

They say that Fashion has turned against the chrysanthemum.

A journal devoted to the pen, ink and paper trade says that the world now uses 3,500,000 steel pens every day in the week.

There are in the world 904,701 miles of telegraph lines, with 2,652,583 miles of wire. The telegraph mileage in the United States is 190,303, with 790,792 miles of wire.

According to Mr. Camp, who is one of the editors of Harper's Round Table, the writers of the South are rapidly forging ahead of their competitors in other sections.

The New York World says that the most successful "shopper" is the woman who struggles through the crowd at every bargain counter, and comes home with all her money, and the announcement that she could not get a thing she wanted.

There are 13,176 miles of street railway lines now in operation in the United States, according to the statistics in Poor's Directory, an increase of 3514 miles over 1891. Of the total mileage 10,238 miles is operated by electricity, 578 miles by cable, 409 miles by steam dummy engines, and there is still 1970 miles operated by horse or mule power. The odd mile unaccounted for in these figures is distributed in fractions among the four groups.

Of all the members of the house of Vanderbilt, the worker of the family is Cornelius Vanderbilt, and there is no employe of his railroad who works harder than Mr. Vanderbilt does when he is in the city, declares the New York Advertiser. It is estimated that if the Vanderbilt boys live as long as their father did their combined property will amount to over \$300,000,000, and if they should live as long as the Commodore, and the present rate of increase continues, their possessions will be sufficient to extinguish the National debt as it is to-day.

The Manufacturers' Record published some statements of facts which are of especial interest in view of the movement to establish closer commercial relations between the West and the South. More than fifty per cent. of the world's cotton is raised in the Southern States, yet the cotton crop of that section is exceeded in value by its grain crops, which aggregate about 650,000,000 bushels per year. More than half of all the standing timber in the United States is in the South, and iron ore and coal are in unlimited supply, while nearly every Southern State has an abundance of good water power to supplement the advantages of clean fuel. From 1880 to the close of 1894 the cotton manufacturing industry in the South more than doubled, and the capital invested in it was increased about five times. The consumption of Southern cotton mills is at the rate of about a million bales of cotton per year, which is half that of the mills in the Northern States. The South has three million cotton spindles out of a total of 85,000,000 in the world, and expects to add 800,000 more within the next twelve months. "The room for expansion is almost without limit."

The Atlanta Constitution states that "the Suez canal gives Great Britain a water route to China, Japan and Australia nearly 3000 miles shorter than the distances from the ports of the United States of America. This gives the British traders a great advantage over us, and they will keep it until we get the proposed canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific. When we complete the Nicaragua canal this country will be from twelve to nineteen hundred miles nearer to the northern ports of China and Japan than Great Britain; an average of 2700 miles nearer the western ports of South America; 1300 miles nearer Melbourne, and over 3000 miles nearer New Zealand. The canal would make it to the interest of the inhabitants of China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Malaysia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Chile—over 500,000,000 new customers, to trade with this country. When we get this new waterway England will be unable to compete with the Southern States in supplying Eastern Asia with cotton goods, and there will follow other industrial and commercial changes to our advantage. The South should not rest until this new highway of trade is completed. It will stimulate our cotton mill industry, and when we manufacture all of our cotton at home, Liverpool will no longer be able to fix the price of the staple. Through Nicaragua, from ocean to ocean, lies the pathway which will lead to our commercial independence and prosperity."



APPLES FROM YOUNG TREES.

The first apples which young trees bear are apt to be large and showy, but they do not keep so well as fruit from older trees. This is partly because the first crop is usually a light one. But there is greater firmness to the wood of old trees, and if they have a good supply of mineral fertilizer they will bear a large crop that will be large enough for market and keep better than the overgrown specimens which the trees produce their first year of bearing.—Boston Cultivator.

DROPSY OF THE UDDER.

