

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Don't overcrowd the young stock.

Study the individual cows and do not feed all alike.

Clean food and clean stables are a good preventive of disease.

Let the young calves have access to good, clean hay at all times.

Take care of the pigs or you will have no hogs to take care of.

A barn for sheep without a floor is preferable if it can be kept dry.

Coal oil applied to the roosts in small quantities will kill parasites.

Cow stables should have no cellar under them nor storage place above.

The flesh of birds differs in quality, according to the food on which they feed.

Poultry droppings, treated with land-plaster, is one of the high grade fertilizing agents.

The hog is preeminently the most corn and grain-condensing animal on the American farm.

By careful attention to proper methods of combining feed the cost can be greatly reduced.

One of the shrewdest bankers in the country rates his customers largely by their ability to raise hogs.

The breeding ewes should be fed and gotten into good condition in the fall, after the lambs are weaned.

Eliminate the hog's part in the economy of farm feeding operations and you will remove the factor of profit in many cases.

If milk weeds are of any use to the dairyman it might be a good plan to save the rag weeds to make the traveling junk dealer happy.

The best feed for the dairy cow is bran and shorts. Ground corn, oats, cane seed and barley mixed or separate will be good for a change.

When any remedy is recommended for a disease too many want to drop all precautionary measures and rely upon the remedy as their protection.

The hog will make from twelve to fifteen pounds of pork, live weight, from a bushel of corn; the sheep from five to eight, the steer from four to five.

In the vineyards of France, growers not only use smudges to keep off the frosts but to protect the vines from the sun's hot rays the morning after the freeze.

Profit in the orchard depends upon the perfection of the fruits raised and the quantity. And the trees cannot produce their full capacity unless they are well cared for.

The Oregon experiment station has decided that the scab on the prunes which is more or less troublesome to them is caused by the weather and not by fungus growth.

In homes where the children always like to spend their spare time elsewhere, the parents should take a day off to think and see if they can sell why "There is a reason."

No one will dispute the fact that an unhealthy cow is not, and cannot be profitable until she is relieved of her trouble. The diseased cow should be put under the care of the veterinarian.

It is surprising how the value of horses keeps up in face of the fact that there has been an enormous increase in the number of automobiles used in towns and cities, as well as in the country.

By getting the check corn in early the field can be used for late fall pasture. The corn ground may be clean but the grass along the fence rows is worth a considerable amount. The more often the pasture can be changed the better it is for both stock and pasture.

The cattle should be fattened as quickly as possible. It never pays to prolong the feeding even though a man may think he will strike a better market later. While heavy feeding is not so good at the start, the amount of gain should be increased from time to time until the cattle are on a full feed. Plenty of roughness should always be provided, and the herd should have free access to pure water and good salt.

Unquestioned experiments show that there is 15 to 20 per cent. more value in grain fed a hog on good pasture than fed in a pen or yard. The pig will do very well on clover pasture alone, but a little grain will give enough better pig to pay for the additional cost several times. A good supply of milk with a very little grain on alfalfa pasture makes excellent pork and makes it at the lowest cost. Both pigs and hogs will do better, be freer from disease when in sunny quarters than they will in dark, damp quarters.

Low-down wagons are not good.

A poor hen makes a poor mother.

Paint the ladders and store them under cover.

A run in the pasture is a fine remedy for an ailing horse.

Cultivate the strawberry bed as long as the soil remains unfrozen.

Cement is replacing lumber in many forms of farm construction.

Salt should be kept in the mangers. It is a purifier and a mild tonic.

Truly speaking, the turkey is the only true American bird we have.

Get around to a new hen house this fall if you can. It will pay you to do it.

No owner of work animals can afford to let their shoulders get sore.

When soft-shelled eggs are laid you are feeding a ration too rich in protein.

The hog having a clean place to wallow is rarely troubled with lice or mange.

The old-timers of the range are rapidly thinning, but we still have quite a few left.

Good, substantial shelter not only adds comfort to the sheep, but money to the purse.

