

Michigan egg-shippers claim that they pay more money annually for Michigan hen fruit than is paid for Michigan wheat.

The irony of Fate is sublime. One of the victims of the Mississippi flood was a book agent who had been peddling a work on irrigation.

Times and cycles have changed many customs, and the old saying, "Look before you leap," is now rendered by the cautious pedestrian, "Look before you cross the street."

The Theosophical Society is flourishing in California. It has bought forty acres of land on Point Loma, near San Diego. The society intends to build a big hotel and sanitarium and to spend \$400,000 on the undertaking.

This unkind thing is from the San Francisco Chronicle: "As soon as the water dries off in Oklahoma the prairie fires will set in. Oklahoma is a fine new Territory for people that yearn for excitement, but it is noticeable that it doesn't get much immigration from California."

The decision of the Trunk Line Association of railways to accept bicycles as personal baggage between States is another recognition of the place the wheel has won. If now the trainmen can be compelled to use ordinary care in handling bicycles, riders will have got a solid advantage.

In his sermon on last Sunday, a prominent New York clergyman said: "The organic church here has lost its hold on the public mind. Women are the only ones who hold to church organizations of to-day. There are but 35,000 men in the City of New York to-day who go into Protestant churches. This is true also of Roman Catholics. According to the latest estimates, it is figured that 385,000 persons attend the Roman Catholic churches, but of that number there are a great many who go to church once or twice a year, and some who never go unless they think they are about to die."

It is not generally known that the President and Vice-President of the United States never travel by rail together. It is one of the precautionary measures that hedge about the lives of the two foremost men in the National Government, the idea being that if an accident upon the rail should cause the death of one of the illustrious men the other would still be spared to the country. It was for this reason that ex-President Cleveland invariably rode upon the Pennsylvania Railroad when he journeyed from the Capital to Philadelphia or New York, and Vice-President Stevenson traveled on the Baltimore and Ohio. President McKinley and Vice-President Hobart, when they attended the recent Grant celebration in New York, followed the same plan.

Fifteen years ago J. J. Lentz, of Ohio, and E. E. Robbins, of Pennsylvania, were roommates in New York City, while they attended the Columbia law school. On the evening after their graduation Robbins asked Lentz what he was going to do. "I am going back home and run for Congress. What are you going to do?" "I am going home to Pennsylvania with the same idea. We will meet some day in the House." And, sure enough, when the roll was called for the members of the Fifty-fifth House of Representatives to come to the clerk's desk to be sworn in, Mr. Robbins, the representative from Greensburg, Penn., met Mr. Lentz, a representative from Columbus, Ohio, in the area in front of the clerk's desk. Clapping hands, they remarked in the same breath: "Well, here we are."

Burdett Coutts, Sir Ashmead Bartlett's brother, whose marriage brought him so much ill will in London, will be the first person born as an American citizen to enter the House of Lords. There have been several Americans naturalized as Englishmen who have received baronetcies and knightships. But no one yet has had a peerage conferred upon him. There are still hopes, however, that the young Harvard graduate, son of Lady Henry Somerset, may succeed to his grandfather's sadly impoverished dukedom of Beaufort. The Duke's oldest son, the Marquis of Worcester, who married the widowed Baroness de Tuyl a year ago, has just become the father of a little girl. It is needless to add, remarks the New York Sun, that the Marquis is greatly disappointed, and so, too, are the tenants on the Beaufort estates, who dread becoming subject to the rule of a Duke reared by a mother professing such strong views on the subject of temperance as Lady Henry Somerset.

RECRET.
They come to me in the shadows
That cover the dying day,
They take their forms and substance
Out of the twilight gray;
They have no tangible features,
Nor any form of speech,
But they point their misty fingers
To heights I can never reach.
They bring up out of the darkness
Old-time hopes and fears,
Till the shadow faces are fainter
Behind a mist of tears.
The saddest things of a lifetime
Are these shades of old regret
For the dear ideals that missed us
And the joys that we didn't get.
—Marie Conway, in Savannah Press.

