It Was a Tempting Sight.

"Tody" Hamilton, the ingenious press agent of the Barnum & Bailey show, took a few newspaper men of New York on their annual excursion to the winter quarters at Bridgeport a few weeks ago. For their edification he arranged for a series of experiments to demonstrate how far the wild beasts would go in the consumption of strong drink. Huge pans of beer, whisky, and other intoxicants were put in the cages of the animals. Some drank the liquor, and some would not go near it. As a big pan of whisky was being shoved in to the polar bear one of "Tody's" friends, inclined to bibulousness, looked appealingly at him and said: "Say, 'Tody,' have you got an empty cage you could put me in?

Not David the Psalmist.

David Belasco and Henry de Mille collaborated once on a play in which they used the line from the Psalm of David, "Lord how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?" The actor to whom this line fell expressed his dissatisfaction over it, and confided his feelings to De Mille. "Are you stuck on it?" the actor asked him. "Yes," said De Mille, "I must confess I am. You see, the line isn't mine; it's David's." "I thought so" said the actor; "anyone could tell that was some of Dave Belasco's bad English."

The Doctor—Madam, what seems to be the trouble? The Fair Patient—I am afraid my heart is broken, doctor. The Doctor—Oh, I see; under those circumstances you want to consult a lawyer.

First Kid—Say, Jimmy, how did you get wise to the right answer to give the teacher. Second Kid—I called up Main 1800 before I started to school.

Honesty is undoubtedly the best policy, but a good many people somehow fail to keep their premiums paid up.

A married man's idea of heaven is a place where he won't be compelled to dig up the price of an Easter bonnet.

Airships will never reach a successful stage as long as hot air is used as a motor power.

Now there are rumors of a boarding house trust abroad in the land. Boarding houses that will trust would fill a long-felt twant.

Little Willie—Papa, what is meant by forging the fetters? Willie's Papa—Signing another man's name to a check, my boy.

When a man starts to run through a fortune there are lots of other men who are willing to act as pacemakers.

If a druggist has no conscience he usually has something he considers equally good.

After a man has paid a woman a few compliments he will be voted a mean thing if he suspends payments.

When a woman and a cyclone make up their minds to go anywhere, nothing yet invented can stop them.

There are quite a number of people who can look in a mirror without seeing themselves as others see them.

A fare exchange may be no robbery, but the trolley companies are making a lot of serious charges.

The man who wastes his money should not expect to have all of his wants supplied by prayer.

A woman's idea of supreme happiness is a good husband and enough money for clothes.

Some women have a faculty for saying funny things without being regarded as bright.

POULTRY

Lice and Mites.

Some years ago the Farmers' Review sent out an inquiry to its poultry readers asking what were the leading causes of losses among the early broods of chickens. It was no surprise to the editor when the reply came back that the greatest cause of loss to chicks was lice and mites. Some of the poultry-raisers estimated that no less than 30 per cent of all the chicks hatched were annually killed off by these two pests, of which the mites were the worst. It is safe to say that if any farmer can manage to exterminte these insects and keep them out of his flock he will increase the profits from his poultry at least 50 per cent, without anything else being done.

The body lice of fowls are quite easily kept off by the use of a dust bath and by the use of grease on the heads, around the tail feathers and under the wings. Perhaps some should be put at the base of the wing feathers. These body lice become smeared with the grease, their pores become filled and death quickly follows. Not so easily handled are the mites. One would have to keep the birds covered with grease all the time and all over to protect them from the ravages of these little pirates. The mites do not stay on the bodies of the birds in the daytime, but go onto the birds at night, fill themselves with blood and scurry back to their hiding places under the roosts between the cracks of the boards, and under any object that gives them a hiding place. To grease the birds every day would kill the birds themselves in time and would be a task not to be thought of. The insects must then be fought on the roosts and in their hiding places. Once they have become established the task of getting rid of them is a colossal one, as many of our readers have discovered. We have seen poultry houses in which we believed this could not be done on account of the irregularity of construction. When houses are loosely thrown together there are so many seams and cracks, so many apertures behind slivers, so many rotten holes in posts, to say nothing of nail holes and knot holes, that a pest of this kind can become thoroughly intrenched. Fire and kerosene and paint are the three chief weapons for carrying on the fight. A well-built poultry house permits of the use of paint for closing the cracks and for the use of fire in cleansing the roosts, provided the roosts are movable and can be taken out of doors. Where the poultry house is of cruder construction thick whitewash should be used liberally till the freshly slaked lime has filled every cranny. Fortunately lime is cheap and can be used ad libitum.

