Otherwise it is recommended that the oil taste should be cultivated by the addition of a very little to the salad taken once or twice a day, with a dash of vinegar added, says the Searchlight.

The patient should gradually lessen the vinegar and increase the oil, until it is so well liked that it can be taken raw. It is claimed for olive oil, just as it is for apples, that it keeps the liver in good working order, thus preventing rheumatism, rendering the complexion healthy and clear and the hair glossy and abundant. The value of this treatment is most highly commended.

BOX OF WAFERS FREE—NO DRUGS—CURES BY ABSORPTION.

Cures Belching of Gas—Bad Breath and Bad Stomach—Short Breath—Bloating—Sour Eructations—Irregular Heart, Etc.

Take a Mull's Wafer any time of the day or night, and note the immediate good effect on your stomach. It absorbs the gas, disinfects the stomach, kills the poison germs and cures the disease. Catarrh of the head and throat, unwholesome food and overeating make bad stomachs. Scarcely any stomach is entirely free from taint of some kind. Mull's Anti-Belch Wafers will make your stomach healthy by absorbing foul gases which arise from the undigested food and by re-enforcing the lining of the stomach, enabling it to thoroughly mix the food with the gastric juices. This cures stomach trouble, promotes digestion, sweetens the breath, stops belching and fermentation. Heart action becomes strong and regular through this process.

Discard drugs, as you know from experience they do not cure stomach trouble. Try a common-sense (Nature's) method that does cure. A soothing, healing sensation results instantly.

We know Mull's Anti-Belch Wafers will do this, and we want you to know it. SPECIAL OFFER.—The regular price of Mull's Anti-Belch Wafers is 50c a box, but to introduce it to thousands of sufferers we will send two (2) boxes upon receipt of 75c, and this advertisement, or we will send you a sample free for this coupon.

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Send this coupon with your name and address and name of a druggist who does not sell it for a free sample box of Mull's Anti-Belch Wafers to MULL'S GRAPE TONIC CO., 323 Third Ave., Rock Island, Ill.

Give Full Address and Write Plainly.

Sold by all druggists, 50c. per box, or sent by mail.

LOST ART OF SPELLING.

Little Time Left For Teaching It in the Maze of Fads.

In this commercial age, when the ancient classic languages are being eliminated from the courses of study in colleges and universities, and poetry is being banished from a place among the fine arts of which it was once the head and soul, and every energy and faculty of the human being are being devoted to the acquisition of material wealth, it is not strange that the art of spelling correctly is being shamefully neglected in the schools.

It is a fact that great numbers, if not the greatest numbers, of graduates that are sent out of the highest educational institutions in the country are grossly deficient in ability to spell ordinary words in the every day use of our language.

To-day in the primary and grammar schools so many new-fangled subjects are taught that the children have no time for spelling, and that is one reason why there is so little good reading except by professionals. Persons who spell poorly skim over what they read without giving to each letter in each word its proper value, and they do not understand what is so read with sufficient clearness or accuracy to be able to recite it intelligibly aloud. To be able to read well is a fine accomplishment, and is absolutely necessary if one would be an orator or an effective public speaker.

It is greatly to be regretted that so few university graduates are able to spell correctly, or to read properly, but unless they are proposing to become actors or orators, probably they will not feel the need of such accomplishments. What is wanted in education is knowledge that can be sold for cash. Every other sort is comparatively little use in the estimation of the official educators.—New Orleans Picayune.

COFFEE NEURALGIA

Leaves When You Quit and Use Postum.

A lady who unconsciously drifted into nervous prostration brought on by coffee, says: "I have been a coffee drinker all my life, and used it regularly, three times a day.

"A year or two ago I became subject to nervous neuralgia, attacks of nervous headache and general nervous prostration which not only incapacitated me for doing my housework, but frequently made it necessary for me to remain in a dark room for two or three days at a time.

"I employed several good doctors, one after the other, but none of them was able to give me permanent relief.

"Eight months ago a friend suggested that perhaps coffee was the cause of my troubles and that I try Postum Food Coffee and give up the old kind. I am glad I took her advice, for my health has been entirely restored. I have no more neuralgia, nor have I had one solitary headache in all these eight months. No more of my days are wasted in solitary confinement in a dark room. I do all my own work with ease. The flesh that I lost during the years of my nervous prostration has come back to me during these months, and I am once more a happy, healthy woman. I enclose a list of names of friends who can vouch for the truth of the statement." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

There's a reason.

Ten days' trial leaving off coffee and using Postum is sufficient. All grocers.