

were so insensible to the claims of propriety, of loyalty and to the favors which the good old Queen showered upon everyone in her entourage, as to appear to enjoy her funeral. King Edward and the royal family are incensed at this lack of reverence, lack of gratitude, lack of common good feeling, and while some other cause will be assigned for their eventual dismissal from the jobs that they have held for years, it is on the cards that they will resign and resign soon. The biograph as a witness can not be confused or induced, on cross-examination, to contradict itself. It tells the same old story, over and over again without much sign of fatigue. It will take hundreds of repetitions to fade or rather dull the outlines of the good story and the appreciative guffaw on the faces of the two officials who stand near the coffin while it is being raised on to the decks of the Alberta. Reporters and lookers-on must have noticed the merriment but nobody said anything about it until the biograph indubitably revealed it to thousands and started the gossips.

The incident is like what has so often happened in America on funeral trains made up of senators and representatives escorting the body of a dead president or senator to the home town, whose citizens are waiting in real grief and awe for the body of the man who was their own familiar friend. These trains are stocked with consoling cold bottles so generously that when the little town is reached the dead-man's comrades not only do not feel sorrowful but are only able by a great effort to tone down their raptures to a resigned expression.

There is also another reason for hilarity, on the sly, at funerals. The sight of a dead body, the presence of the dead among the living is an announcement in a loud voice from the grave: "Thus far shalt thou go and no further." Life disputes it, defies it, laughs at it. It is the human healthful impulse to put off disaster, to be brave and confident when confronted by another proof of dissolution. Some people like to go to funerals because it puts them in such good spirits; acting upon their temperaments like a strong stimulant. Perhaps these English courtiers belong to this type.

#### Interchangeability of the Senses.

Professor Dussaud, of Paris, France, in a recent lecture on the senses demonstrated the definition of "sense" by experiments. At one of the sessions of the International Institute of Psychology Professor Dussaud rendered the usual definition of sense as "a perception of vibration." He said by applying this theory he had been able to make the blind see and the deaf hear. Originally there was only one sense which by a long process of evolution became differentiated into five. By the principle of the conservation of forces each of the five means an interchangeable vibration called sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch according as it is received by the eye, ear, nose, palate or the entire surface of the body. Therefore if by any means vibrations, corresponding to natural ones can be artificially reproduced and transmitted by a perfectly receptive organ to the brain, the same impressions must be received as if the brain received the impressions through the organs created to carry that kind of message. Prof. Dussaud demonstrated this rather obscure statement by three instruments. One was an apparatus by which the deaf had been made to hear. By mechanical means Professor Dussaud reproduced the exact vibrations of the Mar-

seillaise. The vibrations were transmitted to the brain by an apparatus attached to the head independently of the ears. He showed a photograph of a deaf boy with a sad, gloomy expression and his photograph after the plates had been fitted to his head and just as his brain was receiving the first vibrations of the Marseillaise. His expression in the second photograph was transfigured. Another instrument made a blind boy see. "When a bird flies in the air, we do not actually see a bird, we get a perception of vibration. The little machine produced the vibrations of a bird flying and when the blind boy put his thumb on it, he actually saw the bird. A third instrument showed that by means of electricity, sound waves can be collected in one room, carried to another and exactly reproduced—the principle of the phonograph. A student of vibrations might easily convince an audience that their impressions were produced by spiritual manifestations and start a show that would attract the multitude.



#### Women in Agriculture.

Booker Washington has discovered that women like farming and are readily taught its various branches. The Tuskegee school is graduating mistresses of bee culture, cotton and tobacco raising, butter and cheese making etcetera. American travelers in Europe when they see a woman yoked to a plow whose handles are held by her husband are shocked. But these French, German, Swiss and Dutch women are strong, stocky women, of no nerves. They live to a good old age, withered, brown, wrinkled, with very bright, deep-set eyes. These old women are a feature in the picturesque, and characteristic sights of Europe though the guide books do not exploit them. It is brutal for the male peasant to make the weaker sex do the hardest work and Americans are especially shocked by the sight of the little women tugging the heavy burdens while the wooden-faced men stalk heavily after them. American men have progressed a degree or two beyond this crude assertion of superior strength, but after all it does not count for much. By far the larger number of unmarried or widowed women must earn their own living, yet there are few employers who are willing to pay the same price to female and male employees. None of the ardent and virulent opponents of women's rights denies that most unmarried women must earn their own living. Yet so long as the ballot is denied the workers female labor will be underpaid and underestimated.

Agriculture is a method of earning one's living in the open air and in healthful and beautiful surroundings. In America there will be no yoking of the woman to the four-footed ox and in agriculture political disfranchisement can have but little effect upon profits. A farmer is an emperor upon his acres and an intelligent, energetic, healthy woman who understands stock-raising can succeed. The number of well-to-do women who have conducted market gardens successfully is very large, not in Nebraska but in the neighborhood of large cities, where vegetables and chickens are higher priced and sell more quickly. Tramping over the electric earth, and acted upon by the most effective of medicinal agents, the sun and the air, these farmer women laugh at Lydia Pinkham's insistent advice, and they laugh last too. These farmers are not very beautiful. They are only wholesome, brown, prosperous and therefore cheerful. They have a beauty such as the sun and the wind

