

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



A small patch of sunflowers as a crop pays.

Cream which is ripened without scouring gives good flavor to butter.

It is a poor excuse which tries to excuse the presence of the poor cow in the herd.

Sunflower seed is one of the best feeds for chickens, especially during the molting season.

Increasing the egg production of hens is accomplished by saving only the best layers for breeders.

You cannot keep your flock of sheep free from ticks unless you dip them at least once a year; remember that.

Be sure you have got the best out of your farm before you allow discounts to encourage you to sell out and move.

Four ounces of molasses, one pint of water and a nickel's worth of quassa chips mixed together and boiled makes a cheap fly poison.

If you allow the weeds to take the moisture and nourishment needed by the crops you need not wonder at the small growth and poor yield.

A thrifty apple orchard is the best kind of insurance. It will pay you dividends in a few years and will bestow a valuable legacy upon your family when you are gone.

When planning for better machinery for the farm work, machinery that will save labor, don't forget that there are many things you can provide for the kitchen and dairy which will lighten the work of the wife also.

Set the few poor acres on the farm into trees and start a wood lot. Any of the quick growing trees will return a profit in a few years on land that would otherwise not yield enough to pay the taxes and the interest on the money invested.

Do not wait until the hay crop is ready to cut before looking over the mower and seeing whether repairs need to be made. You may be put to aggravating loss by having to wait for new parts. Find out what you need and send for the parts desired at once.

After fowls have been kept for some time on soft food, whole grain cannot form a considerable portion of their ration without a loss. The organs for grinding and digesting hard food have been so long in disuse that they are quite unfitted to perform the office required of them when hard or whole grain is provided.

A shelter in the fields not only is good for the stock but it proves handy for the men folks when the sudden storm comes up. Not much work to erect a framework and put roofing paper over the top, but it means a mighty sight of comfort in an emergency. And think of the time you save in not having to run to the house for shelter.

It is poor management which tries to do the work of the farm with the young growing horses and then marketing them as soon as they are mature. In the first place, young horses that are worked too hard cannot be developed properly, and, secondly, the work of the farm is bound to suffer. Raise your horses, but don't expect too much work out of them while they are maturing.

One reason why spraying gives such unsatisfactory results oftentimes is because the materials out of which the sprays are made are adulterated. To check this evil Senator Kittredge of South Dakota has introduced into congress a bill prohibiting the manufacture, sale or transportation of adulterated or misbranded fungicides, paris green, lead arsenates and other insecticides.

Here is a stock breeder's method of training horses to graceful growth: He bores a small gimlet hole in each horn about one-fourth inch from tip of horn. Take a small wire, run this is used for balling hay, such as through the hole in each horn, wind the wire once around each horn back of the holes; then twist each end around main wire and fasten in center. Leave wire on until horns are well started to curve.

Plain English is good enough for our able Secretary Wilson of the agricultural department. The story goes that the other day he called into his office at Washington the architect of the new agricultural building and asked: "Goddard, what is the meaning of that word, 'Fructus,' which you have carved out there on a pillar?" "Why, Mr. Secretary," said Goddard, "that means fruit." "Oh, does it?" And you pay by the letter for that carving? "Yes, I believe so." "Well, why not carve the word fruit instead of fructus?" "Oh, but that is not classic!" "But it is understood!" "Certainly." "Well, I now request you to cut out the words fructus, cereales, forestas, flores and carve instead the words fruits, grains, woods and flowers in their places. That is all at this time!" and Farmer Wilson went out to gather the eggs and drive the ducks to water.

## Break your colts early.

Get the mower in good repair. You will need it soon.

Brush fences look untidy and are breeding places for pests of all kinds.

Declare war on the Canadian thistle, inaugurate a vigorous campaign and grant no quarter.

The milking machine seems about as near being on a practical basis as the flying machine.

Try and be more sympathetic than the fence board which separates your land from your neighbors.