Hard wood ashes are valuable to spread around the grape vines and in the strawberry patch.

In Norway and Iceland fish meal is used as a cattle food. Such a diet gives the milk a fishy taste.

In marketing, eggs should be graded before they are offered for sale. Put them in boxes according to size and color.

By having a dog-proof yard it will save a great deal of trouble, for dogs are great hindrances to successful sheep raising.

Because hogs utilize grain products so efficiently and economically, the mistake of feeding grain exclusively is too often made.

The subsistence ration is an expensive one; plenty of wholesome food is necessary to farm animals' well-being and good service.

The cattle will maintain a better physical condition than when they are forced to their utmost capacity on a ration of heavy, concentrated dairy foods.

Many farmers never attribute the failure of their orchards to produce good fruit to lack of plant food in the soil but just let their trees drift along until they die.

Where there is still plenty of native burr oak timber growing the farmers do not know what the fence post problem is, but the prairie farmer is not so fortunate.

"Drag when the soil is moist, but not sticky," advises D. Ward King, whose efforts to introduce the road drag in the middle west are bearing such splendid fruit.

The greatest menace to hog raising has always been disease, but now the Missouri experiment station has found a real cure for cholera there will be little loss in the business.

The feeding of late corn fodder to dairy cows should be continued just as long as the corn is at all green. It is a splendid supplementary feed with the short autumn pasture grass.

Warping of timber is caused by the movement of its fibers in adjusting themselves to the "moisture" within the wood and in the atmosphere, based upon the external conditions.

A New York man who has an orchard of 1,000 trees planted 20 feet apart each way, plants current bushes five feet apart each way except in every other space running in the longest way of the field.

When one has purchased a bull of the conformation and breeding desired the main idea will be to so use and care for him that he will be a sure breeder and will reproduce in his offspring the desirable characteristics possessed by himself.

The difference between aged sows and gilts seems to be that a sow two years old or more is fully matured and easily kept in good flesh, usually farrowing much larger pigs than a gilt. She is a much better suckler and gives so much more milk that the pigs get a better start earlier in life and thus grow very rapidly, making gains younger in life.

Good sanitation is more and more coming into practice in modern dairying. Build a sanitary barn if you can, and if you cannot, then remodel the cow stalls and make them as comfortable and sanitary as possible. Floors that can be kept dry and clean, and walls and ceilings that do not catch dirt, or are easily cleaned, and plenty of light and ventilation are essentials for good dairy stable sanitation. The work may be done a little at a time.