and the earth develop in field flowers, in fruits and in nuts. It is not at all a Gibsonesque beauty but men and women who like the brown uplands of autumn and the untended hills of summer, who can translate the lines of a wide neutral-tinted marsh into beauty appreciate these independent, farmer women, freckled, brown, who study the market and the weather reports, who have learned to read the season's prophesy and plant the fields so as to be ready for its fulfillment. The intellectual effort to understand the signs and act upon them promptly rescues her life from monotony and keep her this side of the insanity which has driven so many farmer's wives insane. In this state whole families work in the sugar beet fields. In New York, near Lake Champlain, a duck and bee ranch of three acres produces yearly two and one-half tons of honey under the skillful management of a girl who had to relinquish a stenographer's position in the city on account of ill-health. Booker T. Washington has organized the Woman's Barn-Yard Auxiliary Society. It flourishes in several states and has a membership of twenty-five hundred, some of whom have gained twenty-five per cent on their capital which was very small at first.

A recent Italian writer appeals to his countrywomen to take up agriculture, and instances beet-growing, poultry-keeping and silkworm-rearing as branches in especial need of trained woman labor. He desires the women of the upper classes to interest themselves in agricultural affairs quite as much as the lower. Certainly as modern farming becomes more scientific, as rotation of crops, or the Russian three-field system, is understood farms will grow smaller and every clod of dirt will be induced to produce its full toll to humanity. This sort of intensive farming is peculiarly fitted to the strength and limitations of women. "There is no stupid work, there are only stupid workers," says the French proverb and the woman-farmer who had been a clerk, who asserted that "There is an independence and a scope about this out-door life, beside which an office position seems very tame," shows the contrast between the two occupations as well as their relative effects upon the spirit.

#### Arboriculture.

The Division of Forestry of the United States Department of Agriculture has decided to make a thorough examination, during the coming summer, of tree growth in the state of Nebraska. It is hoped that the examination and comparison of the forest region with the treeless portion of Nebraska, the investigation into the enemies of trees and the methods of destroying them may increase the number of trees. Killing the insectivorous, non-poisonous snakes, the wholesale shooting of quail and prairie chickens, the wanton destruction of meadow-larks and of all other kinds of insectivorous birds has left the grains and forests of Nebraska unprotected by their indigenous correlatives and friends. Farmers have great faith in a commission appointed by the national government. Their next-door neighbor may be a naturalist of lifelong ardor and intuitive knowledge of plants, birds and insects, whose trees live and grow, whose crops flourish, who is in direct communication with the natural world. Nevertheless the farmer disputes his conclusions and counts him a dreamer and an expounder of theories.

The valley of the Platte river, from Plattsmouth to Kearney, and the entire western half of the state, will

constitute the field of investigation. About May 1, two representatives of the division will begin work at Plattsmouth and go up the river, examining and classifying the growth of trees. Especial attention will be paid to the distribution of species, and to all efforts to cultivate considerable bodies of timber. In the investigation of tree-planting experiments the failures as well as the successes will be noted, for it is desirable to obtain all possible information on the subject.

It is expected that Kearney will be reached before July 1. At this point the party will be increased to six members and will be equipped with a complete camp outfit and saddle horses. The following four months will be spent in work that will practically cover the western half of the state. The line of travel will be from Kearney to the western boundary of the state, along the Platte, thence northeast to Crawford, and then in a general southeasterly direction through the sand hills, and down the Middle Loup river to Loup City.

A wide strip of territory can be studied on each side of the route, as the party will be mounted, and particular attention is to be given to the distribution and reproduction of the yellow pine. Nebraska is the meeting ground of the plains and mountain floras, and if it were only for this reason much valuable and interesting information will be obtained. Cooperation by the people along the route will greatly facilitate the work.

The Division of Forestry has received sufficient encouragement from work already done in Nebraska to warrant the thorough examination that is to be made this summer. The fact that many tree-growers in the state are already realizing substantial profits from planted timber is noteworthy. A number of men who have had wide experience in dealing with the problem of forestry in Nebraska have written to the Division of Forestry stating that there is no doubt of the possibility of increasing the present scant growth of trees, and agreeing that even the sand hills can be forested. Among those who have expressed such an opinion are ex-Secretary of Agriculture J. Sterling Morton; Professor Charles E. Bessey of the university of Nebraska; C. S. Harrison, president of the Nebraska Park and Forest association; and F. E. Stephens.

Timber is as truly an agricultural crop as wheat or corn. Improved forest conditions in Nebraska means cheaper fuel, a beneficial influence on local climate, with a consequent increase in the value of land.

#### Dr. Herron.

It is strange how the spirit of reform will break in upon domestic felicity. The cases of Mary Ellen Leese and of Carrie Nation may be cited incidentally, and still another case is that of Rev. Dr. George D. Herron, writer, lecturer, socialist, college professor and reformer. When Dr. Herron was assistant to Dr. Salter of the First Congregational church of Burlington, Iowa his domestic relations were peaceful and happy. He had a charming wife and four children, and their future seemed bright. When Dr. Herron received a professorship there was rejoicing in the household, and when fame came to the young man none applauded more heartily than Mrs. Herron. But from professor Dr. Herron developed into a reformer, and now his wife is applying for a divorce on the ground of desertion, and asking for the custody of their children. All of which