It is generally the man who has no silo who discovers that silage injures the cow's teeth or works other ill to the stock.

The fair season is coming. Plan now to get something ready for the show, and do what you can to make your local fair a success.

Don't waste much time with the sick fowl. Separate at once from the rest of the flock, and if it does not respond quickly to treatment use the ax and shovel.

We never will know how many farmers owe their success to the management and good judgment of their wives, and what is worse, many farmers do not realize it themselves.

Colorado farmers have the organizing fever and are forming unions with a view to bettering their conditions. They expect to make money by buying in carlots and selling for cash f. o. b.

Not too late to sow silage corn. Get the corn in and then plan for the building of a silo in which to put it next fall. Your stock will respond to the feed next winter and repay you several times over for your trouble.

Machine grease can be readily cleaned from the hands by a little kerosene and sawdust. The oil will cut the grease and the sawdust will absorb both oil and grease together, so that soap and water will have a chance to do its work.

Where the cream of cows of unequal milking periods is mixed together see that the whole is thoroughly mixed and ripened. Unless this is done a considerable portion of the butter-milk as soon as the quicker cream comes to butter.

An Iowa reports the birth of a short-horn calf without a tail, the end of the backbone coming but an inch or two beyond the hip joint. The calf is healthy and doing well. This is not a common occurrence, but a great many similar cases are on record. The writer had a similar case when he was on the farm 20 years ago.

Under the head of fool farming may be enumerated such fads as raising frogs, squabs, skunks, and even raising ginseng. Such fads may work with those who thoroughly understand the business, but the average farmer will find that the potato patch will stand him in better stead than any of these schemes which seem on paper at least to offer big inducements.

The average dairy cow costs \$30 per year to feed. It is easy to figure out that if the income from the sale of her milk does not exceed this amount, the cow is clearly not paying her way. The only satisfactory method of determining this question is by weighing the milk and testing the percent of butter fat it contains by the Babcock test. A cow that does not pay takes up just as much room as a profitable one. Sell her for beef.

This is the ration which a Pennsylvania feeds his turkey poult with good success. The poult requires no food until a day old, as nature has provided for them, but water and sand should be placed within reach. The food should not be of a sloppy kind as that leads to bowel trouble. Curds or Dutch cheese is liked by them and they thrive on it. Stale bread moistened and squeezed dry is good. Onion tops and dandelion leaves minced fine should be fed each day while in confinement. Corn bread is the best food when two weeks old, and later cracked corn or wheat should be provided.

If you are raising any calves this year with a view of adding them to your herd of milkers, remember that the present handling has much to do with their future usefulness. Feed to develop the paunch, and when the heifer comes fresh give special care to handling and milking so that the udder may be developed as much as possible. It is well to keep a heifer milking for over a year before going dry for another calf, as this establishes the cow as a persistent milker. A heifer that is allowed to go dry too soon after having first calf can never be made the cow she would have been if she had been milked for longer time. To be sure the small quantity of milk obtained oftentimes does not pay for the milking, but the future will more than repay one for the time thus spent.

In case of death of the mare or for other reasons she is unable to nurse her colt, proceed as follows: Take some of the freshly-drawn milk from the cow which gives the poorest milk—that is the milk which has the least butter fat in it—add a dessertspoonful of sugar to a pint of milk; put it in a bottle or teapot on which you can slip some sort of a nipple. Feed the colt at first some ten times in 24 hours, beginning with a half-pint and increasing gradually. By the time the colt is four months old it will be possible to put him on skim milk and taught to drink it from a pail. Then is the time to begin to teach it to nibble at crushed oats from which the hulls have been sieved out. Later add wheat bran to the oats and a little oil meal. In case of a tendency to scour, scorch a little flour and put it with a little lime in the milk which is fed. On the other hand, if the colt should be constipated, put a little molasses in the milk.