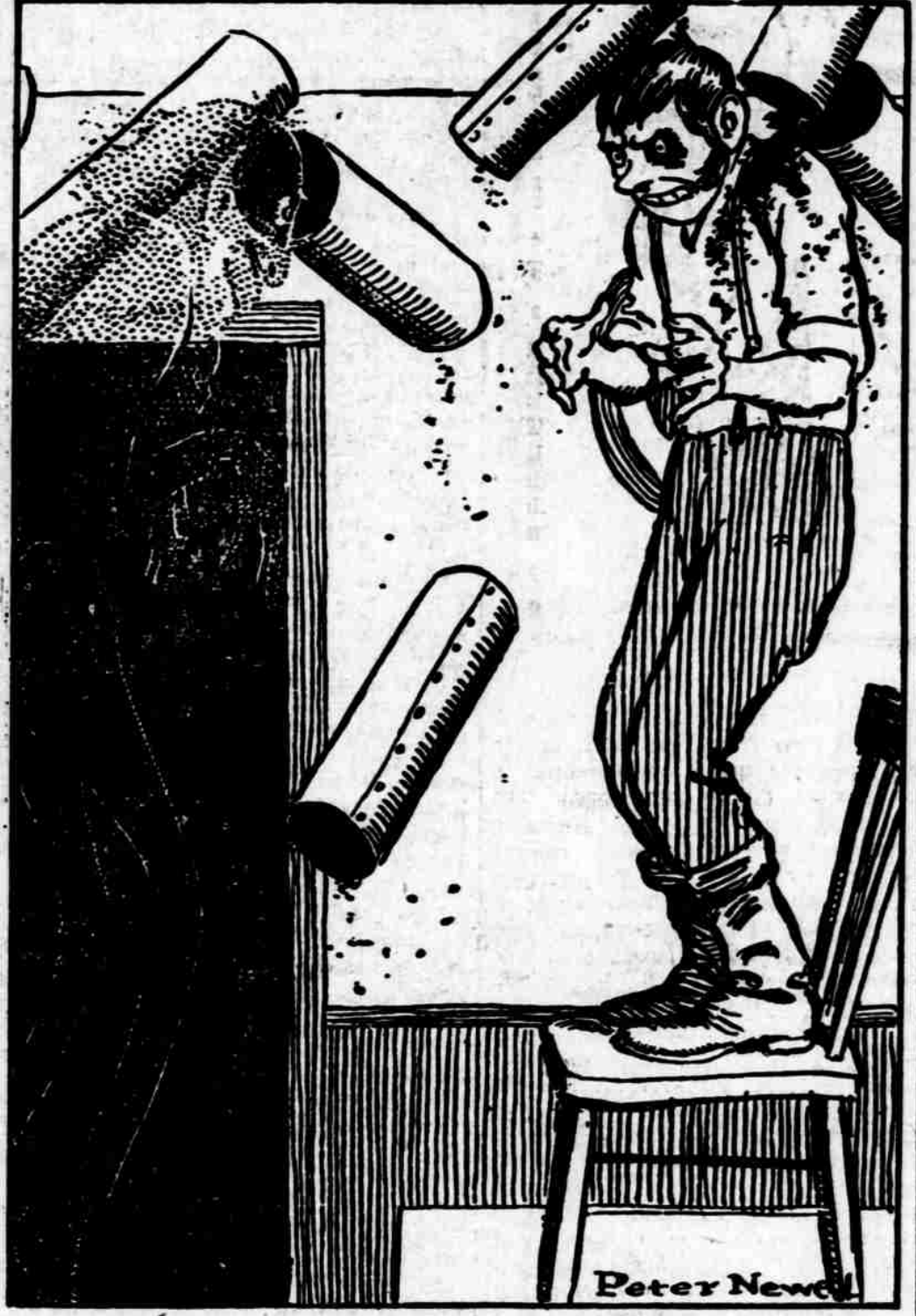
There are all sorts of arguments brought forward to prove that inbreeding is sane breeding. Some point to wild fowls; others to the Jersey breed of cattle at home; others quote their own experience covering a few years, but the majority of level-headed poultrymen agree that incestuous inbreeding will, if continued, result in lack of stamina and diminished size of fowls. Where a fancier who has studied birds can, from the appearance of his birds, judge somewhat as to which are fit to use for breeding, the common breeder who pays little attention to his stock would be all "at sea."

# BETZVILLE TALES

## Artabanus Biffle and the Ghost

By Ellis Parker Butler  
Author of "Pigs is Pigs" Etc.  
ILLUSTRATED BY PETER NEWELL

For a good many years Artabanus Biffle, who lives on the Hill road just west of Betzville, was troubled by the ghost of his great-grandfather. He often told Uncle Ashdod Clute that he would not have minded the old gray ghost so much if it had been an ordinary well-behaved ghost, but, as he expressed it, the blamed old shade was too nosy for any use. No matter what Artabanus or his wife started to do, the old smoke-colored shade would float up, with his eyes like an owl, and stand awhile "rubbering"—that is the word Artabanus used—and then he would begin telling them how much better he could do whatever they were doing, when he was alive. You can imagine that it made Artabanus mad if just as he had squeezed 18 joints of close fitting stove pipe together, and was standing on top of a chair on top of a table, and balancing on one toe, with the stove pipe held at arm's length above his head, and the left eye full of soot, the old misty gentleman would float up and begin to say he wished he had that stove pipe to put up. Often, on such occasions, Artabanus would speak crossly to the ghost, and then the 18 joints of stovepipe would separate and fall on the floor, and the ghost



Often, on such occasions, Artabanus would speak crossly to the ghost, and then the eighteen joints of stovepipe would separate and fall on the floor and the ghost of Artabanus's great-grandfather would go over in the corner and snigger.