The great enlargement of the udder is doubtless due to urinary disorder, by which the blood is filled excessively with serum that would otherwise be removed through the kidneys. Or it may be the result of tuberculosis in the udder, by which the blood is impaired in character. If it were due to any special disorder in the milk glands of any other kind, the milk would not be properly secreted. A veterinarian should be consulted and an examination of the cow made. In the meantime, give half-pound doses of epsom salts for four consecutive alternate days, then give dram doses of digitalis daily for a week. Rubbing the udder with iodine ointment may be useful. To support the great weight of the udder use a supporting bandage.—American Farmer.

SKILLED FARM LABORERS.

That the farm laborer should be or indeed can be a skilled workman may seem to some a contradiction in terms. Yet there can be no doubt that in modern farming quite as much depends upon skill as upon strength of muscle. More than this, the unskilful person entrusted with the handling of expensive farm implements will be more than likely to injure them beyond the amount of his wages. Even in doing ordinary farm work skill counts for more than muscle without it. Above all, the worker whom the farmer hires ought to have such an intelligent comprehension of the business that his advice will be worth asking and taking. There are a great many farmers who think they know it all, who might profitably receive counsel from their hired help. Two heads are better than one, even though one be a sheep's head, is an old and true saying. There is an advantage which some intelligent hired men have over many farmers in a wider experience under changed conditions. The man who has worked for a number of good farmers and has gained some new ideas from each becomes an invaluable assistant. His counsel may need to be modified sometimes, but he will make many suggestions that can be turned to good account.—Boston Cultivator.

SMILAX IN WINTER.

There is no reason why one cannot raise smilax in a window, and have it as nice as that grown in a greenhouse, if one is willing to give it the attention and care it needs. A plant can be bought of a florist at any time, and there are some plain directions from Vick's Monthly Magazine concerning its care.

It is a plant that requires a great deal of water in the growing season. It also needs its foliage sprinkled often. It is a pity to let the soil dry if neglected, and the spraying from them from the past, as well as keeps the foliage in a healthy condition. If possible, place the box or pot where it need not be disturbed all winter. By doing this smilax may be pleased for each vine to cling to. They do much better and also are in better shape for cutting. Florists always train them upright on strings.

Toward spring the vines begin to blossom. The flowers are so small that one has to search for them, but the odor is often apparent before the blossom is seen. The flowers are nearly white, and the fragrance reminds one somewhat of mignonette. After the blossoms a small berry, or seed ball, forms, and when this is ripe the vine gradually dies down and takes a season of rest. When the foliage begins to turn yellow, do not water the plant much, but let it die down gradually. The bulbs can be left in the earth or taken out and stored away till July or August, then repot them in rich soil, and they will be ready for another season's growth. The seeds may be planted, as they grow quite readily, and the best season for growing is from December to February.

IS FULL FEEDING EXHAUSTIVE?

Some have an idea that what sensible men call full feeding, exhausts the vitality and energy of the cow, causing her to wear out sooner than she would on a short diet. Possibly a cow may be overfed, but it will be difficult to make her eat more than she needs if fed regularly. A starved cow might gorge herself to her injury, but if fed regularly, on a ration properly balanced, she will not injure herself by overeating. As to exhaustion, it strikes me that she will hold out much longer if well fed. A man on half rations breaks down much sooner than one on a full diet. The same is true of a work animal, or of a milk cow. There is nothing gained but much lost by a starvation diet. But suppose full feeding does shorten the term of productiveness, is there not more profit in a large yield for a few years than in a small yield for double

the time? The small yield does not pay for the cost of production, and prolonging it only increases the loss. It used to be thought that the way to get profit from pigs was to feed them on short rations twelve months or more, and then fatten them, but men have learned better. In Holland no farmer keeps pigs longer than eight or nine months. Better feed them well all the time and no longer than necessary, to get good profits. Make them weigh almost as much at eight months as they used to at twenty. This is saving feed, and feeders as well as dairymen are finding it out. Do not be afraid of weaning out a cow by giving her enough to eat. Keep her at her best all the time. For milk cows, nothing is better than new hay or young clover hay, also good sweet ensilage, which is much sweeter and more nutritious than timothy. Over-ripe timothy hay is of little value. It makes poor meadows, poor cows, poor milk and poor butter. Milk cows should have constant access to water in the barn. They eat a great deal of dry food, and must have plenty of water to help digest it and make milk. Good feeding and good care cost nothing and make a farmer rich. Poor feeding, a dirty barn and poor care, cost a great deal, and make many farmers very poor.—American Agriculturist.