The prayer that never was answered,
The prize that never was won,
Beautiful thoughts unspoken,
Work that was left undone,
The help that never was offered,
The letter I didn't write—
All lift reproachful faces
Out of the gathering night,
And the finished work seems nothing
Beside the work undone,
And the given victory small and weak
To that which I might have won.
They fill me with vague longings,
These sad ghosts of regret,
For the only joys worth holding
Are those I didn't get.
—Marie Conway, in Savannah Press.

hats, canes and adobe dollars are showered into the arena by the excited admirers of the matador. He bows his thanks. The bull totters, falls to his knees and buries his nose in the sand. An attendant runs up and buries the point of a dagger deep in the bull's brain. As the attendants hand the hats and canes to the excited people on the plank seats the bugle sounds again. The three white mules are driven in. A rope is fastened about the horns of the dead bull and he is drawn out. The spectators wait impatiently for the next.

Six times was this performance repeated during the afternoon. When six bulls are dead the game is over for the day. There are cowards among bulls as well as men. The second bull that entered promptly jumped the fence, and could not be induced to fight. The bleachers were disgusted, and shouted their taunts loudly, hurling all kinds of epithets at the cowardly animal. The referee heeded their cries, and ordered the bull returned to a pen. This was accomplished by letting in three spotted steers with bells fastened to their necks. When they turned to go out the bull meekly followed them.

The third bull trotted in with the majestic air of a lion, his tail swung to one side. He was a big black fellow with magnificent horns and full of fight. He killed two horses in less than three minutes, and almost killed two capadors. They escaped death by a miracle. When the matador drew his sword into this bull he missed the heart, and the point of the blade emerged from the animal's body several inches, just back of the foreleg. Catcalls and shouts of derision greeted the failure of the matador, but he redeemed himself. Deftly he recovered his sword, and at the next attempt drove the blade into the hilt, piercing heart. The Mexican bleachers love blood and skill; they want no false moves.

The greatest Mexican bull fighter is Ponciano Diaz, and he is the most popular man in Mexico with the masses. Some of the feats he performs are wonderful. He will stand in the center of the arena, sword in hand, and await the approach of the bull. By a deft movement he places his feet between the bull's horns, drives his blade into the bull's heart, and withdraws it so quickly that there is not a stain left on the silk handkerchief he draws the blade through. He is the personification of all that is great to the people.

There were six bulls and eight horses killed the afternoon the writer visited the Plaza de Toros, and his only regret was that he did not see a bull fighter go. If the troupe do not give a good performance the referee imposes a fine of from \$100 to \$250, which goes to the city treasury. The bulls are bred on purpose for the sport, and the original stock came from Spain. The matadors receive large salaries and a great deal of homage. The troupe ride from their hotel to the bull ring in open carriages and are saluted all along the route. A troupe of Spanish bull fighters once came to Mexico and received \$180,000 for eighteen exhibitions. Bull fighting is a scientific sport and not a hit-and-miss game. It is also very dangerous work. At Durango, one afternoon the writer saw the fight in the City of Mexico, four performers lost their lives, two of them being killed by the same bull. At another fight the same day a bull tossed a man thirty feet in the air, killing him instantly. Such accidents are widely credited for the crowd, and the bull gets credit for taking the opportunity.—New York Sun.

Pigmy Coconuts From China.
"What in the world do you call these things?" asked a customer of a South Water street commission man yesterday, as he carefully examined four or five small, slightly oval shaped objects. "Guess," said the commission man. "Can't give up."
"Those are Chinese coconuts."
"Why, they aren't much larger than marbles."
"They are very scarce in this country. I happened to get a hold of these through a friend of mine. He spent the winter down in Florida, and one day he was walking along the beach and discovered these floating in the water. They don't grow anywhere round here, and the natural conclusion reached as to how they got to the Florida coast was that they drifted all the way from China of their own accord."
"What makes them so small?"
"I don't know, but you see that they are exactly like the common coconut, except in size. In China they are used a great deal for flavoring purposes."—Chicago Record.