# FOR THE HOSTESS

## Suggestions for Entertainments, and Other Matters of Feminine Interest

**Birth Stones.**  
Apparently this charming month must be a favorite with the stork, for not only has this always busy bird been working overtime lately, but nearly every other person you meet is having a birthday.

At a recent party given by a hostess in honor of four young bachelors, all having birthdays in the same week, the table was glorious to behold with four beautiful cakes in a row by a centerpiece, each surmounted by a circle of candles. The color scheme was indeed clever, the candles being blue, pink, green, and yellow, and the wreath around each cake matched in flowers, being forget-me-nots, pink carnations, maidenhair ferns with mignonette and daffodils. A tall life candle was in the center of each cake. The place cards were postals ornamented with the birthstone and motto of each guest. Below is the list of stones with their symbols for each month. It was given to me by an original and is supposed to be correct.

By the way, it is quite the thing now to give the birthstone for an engagement ring, having it made expressly after a unique design. Bracelets, garters and amulets are set with these individual stones and given as love tokens. The list of birthstones follows:

- January—Garnets, Constasy and Fidelity.
- February—Amethyst, Sincerity.
- March—Bloodstone, Wisdom and Courage.
- April—Diamonds, Innocence.
- May—Emerald, Success in Love.
- June—Aquate, Health and Wealth.
- July—Ruby, Contented Mind.
- August—Sardonyx, True Friendship.
- September—Sapphires, Confidence.
- October—Opal, Hope and Good Luck.
- November—Topaz, Friends and Honors.
- December—Turquoise, Prosperity.

**Party for Children.**  
In search of something new to amuse a bevy of a dozen youngsters invited to celebrate her daughter's tenth birthday a mother had a glass bowl of goldfish for the centerpiece, surrounded by tiny nosegays of flowers, from which ribbons ran to each place. At the close of the repast the ribbons were pulled and each child found a fish candy box attached to the flowers to be taken home.

Sets of toy fish that float after a pole may be purchased, and they were provided for amusement, much to the delight of those embryo Isaak Waltons. Large bowls furnished the water, and the children fished in pairs. The prizes were candy box lobsters.

This menu was served: Bouillon in cups, chicken sandwiches, ice cream and lovely little frosted sponge cakes. Besides, each one had a slice from the birthday cake, which was on a side table by itself surrounded by candles. The guests each blew out a candle, wishing the birthday girl many happy returns of the day. Then there were gay snapping motto caps, with-out which no party is complete.

**A Novel Soup.**  
At a recent luncheon given by a young matron who is continually on the qui vive for something new this delicious soup was served. As the days grow warmer this will prove most appetizing and fill a long-felt want, as it gives a change from the omnipresent fruit mixtures. The recipe for it is as follows: Fruit Soup—One pound raisins, one-half pound currants, one-half pound of prunes, one-half pound red raspberries (dried), one-half pound apples (fresh

or dried), one stick cinnamon. Put over the fire in three or four quarts of water. Boil three hours, adding water as needed to make 2½ quarts of soup when done. Take from the fire and strain through a cloth. Next day return to the fire and add a tablespoonful of sago and five tablespoonfuls of sugar. Just before serving add cracked ice and a tablespoonful of port wine in each cup.

**A Pin Trick.**  
This silly thing really caused gales of laughter at a party for grown-ups. The hostess brought out a paper of pins, cut between the rows and gave each guest one paper. Then she tapped the bell and said: "See who can pull out the pins and replace them the quickest." There was a pretty stick pin for the woman who accomplished the task first and a copper scarf pin set with a malachite for the man. A young surgeon won this. His deft fingers handled the pins most skillfully.