POULTRY FOODS.

Milk is one of the best foods that can be given to fowls. In our sense it is the very best, as it is a complete food; but its great bulk is against it, for it would be impossible for poultry to drink enough milk alone to satisfy their appetite. It must, therefore, be used in connection with other food. While sweet whole milk is to be preferred, sour and skimmed milk are also valuable. The objection to milk as a substitute for meat is its undue proportion of water. It is calculated that it will require seven pounds of skimmed milk to equal one pound of lean meat for flesh forming qualities. Some poultry raisers never feed meat, claiming that its use is unnatural and unnecessary. They overlook the fact that it is but a substitute for the insects from which the poultry are debarr'd by confinement. The practice of feeding upon them proves conclusively the craving for animal food, the elements of which enter into the composition of eggs. The practice of feeding green beans has become nearly universal. Its merits are generally acknowledged, but they are enhanced by the particles of meat adhering to the bones. The two together combine the elements of the complete chick.

Vegetables and green food of all kinds will assist greatly in keeping the fowls in good condition during the winter. All the small potatoes should be boiled and given to the hens, who will greedily pick them to pieces. The same is true of turnips. Parings of all kinds of vegetables will be readily eaten. Poor worm-eaten apples will give a zest to their appetites, and a cabbage hung where they may peck at it will serve the same purpose. Pumpkins are also appreciated. Clover hay or corn fodder cut to half-inch lengths, soaked or sprinkled slightly with crumpled ration. Peas and beans cooked and thickened with bran are excellent for laying hens, so is sweet ensilage. Beets and carrots form a splendid winter relish, while onions are popular and exceedingly healthy. If fed in moderation there is not the slightest fear that the last will affect the flavor of the eggs.

The great value of all the vegetable foods lies not merely in their power to tempt the appetite, but in their supplying the bulk necessary to drift and egg production; in more nutritive qualities most of them are inferior to the grain which they should supplement, not displace. Varying, too, is an important feature which should also be considered in supplying grain, for a mixture of corn, oats, wheat, buckwheat, barley, etc., will be found to give better results than where one grain alone is used.—New York World.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Filthy stalls cause thrush. Level off colts' feet occasionally with a rasp. The horseless carriage often balks, and balks bad. The best "home made" harness oil is pure neat's foot oil. With good cultivation, at least 100 bushels per acre should be grown. Two hundred bushels per acre is not an unusual yield, and 300 is often produced. Any intelligent farmer can grow ripe luscious strawberries, ready for picking, at two cents a quart. In preparing bees for winter the best plan is to leave the combs as they are arranged them. They like to have empty cells in the center of the brood-nest to cluster in. Honey should be stored in dry rooms. It will gather moisture and even mould in a damp cellar; but if properly sealed and kept cool and dry, it will keep for years. In arranging the interior of your hen house much room can be saved by putting the nest boxes under the perches, and this will serve for the top of the nests. In a small house this is sometimes a great advantage.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

MEXICAN DISH THAT IS DELICIOUS.

A Mexican dish of sweetbreads and oysters which is delicious is made as follows: Soak and blanch your sweetbreads, cut them into equal sizes and remove the skins and little pipes. Take about three dozen fine oysters, strain off the liquor. Put the sweetbreads into a stewpan and cover with the oyster liquor; add three large spoonfuls of gravy of roast veal and a quarter of a pound of fresh butter cut into bits and rolled in flour. When the sweetbreads are done put in the oysters and let them cook five minutes. Add two winglasses of sweet cream, stir up well for a few minutes and serve in a hot dish.—St. Louis Star-Sayings.

A QUAKER DISH.