Japs Want Power.
It has been written that no man by giving thought unto himself can add one cubit to his stature, but the enterprising Jap does not despair, and an ordinance has gone forth exhorting the people to eat more freely of meat, with a view to increasing the average height of the race. Whatever results may follow the method proposed, but it is only another instance of the determination on the part of the Japanese not to let the slightest chance slip for attaining all the advantages which they see, or think they see, in Western civilization.

Greek Shoes Are Funny.
Greek shoes are nearly always made of red leather. They turn up at the toes and are ornamented with a red and blue pompon of floss silk on the instep and are sometimes embroidered with a gold and silver thread. Unless elaborately embroidered a handsome pair may be bought for a dollar. The people who wear the native costume all of them wear these shoes, which are made in coarser leather for the country



SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The Propagation of Shrubs and Plants.

Herbaceous plants are propagated by a division of the roots. Cut down through a clump with a sharp spade, and you get a mass of roots, thickly set with growing points. This mass can generally be broken apart in such manner as to form many small plants, each one having root enough to nourish it. In this way it is easy to increase one's stock of this class of growers. The old plants are benefited by such division.

Shrubs, as a general thing, throw up shoots or suckers about the main stem. Some of these are so closely connected with the main stem that it is not possible to remove them and have any root attached, while others are not attached to the old stem, but are sent up directly from the roots. The lilac is an illustration of the latter class, which is easily propagated by cutting the shoots or sprouts away from the old plants, generally with strong roots attached.

Shrubs that do not sucker or sprout freely, can be propagated by layering. This process consists in bending down a branch, preferably one that starts from the old plant near the ground, and inserting a portion of it in the earth without removing it from the parent plant. At that part of the branch where the bend is to be which is to go underground, half break it, or cut it about halfway through. This not only makes it easier to insert the branch properly in the soil, but it assists it in the formation of roots. Where the cut or break is, the flow of sap will be arrested, and a callus will form from which, later on, roots will be sent out.

Meanwhile the sap from the parent plant circulates through that portion of the branch not cut or broken, thus affording nourishment while roots are being formed. In this way one can propagate plants whose cuttings seldom root when completely separated from the old stock.

If it is desired to increase the stock of peonies, dig deep down at the side of the old plant until some of the tubers are laid bare. These can be cut away carefully without interfering in the least with the old plant. The peony roots any serious disturbance of its roots.

Lilies, and other bulbous plants, are propagated by removal of the little offsets or bulbs that form about the old ones.—The Housewife.

Care of Dairy Utensils.
There would be less poor butter on the market if more attention were given to the care of the dairy utensils, says W. J. Fraser in an agricultural paper. They should be washed as soon as possible after being used, as the longer the milk remains in them the harder they are to clean. First, rinse in cool water to remove the milk; never use hot, as this cooks the milk and causes it to adhere to the vessels. After rinsing, wash thoroughly in hot water, or what is still better, with steam, if it is available. This scalding is very essential, and should be thoroughly done. After scalding, turn upside down in a clean, exposed place, where they will get the full benefit of the sun, as this helps greatly to keep them sweet.

Strainers should be given a good deal of attention, as they come in contact with all the milk. If cloth strainers are used, they are difficult to keep clean. A cheap grade of cotton flannel, used nap side up, makes a good strainer, and if only a small piece is used, it is best to throw it away after each straining.

All tin utensils should be as free from seams as possible, hence, of course, dressed tin is best. If there are seams or corners they should be filled with solder as to leave no lodging places for dirt. A few minutes' work with the soldering iron will save much time in washing. Wooden pails should never be used for milk, as it is practically impossible to keep them clean.

Where milk is taken to a factory the cans should be washed before they are returned. It is a bad practice to take back skim milk, which is usually sour, in the cans used for whole milk, but this is often done and can hardly be obviated where the milk is hired hauled. Of course, the skim milk should be returned, but it is much better to have a barrel for the purpose. If the cans are used for skim milk they should be emptied on reaching the farm and thoroughly cleaned.

Farm and Garden Notes.
The cost of support is in proportion to weight, but in the yield of butter is not in such proportion.