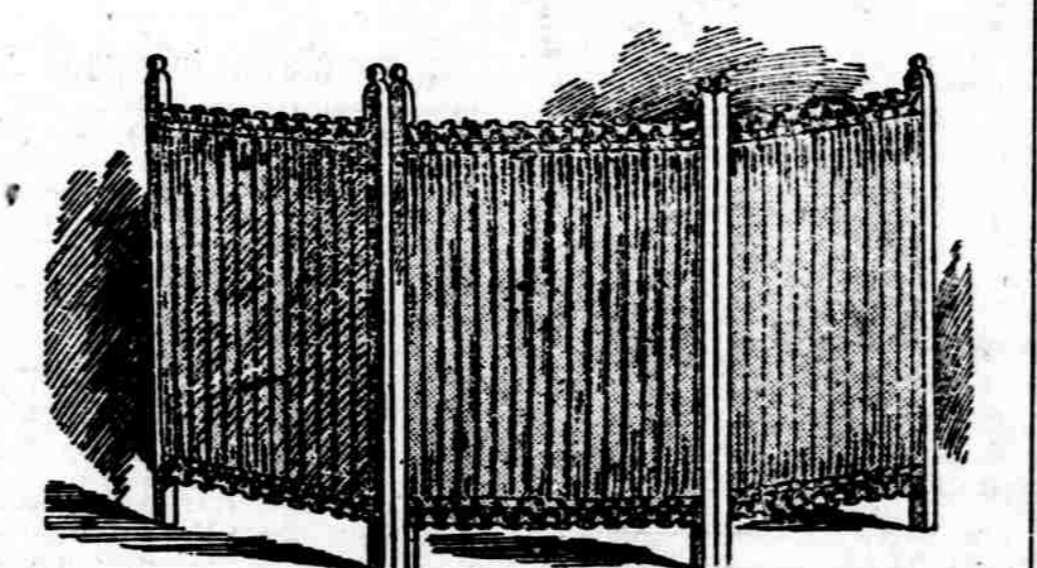
**For a Graduating Party.**  
Would you kindly give me a few suggestions? I expect to graduate from a grammar school and would like to have a party on Sunday afternoon and evening. What games would be appropriate? What would you serve for supper, and what would be nice for a remembrance of the occasion? Thanking you in advance.  
A GRADUATE.

My dear, if you must have the party on Sunday you would carry it out the same as for any other time, but I'm not accustomed to planning formal affairs for that day. I should serve chicken sandwiches, lemonade, fruit salad, ice cream, cake, and for souvenirs get the little novelty candy boxes that come in every imaginable shape, so that every one's fad or fancy may be found.  
MADAME MERRI.



Mitred cheviot effects are new. Some of the new cheviot designs are noisy. The coat with body and sleeves in one is highly favored this season. The modern chemise is attached to a yoke of real lace. The Parisienne is wearing a pink Jersey over her lingerie. Long angel sleeves, drooping over sheer under sleeves, are seen in late nightgowns. The combination of corset cover and petticoat drawers makes only two garments necessary. The most beautiful of the evening shades are found in inexpensive materials that give better service than many of the costly ones. For cool mornings in summer a dressing sack made of some veiling fabric or daintily flowered challies would be practicable. The tunic or over-drapery is a feature prominent on fashionable gowns this spring, and the influence of Grecian lines and empire styles is also noticeable to a marked degree.

## FIRE SCREEN



Now that the warm weather is here a suggestion for an inexpensive and artistic fire-place screen would be welcome. The accompanying sketch was made from a very successful home-made screen that was manufactured from a small clothes-worm. The upright wood-work was entirely covered with white enamel, and the pale green drapery was fastened on in plaits to the upper and lower bars with little brass-headed nails. To finish the screen, small brass balls were screwed into the top of each of the upright pieces of wood, and a very effective and pretty little screen is made. A two-fold screen may, of course, be treated in the same manner, and the color of the drapery should be chosen to harmonize with the other articles of furniture in the room.

## PROPER CARE OF CLOTHES.

Garments Never Should Be Laid Away When Dusty.

Spots should be carefully eliminated before cloths frocks are laid aside. For this purpose household ammonia, fuller's earth, gasoline and benzine—which latter are highly inflammable and must be used with caution—turpentine and carbonate of soda are the most useful specifics.