Scrapple is a Quaker dish, and is a most appetizing hot supper viand. Stew two pounds fresh pork until thoroughly done, using enough water so there will be at least a quart of liquor when the meat is taken up. Remove the bones and chop the meat, then put it back in the kettle. Season, adding sage, summer savory and onion if desired. Then stir in corn meal, boiling slowly and stirring as it for mush. Make it thick enough to slice when cold. Turn into a dish, and when wanted for the table slice and fry in drippings. The quantity may be increased, as it will keep a long time in winter.—American Agriculturist.

A CHOICE DESSERT.

A choice dessert is made from large well-flavored and rather tart apples, pare the apples, take out the cores, and put them in a baking-pan. Bake over them after they begin to bake enough granulated sugar to coat the outsides. Bake until tender and somewhat brown, but take them from the oven while they are still whole. Put them in a fat and rather deep dish. Chop two dozen blanched almonds fine, and mix with them four ounces of seeded and chopped raisins, and two tablespoonfuls of dried currants. Add to these a half cupful of water, the same quantity of sugar, the grated yellow rind of a lemon, and a dessertspoonful of lemon juice. Simmer half an hour, then boil hard for ten minutes. Fill in the centre of the apples with this mixture and pour that which is left over the outside. Serve cold with whipped cream. A mixture of chopped candied fruits may be added to a syrup and used in the same way.—New York Post.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Muriate of ammonia lozenges will relieve tickling of the throat. One teaspoonful of phosphate of soda in water about one hour before a meal will take away a yellow complexion. The best way to set the eye of black lice through hose is to put a couple of black pinches of common salt in the washing water. To exterminate red ants in a cupboard is to place in it an earthen dish containing a pint of tar, on which two quarts of hot water has been poured. When you are preparing chicken-pie, remember it will facilitate the serving if the pieces of chicken are placed so that the bones all point to the centre. To roast small birds, fasten the head under the wings. Lay a thin slice of pork on the breast of each bird, and a piece of bread underneath. Roast in a hot oven. A goblet of hot water taken just after rising, before breakfast, has cured thousands of indigestion, and no simple remedy is more widely recommended to dyspeptics. For sweetmeats take large, clean dates, remove the stones, and take a peanut, removing the brown skin (and the bitter point), and put inside of the date and roll it in fine sugar. To improve starch add a tablespoonful of epsom salts, and dissolve in the usual way by boiling. Articles starched with this will be stiffer, and rendered, to a certain extent, "proof". To make a pleasant and nutritious drink for the sick, roast two or three tart, fine-flavored apricots thoroughly; put them into a pitcher, add a pint of boiling water, a little nutmeg, and sugar to taste.

A nice way to keep wax for the work basket is to fill shells of English walnuts with melted wax, fastening the two half shells closely together at one end. There will then be a small space at the other end, through which the thread will slip when the wax is being used. When a pen has been used until it appears to be spoiled place it over the flame (a gaslight for instance) for a quarter of a minute, then dip it into water, and it will be again fit for use. A new pen, which is found too hard to write with, will become softer by being thus heated. A manufacturer of pianos gives the following method of cleaning a rose-wood or ebony piano case: make a suds of white castile soap and lukewarm water; dampen a soft sponge with this, and wash the surface of the wood, one side at a time; take a small brush for the keys, and wipe them off afterward with alcohol and a soft cloth. To tell whether a thermometer accurately does its work invert the instrument. If the mercury does not fall to the end, or if it breaks into several small columns, the thermometer contains air and is inaccurate. If perfectly made, the slender thread should fill the tube or should break off at the bulb and fall to the end of the tube.

An old African chief who followed Livingstone has just died. He loved forty-five widows.



A CHATELAINE FOR KNITTERS.

To that army of knitters (and there is one) who have suffered a long time from the unwinding and tangling of their yarn, by babies and kittens, a silver chataine with a holder to keep the ball at their side, comes as a welcome relief.—New York World.