Young chickens should not be allowed to sleep in a poultry house where it is known that mites exist, as the parasites are almost certain to find them and sap their vitality without the owner ever suspecting it. If the chicks are put in a place by themselves, of course in the care of the old hen, they will be out of the reach of the mites. The only parasites to be guarded against then will be the body lice. Use only lard for this and do not overdo it, putting on the lard as we have indicated for the old hens. Kerosene is not necessary, and it is too harsh to apply to the very tender skins of the chicks.—Farmers' Review.

Age of Market Birds.

Nothing is more important to the average buyer of poultry than to know how to distinguish good and bad, old and young birds, says H. W. Atwater of the United States Department of Agriculture. A good, fresh bird shows a well-rounded form with neat, compact legs and no sharp, bony angles on the breast, indicating a lack of tender white meat. The skin should be a color (yellow being preferred in the American market) and free from blotches and pinfeathers. The flesh should be neither flabby nor stiff, but should give evenly and gently when pressed by the finger.

In a fresh bird, the feet feel moist, soft and limber, and if dressed with the head on the eyes look bright and full. As it becomes stale the eyes shrink and the feet dry and harden; when too stale, i. e., when decomposition is well under way, the body turns dark and greenish. Cold storage birds are commonly packed so closely that the wings remain pressed against the body even after the birds have been unpacked for some time. They can usually be distinguished by the squeezed look from fresh birds, which should lie or hang in a natural position.

One of the commonest ways of testing the age of dressed poultry is to take the end of the breastbone farthest from the head between thumb and finger and attempt to bend it to one side. In a very young bird, say a "broiler" chicken or a green goose, it will be easily bent, like the cartilage in the human ear; in a bird a year or so old it will be brittle, and in an old bird tough and hard to bend or break. If the feet are left on the carcass they furnish a test of the age. In a young bird they are soft and smooth, becoming hard and rough as the bird grows older. The claws are short and sharp in a young bird, becoming longer and blunter with age and use. The spur above the foot is also to be observed; when the bird is very young, like a "broiler" chicken, it is hardly apparent; a few months later it is long, but straight, in a mature state it is larger still and crooked at the end. It is more developed in males than in females and capons. Turkeys up to a year old are said to have black feet, which grow up to three years old and then turn gradually gray and dull. The age of pigeons can sometimes be told by the color of the breast. In squabs the flesh looks whitish as seen through the skin, but becomes more and more purplish as the birds grow older. Red feet are said to be a sign of age in a pigeon.

Cut the trunk, the branches fall of themselves.—Ivan Panin.

DAIRY

Windows in Dairy Barns.

More light is needed in most of our dairy barns. Last week the writer visited a dairy stable in which nine cows are kept. It was the smallest stable for that number of cows he ever saw and the wonder was that the cows could have lived through the winter just past, when the cold was so great and continuous that the stable must have been kept shut up for days at a time. It was not more than ten feet in height, so far as available space for air was concerned, and the cows were packed as closely together as it was possible for them to stand, with a feeding floor only six feet wide in front. There was a single window in the west. Yet from this stable went out milk to supply the neighboring villagers. Conditions were almost at that point where a board of health could be justified in stepping in. Yet the owner had tried to be up-to-date and had laid cement floors both in front of and behind the cows. Over the cement were laid planks to make the cows more comfortable. This showed enterprise, yet the great lack was light. In the building of a new stable the addition of the proper windows is not a hard matter, and in the case of stables already in use this should not be neglected. Few of our cow keepers fully appreciate the health-giving powers of light.