A good mixture for removing grease stains may be made of a decoction of a pint of boiling water and four dozen laurel leaves. Care must be exercised in using this solution, as it is highly poisonous.

Carbonate of soda is most useful in eliminating mud stains which cannot be brushed out. Turpentine removes paint stains, while ammonia and water will clean the surface of the dark toned materials. Dry fuller's earth is more successful in renovating light fabrics.

Cloth wraps which are not required for summer wear should, if soiled, be sent to the dry cleaners before being stored, but if only slightly faded with sun or tinged with dust or smoke amener treatment can be made to answer as well.

A mixture of oatmeal and whiting in equal parts should be prepared and rubbed over the surface of the material with a piece of clean flannel until the color is regained. This treatment has much the same effect as that of stale bread crumbs, a ready-to-hand remedy which is to be recommended.

**Everywhere the Dot.**  
Dots and dots and still more dots are not only printed upon dress silks, ribbons, parasols, hosiery and handkerchiefs, but, embrodered in varying sizes and tasteful groups, they decorate whole blouses and, sometimes, entire costumes.

In combination with a scalloped edge, they form charming flounces. Some of the prettiest hand-embroidered collars show designs composed merely of dots or of dots alternating with eyelets.

The charm of hand-wrought decoration this season depends more upon clever arrangements of simple motifs than upon elaborate designs.

# A RAMBLE in HOLLAND



A DUTCH HOMESTEAD

AFTER MANY STORMS.

Holland is essentially the land of color, and owing to the splendid facilities of travel, is becoming increasingly popular with artists and the artistically inclined in all parts of the world. Among the important buildings in art at Dordrecht, the Stadhuis comes first; then the Wijn Straat, with its mediaeval houses, plainly denoting the former wealth of its merchants when enjoying the privilege of the Staple. The next great feature is the Groot Kerk, containing choir stalls of world-wide fame and a beautifully carved pulpit of white marble (date 1756). In this town were born the two brothers John and Cornelius de Witt; but Dordt is specially noted as the place where the states of Holland held their first assembly and declared the prince of Orange stadtholder and the only lawful governor of the country. The Groot Kerk is the subject of Albert Cuypp's notable painting in the Ryks museum at Amsterdam. Several artists were at work on the subject of the great church from different points of view. We next took the steamboat to Gorinchem, or Gorinchem, an old walled town with ancient wooden houses and picturesque canals. On our way we steamed through a district called the Biesbosch, where "in a terrible inundation in 1421, 72 villages and 100,000 human beings were swallowed up by the waves; 25 of the villages were irretrievably lost, so that no vestige, not even of the ruins, could afterwards be discovered." We now retraced our steps to Rotterdam, en route to North Holland and the delta cities of the Zuyder Zee.

The train was left at Gouda to see the world-famed painted glass windows in the Jans kerk; it was raining, so that we were glad of the shelter of the church and, greatly wished for more time to study these really wonderful windows. However, the train to Amsterdam would not wait, and we meant to get through that day, so very reluctantly tore ourselves away and through heavy rain made all haste to the station. On the journey the wind and rain could not have been worse; the canals were greatly swollen and the land mostly under water, so that we seemed like a vessel at sea. The water poured from door to door of the railway carriage like a ship's deck in bad weather. We stayed the night in Amsterdam, intending on the morrow to move on to the noted fishing village of Volendam. The next morning, still in the rain, we crossed the ferry to Tolhuis and trained to Edam via Broek and Monnikendam.