FAMOUS WOMAN MATHEMATICIAN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Preston Davis, of Washington, whose achievements in astronomy have placed her among the foremost mathematicians in the world, is about to complete the calculations of the ephemeris, or almanac of the sun, a scientific publication of the United States Observatory. These calculations bring this work up to the twentieth century. Mrs. Davis is a brilliant and versatile new woman. Three years ago she entered Johns Hopkins to study higher mathematics and philosophy, and this year she will stand for the degree of Ph. D.

TO PREVENT CHAPPING.

In cold weather women try to devise means for preventing hands and lips from chapping. An excellent remedy to prevent chapping is cold cream. The manicurist told me that it also whitens the skin more than any preparation. It has taken the place of the old-time remedy—nutton skin. It should be well rubbed into the skin and gloves—preferably white—shipped on. The palms of the gloves should be slit in several places to allow the air and prevent cramp of the muscles, and the finger tips clipped off. Vaseline should never be allowed to touch the hands. It turns the skin yellow and leaves a stain on the nails that is hard to clear away.—New York World.

THE TRESSES OF A MAID.

The bridal veil is of Eastern origin, being a relic of the canopy held over the heads of the happy pair. The old British custom was to use Nature's veil unadorned—that is the long hair of the bride, which was so worn by all brides, royal, noble and simple. Only then did all behold the tresses of maidhood in their entirety, and for the last time, as, after marriage, this badge of virginity was neatly dressed on the head. Among some the tresses were cut, and carefully stowed away when a woman became a wife. It is customary in Russia for village brides to excise their locks on returning from church. The pansy of that country has a pretty song, the gist being the lamentation of a newly married wife over her golden curls, just cut off, ere she laid them low.—Waverley Magazine.

BALLOON SLEEVES RELAXING.

Commenting on this winter's styles for women, Boston Ideas says: "Sleeves are still of abnormal size, but the fullness is more at the elbow, and less stiffening is being used than formerly. It will be some time yet before women will accept the tight sleeve, although an attempt has been made by some of the Parisian dress-makers. The extremely full sleeve may go out of style, but it does not seem possible that the very ugly, perfectly plain, tight-fitting sleeve will ever be worn by the American woman."

What a problem it is! To combine protection, comfort and beauty in the clothing of our bodies! But gradually, it seems to us, Queen Fashion is striving to adjust her august decrees according to the ideas of simplicity of form and freedom to bodily movement. The stiff balloon sleeve is away from this principle. Hence the stiff balloon sleeve is likely to collapse in favor of true lines of drapery. News of the beginning of the end of the abnormal-sized sleeves is good news.—Pathfinder.

THE UTILITY GOWN.

If black alpaca is selected for a utility gown, it is best not to purchase it patterned in any way, but of the best possible quality. On the contrary, a colored alpaca looks best figured with a small raised design in silk. A very ladylike gown of black alpaca recently worn was simply trimmed about the bores with black satin ribbon, the sleeves made of soft lustrous black satin, bishop shape, and veiled with accordion-pleated black chiffon, and tied between the wrist and elbow with narrow black satin ribbon, with a ruffle of the pleated chiffon falling below. Another gown of the same fabric was made with an Eton coat buttoned across the chest, with three large black enamelled buttons edged with a circle of French brilliants. The vest was made of white silk overlaid with butter-colored lace. Again, with a gown of black mohair, fashioned in a stylish but simple manner, was worn an immense white muslin sailor collar with pointed revers, trimmed with insertion and edging of Valenciennes lace. There were deep turbae cuffs to match, and a hat of coarse satin straw trimmed with black and white striped ribbons. The gloves were of white undressed kid with black points. Surprising is the popularity gained by cream and snow-white gloves. They have been sold in this city this season by hundreds of dozens.—New York Post.

GOSSIP.

A woman in New York City has confessed to being a professional ghost.

WISE WORDS.