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Probably there was never such a disagreeable old ghost in this county, and when Artabanus made up his mind to sell the place and move into town he saw he would have to get rid of great-grandfather, and do it quick. Nobody would buy the house with the old codger ghosting around, from cellar to attic, and Mrs. Biffle said she would not move at all if she had to take the old skeelska with her. So Artabanus was puzzled. You can't put a charge of giant powder under a ghost and blow it up, for a ghost won't stay in one place long enough. It will float gracefully off elsewhere, and if it did happen to sit down on the powder just as it went off, the ghost would consider that merely a mild form of exercise.

Artabanus thought it over for about a week and could not see head nor tail to the difficulty, and then he consulted Uncle Ashdod Clute, and Uncle Ashdod sat down on the horseblock in front of Aunt Rhinorura Betz's house and thought deeply for three days, and then said he had the answer. He said the thing to do was to boil the ghost of Great-grandfather Biffle. He explained that the reason the ghost could float around through the air was because the ghost was just a little less dense than the air, and that it resembled steam in that, so if the ghost was boiled well it would expand and become less dense, and when the lid was taken off the boiler, great-grandfather would float up into the upper atmosphere and strike a cross-current of air. Uncle Ashdod said he did not know what would become of him then. Maybe he would blow around for ages, and maybe he would strike a cold current and condense, and fall in the form of hail or snow. Anyway Artabanus Biffle would be rid of him. So they tried it.

Great-grandfather Biffle expanded well enough. When they got him in to the wash boiler and tied the lid on and started the fire under it, he swelled and swelled, and at 8:30 p. m. the boiler exploded with a roar, for it could not contain the ghost any longer. The ghost poured out of the boiler for hours, like steam. Great clouds of him poured out, and when he was all out he was ten times bigger than the house, but although his head and shoulders were in the upper air, his feet were firmly planted in Artabanus Biffle's property. And the first thing the ghost did was to lean down and tell Artabanus and

# For the Hostess

Chat on Interesting Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

For Twelfth Night. The first special day chronicled for the glad new year's month is "Twelfth Night," which comes on the sixth. In olden days the celebration of Christmas lasted until this date, or, as it was called, "old Christmas," when the "Lord of Mirale," whose reign began on Christmas eve, ended with the burning of all the Christmas greens. This was done to propitiate the evil spirits, who might otherwise molest the household. This will give the alert hostess the keynote for an impromptu party.

What an opportunity for an oyster supper after the bonfire, with piping hot cheese sandwiches made in a chafing dish! There must be a "myrtery" cake, too. According to tradition, it should contain two beans. The ones getting these symbols of favor are to be crowned king and queen and for the remainder of the evening their word is law.

The hostess has an ideal chance in this to plan a series of delightful surprises to be carried out for the willing subjects. One good stunt is to command certain couples (consent, of course, that goes without saying) to discuss great and weighty subjects, such as, "Should a Woman Propose?" "How Much Pin Money Should a Wife Have?" "An Ideal Way to Spend a Honeymoon," etc. In 10 minutes a report is to be made to the royal pair, who in the interim from affairs of state will manage to have an enjoyable tete-a-tete themselves. If a bonfire in the open is not practical, let us hope there will at least be a grate available for the burning of the greens. A rule is that each person makes a wish while his or her armful is being consumed. This gives an excellent opportunity for a stunt party, each one being requested to do something—sing a song, tell a story or in some way contribute a part of the evening's fun. Nowadays the acceptable guest is the person with some speciality, and just at present the art of telling stories well is an accomplishment worthy of cultivation.