Here we experienced a rather novel mode of travel by Trekschuit, which was the only means of traveling to Volendam prior to the railway being built. The Trekschuit is a rather commodious barge, usually towed and pushed by the two men forming the crew. On the occasion of our visit the wind serving, a curiosity in the way of a sail was set, which took us along gayly, permitting the men to remain aboard. The weather was very equally, and every moment I fully expected something to carry away; but by clever seamanship—inherent in most Dutchmen—we got through safely, till, nearing Volendam,

we were nearly overpowered by the horrid smell from a duck farm situated on the windward side of the canal. This was something new in the way of smells, and on relating our experience in the hotel at Volendam we were greeted with roars of laughter, they having "had some" evidently. At any rate, it was a useful initiation, and for the remainder of our stay we carefully avoided approaching a duck farm and tacked, if possible, or held our breath while hurrying past. These duck farms are an institution of this part of Holland, and contain from 2,000 to 5,000 ducks, each in pens (bordering on the canal) of 500 each. Tons of a small sardine-like fish are fed to them until such time as they are ready for market, when they are quarantined to get rid of the fishy flavor. Enormous quantities of ducks' eggs are used in confectionery and in the making of delicious bread. I was informed that the annual profit from each bird averaged 50 cents, so that the industry—barring the smell—is not to be sneezed at. Of course, if one travels to Volendam by the railway this unpleasantness arising from the duck farms is considerably lessened; but, for all that, the Trekschuit, I am happy to say, still flourishes.

The habitable part of the village is built on either side of the dyke, which forms a barrier to keep out the waters of the Zuyder Zee, and is about a mile in length. Midway along the dyke is the harbor that shelters every week-end an enormous fishing fleet. This fleet, together with the tiny cottages all huddled together about the harbor and the fisher-folks in their quaint costumes, are a source of immense attraction to artists of whatever nationality. Many impressions by different writers have been published, but none, to my mind, gives a full idea of the charm of the place. No one could ever be dull in Volendam. What with the bright red roofs and gayly-painted doors and windows of the cottages, the white or tawny sails of the fishing smacks, the endless variety of color in the clothing worn by the natives, the fascinatingly beautiful reflections of the shipping in the water of the harbor, even the filthy canals contributing their quota of weirdly-distorted images of the many-gabled and tiled houses on their banks, a veritable feast of color is spread before the beholder.

The population of Volendam is almost entirely Roman Catholic; hence, Sunday is a regular show day, and on that day the people are most assiduous in their church-going, many of the houses displaying patriotic flags. We were fortunate in having a beautifully fine Sunday, when from early morn until the evening the scene on the dyke was of the most brilliant and kaleidoscopic character. The fisher-folk—men, women and children—in holiday costumes passing to and from their church, the men and boys walking together, as also the women and girls, the children in the matter of dress being exactly like the parents—the boys in the same wide, baggy trousers, coats and tall hats as the men, and the girls with spotless white head-dress, very full skirt and bodice of some contrasting color with its pure white chemise. This fashion, I was told, never varies in style winter or summer.

What one fails to understand is that, in a country offering such advantages in natural effects, and its really wonderful treasures stored in the different museums so openly and gratuitously displayed, so much demand for the glaringly vulgar daubs obtains. The picture post-card craze has much to answer for in Holland. But—"to return to our mittens." It is the custom in Volendam to pay a fee to any man, woman or child acting as a model. Photographers also do the same, so that the sum total expended during a busy photographic week amounts to a considerable item. This, I think, is a sufficient reason for want of progress in the place.

## JEWELS OF THE PHARAOHS

Recent Finds Show the Fashions of Old Testament Days.

The fashions of the Old Testament days at the period of the exodus are splendidly shown as a result of the explorations recently made in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings at Thebes. Prof. Sayce tells of the jewels of the Egyptian Queen Tauseret and of articles that belonged to Ramesses II. one heirloom of the "Pharaoh of the Oppression" being an exquisite ring of open gold work forming the names and titles of the king.

Two large golden epaulettes also bear the name of Ramesses II. and are formed of poppy heads hanging from a plate, which itself hangs from a golden bar, at the ends of which are screwed on a rosette and a blossom of globular shape. A pair of silver bracelets bear a representation of Seti II. on his throne, with a fly-whisk in his hand, while Queen Tauseret stands in front of him. A number of gold rosettes has also been discovered inscribed with the names of both king and queen. They were probably attached to a dress, since a stud of gold with a hook has been passed through the center of each.