Producing Good Milk.

The whole secret of producing good milk can be generalized in a few words: Healthy, clean and well-fed cows having a clean, comfortable stable; healthy, clean and quiet milkers having a disposition to treat the cows at least fairly; sound, clean and sterilized utensils, prompt cooling and protection of the milk. This is the secret that is bringing success to some dairymen while their neighbors fail. These conditions could be introduced easily, cheaply and profitably into thousands of dairies. Too many dairymen make the mistake of thinking that a large outlay of money is necessary before high-grade milk can be produced. They are scared off by a phantom. The fact is, many dairies could be changed to a sanitary from an unsanitary condition without the expenditure of a single dollar in cash. More light, more fresh air, better arrangements for bringing the feed and for removing manure, a little time each day to clean the stable and the cows, a coat of fresh whitewash once or twice a year to cover and kill the bacteria on the walls and partitions—these things are not expensive—and perhaps a new ceiling or floor above the cows to exclude dust from the hay mow.—R. A. Pearson.

The Stanchion Should Go.

In spite of all that has been said against the stanchion it still persists on our farms. That it should be discarded is the verdict of about every man that does any thinking along this line. The rigid stanchion may be easy to build, and easy to understand the construction of, by the ordinary farm carpenter that has built no other kind in all his life, but that does not make it a humane arrangement. It does not permit the cow to place her head in sleeping as nature intended she should. It does not permit a cow to lick her haunches, as cows do now and then if they are to be comfortable. The cow in the rigid stanchion is very much of a prisoner, with little chance to move her body for any purpose. There are numerous stabling arrangements now on the market, and many ideas in addition have been expressed in the public press that are not controlled by patent rights. There are probably few localities where some sort of humane arrangement is not in sight and cannot be inspected by the cow owner that wants to make his animals comfortable.

Hatching Chicks.

In hatching we commence in January, using both hens and incubators. We take cracker boxes cut in two, place dampened earth in the bottom shaped into a nice nest to fit the hens and fine chaff from timothy hay on top of this. Straw does not do, as it is so loose. The air circulates through it and tends to kill the germ. We use insect powder plentifully during incubation, testing out the infertile eggs after the tenth day, which must be done for best results. Dead germs and infertile eggs are damaging to the live germs, often killing them.

The fact that the Orpingtons want to set every month in the year enables us to have plenty of broody hens. Also to get the best results from our incubators, we set a sufficient number of hens at the same time and on the nineteenth day have our incubators all ready and transfer the eggs. Every fertile egg is thus hatched out and we can utilize our hens right over again.

We feed a dry food only until the chicks are old enough to alternate with cracked wheat, corn, oats, etc.

J. W. Eastes, Knox Co., Ill.

The Maiden Blush Apple.

In its report on crab apples, the Virginia station includes the Maiden Blush, of which it says: This is an old variety of American origin (?). Tree a fairly vigorous grower, forming a roundish head, limbs have a tendency to interlock. Trunk and limbs rather stocky; trunk at base measures 18 inches in circumference, at head 16 inches. First bloom noted in 1893; and first fruit in 1895, but this variety has never borne a heavy crop of fruit. Fruit rather large for crab; color a greenish yellow ground with beautiful lilac colored blush on exposed cheek. Flesh creamy white, crisp; flavor quite acid but nearly free from astringency, quality good. Ripens in September. The unproductiveness of this variety is its greatest drawback; we do not recommend it.

Pigs, as well as all other animals, require a variety of food. No single article of diet can ever in itself meet all the requirements of an animal's system.

Work is the one cure for worry.

Both Early and Late.