An Old-Fashioned Tea. For a dozen elderly women this charming tea was given. The house was lighted with candles and for each guest the hostess had a nosegay built around a stick with a frill of lace paper. These were presented when refreshments were served. There was a program of old-time songs, and the guests brought their fancy work. The menu consisted of tea, pressed chicken, tiny, hot, buttered biscuit, jelly and pound cake. The invitations were written on paper, folded and sealed without an envelope. A copy follows:

My Dear Madam: Ye distinguished Honor of your Presence is requested Thursday, ye Second of October, from Three of ye Clock until ye early Candlelight, at Four Hundred and Seven, Sheridan Road, ye City of —, ye State of —, to meet Mistress Abigail Hastings Connor and Mistress Mary Smith Brown, ye Honorable Mother and ye Aunt of your most Obedient and humble Servant, Mistress Pendarra.

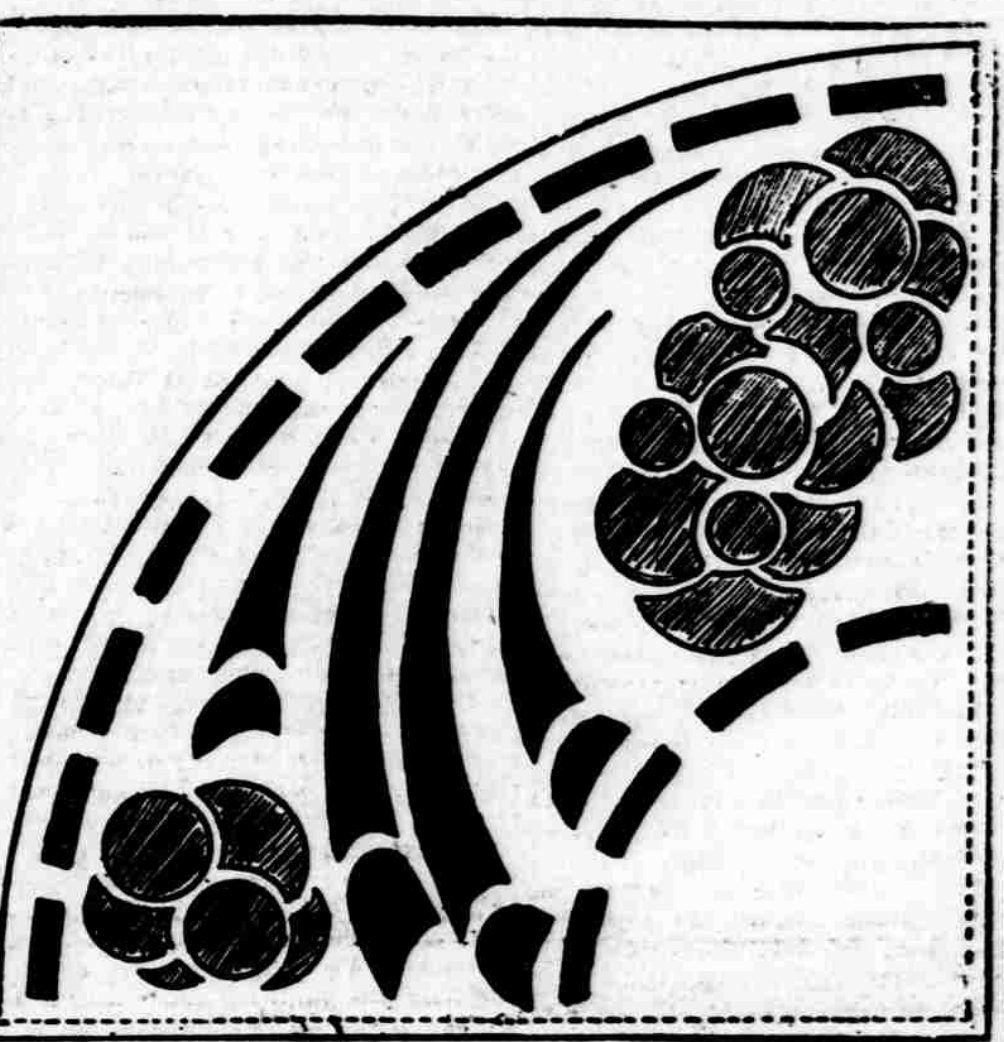
A Postcard Party. At a church social the guests were asked to bring a postcard of interest, which they were to talk about for three minutes; the invitations were issued on postcards bearing a picture of the church. Judges awarded a postcard album inscribed with the lines below to the one who told the most interesting story. As the descriptions were related the cards were laid on a table where all could see them.