Among the Queen Tauseret's other jewels are some hundreds of open-work balls and pendant poppy heads, which were strung alternately on a series of threads so far as to form a pectoral, which, as everything is of solid gold, must have been of considerable weight. There are no fewer than seven finger rings of various sizes and all of gold. Along with the rings were several gold bracelets, two of such small size that they must have been intended for the queen when a child.

Among other gold ornaments are sacred eyes, small figures of Seti, Apis and the hippopotamus goddess, fishes, flowers, lions and poppy heads, which must once have been attached to a chain, as well as two or three similar objects of silver.

# Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna

acts gently yet promptly on the bowels, cleanses the system effectually, assists one in overcoming habitual constipation permanently. To get its beneficial effects buy the genuine.

Manufactured by the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. SOLD BY LEADING DRUGGISTS—50¢ BOTTLE.

## HER DESTINATION IN DOUBT.

Little Girl's Remark Not Complimentary to Grandma.

Ethel is of the mature age of five. Recently her grandmother concluded that it devolved on her to instruct the child in religious matters. "You must be a good girl, Ethel," she said. "Then you will go to heaven when you die." Ethel seemed scarcely pleased with this reward for exceptional conduct. "Don't you want to go to heaven?" asked grandma, with a look of reproach. "Oh, I don't know," temporized Ethel. "I guess not." "Why not?" demanded grandma, severely. "Because maybe I couldn't get out," answered Ethel. "You wouldn't want to get out," replied grandma. "Oh, yes, I should," returned Ethel, with conviction. "No," argued grandma. "You would not. Why should you want to get out of heaven?" "Why," answered Ethel, "I guess I'd want to go and see you once in a while, wouldn't I?"—Woman's Home Companion.

## FAMILIAR PHRASE.



"He paused for a moment's reflection."

**She Didn't Know Them.**  
Marion was toiling bravely upstairs, paper and pencil in hand, ready to ask questions of the first person she chanced upon. Being just six, she was of the "inquiring" age, and thereupon endeavored to make every one's life a burden to them. The first person she met was Bridget, the upstairs girl. "Bridget," she lisped, "pwease give me the letters in the alphabet." Bridget repeated them slowly and impressively. "And now, Bridget," the child went on, "I want the letters that are not in the alphabet." Bridget was thoughtful for a moment: "Bless me soul, darlin' child," she answered, "I don't know them."

**How It Works.**  
Once there was a struggling young author who was blest with many friends, all of whom told him that he was the coming great writer of the country. So one day a bright thought struck him. He said: "I will publish my book, and all my friends who admire it so much will buy my book, and I will be rich."

So he printed his book. And all of his friends waited for him to send them autographed copies of his book. And so his books were sold as junk. And ever after he didn't have any friends.—Success.

## "TWO TOPERS."

A Teacher's Experience.

"My friends call me 'The Postum Proclaimer.'" writes a Miss school teacher, "because I preach the gospel of Postum everywhere I go, and have been the means of liberating many 'coffee-pot slaves.'"

"I don't care what they call me so long as I can help others to see what they lose by sticking to coffee, and can show them the way to steady nerves, clear brain and general good health by using Postum."

"While a school girl I drank coffee and had fits of trembling and went through a siege of nervous prostration, which took me three years to rally from."

"Mother coaxed me to use Postum, but I thought coffee would give me strength. So things went, and when I married I found my husband and I were both coffee toppers, and I can sympathize with a drunkard who tries to leave off his cups."

"At last in sheer desperation I bought a package of Postum, followed directions about boiling it, served it with good cream, and asked my husband how he liked the coffee."

"We each drank three cups apiece, and what a satisfied feeling it left. Our conversion has lasted several years and will continue as long as we live, for it has made us new—nerves are steady, appetites good, sleep sound and refreshing."

"There's a Reason." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.