All good thoughts come from the heart.—Vauvenargues. There can be no high civility without a deep morality.—Emerson. All power, even the most despotic, rests ultimately on opinion.—Hume. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles.—Emerson. In these times we fight for ideas, and newspapers are our fortresses.—Heine. The genius, wit and spirit of a Nation are discovered in its proverbs.—Bacon. Some to the fascination of a name surrender judgment hoodwinked.—Cowper. Spiritual force is stronger than material; thoughts rule the world.—Emerson. False praise can please and calumny affront none but the vicious and the hypocrite.—Horace. It is a man's duty to have books. A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.—Beecher. No man who has once heartily and wholly laughed can be altogether and irreclaimably depraved.—Carlyle. It is easy to learn something about everything, but difficult to learn everything about anything.—Emmons. There are not unfrequently substantial reasons underneath for customs that appear to us absurd.—C. Bronte. Those whose whole minds feed upon riches recede in general from real happiness in proportion as their stores increase.—Burton. Honest instinct comes a volunteer, sure never to overshoot, but just to hit, while still too wide or short of human wit.—Pope. It is by studying little things that we attain the great art of having as little misery and as much happiness as possible.—Johnson. True politeness is perfect ease and freedom. It simply consists in treating others just as you love to be treated yourself.—Chesterfield. No earnest thinker will borrow from others that which he has not already, more or less, thought out for himself.—Charles Kingsley. Despair is the offspring of fear, of laziness and impatience; it argues a defect of spirit and resolution, and often of honesty, too.—Collier. There are braying men in the world as well as braying asses; for what is loud and senseless talking and swearing any other than braying?—D'Estrange. Consider how much more you often suffer from your anger and grief than from those very things; for which you are angry and grieved.—Marcus Antonius. Perforated Sails. An Italian sea captain, Gio Batta Vassallo, of Genoa, has made a very interesting innovation in the use of sails of ordinary sailing vessels. He claims that the force of wind cannot fully take effect in a sail, since the air in front of it cannot properly circulate in the inflated part, and remains stationary immediately in front of part of the sail proper. He avoids this stagnation of air, as he calls it, by the application of a number of small holes in that part of the sail where the depression is deepest when it is filled; these holes are reinforced like a buttonhole so that they will not tear out. Trials made in various weather have resulted as follows: With a light wind a boat with ordinary sails made four knots, while the new sail increased the speed to five and a quarter knots. In a fresh breeze the respective speeds were seven and eight and three-quarter knots, and in a strong wind they were eight and ten knots per hour. It stands to reason that the doing away with a layer of air, which cannot escape past the sides of a sail, must increase the efficiency of the sailboat. Where the wind formerly struck a cushion of air, which acted like a spring mattress, decreasing the actual pressure of the wind against the canvas, this current of air now strikes the sail direct, and, of course, has a greater efficiency. Vassallo has received much encouragement from practical sailors, as well as theoretical scientists.—Philadelphia Record. Dislocates Any Joint at Will. H. S. Fitzgerald, aged forty-seven, of Harrisburg, Penn., gave an exhibition at Washington, before the students of the Columbian Medical College of his powers as a "lux-ligamentarian." He can dislocate at will any joint in his body from his little toe to his spinal column, and has absolute control over every muscle. He has been exhibiting before medical colleges for about twenty-seven years, and during the winter months has a permanent engagement with the Bellevue Medical College of New York and also appears at the Vanderbilt clinics. Muscles that physicians have hitherto been unable to reach he brought into plain view and action. Ligaments so deep in the flesh that they could only be reached with a carving knife were brought into action apparently just under the skin.—Chicago Times-Herald. Rare Postage Stamps. High prices paid for postage stamps at recent London sales were: Spain, 2 cents, 1851, \$140; 2 cents, 1852, \$110; Madrid, 3 centos, \$58; Tuscan, 3 lire, yellow, \$133; Naples, 3 tomesse, blue, \$81; Canada, 12 penny, black, damaged, \$135; Newfoundland, one shilling, vermilion, \$140; 1 shilling, carmine, \$105; 6 penny half penny, carmine, \$85; New Brunswick, 1 shilling, violet, \$82; Nova Scotia, 1 shilling, mauve, \$105; United States, a set of the Department of Justice, \$58.—Washington Star.