From 'round the world these cards have come,  
Thro' every sort of weather;  
But here they find a quiet home  
And spend their days together.  
Could we but bear with mortal ear  
The tales they tell each other,  
What joys of travel we might have,  
Without a bit of bother!

MADAME MERRI.

FANCIES OF FASHION. Milan lace is worn as collar and cuffs or collarette. Dark tones are more fashionable than light or bright effects. Very attractive blouses are made of the Persian printed silk muslins that come for scarfs. A gorgeous dinner gown was of cloudy black chiffon, spangled in gold. The favorite skirt for suits and linen frocks is kilted on to a deep, plain yoke. Bronze Mephistopheles lend a jaunty air to a tailored hat. A rather attractive millinery novelty is a hat of light-colored silk with black chantilly lace stretched smoothly over, and a large velvet bow for trimming. Could anything be more alluringly beautiful than the absurd new color name "ashes of amethyst." Of a pure radiance, a shimmering white moonlight coldness are the lovely evening gowns of filmy white gauze over matching liberty satin, trimmed with narrow gleaming silver ribbons and sprinkled mistily with silver spangles.

# Table Mat Design



As cut leather is one of the popular crafts of the season, we are giving a table mat design. The work is not difficult and the results are artistic and pleasing.

The first step is to make a whole pattern on manila paper. One-quarter of the pattern is given. The easiest way to do this is to blacken the back of the pattern cut from the page, using a very soft pencil. Lay the pattern on the manila paper and go over all the lines of the design very carefully. Be sure to keep the sweep of the black leaves all going in one direction, that is, one following the other right around on each quarter.

Next lay a piece of carbon paper, black side down, on the right side of the leather and the design on top. Fasten down with thumb tacks, being careful to place them outside the design. Otherwise there would be a hole in the mat.

They should be placed on a hard board. With a sharp pencil go over all lines. Remove the paper and go over the design again in pencil, so that all parts may be perfectly distinct for cutting.

Next lay the leather on a piece of glass and cut out with a sharp knife. The parts of the design that are blackened and grayed in are the parts to be cut out. A pair of manicure scissors will help with the round parts of the design.

Milroir velvet is to be pasted under the berries and satin under the leaves. Cut small bits of velvet that will fit under the groups of berries and glue with the wrong side of the leather on the right side of the velvet. Use a very strong glue and be careful that it does not spread.

Then cut a piece of satin the size of the mat and glue in, with the right side next to the wrong side of the leather. Special care must be taken that it does not wrinkle over the velvet already glued in.

The color scheme of this mat is old blue leather, blue green velvet and black satin; it is a striking combination.

Suede calfskin is the most attractive leather. It comes from 35 to 45 cents a square foot. One square foot will be enough to make the mat. When purchasing be sure that the leather is a perfect square.

# NEW GOTHAM PRISON

Police Headquarters Moved from 300 Mulberry Street.

Up-to-Date Structure Costing \$250,000 Takes Place of Famous Home of Gotham's Guardians of the Peace.

New York.—The police headquarters of the greatest city in the United States are now located in a new building which cost \$250,000. When Commissioner Baker moved with his army of assistants to the new structure, No. 300 Mulberry street became a thing of the past so far as the city's guardians of the peace are concerned.

It was at 300 Mulberry street that Byrnes, Devery, Bingham and other famous heads of the Gotham police department held forth.