When butter is worked very dry, the grains of salt left in it are not dissolved and remain in a gritty condition. If creamery butter is better than average dairy butter it is because the management at the creamery is upon a higher scale than in the average private dairy. There is no gain in taking the milk of a dozen or more second or third-

class farmers and handing it over to an unskilled creamery man to make into butter.

Poor, dirty milk cannot appear later in form of first-class butter. The skill and intelligence, indispensable at a creamery, must extend out among the milk producers. Poor cows yielding but little milk can never pay their keeping, and no number of them, however great, can render a creamery profitable to it.

One of the reasons why diseases in swine cause greater loss than that with any other class of animals is because of unnatural and detrimental conditions. They are compelled to slake thirst in stagnant pools, and sleep and eat in filthy quarters, or no quarters at all. Even the stench of many hog pens is a menace.

Whenever a sheep begins to lose wool it shows its digestion has become impaired, causing fever. In most cases this means that the sheep is past its prime, so that it can no longer chew its food as formerly. The sooner such a sheep is disposed of, the better for the farmer's profit. It is not possible, even by feeding ensilage, to keep sheep in good condition after their teeth fail.

It is important that cows be regularly salted at least twice a week. If they have salt before them all the time, they will not eat more than is good for them. This regular salting not only increases the milk yield, but also makes it of better quality. Where cows are salted regularly, their milk will keep sweet twenty-four hours longer than will milk from cows that have suffered for lack of salt.

Muck, by which in this country is generally meant vegetable mould, is too poor in fertility to warrant carrying far or much handling. As for mixing it with stable manure we would not advise such a practice, as the manure without the muck is none too efficient. There is one partial exception to this rule. When a heap of manure is fermenting it saves a waste of ammonia to throw over the pile a small quantity of vegetable mould, and this when the heap is turned must be mixed with the stable manure.

Early failures to hatch eggs very seldom come from lack of vigor in the germ; for in this the early eggs are superior. They more often come from allowing eggs to be chilled before the setting begins. Every one knows that chilling after a few days' setting soon destroys the life in the egg. It may do where eggs that have never been set on are kept in contact with metal, which rapidly abstracts heat when the eggs are kept for greater safety near the freezing temperature. Dishes for holding eggs should be of wood, which abstracts heat slowly.

Though the farmer may not want to plow deep for spring crops he always likes to have soil as deep as possible. It is an advantage to topdress even though only poor soil is used to do it with. We have known the soil dug from deep wells and spread over adjoining land to greatly help the soil after a year or two. The subsoil was rich in mineral fertility, though of course, it had little or no vegetable matter. After it had been exposed to frost one or two winters it produced good small grain crops, though manure was needed when corn, potatoes and other hoed crops were planted on it.

Curse Cards.
Curse cards are a novelty which have lately been introduced into Prussia, Saxony and Alsace, though they originated in Calvin's land. The manner in which the propagandist employs the curse card is said to be as follows: He or she starts in the early morning by filling his or her pockets with the form in blank. When in omnibus, tram or train bad language is heard, then the user of the profane words is invited to fill in the blank forms, and he binds himself for a certain time to abstain from the "swear words" or to do penance in penitents for indulgence in the same. In Switzerland 39,800 of these cards have been distributed, and, as the prospectus gravely remarks: "In a country where three great European languages are spoken the system will have invaluable results in enabling the religious statistician to estimate the prevalence of violent language among the nations of Western Europe." The benefits of the curse card have yet to be proved.—New York Tribune.

Development of Uganda.
The development of the native kingdom of Uganda, in Central Africa, under British protection is very remarkable. The vast population of this district, which will soon be opened to the civilized world by a railway constructed down to the ocean, offers an ever-widening market for manufactured articles in textiles and metals, including agricultural implements and industrial tools. Uganda is going to be a cotton, tea, tobacco and coffee growing country. A steamer is now plying on the Victoria Nyanza.