A government scientist not long ago gave a dinner in Washington in honor of Speaker Henderson. The scientist hails from the Hawkeye state, so it was distinctively an Iowa dinner. Of course, Secretary Shaw was a guest, and he was the only one absent when 7 o'clock arrived. The host waited half an hour and then gave orders to serve. At exactly 7:35 the secretary of the treasury was announced. His explanation has been a joke among the Iowa contingent in Washington ever since. "I thought this dinner was for 8 o'clock," said he in evident embarrassment. "I arrived outside at 7:30 by my watch. It was so early I decided to walk up and down the street till I saw someone else come, but no one came, and so I had to enter alone."

Another Auto Victim.

Citizen—I'm surprised to see a strong, healthy looking chap like you begging. Have you no trade?

Tramp—I uster have one, boss, but de invenshun of de autermobeel broke up me bizness and put me on de bum.

Citizen—How did that happen?

Tramp—I uster be a hossthief, boss, but since people took to autermobeels dey ain't no demand fer hosses no more. Can't youse make it er dime, dist ter help a hard luck victim erlong?—Chicago News.

The man who tells you life isn't worth living generally loses no time in sending for the doctor if he has the slightest pain.

How to Keep House.

With all the luxuries and pleasures of this life, its big enjoyments and its smaller comforts, there is an offset or antithesis which we have to contend with in the form of aches and pains. In some way and by some means every one has a touch of them in some form at some time. Trifling as some of them may be, the risk is that they will grow to something greater and rack the system with constant torture. There is nothing, therefore, of this kind that we have a right to trifle with. Taken in time, the worst forms of pains and aches are easily subdued and cured by the free use of St. Jacobs Oil. No well regulated household ought to be without a bottle of this great remedy for pain. It is the specific virtue of penetration in St. Jacobs Oil that carries it right to the pain spot and effects a prompt cure even in the most painful cases of Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Sciatica. You want it also in the house at all times for hurts, cuts and wounds, and the house that always has it keeps up a sort of insurance against pain.

It keeps a married man busy diving in and shelling out.

There is nothing that so increases a man's desire to work in the garden as the discovery that his wife has misplaced the rake.

Storekeepers report that the extra quantity, together with the superior quality of Defiance Starch makes it next to impossible to sell any other brand.

The woman who carries her age well shows the pride she has in it.

The disagreeable man wonders why people are disposed to avoid him.

A happy home life is to a man the acme of satisfaction.

Women can't help wondering why men fall in love with them.

Many a girl's popularity with the sterner sex is due to a rumor that she has money.

A man deliberately lies, while a woman merely suppresses the truth.

Russia's Commissariat Problem.

France Militaire contains an interesting study of the commissariat problem of the Russian army. For an army of 300,000 men and 100,000 horses, 1,000 tons of food and fodder are required. This amount can be transported in six trains composed of from thirty to forty-five cars, the loading of which requires not more than a day. But there are already at Mukden, Port Arthur and other points in Manchuria provisions for six months, and Manchuria and the Russian coast provinces are rich in grain and cattle. According to this study, in September Russia can dispose of 60,000 tons of grain produced on the spot, in addition to 700,000 cattle and a vast quantity of pigs. During the summer the service which will be rendered by the waterways will relieve the Trans-Siberian road.

Fine Gown for Beautiful Woman.

Search is being made here for the most beautiful woman in America to wear the most expensive and beautiful gown in America. The gown in question is in the bonded warehouse at St. Louis, and is estimated to be worth $5,000, being almost an exact duplicate of the one that the first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte wore when he placed the imperial crown upon her brow The original gown cost $200,000, and the duplicate, which has been made by a celebrated man milliner, is only less expensive in its jewels and decoration, for the material and the design are carried out faithfully. For splendor and unequaled delicacy of taste this garment is the chief marvel of the dressmaking art.

King Edward is not so tall as many people imagine and whenever his majesty is photographed in a group he is invariably put to stand on some small eminence, such as a step, in order that he may compare as well as possible with those about him. In his stockings he is just 5 feet 7 inches. His majesty wears boots with high heels, and his total height as he walks is 5 feet 8 1-2 inches.