The new building occupies the triangular bounded by Grand, Centre, and Broome streets and Centre Market. The building is of granite, trimmed with marble, and it is designed to be ample enough to serve the department for many years. On the ground floor are the reception and consulting rooms for detectives, the Italian bureau, the chief detective's office, the "stand-up" room for suspects, the homicide bureau, the chief inspector's office, the boiler squad and the bureau of information.

The commissioner and the deputies occupy rooms on the second floor, where the license bureau, the bureau of supplies and repairs, the complaint clerk's office, and the filing room for records are quartered. On the third floor are the chief clerk's office, the library, four record rooms, the pension bureau, and the waiting and trial room. The school for recruits, draughtsmen, photograph storeroom, chauffeurs' waiting room, a room for policemen on reserve, the chief surgeon's room, the drill room, and a running track are on the fourth floor.



Gotham's New Police Headquarters.

The photograph gallery is on the fifth, or top floor, with the rogues' gallery on the bertillon room. The switchboard, one of the most complete in the world, is also on this floor. The cellar will be used as a target range and for dynamo, pumps, furnaces and coal. In the basement will be the property clerk, storing room for the telegraph bureau, sitting room for detectives and baths for prisoners. The cells are also in the basement. The cells of the new headquarters are declared to be unique in their modern improvements over the old cells of the former building.

Commissioner Baker, it is said, will probably retire at the end of the year, when it is expected a new commissioner will be appointed by the incoming mayor.

# BIRDS NEED MUCH CARE

Some Points to Be Observed if the Pet is to Be Kept in Proper Health.

She had just bought a canary, and the dealer was telling her what attentions were necessary for the bird's welfare. He mentioned the proper feeding, the daily bath, the cuttle bone for sharpening the bill, and finally mentioned the fact that the little singer must have a regular pedicure. "Pedicure!" exclaimed the buyer. "How in the world will I have to give that?"

"That's easy enough when you once get used to it," the dealer told her. "In the first place, the feet have to be kept scrupulously clean. If they are not the bird will not live long. And then the nails have to be kept clipped. If they are allowed to grow too long, the bird will not be able to get a good grasp on anything if he is let fly about the room. The nails have to be cut almost as often as those of a person, and it is equally important. I know lots of people who have canaries never think of clipping their nails, but the birds are much more comfortable if this is done, and it should be done fairly often."

Humbling a Hoosier Lawyer. A prominent Indianapolis lawyer tells a story of a letter he dictated to a stenographer to a client in Cincinnati. The client, a new one, had asked his opinion as to certain business relations here. He dictated like this:

"Dear Sirs: Yours of the sixth inst. at hand. My first blush opinion as to the matter," etc.

The new stenographer wrote the letter and submitted it to the lawyer. Since she was a new stenographer he read the letter with care—to his everlasting relief. She had written it: "Dear Sirs: Yours of the sixth inst. at hand. My first gush of opinion as to the matter," etc.—Indianapolis Star.

Woman Good School Officer.

Dr. Gertrude Halley, a graduate of the medical department of the Melbourne university, has been re-appointed medical officer of the public schools in Tasmania. Dr. Halley is the first woman to occupy such an office, and is reported to have given such satisfaction that a movement has been started to appoint women to all such offices to the exclusion of men.

Very Despatch.

"What are your views about elastic currency?"

"Well, I would like my income to stretch a little further."

Clubwomen Help Backward Students. The clubwomen of St. Paul and the district are much interested in some of the recent recommendations of Superintendent Heeter, and the one which they propose to work for is to establish ungraded rooms for backward children in the schools. This is a step toward individualism in educational work, which is the ideal toward which all the best educators are tending. It is hoped ultimately to establish these rooms in all the public schools of this city, where a child who is backward and slow of comprehension may be placed, and the teacher or may give him individual help. Not only would this be an excellent thing for the child, but a real assistance to those other children now associated with him who are not backward and yet are naturally held back by his slowness. The clubwomen of this city are much interested in educational work, and as most of them are mothers they feel that they can do more real good in this way than by efforts on civic lines.