Gum Chewing Causes Appendicitis.
An operation has been performed upon Dalton Query, of Blue Ridge, Ind., for appendicitis, but he cannot possibly recover. Query has been an inveterate chewer of gum, and in the appendix was found a ball of wax almost as large as a hen's egg.

An absolutely fireproof chimney, fifty feet high, has been built of paper at Breslau. It is the only one of the kind.

Thirty-two and three-quarters knots an hour is the recent record made by the British torpedo boat Turbinia on her trial trip on the River Tyne.

Since pneumatic tires have come into use on cabs in Paris, it has been found that owing to the reduced shock to vehicles, the cost of repair has been lessened fifty per cent.

The dry volcanic ore along the Colorado River, above and below Yuma, has been found to be rich in gold. It is necessary to roast the rock in order to make it yield up its treasure.

The Yale Class of 1897 has bought and presented to the Peabody Museum a valuable meteoric stone, found three years ago on the Smoky Hill River, Kansas. The stone weighs sixty-five pounds. The British Museum contains only two stones which are larger.

A prominent member of the English Royal Botanic Society proposes to devote the Sahara desert to the raising of esparto grass, which is almost as useful as wood pulp. Paper makers have forgotten that they were once concerned about the scarcity of rags.

It is calculated that a fluent speaker utters between 7000 and 7500 words in the course of an hour's uninterrupted speaking; many orators of more than usually rapid utterance will reach 8000 and even 9000. But 125 words a minute, or 7500 an hour, is a fair average.

Strangely enough, the X rays will not penetrate glass. Eyeglasses, if photographed, come out black. This proved useful in the case of a Vienna glass worker who got a bit of glass into his finger. By the aid of the rays it was discovered, extracted, and the workman cured.

The evening primrose—opening about dusk—has a very light, lily-yellow color for the attraction of night-flying moths, by which, almost entirely, it is fertilized, although it remains open during the day to some extent, and may at that time receive some visits from bees, but it is peculiarly adapted to fertilization by night-flying moths. The other species of the primrose family (so called) are fertilized by bees, which, of course, are day flying.

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

This is a great country but some parts of it are too soft.

Material for making a road isn't lacking half as often as is the disposition to get at it.

The man who appreciates the difference between good and bad roads may be said to have "horse sense."

The cyclists in the vicinity of Pottstown, Penn., have been instrumental in securing 600 tons of cracked stone placed on the roads in the vicinity of their town.

A writer in the Des Moines (Iowa) Farmer's Tribune urges the superiority of gravel roads for that State. His reason is principally the trifling cost of the gravel as compared with the cost of stone necessary for a macadam road.

The Worcester (Mass.) Road Improvement Association has a novel plan for awakening the public to the need of better streets in that city. They have offered prizes for collections of photographs of bad streets taken during the spring and summer, which will be put on slides by the association and exhibited in public next fall.

Mississippi now has a road law which, if properly carried into effect, and if kept in effect for a material length of time, will, in the opinion of the Mobile (Ala.) Register, "probably give the State a system of public roads superior to any that it has ever had, and perhaps superior to that of a majority of the Southern States."

The Round Cotton Bale.
At first transportation companies and manufacturers were doubtful of the advisability of introducing the new cotton presses which turn out cylindrical bales. They believed they could not be packed readily, and that it would be difficult to remove samples. The latter objection was soon shown to be groundless, and it was demonstrated that the new presses packed the cotton so compactly that it requires less space than by the old system of square bales. This same compactness was proved, by actual experiment, to be a great protection in case of fire. Inky water was also thrown over it and would not penetrate. There is a growing belief in the South that the round bale is coming into general use.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Thread-and-Needle Tree.
One of Mexico's most curious plants is called the thread-and-needle tree, and it bears a close resemblance to an overgrown asparagus. Along the edges of the leaves, which are thick and fleshy and full of tiny fibres of great strength, very sharp "needles" grow. If pushed back into the leaf, and cut loose from its tough setting the thorn may be easily pulled out, a lot of the tough little fibres attached to the root of thorn coming out with it. When these fibres are twisted together with wax a strong, smooth thread is the result.